

03 August 2020

Dear Students and Families,

These are indeed challenging times and I hope that this update finds you safe and well. Yesterday, the Victorian Government announced that, on the advice of the Victorian Chief Health Officer, metropolitan Melbourne will move to Stage 4 restrictions to slow the spread of coronavirus (COVID-19).

These requirements apply to all schools in metropolitan Melbourne and rural and regional Victoria.

The changes to schools' operations will come into effect from Wednesday 5 August, following a student free day on Tuesday 4 August, and are likely to apply until the end of Term 3.

As outlined in the Chief Health Officer's advice on Friday, schools remain safe places for staff and students – but these steps are critical measures to reduce the movement of students and families across the state. There are implications for our school, and for families in our school community.

Summary of changes and what they mean for our school

- Students will continue with remote and flexible learning.
- The criteria for students that can attend on-site has changed as follows:
 - a) students whose parents are **permitted** workers. The Victorian Government will provide further advice about this over the coming days.
 - b) vulnerable students in out of home care, children known to child protection and other agencies and children the school identifies as vulnerable.
 - c) students with a disability who also fit one of the above two categories.
- On Tuesday 04 August, there will be no online classes for students, however, we encourage all students to use this as a catch up day, to ensure they are up to date with all their work.

Registering students for on-site learning

To assist us in planning, we ask that once the government finalises the definition of permitted workers and you have a better understanding of what Stage 4 restrictions will mean, families who need their daughter or son supervised at school, contact the College by:

- i) Email enquiries@crcstalbens.com.au
- ii) By phone on the normal school number 9366 2544

iii) Vietnamese Multicultural Aide: Mr Tung Phan on **0428 045 680**

iv) Arabic Multicultural Aide: Ms Louna Ghawi on **0437 210 544**

v) Dinka Multicultural Aide: Mr Deng Alier on **0428 158 780**

Timeline

- Monday 3 August will be a 'normal' day of school under current arrangements.
- Tuesday 4 August will be a student-free day across Victoria to enable teachers, especially in rural and regional Victoria, to prepare for flexible and remote learning.
- Wednesday 5 August will be the first day of new arrangements for schools across Victoria.

Staffing

- Schools will ensure sufficient staff are available for necessary on-site supervision.
- Staff not required for on-site supervision will work from home.

Student Wellbeing

Many of us are finding Lockdown 2.0 much tougher than the first lockdown. In the first phase, we quickly saw the impact of our actions as the curve flattened, positive cases decreased and there was a sense that we were 'winning'. Locally there were few cases. This time the numbers are confronting, many in our local community have been affected and we have much to do to slow the spread of the virus.

Our resilience is being challenged in different ways; emotionally, physically, socially and financially. Student wellbeing during remote and flexible learning is front and centre for all teachers, and a key focus of all our pastoral care activities.

With this update we enclose a guide for families on addressing wellbeing with young people. The guide provides both conversation starters and activities.

I encourage all students and families to participate as fully as possible in co-curricular activities such as the SHAPE Challenge 2.0 and the various activities organised by our student leaders. These are all designed to assist us in looking after our health and wellbeing at this time.

Please stay home and keep safe during this time. I hold all in our community in my thoughts and prayers.

Kindest regards



Christina Utri
Principal