

CARRUM DOWNS SECONDARY COLLEGE NEWSLETTER



“Beginning next week, Monday 20th July, we will be moving to remote and flexible learning for our Year 7-10 students”

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Dear Parents, Carers and Students,

As you are aware Term 3 has begun and we have had our Year 11 and 12 students and (Year 10 students who undertake a Unit 1 and 2 subject) onsite undertaking face to face classes with their teachers.

It is important that face-to-face teaching be maintained for some students because of the importance of enabling all students to continue or complete their senior secondary certificate, either VCE or VCAL.

To provide further assurance, our school, along with all other government schools in metropolitan Melbourne and Mitchell Shire, has been conducting temperature checks of all students on-site at the start of the day. If your child does have a temperature, you will be asked to collect them from school.

Beginning next week, **Monday 20th July**, we will be moving to remote and flexible learning for our Year 7-10 students.

It is very important to note that the advice from the Victorian Chief Health Officer is that schools can continue to operate. The Victorian Chief Health Officer has also provided advice about the health measures that should be taken by staff and students, and we have been following these.

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The purpose of moving year 7-10 students to remote and flexible learning is to reduce the number of students – and their parents and guardians – moving across metropolitan Melbourne and Mitchell Shire in order to reduce the spread of coronavirus (COVID-19).

To further support families, the following students are able to attend school for on-site supervision, but will also undertake the remote learning program:

- Children of parents/carers who cannot make suitable arrangements to supervise children at home, including children of teachers in government schools who are required to return to work on-site
- Vulnerable students
- Students with disabilities who choose to attend on site

To assist our planning, if you need to access this support, please complete the “Onsite Attendance Form” which is located on our college website in the “COVIC-19” section and return it via the college email carrum.downs.sc@education.vic.gov.au . This form will need to be returned by Thursday 1.00pm of each week.

Today we have sent out via Compass the “Parent and Student Guides for Remote and Flexible Learning”. Please take the time to read through these documents so that if you are a student you understand how your learning is going to continue and your responsibilities in this process. If you are a parent or carer, by reading this documentation, you will be able to further support your child.

There have been some minor changes to the remote learning processes. I would like to highlight that it is **compulsory** as part of our attendance requirements for all Year 7-10 students to sign in via their Compass portal each day between 8.30am-10.30am. I would also like to highlight that WebEx sessions conducted by teachers are **compulsory** for students to attend.

As the Minister for Education outlined, we have done this before and we will do it again. I have full confidence in the ability of our staff to support all of the students and families in our college and ensure their learning continues.

The Department has a range of options for you to continue to support your students in their learning, available at the Learning from Home website education.vic.gov.au/homelearning

The latest information about coronavirus (COVID-19) and schools is on the Department of Education and Training website: education.vic.gov.au/coronavirus

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The Victorian Chief Health Officer has confirmed that the use of face masks or coverings by adults or children is not recommended in schools at this time. As has always been the case, students who wish to wear face masks in school and in going to and from school may do so.

May I remind you that if your child, or a family member develops symptoms of a fever, chills or sweats, cough, sore throat, shortness of breath, runny nose, loss of smell or taste you should get tested at a coronavirus (COVID-19) testing facility and stay home.

This is vitally important to keeping our school community safe.

I would like to remind everyone of our upcoming pupil free days with the first one being held on Friday August 7th. Students will not be on-site on this day and remote learning will not be undertaken by our teaching staff as they will be engaged in their own professional development.

We also have our parent/teacher conferences happening on Wednesday 19th of August which will also be a pupil free day. Information in regards to this and booking times will be provided via Compass.

Lastly, please don't forget that we are all in this together and we do not sit alone. If you require assistance or support please do not hesitate to contact the college directly or your House leadership team.

Please stay safe at this difficult time.

If you would like health information from the Department of Health and Human Services, you can visit dhhs.vic.gov.au/coronavirus

I have also attached our college COVID-19 Safety Plan which outlines the processes and procedures that we have put in place to ensure our college continues to operate and provide as safe an environment as we possibly can. This relies on everybody playing their part and following these practices.

Regards



Mark Gow
Principal