Dear Parents/Guardians,

No doubt you have heard that the Premier has called a State of Disaster for Victoria and has begun the implementation of further restrictions. While we do not know the full extent of this, I feel the need to be proactive in planning for our full return to remote learning on Wednesday. I will most certainly communicate to you announcements from DET but I am unsure of the time line for these at this point.

The Premier has made it very clear that schools are open Monday 3rd August for VCE/VET/VCAL students. Teachers will be on site delivering their curriculum and are not expected to accommodate students who are at home for any reason other than medical. Therefore, if a student is home due to parental choice, they must log in to COMPASS to access instructions and work independently. Tuesday 4th August is a student free day before continuing to remote learning on Wednesday 5th August.

The priority at this point is to ensure all staff and students are appropriately resourced for remote learning as of Wednesday. On Friday, students who were in attendance are reasonably well placed for these changes as they have already taken their books and resources home. Unfortunately, there was a significant number of students absent, some due to the completion of their isolation period and others through parental choice. They will need to take their books home over the next two days.

We need to consider what resources are required. As we know this period of restrictions is going to last for at least 6 weeks which takes us close to the end of term. Students will need:

- Textbooks and equipment for each subject
- Computer, charger and headphones
- Reliable internet
- Materials and equipment to complete SAC’s if in VCE/VET as identified by class teacher.

I will ask students and teachers to consider this carefully, particularly for those students completing VCE folios – term 3 is the time for production and it may not be possible to buy equipment and materials easily.

A ‘Try Booking’ system will be set up for those families who do not have students currently at school, to book a time to collect resources from lockers. Students will need to attend at their appointed time, report to the general office to sign in and complete a temperature check. It is important that you support this process so that we can manage the number of people on site and keep everyone safe. Please make sure that you have communicated with class teachers prior to this to see if there is anything specific that needs to be collected.

I still have 4 or 5 internet devices that can be borrowed and about 20 laptops. Please get your requests in quickly so that they can be distributed over the next two days.

Let’s look after each other over the coming weeks and support as best we can. I will be in touch tomorrow as I give thought to how we best manage the coming weeks and receive official advice from DET.

Allison Bennett
Principal
Diamond Valley College