

06 October 2020

Dear Students, Parents and Carers,

Welcome back to Term 4. On behalf of our school community, I want to say a big thank you to students and families for your continued resilience and support throughout this challenging year. I know *Learning from Home* has not always been easy, but through everyone's hard work, our students have continued to make valuable progress in their learning.

Term 4 is important for every student, and our teachers will strive to deliver high-quality learning for everyone. Whether we're teaching remotely or face-to-face, our focus for Term 4 is on making sure that every student is supported in their wellbeing, learning and transition needs.

The Victorian Government has outlined the staged return to on-site schooling for all students as part of its gradual roadmap towards reopening.

Following advice of the Victorian Chief Health Officer, the Victorian Government has released a staged approach for students to return to on-site schooling. It is great that Year 7 students will be returning on Monday.

The purpose of the plan is to get students back in the classroom as soon and as safely as possible without putting at risk all that has been achieved through the period of restrictions to reduce the spread of coronavirus (COVID-19).

For our school, the following arrangements apply:

Week 1 Term 4: 5–9 October

- Remote and flexible learning will continue for all students
- On-site supervision for children of permitted workers and vulnerable students will continue to be provided, consistent with existing guidelines.

Week 2 Term 4 From 12 October

- Year 7 students will return to on-site schooling. The existing remote learning program will not continue for Year 7.
- Remote and flexible learning will continue for all students in Year 8 to Year 10.
- On-site supervision will remain available for students in Year 8 to Year 10 who are the children of permitted workers and vulnerable students.

Week 4 Term 4 From 26 October

- Students in Year 8 to Year 10 will return to on-site schooling. The existing remote learning program will conclude.

Health and safety measures

The Term 3 remote and flexible learning arrangements were put in place to significantly reduce the movement of more than one million students and their families across Victoria, to help slow the spread of coronavirus (COVID-19). Thanks to you and your family for contributing to this on behalf of our school community.

As on-site schooling resumes, we will continue to have in place strong measures to protect the health and safety of students, staff, families and the community. This includes staggering recess and lunch breaks, restricting parent access to school grounds and continued emphasis on hand hygiene and physical distancing, where possible.

An updated ***Return to School Information Guide*** will be posted on the College website later this week. The link will be forwarded to Year 7 Families on Thursday. Families of students in Years 8 to Year 10 will receive the link closer to their return.

With the Guide, we will also forward some tips for families to assist with the transition back to school.

Please Note:

One changed requirement is that all students must wear face masks at school, and in travelling to and from school.

Whether students are, returning to face-to-face learning or continuing with remote and flexible learning for a short period, please be assured we will be focused on three key priorities in Term 4:

Mental health and wellbeing

Our highest priority will be the wellbeing, particularly the mental health, of every student and member of staff. This means effectively mobilising all available resources to support our most vulnerable students and enabling staff to access the relevant support services.

Learning and excellence

Some of our students have thrived in the remote and flexible learning environment, others have maintained their learning progress, and some have fallen behind, despite their best efforts and those of their families and teachers. Our priority will be supporting both those who need it to catch up and those who have progressed to continue to extend their learning.

Transitions

Term 4 is an important time for Year 10 students as they prepare to transition to Sydenham, and other students as they prepare for 2021. A key focus of Term 4 will be to make every effort to ensure each of these end-of-year and beginning-of-year transitions occurs as successfully as possible. Our end of year

celebrations and orientations will undoubtedly be different to what we know but they will occur as successfully as possible.

Registering students for on-site learning

As Victoria opens up, more parents and carers will be returning to work. To assist in planning, we ask that families who need their daughter or son supervised at school, contact the College by:

- i) Email enquiries@crcstalbans.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**

Student / Parent / Teacher interviews

As noted in the last newsletter, the second round of Student / Parent / Teacher interviews will be in Week 3 of this term, on **Tuesday 20th October** and **Thursday 22nd October**, from **2.30 – 5.00pm**.

For students, teachers and families, these interviews are a chance to touch base before students return (Year 8 to Year 10) and to check in on how the first week or so has gone for Year 7. Please note the following:

- This time the interviews will be by **phone**. Teachers will ring the main school contact number.
- Interviews will be with the Pastoral Care teacher (same teacher as in Term 3).
- Families are asked to book online through the Parent Access Module from **Monday 12 – Friday 16 October**.
- There will be no period 5 class on these days.
- Year 7 students will be dismissed from school at **1.25pm**.

We look forward to welcoming students back to onsite learning. Year 7 students next week and then the rest of the school in Week 4. Again, thank you to everyone for all you have done.

Kind regards



Christina Utri
Principal