

Tuesday July 27, 2021

Dear Parents and Carers

On behalf of our school, I want to say a big thank you to all our students, parents and carers for your continued resilience and support throughout this time. I know remote and flexible learning has not always been easy, but through our collective efforts, our students have continued to make valuable progress in their learning. You can be confident that our school will support any student who has fallen behind to catch up.

As most of you are aware, Victorian Premier Daniel Andrews, announced an easing of the lockdown of Victoria from midnight Tuesday July 27. Thank you for all your support during this past fortnight of remote and flexible learning. We look forward to the return of our Years 7-12 students tomorrow, Wednesday July 28.

I would like to publicly acknowledge the efforts of all staff throughout the lockdown period. They have gone over and above what anybody could reasonably expect in ensuring that our students have been supported in terms of their wellbeing and academic learning.

Important Dates

- College Production – Rescheduled to early August (Monday August 9 – Wednesday August 11)
- Year 12 English Oral presentations – Friday July 23 (Rescheduled to Friday August 20)
- Senior Programs Evening – Tuesday July 27 (Rescheduled to Tuesday August 3 during the day)
- VCAL Information Night – Tuesday July 27 (Rescheduled to Wednesday August 25 6.00p.m.)
- Year 11 Reflection Day – Wednesday July 28 (Rescheduled to Wednesday September 15)

2021 General Achievement Test – Postponed until Thursday August 12

The 2021 General Achievement Test (GAT) scheduled for next Thursday 29 July 2021 has been rescheduled to Thursday August 12. The rescheduling of the GAT allows schools time to organise logistics and put in place COVID Safe protocols so the GAT can be delivered in line with relevant Health and Safety requirements.

Consideration of Educational Disadvantage for VCE or scored VCE VET Unit 3-4

In recognition of the continued disruptions caused by COVID-19, the Consideration of Educational Disadvantage (CED) process will continue this year.

Consistent with last year, this process requires schools to provide VCAA with information on all students to help finalise VCE scores. The CED process will again consider all available information including examination results, the GAT and appropriate comparisons of performance across all assessments and schools, which will contribute to fair and valid VCE study scores.

VCAL Special Consideration

Special consideration will also be available for final year VCAL students. More information and guidance for schools on how to apply special consideration for VCAL students will be provided by the VCAA shortly.

Careers Expo

The Senior Programs Evening will obviously not go ahead due to lockdown and Mr Terry McGann is currently liaising with Tertiary representatives to present virtually during the week **Mon August 2** until **Thurs August 5**. we will have timeslots allocated **on each day** for presentations between **4.00pm** and **7.30pm**. Universities, TAFEs and Private Tertiary Colleges will present for 25-30mins with some time at the end for your personal questions. You will have the opportunity of being involved in several or many presentations, depending on your interests. Response from the Institutions has been excellent, and the speakers schedule is being finalised at the moment. It will be sent out to all students and parents later in the week.

Parent Teacher Student Partnership Meetings

We have made the decision to shift the next round of Parent Teacher Student Partnership meetings from Thursday July 15 (Week 1) to Thursday August 12 (Week 5) of Term 3. This allows teachers in new subjects for Semester 2 more time to get to know the students and complete some assessment prior to these meetings taking place.

Face masks

Secondary school students aged 12 or older must always wear a face mask at school whilst indoors and outdoors, including when attending an Outside School Hours Care (OSHC) program, unless an exception applies. Face masks are mandatory for all school students aged 12 or older when travelling to and from school.

To support the health and wellbeing of all students and staff, our school will continue an enhanced cleaning routine and will encourage frequent handwashing.

If your child is ill or is feeling unwell, they must not attend school. They must remain home and seek medical advice.

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. Thank you for your continued support and patience during this time.

Regards

Chris Caldow
Principal