

17 September, 2020

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Main Points

- Return to Onsite Learning Update
- The General Achievement Test (GAT)
- Priorities – wellbeing, learning and transition
- Examinations

Dear Parents and Carers

We hope this communication finds you well as we move towards the end of an extraordinary Term.

The purpose of this letter is to provide further information about the return to face-to-face learning along with some likely scenarios for events scheduled for later in Term 4. As we have discovered we are needing to be agile in dealing with changing restrictions and will update arrangements as more information is provided.

We will continue to evaluate all activities to ensure the safety of students in line with current changes in restrictions. As we plan our return to onsite teaching and learning, our number one priority is the safety of students, staff and the community.

Return to onsite learning

In the week commencing Monday 5 October (the scheduled first week of term) all classes will be held remotely. Onsite supervision for students of permitted workers and vulnerable students will be provided consistent with current guidelines. Although primary schools in regional Victoria are returning in this week, the State Government's directive to continue with remote learning for secondary students is a way to ensure the GAT takes place in every school and that all students studying a Unit 3 and 4 subject are able to attend. Students studying a Unit 3/4 subject will be required to attend at certain times to complete the General Achievement Test (GAT) and other essential assessments. All students (7–12) will return to face to face learning on site in Week 2 on Monday October 12.

General Achievement Test and School Holiday onsite attendance

The General Achievement Test (GAT) will be held on-site in classrooms in line with VCAA guidelines on Wednesday 7 October. The GAT is a test for all students studying one or more Unit 3 and 4 subjects and undertaking the end of year exam. It is a 3-hour test, including two essays and 70 multiple-choice questions. The GAT is an essential part of the VCE assessment procedure. Although the GAT results do not count directly towards VCE results, they play an important role in checking that school-based assessments and external assessments have been accurately assessed. This is even more important this year due to COVID-19 and a scenario where a student cannot sit a subject exam. Schools have been advised that they should not schedule practice exams and assessments, revision classes and extra classes for VCE and VCAL students during the Term 3 school holidays. This

restriction exists for all secondary schools in Victoria. It has been disappointing for our students and we hope that with existing technology and the extra weeks of classes for Year 12 that students feel supported.

Priorities

The wellbeing, and particularly the mental health, of every student and member of staff is the highest priority. This means encouraging motivation for learning, re-engaging and supporting students as well as focussing on curriculum-based learning.

Some students have been better able to progress in their learning in the remote and flexible learning environment, others have maintained their rate of progress, and some have, despite their best efforts and those of their families and teachers, fallen behind. It will be critical to ensure those who have fallen behind can catch up and to support those who have progressed to continue to extend and stretch their learning. Please contact your daughter's mentor group teacher, Year Level Coordinator or subject teacher if you have any concerns.

Examinations

The VCE Unit 3 and 4 written examinations commence with the English Exam on Tuesday November 10. The Year 11 exams will commence on Monday 16 November and conclude on 20 November. Headstart for 2021 Unit 3/4 subjects will begin on 23 November to 3 December.

Year 11 VCAL students will continue with their classes and VET program until Friday November 20 (some external VET programs may require catch up for placement etc) and complete a Headstart program following this. The last day for Year 11 students will be Thursday 3 December and will include a liturgy and awards.

End of year exams for Year 10 are Friday 27 November-3 December. Year 8 and 9 will have reduced tests/exams. More details will be communicated through Year Level Coordinators. There are no examinations for Year 7 students.

Thank you on behalf of the staff for your ongoing support and understanding as we move through this challenging time together. Best wishes to you and your daughter/s for the upcoming break. We trust that you all continue to take care of yourself and loved ones, and that you find ways to enjoy the easing of restrictions.

Your sincerely



Michelle Brodrick
Principal

Quick Reference of Key Dates for Term 4:

- **Monday 5 October** – all students return to remote learning for one final week
- **Wednesday 7 October** – **GAT** – onsite for VCE UNIT 3 & 4 students only
- **Monday 12 October** – All students (7 -12) return to school for on-site learning
- **Tuesday 10 November** – Unit 3 and 4 VCE exams commence
- **Monday 16 November** – Year 11 exams commence
- **Thursday 3 December** – Last day for Year 11 students
- **Friday 4 December** – Last day for Year 7 – 10 students