

Principal's Message

Dear students, parents, guardians and community members,

Planning for the return to school

As per my letter earlier in the week, we are busy planning for a safe return to school for all students and staff. I will be releasing more detailed plans to you next week. The Department of Education and Training released new operational guidelines this morning that are further informing these plans. For now, the essential details are in my letter overleaf. One essential point I will make now is that when we return to school, all students **MUST** ensure that they continue to bring their Windows based laptops with them to classes; teaching at Kambrya College has evolved significantly in the past two months, and we will be continuing to utilise MS Teams and other platforms to enhance student collaboration and learning. It is essential that students bring their devices to school, and that they are **fully charged overnight**. We are examining new laptop charging stations across the school for students, but these may not be in place for some time.

Year 12 VCE Students

This week we welcomed back some of our Year 12 VCE students to get stuck into their scored assessments. It was such a buzz to have some kids back onsite! We staggered the schedule to only have very small groups here at any one time, and we had strict hygiene and social distancing processes in place. It was a great success.

Feedback

Many thanks to all students and parents who have provided feedback via emails, the gratitude wall etc. We will soon be giving all students and parents the opportunity to provide us with direct feedback through a survey that invites your perceptions of the College's response to COVID-19 and the transition to remote learning. Watch this space!

Change to the Semester Two timetable roll over date

We have made the decision to postpone the Semester 2 timetable rollover to Tuesday 9 June, rather than Monday 1 June as was scheduled. Our rationale for this decision is that all students are now scheduled to return onsite on Tuesday 9 June, and it will be far better for all students and teachers to begin their new classes 'face to face' rather than attempting to do so with a week of remote learning. It will also give many students and teachers an opportunity to consolidate and wrap up their Semester 1 work with far less pressure. Classes will still be running for that extra week of Semester One, and teachers will be online to support students. Unit 2 and Unit 4 studies will definitely be commencing on Monday 1 June, and the VCE leaders will liaise with any students who are changing subjects. At this point in time, we are hoping to stick with our end of year commencement program beginning at the same time as normal, however this may be subject to change. Over the last term, teachers have all become far more skilled at 'trimming' curriculum outlines to focus on the skills that matter most, and as such we will work with our teachers to review Semester Two curriculum with the view to running our commencement program as usual without needing to impact our 2021 academic year.

Key Dates

2020

All School Calendar dates now appear on Compass - we strongly encourage all parents to check for upcoming events through Compass, click on the Calendar Tab, then Public Whole School Calendar, you are able to view details in a Week or Month format

Monday 25th May
State Wide Curriculum Day

Tuesday 26th - Thursday 28th May
Year 11, Year 12 VCE, VCAL and VET students and only Year 10 students doing a VCE unit or VET are back onsite.

All other Year 7 - 10 students are remote learning.

Friday 29th May
Staff Report Writing and
Curriculum Day -
STUDENT FREE DAY

Monday 1st - Friday 5th June
Year 11, Year 12 VCE, VCAL and VET students and only Year 10 students doing a VCE unit or VET are back onsite.

All other Year 7 - 10 students are remote learning.

Monday 8th June
Queen's Birthday PUBLIC Holiday

Tuesday 9th June
All Year 7 - 12 students are back onsite

Friday 26th June
Last Day of Term 2

Friday 18th September
Last Day of Term 3

School Council

On Wednesday evening we had our School Council meeting as scheduled, except this time we all dialed in via our MS Teams application. It worked brilliantly! Amongst many items, we discussed the fantastic Student Attitudes to School Survey results that we recently received (see last newsletter), as well as the extensive capital works improvements that we currently have underway and planned for the near future. Many thanks to all the School Council members for your ongoing efforts to support our College.

Year 7 transition

A reminder that all Year 7 2021 transition information is now available on the website. This includes a new virtual tour of the school, and narrated powerpoint presentations that would ordinarily have occurred at our information evenings. The virtual tour is also available on our Facebook page.

