

Fairhills High School

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Dear parents, carers, students and staff

Earlier today, the Victorian Government announced that, on the advice of the Victorian Chief Health Officer, regional and rural Victoria will move to Stage 3 restrictions and metropolitan Melbourne will move to Stage 4 restrictions to slow the spread of coronavirus (COVID-19).

These requirements apply to all schools across the government, Catholic and independent sectors and across all metropolitan Melbourne and rural and regional Victoria.

The changes to schools' operations will come into effect from Wednesday 5 August, following a student free day on Tuesday 4 August, and are likely to apply until the end of Term 3.

As outlined in the Chief Health Officer's advice on Friday, schools remain safe places for staff and students – but these steps are critical measures to reduce the movement of students and families across the state.

There are implications for our school, and for families in our school community.

A summary of what the changes mean for schools is below.

METROPOLITAN MELBOURNE

PREP TO YEAR 10

- Prep to Year 10 students will continue with remote and flexible learning.
- The criteria for students that can attend on-site has changed as follows:
 - children whose parents are permitted workers. The Victorian Government will provide further advice about this over the coming days
 - vulnerable children in out of home care, children known to child protection and other agencies and children the school identifies as vulnerable
 - children with a disability who also fit one of the above two categories.

SENIOR SECONDARY YEAR 11 AND 12 (VCE AND VCAL)

- All Year 11 and 12 provision for both VCE and VCAL will move to remote and flexible learning.
- The GAT will be rescheduled from Wednesday 9 September to Wednesday 7 October.
- The schedule for the VCE examinations and release of results will remain as previously advised.
- Further information about consideration of disadvantage and coronavirus (COVID-19) will be provided shortly.

SPECIALIST SCHOOLS

- On-site provision in specialist schools will only be available to children whose parents are permitted workers, and vulnerable children.

RURAL AND REGIONAL VICTORIA

PREP TO YEAR 10

- Prep to Year 10 students will move to remote and flexible learning.
- On-site supervision in rural and regional Victoria will be available to:
 - Children whose parents cannot work from home
 - Vulnerable children
 - Any child with a disability

SENIOR SECONDARY YEAR 11 AND 12 (VCE AND VCAL)

- All Year 11 and 12 provision for both VCE and VCAL will move to remote and flexible learning.
- The GAT will be rescheduled from Wednesday 9 September to Wednesday 7 October.
- The schedule for the VCE examinations and release of results will remain as previously advised.
- Further information about consideration of disadvantage and coronavirus (COVID-19) will be provided shortly.

SPECIALIST SCHOOLS

- Any child enrolled in a specialist school in rural and regional Victoria will be able to continue to attend.
- Any parent of a child enrolled in a specialist school in rural and regional Victoria who wishes to keep their child at home can do so, and where possible, the school can provide learning materials and activities for the child and their parent to complete at home.

TIMELINE

- Monday 3 August will be a 'normal' day of school under current arrangements, with students attending on site learning asked to take all their necessary learning materials home.
- Tuesday 4 August will be a student-free day across Victoria to enable teachers, especially in rural and regional Victoria, to prepare for flexible and remote learning.
- Wednesday 5 August will be the first day of new arrangements for schools across Victoria
- This is a day ahead of the statewide introduction of the Stage 3 restrictions in rural and regional Victoria, but will provide for a smooth transition and will enable as much continuity of learning as possible.

STAFFING

- Schools will ensure sufficient staff are available for necessary on site supervision.
- Staff not required for on site supervision will work from home.

REMOTE & FLEXIBLE LEARNING

- The arrangements at Fairhills will be similar to those that we had at the start of Term 2
- In particular:
 - Students will continue to follow their normal timetable
 - Each timetabled period will have a detailed lesson plan placed on Compass a week in advance so students/parents can plan effectively
 - Class teachers will provide a Webex lesson at least once per week by providing the 'join meeting' details in the lesson plan on Compass. All students are expected to participate as an indication of their engagement with their learning.
 - Class teachers will set written work to be submitted to them electronically at least once per fortnight. All students are expected to submit this work on time as another indication of their engagement with their learning. This work will be used towards their final Semester 2 assessment/reports
 - Students are encouraged to email their class teachers with any questions or concerns they might have
 - Parents are encouraged to monitor their student's progress by regularly looking at Compass and assisting their student to complete the set work and submit it on time
 - The existing booking system for seeking emotional/counselling support from our Wellbeing team will continue for both parents and students

We will all certainly remember 2020 as a very different year. Of course there are difficulties, many of them for some of our families. That is why Fairhills wants to explain clearly about how we might best continue student learning opportunities and also carefully provide the academic and personal support that students and parents may need. However it is also an opportunity for all of us to learn new skills, develop our capacity for flexibility and perseverance, and find new ways to enjoy life and make it fulfilling.

Best wishes

Harvey Wood
Principal