



Thursday August 5, 2021

Dear Parents and Carers,

As most of you are aware, Victorian Premier Daniel Andrews, announced a 7 day lockdown of Victoria from 8.00p.m. tonight until midnight Thursday August 12.

All Catholic schools will transition to remote and flexible learning from Friday August 6. He also announced that if students can learn from home, they must learn from home for these 5 days, that is from Friday August 6 until Thursday August 12. We will begin the process of remote learning for the next 5 school days through a combination of Microsoft Teams meetings and information on class pages on MyPenola.

It is important that I reiterate from the outset of this communication that the safety of the Penola Community is our first priority in our decision making. I also wish to reiterate that we are aware that life has become challenging for many within our school community and that this Christ-centred school community wants to provide the best support and connection that we can achieve in these difficult times.

Penola Catholic College supports the Government's position to provide educational supervision to the dependents of essential workers who cannot work from home and/or vulnerable students throughout the 7 day lockdown. These people play a critical role in the safety of our community.

If you believe your family is unable to facilitate remote learning due to being essential workers or for other specific reasons, could you please complete the following form, by clicking on the link below to register your child ASAP to enable us to plan appropriate supervision and support. Later requests will be considered, but we are trying to ascertain the level of current need for next week.

[Click here to register your child for supervision at school](#)

I must reiterate that for those students who come to school, Penola can provide supervision only, to support these students accessing the remote learning plan. The supervisors will not be actively engaged in teaching; the student's regular teachers will do this remotely and will not be on campus. Students attending school will be required to wear masks to school and whilst indoors. A member of the Leadership team or Wellbeing team will contact each family seeking supervision, to discuss your specific needs.

Once we ascertain the number of people seeking supervision, we will provide more information about what that will look like. I can let you know that supervision of these students will take place at the Senior Campus, 29 Gibson Street, Broadmeadows, as there is more space to ensure that students are socially isolating effectively. The Junior Campus will effectively be



closed to all staff and students. In the interest of community safety we will be working to minimise the number of people who need to come on site at the Senior Campus which will mean that the gates will be closed and students will need to enter through reception.

There are a significant number of events that were planned for these days which will obviously not run. I have listed these below:

College Production – Monday August 9, Tuesday August 10 and Wednesday August 11
2022 Year 11 Subject Counselling (Monday August 9 – Wednesday August 11) will be rescheduled when students return
2022 Year 10 Subject Counselling (Wednesday August 11 – Friday August 13) will be rescheduled when students return
2021 General Achievement Test (Thursday August 12) will be rescheduled.

After consultation with Melbourne Archdiocesan Catholic Schools(MACS), I am pleased to report that the staff and students involved with the Year 11 Outdoor and Environmental Studies Ski Trip will return as planned tomorrow. A reminder that our Feast Day mass will be livestreamed from 8.50a.m. tomorrow and parents are most welcome to join us through the link on MyPenola.

There were a small number of students who were absent today including the Year 11 students who had an early leave day so these students **only** will have the opportunity to pick up their books, equipment and laptop on each of the respective campuses between 11.30a.m. and 1.30p.m. tomorrow, Friday August 6. They will need to report to reception to register that they are onsite.

As parents, you have a critical role in helping the school manage this situation:

- Talk to your children about the situation, as they may be feeling anxious or stressed. You have a key role in helping students feel prepared and safe
- Encourage children to be proactive and committed to their schoolwork, and to stay connected with the school and their teachers.

These measures are aimed at giving health authorities the best opportunity to stop the spread of the virus in our community.

I hope and pray that all within our Penola Catholic College community remain safe and well.

Regards

Chris Caldwell
Principal