

Dear parents and carers,

As you are aware, the situation regarding coronavirus (COVID-19) continues to evolve. I would like to take this opportunity to thank you for your support during the early commencement of the Term 1 holidays.

The Victorian Government has now advised that all schools will move to remote and flexible learning when students return for Term 2 on Wednesday 15 April.

To ensure the safety of staff and students this means that all students who can learn at home must learn from home. This is a very clear directive by the Victorian Government based on the advice of the Chief Health Officer.

All students will be learning from home, except in the following circumstances:

1. Vulnerable children, including:

- children in out-of-home care
- children deemed by Child Protection and/or Family Services to be at risk of harm
- children identified by the school as vulnerable (including via referral from a family violence agency, homelessness or youth justice service or mental health or other health service and children with a disability).

Either Mrs Carina Barton (Years 7-9) or Miss Renae Newell (Years 10-12) will contact the relevant out-of-home students and parents/carers on Tuesday 14th April.

2. Children of working parents who cannot work from home must complete an on-site attendance request (will be available on CSC website from Tuesday 14th April) in accordance with the following DET process.

- **BY 3PM EACH THURSDAY:** Parents or carers to provide application form and evidence for required days/times **the following week.**
- **BY CLOSE OF BUSINESS FRIDAY:** If the school is satisfied the request meets the threshold of the student being on-site, then attendance for the following week will be confirmed with parents/carers.
- ***This process must be completed in advance each week to support required staffing. School staff are not compelled to be on-site, they can work from home. Therefore students cannot just turn up at school because there may not be adequate staffing. (The Victorian Government has stated that the ratio for supervision is 1 staff member/ 10 students).***
- ***In the event students do attend without completing an on-site attendance request, as described above, parents/carers will be asked to collect them.***
- If you believe you qualify for this category (and have the evidence) and would like your child to attend on Wednesday 15th April, please contact Mrs Carina Barton (Years 7-9) or Miss Renae Newell (Years 10-12) on Tuesday 14th April between the hours of 9am – 11am on 5581 1588. Otherwise, attach a completed On-Site Attendance Request and evidence to a XUNO communication to Mrs Carina Barton (Years 7-9) or Miss Renae Newell (Years 10-12) by 3pm Thursday 16th April (in readiness for the week starting 20th April).

Year 12 VCAL and VCE students

The DET has given approval for schools to have small groups of VCE and VCAL students on-site to complete their learning requirements if this is necessary and cannot be undertaken at home. At CSC, Year 12 VCAL and VCE staff may at times require students to attend class on-site. Further information about this will be provided if these arrangements are necessary. All appropriate physical distancing and hygiene measures will be put in place.

The remote and flexible learning action is not being taken lightly, and I understand it may cause you and your family concern and stress. Please know this step is being taken to slow the spread of the virus and ensure the health and safety of all Victorians.

Most of our staff will also be working from home. Teachers have been working hard to put curriculum plans in place to ensure continuity of learning and to support the wellbeing of all our students. Non-teaching staff will make regular contact with students who currently receive additional support.

To guarantee no student misses out, Casterton Secondary College has ensured all students have access to a computer and work is also underway to provide internet to students who do not currently have access at home. Whilst this is being finalised work will be placed on a USB.

USB process:

- Parents/carers of identified students can collect the relevant USB on Tuesday 14th April between the hours of 10am -12am.
- Subject teachers will provide 2-weeks of work on the USB
- Students are required to save completed work on the USB
- On Monday every fortnight between the hours of 9am-11am (the first “return” will be Monday 27th April) parents/carers will return the USB which has the completed work.
- Parents/carers will collect a replacement USB on Mondays when they return the USB with completed student work.

This is clearly going to be a challenging time for all of us. It’s going to be critically important that we work very closely together to ensure that we provide the very best possible support for the ongoing wellbeing and learning of our students and your children.

A “Covid-19” folder will be available from Tuesday 14th April on the CSC website. It will contain all relevant DET factsheets, CSC information, ways you can support your child during this transition, teenager tips for mental health, links to relevant sites etc.

The Department of Education and Training’s Learning from Home website also provides information and resources for parents and carers: <https://www.education.vic.gov.au/parents/learning/Pages/home-learning.aspx>

Further information regarding coronavirus (COVID-19) and schools can be found on the Department’s website, which will continue to be updated as the situation evolves:

<https://www.education.vic.gov.au/about/department/Pages/coronavirus.aspx>

On behalf of all staff at Casterton Secondary College I thank you for your support during this extremely challenging time.

Kind regards

Meridith Walker
Principal