Guests from South Eastern Victoria Region

On Thursday morning it was our privilege to host some executive staff from the South Eastern Victoria Regional Office, including Angela Singh (Acting Regional Director), Deborah Locco (Executive Director of School Improvement) and Anne Martin (Senior Education Improvement Leader). Our guests dropped in on Ms Sarah Day's virtual Year 11 General Math class. They observed the class in action, and also engaged with the students to gain insight into their experiences of remote learning. Our guests reported to me that it was a fantastic experience and a valuable insight into the great work that teachers and students have been doing. Big thanks to Ms Day and her students! We also had a separate virtual meeting with Brett Wilson (Assistant Principal), Kelly Kinsella (Acting Assistant Principal) and Kristy Panayioutou (Student Health, Wellbeing and Engagement Leader) to discuss the strategies that we have used to monitor and sustain student engagement and wellbeing during this time, and also to discuss our thoughts for the future beyond remote learning. It was a great discussion that gave us some additional ideas for the future, and validated our efforts thus far.

School Photos

School Photos arrived earlier in the term, however we have been unable to provide these to families at this point in time. Year 11 and 12 students will receive theirs when they return on Tuesday 26 May. Year 7-10 students will receive theirs when they return on Tuesday 9 June.

Wishing all a lovely weekend.

Kind Regards

Keith Perry
Principal



12 May 2020

Dear parents, guardians and students,

I hope that this letter continues to find you all in great physical and mental health. A huge thanks to you all for your ongoing resilience and support of the College, and of your children and one another.

There were obviously some big announcements from the Victorian Government this morning!

I write to provide you with a brief update, but there will be more details to come soon.

The following list outlines the essential details you that you need for now.

Week 7

- Monday 25 May – State Wide Curriculum Day (this is new as per the announcement this morning by the Victorian Minister for Education)
- Tuesday 26 May, Wednesday 27 May and Thursday 29 May – Year 11 and 12 VCE, VCAL and VET students, and only Year 10 students doing a VCE unit or VET are back on site. All other Year 7-10 students are remote learning.
- Friday 29 May – Kambrya College Curriculum Day (as per my prior communications, this was the one that we already had scheduled)

Week 8

- Year 11 and 12 students, and only Year 10 students doing a VCE unit or VET are back on site.
- All other Year 7-10 students are continuing with remote learning.

Week 9

- Tuesday 9 June – All Year 7 -12 students are back on site.

I will say from the outset is that this will not be a return to school 'as normal.' For example, there will be modifications to the timetable, restricted movements across the school, and very clear expectations for students regarding infection protocols etc. We are continuing to work on our plans to successfully manage a safe return to school for all students and staff, as per the new Government schedule.

I have no doubt that you have many questions. Respectfully, I ask you to please hold off on asking them just for now; we will give everyone the opportunity to do so in due course, but hopefully we will address the vast majority of them in the further communications that you will soon be receiving. As always, please trust that we will have thorough risk assessments and plans in place before we release further details to the broader community, and you will have the opportunity to provide feedback or clarify any details then. At this point in time we are working to a timeline that will see us release this plan to you all early/mid next week. For now, it is business as usual with our remote learning program for all students.

Kind regards,

Keith Perry
Principal

Maximising the potential of each student

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Integrity

Respect

Compassion

Achievement

Admin News

ASTHMA IN COLD AND FLU SEASON

We are now entering the peak season for colds and flu, which can be more serious for people with asthma, even if your asthma is mild or your symptoms are well-controlled by medication.

The reasons for this are not fully understood, however we do know that people with asthma have swollen and sensitive airways, and it is thought that colds and flu can cause further swelling of the airways, which can trigger asthma flare-ups and a worsening of asthma symptoms.

WHAT CAN YOU DO?

Cold and flu viruses are very common triggers for people with asthma, and although you can't always avoid them, you can lower your risk and the impact of a cold or flu triggering an asthma flare-up. Good asthma management year-round is key to ensuring you are ready for the winter cold and flu season. It is particularly important to be on top of your asthma control now with the introduction of the Covid-19 virus.

You should:

- Visit your doctor for an asthma review
- If prescribed a preventer medication, ensure you use it every day when well
- Check your device technique
- Get a written Asthma Action Plan
- Get an annual flu vaccination

Please see your doctor for an asthma review, and return Asthma Action Plans to the school.

More information can be found at the following website:

<https://www.asthmaaustralia.org.au/vic/about-asthma/manage-your-asthma/triggers/colds-and-flu>

<https://www.asthmaaustralia.org.au/vic/about-asthma/resources/victorian-action-plans/victorian-asthma-action-plans>

1800RESPECT
NATIONAL SEXUAL ASSAULT, DOMESTIC
FAMILY VIOLENCE COUNSELLING SERVICE
1800 737 732
www.1800RESPECT.org.au
Available any time of the day or night

Wellbeing News

Cyberbullying and staying safe online information sheet

For parents and students

This document is designed to give parents the knowledge and capabilities to support their child during remote learning in the likely scenario that children are using devices throughout the day without parent supervision. It is broken into commonly asked questions with strategies and information to help you navigate the online space.

