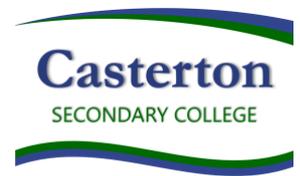


Casterton Secondary College – Covid 19 Update



Dear parents and carers,

As you are aware, the situation regarding coronavirus (COVID-19) continues to evolve.

The Victorian Government has now advised that all schools will move to remote and flexible learning from Wednesday the 5th August.

The information that follows comes from an Operations Guide that was updated on 4th August on the DET website. There are likely to be some tweaks when the DET releases the final document.

To ensure the safety of staff and students 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:

- o children in out-of-home care
- o children deemed by Child Protection and/or Family Services to be at risk of harm
- o 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)

2. Children with a disability who also fit one of the “vulnerable children” category.

3. Children of working parents who cannot work from home must complete an on-site attendance request

(Will be available on CSC website from Wednesday 5th August) 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 THE 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.
- Attach a completed On-Site Attendance Request and evidence to a XUNO communication to Mrs Layley.
- As per DET guidelines, the learning program delivered on-site will be the same as the learning program delivered to students undertaking remote learning.
- Students learning on-site will be supervised by school staff on-site but follow the teaching and learning program provided by their subject teacher. Support will be provided by subject teachers, online.

Year 12 VCAL and VCE students

1. *VCE Year 12 students*

Students completing Year 12 subjects will be required to attend school to complete mandatory assessments to meet VCAA authentication requirements. Assessments are utilised to contribute to ATAR scores, to determine unit outcome results and to calculate derived exam scores. Thus students will be required to attend onsite to complete SACs, SAT, assessment tasks and practical tasks (subjects such as Studio Art, Chemistry, and PD&T etc.).

Staff will indicate to students when assessments will be conducted, according to VCAA requirements and our Senior School Policy, and inform students of their requirement to attend, in a timely manner. Students must attend on these dates or supply a medical certificate if unable to attend. Students will be required to sign into school at the front office, wear a mask and adhere to safe distancing rules. If you have any further questions relating to this advice, please contact Renae Newell via Xuno.

1. Applying to University

Ms Newell and Mrs Fidler are currently compiling a university applications information pack which will be distributed next week. It is recommended that students and parents follow the guidance provided in the packs. Ultimately the application process is the responsibility of the students and the parents but this information is supplied to facilitate the process. It is advised that Year 12 students keep in regular contact with Mrs Fidler about their options, applications to university, scholarships, SEAS etc.

2. VCAL students

As previously circulated, all VCAL placements have been suspended as we wait for further clarification from the DET. Students are required to use Tuesdays and Fridays to complete VET requirements. Individual RTOs are providing students directly with their work. This is a valuable opportunity for students to work towards completing their certificates. Mrs Fidler will be checking in on the students via Xuno on a regular basis to ensure they are on track.

Access to Devices: To guarantee no student misses out, Casterton Secondary College has ensured all students have access to a computer and access to the internet where possible. Alternate arrangements have been made for students who can't access the internet.

This is clearly going to be another 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 support for the ongoing wellbeing and learning of our students and your children.

A "Covid-19" folder for Term 3 will be available 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. Much of the DET information is in the term 1 Covid-19 folder.

The school continues to provide support through:

- IT support is provided by Aaron McKinnon
- Members of leadership are available during the day to answer questions and chat
- Front office staff are available to respond to queries, etc.
- You can send messages through XUNO to CSC staff – you will receive a response within 24 hours
- The CSC Website which provides user guides relating to online learning and a dedicated Covid-19 link.

Leadership Team: Meridith Walker (Principal); John Webb (Assistant Principal); Jo McKenzie (Director of Teaching and Learning); Carina Barton (Middle School Leader); Renae Newell (Senior School Leader) and Renee Jukes (Business Manager).

It is gratifying to be part of a school community that remains positive and optimistic. I am confident that the structures the school has in place to support remote online learning will ensure a smooth transition to on-site learning when the Victorian Chief Medical Officer and Government deems it safe to return.

The Department of Education and Training's Learning from Home website provides updated information and resources for parents and carers:

<https://www.education.vic.gov.au/parents/learning/Pages/home-learning.aspx>

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

Warm regards

Meridith Walker – Principal
05/08/2020