

Tuesday July 20, 2021

Dear Parents and Carers

As most of you are aware, Victorian Premier Daniel Andrews, announced an extension of the lockdown of Victoria for a further 7 days from midnight Tuesday July 20 to midnight Tuesday July 27. Thank you for all your support during this past 3 days of remote and flexible learning.

He also announced that if students can learn from home, they must learn from home for the remaining days, that is from Tuesday July 20 until Tuesday July 27. We will continue the process of remote learning for the remaining 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 12 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 and no later than midday Friday July 23 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 at all times.

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 in the ERC (Library) 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 front gate will be the only gate open to students for entry and exit.

Access to Both Campuses

Both the Glenroy campus and the Broadmeadows campus will be open on Wednesday July 21 from 8.00a.m. – 10.00a.m. for any staff or students to pick up additional books, resources or equipment.

There are a significant number of events that were planned for these days which will largely be rescheduled. I have listed these below:

College Production – Rescheduled to early August (Dates to be confirmed)

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 (Dates to be confirmed)

Year 11 Reflection Day – Wednesday July 28 Rescheduled (Dates to be confirmed)

2021 General Achievement Test –

No announcements have been made regarding the 2021 General Achievement Test (GAT) scheduled for next Thursday 29 July 2021 but we will communicate with you as soon as possible once known.

To support the health and wellbeing of all students and staff onsite, 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.

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

Regards

Chris Caldow
Principal