



13 May 2020

Dear Parents and Caregivers

Thank you for all your support during these past few weeks of remote and flexible learning.

Following advice from the Chief Health Officer, the Victorian Government and the Catholic Education Commission of Victoria Ltd (CECV) have advised that schools can begin a phased return to onsite schooling.

**In the first stage, students in Prep, Grade 1 and Grade 2, senior secondary students (Years 11 and 12 VCAL and VCE) and all students in specialist schools will return to school from Tuesday 26 May.**

Year 10 students undertaking VCE studies, including VCE VET studies, should also attend school for those classes where practicable. If this is not possible for your child/children, our teachers will make sure the work provided to students attending at school is also provided to your child/children. Year 10 students unable to travel home at the end of their scheduled VCE/VET classes may be supervised at school for the remainder of the day.

To support all school staff to prepare for this transition, the College will be hosting Staff Curriculum Planning Days on Friday 22 May and Monday 25 May. This means that no classes will operate for Year 7-12 students on these days.

For Years to 10 students who cannot be supervised at home and vulnerable children, the existing model of onsite schooling will remain in place during the two-week period from Tuesday 26 May to Tuesday 9 June. The current process that we are using to enable parents and carers to indicate the days or part-days for which onsite schooling is required will continue for this two-week period.

All other students in those year levels will continue learning from home until Tuesday 9 June.

**In the second stage of our return to onsite schooling, all other year levels will return to school from Tuesday 9 June.**

Once a year level has returned, all students will be expected to attend school as normal. This means if you choose to keep your child/children home after their year level has returned to onsite schooling, we can no longer support their learning from home via remote learning. This is the approach being taken by all Catholic and government schools in Victoria.

This does not apply to children who need to be absent for health or medical reasons. In circumstances where a student is absent from classes following the activation of Onsite Learning, students will be able to access learning materials and details of Home Study via the SEQTA Portal as per standard practice. Mr Calleja will soon publish relevant protocols for Home Study.

To support the health and wellbeing of all students and staff, our school will continue an enhanced cleaning routine and will encourage frequent handwashing.

**If your child is ill or is feeling unwell, they must not attend school. They must remain home and seek medical advice.**

While the Chief Health Officer has advised that students will not be required to maintain physical distancing at school, there will be a number of important changes to our school operations, consistent with health advice to all schools that will be made available in coming days. These will apply until further notice. I will provide more details about our local school context as soon as possible, but it is important to note that changes will include:

- adjusted arrangements for drop-off and pick-up. From Tuesday May 26 until Friday June 5, we are asking Year 11 (and Year 10s studying Year 11 subjects) to be dropped off to and picked up from Gate 2. Year 12 students should be dropped off to and picked up from Gate 1. Parents are asked to remain in their cars.
- the College will have restricted access to the school site for anyone other than immediate school staff and students. Further details will be provided about this in future communications.
- the canteen and the charter bus services will operate but with some adjustments. Further details will be provided about this in future communications.
- parent-teacher meetings and interviews will mostly be conducted remotely. Further information about semester reports and parent teacher interviews etc will be provided in future communications.

We understand that some families may feel anxious about this move back to classroom teaching and learning. I can assure you that this decision has been taken on the basis of the best health advice available to our state.

More information about the return to school and coronavirus (COVID-19) can be found on the CECV website, which will continue to be updated: [www.cecv.catholic.edu.au/Coronavirus-information-for-parents](http://www.cecv.catholic.edu.au/Coronavirus-information-for-parents).

I would like to reassure families impacted financially by the coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic that we want to assist you in every way possible to continue your child's enrolment at Kolbe Catholic College.

As many in our school community grapple with unprecedented changes to finances, emotional wellbeing and physical health, we have taken a clear position on enrolments. No parent or guardian who wishes their child to receive a Catholic education at Kolbe will be denied the opportunity to do so because of financial circumstances. You have received a letter clarifying how we can explore confidential financial support arrangements to enable your child's ongoing education at our school. To facilitate your planning, we will respond to applications as promptly as possible given our own constraints during this time.

We are absolutely committed to working with you through these challenging times. The health and safety of everyone in our school community must remain our highest priority. Thank you for your ongoing understanding at this difficult time. We look forward to welcoming students back to the classroom.

Yours sincerely



**Mr Nick Scully**  
Principal