



Dear Parents, Carers and Students,

I welcome everybody back to the start of Term 4 and hope you all had a good break and the opportunity for some down time despite the restrictions. We start Term 4, with once again being in remote and flexible learning for all of our students. But there is hope that it will not be long before we have all our students back on site. Our senior students will be returning to onsite learning as of Monday 12th of October.

I would like to thank and congratulate all who participated in the Staff vs Student Fitness Challenge – I don't have the final results but Mr Potter will share these with our community next week. We will give our students and families some fun insight into our staff and get to know them a little better. And of course there will be prizes for the top three winning home groups. You will be provided with photos of our staff in their much younger years (babies and toddlers); their favourite sports and two truths and a lie and you will need to match these with staff. More information will be forthcoming this week. We hope you all get involved (the fun and connection you will have as a family and home group alone are worth it, but there will be prizes for the top three home groups). Our sub school team and Miss Shaw will provide more details via Compass.

A reminder that applications for Lyndhurst Secondary College Scholarship Program are due October 28th and I would encourage all students to apply. Scholarships are available in the following areas: Academic Excellence, Community Spirit, Sport, Performing Arts and Visual Arts. All details regarding these scholarships are on our website.

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. Please refer to communications posted on Thursday 1st October for further details and VCAA advice.

As advised by the premier, classes are planned to resume onsite for Year 12 students on Monday, 12th October.

The trial examinations for our Year 12 students will proceed as planned 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

I am sure our whole school community will join me in wishing our Year 12 VCE students our very best wishes and good thoughts as they prepare for their final exams and our Year 12 VCAL students the very best as they complete their final requirements for their Senior VCAL certificate. It has been a challenging year and Ms Shaw and Mr Brannan are seeking feedback from our students in how they would like to commemorate their final year of secondary schooling, given all the restrictions. More information regarding celebration and the graduation of the class of 2020 will be forthcoming.

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.

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. As advised by the premier last Sunday, 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.

A reminder to anyone who comes on site: face mask must be worn at all times (a shield alone is no longer accepted but can be worn with a mask); you must maintain social distancing. Students are to have their temperature checked and must hand sanitise before entering any building or classroom. Students are also required to hand sanitise when leaving the classroom. This also applies to any adult that comes on site with an appointment.

Remote Learning Parent and Student Survey

The survey placed on Compass last term for parents/carers and students is still open and I would once again like to 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 Friday 9th October. I encourage all parents, carers and students to complete.

Next week we will have a skeleton staff onsite on Wednesday, 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 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.

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 and look forward to welcoming all our students back on site as soon as the Government deems it safe to do so. Wishing you all a great start to Term 4.

Stay Safe everyone,

Konnie Prades

Principal

4th October, 2020