

14 May 2020

Dear Parents and Guardians

I thank you for your support and sustained partnership with the school through the challenges presented through remote learning. I hope some special memories are being created through the opportunity to spend more time together as a family than is usually possible in the busyness of your lives and that of your daughters. I am proud of all our students for their managing of 'learning at a distance'. I am equally proud of all our dedicated staff for their extraordinary contribution.

You will no doubt have been as excited as we were when the advice came through on Tuesday morning that it is now safe to plan the return of our students and staff to school.

The broad details are:

- Schools across Victoria will commence a staged return from remote and flexible learning from Tuesday 26 May 2020.
- To support all school staff to prepare for the transition, Monday 25 May will be a pupil-free day.
- The return to school will take place in two stages.
 - **Stage 1: 25 May – 5 June:** Year 11 and 12 VCAL and VCE students will return to school from Tuesday 26 May.
 - Year 10 students undertaking VCE Unit 1 and 2 studies, should also attend school for those classes where practicable. Year 10 students with a Year 11 class will be supervised whilst they continue their remote learning in their Year 10 subjects.
 - Vocational Education and Training (VET) studies in Ballarat will continue to be completed online from home until the end of Term 2.
 - Remote and flexible learning will continue for all students in Years 7 to 10 until Tuesday 9 June.
 - During Stage 1, the existing model of on-site schooling for students who cannot be supervised at home and vulnerable students which we have previously communicated will remain in place.
 - **Stage 2: from 9 June: All students in Years 7 – 10 will** return to school from Tuesday 9 June. All students will be expected to attend school as normal.

The safety and wellbeing of all students and staff will, as always, be a priority. Whilst everyone is returning to school, it will, for this term and possibly longer, look a little different. We are currently in the process of finalising health protocols for the remainder of this term. We do understand that some of these will cause some frustration for your daughter(s). Please reassure her that these are for a period of time to provide extra safety protections for her wellbeing and the wellbeing of others.

Health protocols will include:

- **Health:**
 - Please do not send your daughter to school if she has any sign of a cold or sore throat or cough or temperature. If she has any of these symptoms, please seek medical advice, for her wellbeing and the wellbeing of all students and staff.
- **Food/Drink:**
 - Water bottles (named) are to be used at all times. The bubblers can only be used to fill water bottles.
 - Lunch orders will be available (procedures to follow in a letter next week). The Loreto Café will not be open for other purchases.
 - All microwaves, toasters will be removed.
- **Winter Uniform:**
 - Students on their return are to wear winter uniform. With more doors open than usual (to avoid use of handles), the school will be a little colder than usual. Students may wish to wear the Loreto soft shell jacket in class during this current period of some changes which are designed to support the safety and wellbeing of all.

Subject and Mentor Teachers have been monitoring student wellbeing as much as has been possible during this remote learning period. If you have observed any signs that your daughter needs wellbeing support, please contact her Mentor Teacher or Year Level Coordinator or one of our counsellors (counsellor@loreto.vic.edu.au). We are very conscious that during the current circumstances, some students are flourishing, some are managing and some are struggling. The Student Wellbeing Team have been exploring strategies to further support our students.

I will provide more information next week as our planning is finalised. I thank you for your understanding of the adjustments we are making.

I look forward to welcoming our students back to school. That will indeed be a joy.

Yours sincerely



(Ms) Judith Potter
Principal