How can I keep my child safe online?

Talk to your child about setting parameters online and help them learn how to block harmful or negative content and individuals on social media sites. It is important that your child sees you as someone they can talk to when they are involved in, or experience, the sharing of inappropriate material. Help them identify what material is inappropriate and the reasons why it is inappropriate. With open communication around this space, children are significantly less likely to experience negative online interactions and be safer online.

What is cyberbullying?

It is bullying that is perpetrated through online media or via other forms of communication such as text messaging, or online games. The national definition of bullying for Australian schools describes it as behaviour that is repeated or has the potential to be repeated.

What actions are considered as cyberbullying?

Cyberbullying can take many forms, including posting mean comments or messages, excluding or ignoring someone, tricking or humiliating them through fake accounts, or sharing a photo or video that will make them feel bad. Threatening to share an intimate image without the consent of the person in it, such as a naked selfie, is called image-based abuse.

When to act on cyberbullying?

There is not a wrong time, but it is important that you have evidence of the cyberbullying. You can make a report to the <https://www.esafety.gov.au/report> where all cyberbullying can be reported for support services and responses to occur. Screen shots or other evidence of the bullying will be required as it will be followed up by the police. In the meantime, help your child block individuals or content online.

What can you do about cyberbullying?

- Gather evidence of the cyberbullying through screen shots to begin making a report to the eSafety Commissioner website. They can not only remove any inappropriate content, but provide support, advice and counselling to children who have been affected by this. Do not gather images of a sexually explicit nature as this can be classed as possession of child pornography. Do not share on any images of such nature.
- Help your child avoid online spaces where there is the likelihood for repeated instances of bullying. This can be done through blocking individuals on social media, blocking sites from the family computer.
- Help them manage their online feeds and educate them and yourselves about staying safe online.
- Help your child build a support network through identifying trusted adults that they can turn to or friends they can trust to act responsibly.
- Help them to develop methods of communicating with those individuals.
- Inform the school, who can support students in learning how to respond and protect themselves.

- We are limited in our ability to act when dealing with cyberbullying which is why it is important for the child to have a broad support network.
- Draw on external support networks such as the eSafety Commissioner website, as well as Kids Helpline, Beyond Blue and Headspace as services that your child may feel more comfortable speaking to. Numbers and websites for these services are provided at the bottom of the page.

What is not cyberbullying?

- Single occurrences of inappropriate conduct, such as a mean comment being sent online.
- Back and forth arguments or friendship issues discussed online.
- Non-targeted, inappropriate, image sharing.
- Non targeted hate speech.

Each of these can be distressing to the student but are not considered cyber bullying. Have a conversation with your child about how to manage this and identify if they know who to talk to. The school can help support your child through open communication.

What can Kambrya can do?

Kambrya staff can offer support to your child and your family in terms of how to respond and protect yourself online. Our reach, and scope, is limited in terms of being able to mediate the behaviour through online platforms. We have the ability to monitor 'Microsoft Teams' that your child is using through school, but this does not mean the issues will not move elsewhere where the school cannot act. Parents are encouraged to supervise their children online and help them develop support networks around them. Parents and children up to the age of 18 can report cases of cyberbullying or inappropriate conduct to the link below. <https://www.esafety.gov.au/report>

How can you upskill yourself?

Learn the basics of online safety through the services provided by the eSafety Commissioner.

- <https://www.esafety.gov.au/parents/skills-advice/online-safety-basics>

Read through the relevant information on the website below that helps you set up parental controls on a number of devices, services and platforms to help protect your child online.

- <https://www.esafety.gov.au/parents/skills-advice/taming-technology>

Learn how to approach conversations with your child about the online world. This can be difficult if your experience with technology is limited, while the children are learning new skills in it every day. The more you can keep informed, the easier these conversations will be.

- <https://www.esafety.gov.au/parents/skills-advice/hard-to-have-conversations>

External support services

eSafety Commissioner - <https://www.esafety.gov.au/>

Headspace Narre Warren - <https://headspace.org.au/>

Beyond Blue - <https://www.beyondblue.org.au/>

Kids Helpline - <https://kidshelpline.com.au/>

- Phone number: 1800 55 1800