



LYNDHURST SECONDARY COLLEGE

Dear Parents, Carers and Students,

As we head into our final week of Term 3 and for most of our students, complete whole term of remote learning, I want to take this opportunity to once again thank our whole school community for working together to make this experience and challenge as smooth as possible. The resilience displayed by our students and our whole community is admirable and the support that we show each other is critical as we navigate these strange and challenging times. I would like to acknowledge how challenging this term has been for our parents and carers - many of you are supporting students at home with their remote learning while working from home, others working onsite as essential workers and everyone 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 holidays are nearly upon us and as the holidays before, these holidays will not be ordinary holidays, and will continue to prove a challenge as for at least the first week, we will still be under Stage 4 restrictions. I do encourage you to take some time to relax, enjoy time with your families and take advantage of the two hours we are allowed to be outside. Try as much as possible to stay off the devices and have some down time. Engage in activities that promote a sense of calm and feeling grounded. Listening to music, meditation, breathing exercises and yoga can be good for reducing anxiety. Stay active - there's many different types of exercise you can do from home, thanks to YouTube and apps. Keep connected - stay in touch with your friends via text, Messenger, WhatsApp, FaceTime, or phone calls. Hopefully as we move into October the restrictions will start to ease and we will be able to do more. The sunshine is definitely helping.

Next week our Sub Schools in Year 7 – 10 have organised a variety of fun and engaging activities to support our students and help everyone stay connected. We also come to the end of the Staff vs Student Fitness Challenge – and though staff are leading, students can still catch up. With the extra hour allowed next week, we might see an increase in the number of kilometres travelled by our community. We have decided, given we are still in remote learning next term, that the “Guess the Staff Member” trivia will move to early next term and will run over 5 weeks. Your sub school team and Miss Shaw will provide more details via Compass.

We approach Term 4 knowing that there will be remote learning for all of our students, at least for part of the term. We approach the graduation of the class of 2020 uncertain of our ability to celebrate with them in person. Despite all of this, we must hold onto the certainty that we will get through this, the restrictions will ease and we will be able to see the end of 2020 with all of our students successfully completing their respective years. Hopefully over this time our bonds with our families have grown stronger, we have become a more compassionate society and more resilient. We must hold onto hope and that will get us through these next few months of uncertainty.

Term 4 Arrangements

Year 12

Year 12 will begin Term 4 (commencing Monday 5th October) in remote learning. Please note that the General Achievement Test (GAT) will still be held on site at the College on Wednesday 7th October, for all Year 12 students and Year 11 VCE students studying a Unit 3/4 subject. The GAT starts at 10am and we will be asking our students to be on site by 9:30, to allow for temperature checking, and general housekeeping in readiness for a 10:00 am start. The GAT will take place in the Senior Study area. The College will be in touch with the senior students regarding the arrangements for the GAT over the next week.

At this stage, classes are planned to resume for Year 12 students on Monday, 12th October

At this stage we are planning to hold trial examinations for our Year 12 students from the Wednesday to Friday of the second week of Term 4 (14th-16th October).

As the Graduation/Valedictory evening is currently scheduled for the last week of term, we will wait on further advice from the Premier before we decide on how or if this can proceed.

Examinations for the VCE are planned to proceed as scheduled. The exams will begin on Tuesday 10th November and conclude on Tuesday 1st December. Results will be released on Wednesday 30th December.

The class of 2020 are leaving school having had a Year 12 that bears little resemblance to that of the class of 2019 and those before them. My heart goes out to each and every one of our students. They must be thinking about what they have lost and, when doing that it is hard to focus on the future. But the future will arrive and our students must have faith that with it will be the sense of hope and possibilities. Overcoming the challenges of 2020 will help them be better prepared and more resilient to face future challenges that we all encounter on our life journey. Our Year 12 VCE students go into their final exams with our whole community behind them wishing them the very best. We also wish our Year 12 VCAL students our best wishes as they finalise their outcomes and achieve their Senior Certificate.

Year 11

Year 11 students will start the term (Monday 5th Oct) in remote learning. As noted above, Year 11 VCE students doing a Unit 3/4 subject will do the GAT on Wednesday 7th October onsite.

At this stage, classes will begin on site for Year 11 students on Monday 12th October.

Year 7 – 10

Sadly there is another period of remote learning for students in these year levels. At the time of writing this, Term 4 will begin in remote learning for students in Year 7 – 10, with the earliest date for these students to return to onsite learning is Monday 26th October. This will be subject to Victorian Government direction based on health advice. It is my hope that we will be able to welcome our students back on site after the first three weeks of Term 4.

The College will be closed on the Monday and Tuesday of the first week of term to preserve the GAT. We simply cannot risk the GAT not going ahead, or a confirmed case at the College by having students or staff on site at such a crucial time.

During weeks 2 and 3 of Term 4, we will be maintaining the same status as Term 3 for onsite supervision. We must minimise any further disruptions to our Year 12s and do everything we can to ensure the Year 12s are able to sit their final exams. To do this we must minimise every chance of our College being exposed to COVID and facing closure.

Remote Learning Parent and Student Survey

We have placed a survey for parents/carers and students on Compass to complete. We encourage you all to complete this as this will provide us with valuable feedback as we head into Term 4 to continue to improve the work we are doing and to better support our families and students. The survey will be open until next week Friday. I encourage all parents, carers and students to complete.

Next week we will have a skeleton staff onsite on Monday and Thursday 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 via phone or email 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 first week of Term 4, access to the College site at this stage will be Wednesday and Thursday only.

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 continue to work together during this period of remote learning to help support each other and our students.

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. I would like to wish everyone a good final week of Term 3 and a wonderful and restful break. I will send out further communications with any updates early Term 4

Stay Safe everyone,

Konnie Prades

Principal

13th September, 2020