



LYNDHURST
SECONDARY
COLLEGE

UPDATE: RETURN TO ONSITE LEARNING FOR YEARS 8–10

Dear parents/carers,

The last week has been exciting seeing students back on site. The College was a quiet and sad place without our students. We welcomed the noise, the excitement, the buzz as students reconnected with their friends, teachers welcomed students into their classrooms and at least part of our community was back together again. It is with great anticipation that we look forward to next Monday, 26th October when we welcome back our Year 8 – 10 cohort and have our whole community back on site. We also look forward to welcoming back the rest of our staff who continue to work remotely. The last week has been a smooth transition and I am very proud of how our students have responded and respected the different set of protocols that were put in place to ensure a safe return to school for everyone. The biggest challenge for everyone was the wearing of masks and although we appreciate how challenging this can be, we must stay the course and follow the rules as set out by our Premier and Chief Health Officer. We all need to remember that these measures are in place to keep us all safe and well.

While we are excited to see everyone, we must remind you that **if your child is unwell, they need to stay home.**

As outlined in my communication on the 9th of October, there is a new normal that we must embrace as our students return back to school on site. Please refer to the key points of that communication in readiness for your child's return to school. Please also remind your child to bring a water bottle and lunch to school; the canteen will not be operational for the remainder of this term.

When our students return to onsite learning, they will be experiencing a range of emotions. They'll be excited and anxious, overwhelmed and scared, happy and sad – all very normal emotions in the current climate. To support our students in their transition back to onsite learning, and in recognition of the many diverse challenges our students faced over the last 8+ weeks during remote learning, our staff will be providing time for students to re-engage with their classes, catch up on important tasks, provide opportunity for extension – whatever their individual needs are. Please take the time to talk with your child and reassure them that we will support them in readjusting back to the school setting and we will manage together any work they may not have been able to do during remote learning.

We remind students that they must be in full school uniform, mobile phones are not allowed during the school day and to bring their devices to school and to class.

Please remember that no parents/carers are to be on site at the College. When you drop off your student(s), please remain outside the school gates. We need to ensure that everyone stays safe. Please contact the school directly if you have any questions or need any support.

Please refer to communications sent out on the 9th of October which outline in detail the protocols we have put in place to ensure everyone's safety. Further communications regarding this will be provided in next week's letter, and students will be meeting with their sub schools who will outline some key changes that will be put in place to ensure everyone's safety. Since the return of our Senior Students and Year 7 students, we have created a 'bubble' for year levels, to minimise contact across year levels with specific yard duty areas for each cohort. Further work is being done this week in readiness for the return of our whole school community on October 26th.

Parent/Teacher Interviews

A reminder that tomorrow we will be conducting **Parent Teacher Conferences** and bookings are essential and can be made on **Compass**. The interviews will be available during the school day via Webex (links to individual teachers will be available once bookings are made) 9am – 3pm; 4:00 pm to 6:30 pm. This is an opportunity for parents to check in with staff and have a 5 minute conference in relation to your child's learning during semester 2. This is the first time we have conducted our interviews via video and we are hopeful that everything will go smoothly. We also ask for your patience should we encounter any challenges. Feedback will be sought from parents on the process.

Parent/Student Survey

Thank you to all who participated in the last parent/student surveys that was seeking feedback on Remote Learning 2.0. Overall the feedback was very positive with the biggest issues identified were the loss of connection students had with their peers, motivation was lagging and an eagerness for students to return to onsite learning. Overwhelmingly the feedback indicated that the parents valued the communication from the College, the work being online from the beginning of the week which supported independent learning and the amount of work was manageable. In addition the survey feedback showed parents/carers felt the College provided their student/s support for their mental health and wellbeing. Repeatedly the theme was to get us back to onsite learning. I think everybody would be happy to see all of our students returning to onsite learning next week.

We will be reviewing our student feedback in more detail and working directly with them and making appropriate adjustments. Thank you again for taking the time to complete the survey and providing us with valuable feedback.

I am very proud to be part of the Lyndhurst community and look forward to the 26th of October, where we will have our whole school community on site, together again.

Stay Safe

Warm Regards

Konnie Prades

Principal

18th October, 2020