



Penola
CATHOLIC COLLEGE
EST. 1995

13th May 2020

Dear Parents and Carers

Thank you for all your support during these past few weeks of remote and flexible learning.

Following advice from the Chief Health Officer, the Victorian Government and the Catholic Education Commission of Victoria Ltd (CECV) have advised that schools can begin a phased return to onsite schooling.

In the **first stage**, students in Prep, Grade 1 and Grade 2, senior secondary students (Years 11 and 12 VCAL and VCE) and all students in specialist schools will return to school from Tuesday 26 May.

Year 10 students undertaking VCE studies, including VCE VET studies, should also attend school for those classes where practicable. If this is not possible for your child/children, our teachers will make sure the work provided to students attending at school is also provided to your child/children. Year 10 students unable to travel home at the end of their scheduled VCE/VET classes may be supervised at school for the remainder of the day.

To support all school staff to prepare for this transition, Monday 25 May will be a student-free day.

In the **second stage** of our return to onsite schooling, all other year levels will return to school from Tuesday 9 June.

For those students who cannot be supervised at home and vulnerable children, the existing model of onsite schooling will remain in place during the two-week period from Tuesday 26 May to Tuesday 9 June. The current process that we are using to enable parents and carers to indicate the days or part-days for which onsite schooling is required will continue for this two-week period.

All other students in those year levels will continue learning from home until Tuesday 9 June.

Once a year level has returned, all students will be expected to attend school as normal. This means if you choose to keep your child/children home after their year level has returned to onsite schooling, we can no longer support their learning from home.

This does not apply to children who need to be absent for health or medical reasons. For those families, please contact us so we can make an appropriate plan.

This same approach is being taken by all Catholic and government schools in Victoria.

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

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Po Box 637, Glenroy,
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Junior Campus (Years 7-8)
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Senior Campus (Years 9-12)
29 Gibson Street,
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If your child is ill or is feeling unwell, they must not attend school. They must remain home and seek medical advice.

While the Chief Health Officer has advised that students will not be required to maintain physical distancing at school, there will be a number of important changes to our school operations, consistent with health advice to all schools that will be made available in coming days. These will apply until further notice. I will provide more details about our local school context as soon as possible, but it is important to note that changes will include:

- restrictions on access to the school site for anyone other than immediate school staff and students
- the way we conduct parent–teacher meetings and interviews

We understand that some families may feel anxious about this move back to classroom teaching and learning. I can assure you that this decision has been taken on the basis of the best health advice available to our state.

More information about the return to school and coronavirus (COVID-19) can be found on the CECV website, which will continue to be updated:
www.cecv.catholic.edu.au/Coronavirus-information-for-parents.

Thank you for your continued support and patience during this time. We look forward to welcoming students back to the classroom.

A reminder that this Friday 15 May has been designated as a Wellbeing Day to give both staff and students a reprieve from screens! This will be a mid-term break to allow staff, students and families time to reflect on what they have achieved to date and prepare for what lies ahead. There will be no classes held on this day and it is my intention to shut the school so that all can take a well-earned break.

Coincidentally this Saturday 16 May is recognised as Education Support Personnel Day throughout the world to recognise the extraordinary contribution Education Support Staff make to our schools. At Penola Catholic College we are extremely fortunate to have such wonderful Education Support Staff who enhance each of your son or daughter's experience here at school. This can be directly in the classroom with our Learning Support Officers, Laboratory Technicians and Classroom Assistants or indirectly through a range of services such as Maintenance, Finance, Library, First Aid, ICT, Student Services and Administration. I would like to publicly acknowledge each and every one of these staff members and thank them for their contribution to Penola Catholic College.

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Regards

Chris Caldwell
Principal