



Dear Parents, Carers and Students,

It has been nearly a week now since our whole school community has reverted back to Remote and Flexible learning and I am really proud to be part of the Lyndhurst community. I want to take this opportunity to acknowledge everyone who has had a part and continues to play a significant role in supporting all of us as we navigate these strange and challenging times. Firstly, our parents and carers - thank you for supporting your child/children in learning from home. We know this has not been and will not be easy, given all the other challenges you are dealing with but we want to thank you for all that you are doing. Many of you are supporting students at home with their remote learning while working from home, working onsite for essential workers, working hard to keep your families and our community safe – thank you.

To our students, thank you for your resilience, perseverance and reaching out to us when you need support. The additional challenge of battling for a quiet study space to complete your learning, while trying to motivate yourself to complete work in the same environment that you love to sit and relax. We know this is difficult and we thank you for the efforts you are putting into your learning under these difficult circumstances. For our Year 12 students, we know the additional challenge of not experiencing all the ‘fun’ that makes up a big part of year 12 is hard but I promise you that we will do what we can and what we are allowed to do in Term 4 to somehow make this up to you – even in some small way. Our leaders are looking at ways that we can make this happen. We want to encourage you all to persist despite the difficulty you face, and we are proud to see the way you are handling this and the resilience and strength you will take with you as adults in the future.

We are in this together and we will come out the other side stronger. I would like to also thank our teaching staff who are working tirelessly in providing engaging lessons, identifying the essential learnings to support our students to continue to grow as learners and to ensure that our Year 12 students are able to achieve their relative certificate at the end of the year, whether it is VCE or VCAL. I am very proud of our teaching staff and their adaptability and willingness to do whatever it takes to support our students during these challenging times.

To our Educational Support Staff, thank you for all the support you are providing, ensuring that the school community’s needs are met. The work you do behind the scenes every day and adjusting to new ways of doing your job is something I am very proud of – you are an integral part of our school team and make a huge difference to our staff, our students and our families – thank you!

To our wellbeing team, thank you for the care and support you are providing our parent and student community. These are extremely challenging times with parents and students experiencing a range of emotions and the work you do is integral to support the mental health and wellbeing of our community.

And finally a special thanks to our leadership team who are working tirelessly supporting our whole school community, responding to changing demands and advice almost daily and keeping us all connected and united. Thank you! As I write this and reflect on these past few months, it is humbling to know I am part of such an amazing community, where everybody in their own way is making difference. I look forward to the day we can all be reunited at our College and celebrate the wonderful work everybody is doing.

We are bringing back Fun Friday for our Year 7 – 10 students, which was a huge hit last term: no lessons will be held for these year levels, instead we are asking students and staff to engage in a fun activity that makes you feel good and happy. This can include baking, shooting hoops, gardening, kicking the footy, doing some art work, walking the dog, playing UNO, going for a bike ride, or watching a movie. It is really important that we manage our mental health and wellbeing during this period of social isolation and remote learning, and this is one way that our community can connect and do something together. We would once again like you to take photos and share what you are doing on Fun Friday.

For our Year 12s, this is your day that you can take a breath and ‘catch up’ on work but only for half a day and then go outside, enjoy the fresh air, take some no-stress time for yourself and do something fun!

We are seeing more and more schools closed for deep cleaning due to contact with a positive case of Covid-19. Whilst the College is following all departmental advice with temperature checks, wearing of masks, providing sanitiser etc. the best way for us to prevent the spread of Covid-19 is for people to stay home and be tested if they are unwell or experiencing any cold and flu symptoms. You should also self-isolate until results are received. We ask all members of school community to do this.

We have a skeleton staff onsite Tuesday, Thursday and Friday supporting those who absolutely have no choice but to send their child to school. We again ask that no-one comes on site without an appointment and only if you absolutely need to. We have a limited number of laptops and dongles available for those students who do not have computer or internet access. If you are in this position, please contact the school any time between 8:30 and 3:30 Monday to Friday and we can make the necessary arrangements to provide you with what you need. For the next 3 weeks, access to the school site will only be on Tuesday, Thursday or Friday.

If any families are experiencing difficulties with accessing learning please don't hesitate to contact your child's teacher, Team Leader or Sub School Leader to seek assistance. If any students are experiencing issues with completing the work we ask you to speak to your teacher as first point of call. Team Leaders and Sub School Leaders can also assist you via email or by contacting the school on 5996 0144. We all need to work together during this period of remote learning to help support each other and our students.

We hope everyone enjoys Fun Friday this week and please remember to keep submitting your progress with the staff vs. students fitness challenge. Right now the students are winning, but the staff are still in the running and we are working hard to catch up to the students. Please continue to send your work and your photos to your teachers and photos from 'Fun Friday' to the Lyndhurst email : Lyndhurst.sc@education.vic.gov.au

Again, please do not hesitate to contact the school if your child needs support. We will make sure someone from our wellbeing team reaches out and offers support. I remind you that if the situation is an emergency, I encourage you to contact 000 and seek assistance at once. Beyond Blue also has valuable information and advice on mental health during the pandemic:

<https://www.beyondblue.org.au/the-facts/looking-after-your-mental-health-during-the-coronavirus-outbreak>

On behalf of all of us who work at the College, I thank you for your continued support. We are, once again, entering challenging times but this too shall pass. We will continue working together and supporting each other.

Stay Safe everyone,

Konnie Prades

Principal

8th August, 2020