

Return of all year levels to on-site learning Monday 26 October

Dear students, parents and staff

The long anticipated return of all year levels to on-site learning takes place on Monday with Years 8, 9 and 10 rejoining us. We are very much looking forward to catching up and communicating in person, and salute the resilience and perseverance of Year 8,9 and 10 students along with their parents and teachers who have been in remote learning for the long haul. Our students, staff and families can be rightfully proud of their achievements in this entirely unforeseen and deeply challenging pandemic year - and I thank you all.

Elements of the return to school are outlined below with full details found at our [Returning to school/On-site Learning](#) wiki page. **Please be aware that there are changes to our current arrangements with all students back on site.** Please take time to view the brief version below along with the full details at the link.

We are optimistic about the declining trend in coronavirus numbers across Melbourne - if there are three or fewer cases confirmed tomorrow, the 14-day average will drop to five, a pivotal number for moving out of Stage 4 restrictions. However, we remain vigilant about infection control measures at school, doing all we can to prevent potential transmission and ensure the school can stay open for on-site learning right through to the end of the year. To minimise the risks, we are heavily reliant on students following the, Public Health, Department and school guidelines, including wearing masks, hand sanitising and continuing to maintain 1.5 metre physical distance wherever reasonably possible, both in classrooms, during recess, lunchtime and travelling to and from school. Our thoughts and encouragement are with our Year 12 students as they prepare for exams with barely two weeks of classes remaining. It is especially important for our Year 12 students to ensure the school stays virus free as we enter the external VCAA examination period.

A reminder that the most important action we can take to reduce the risk of transmission of coronavirus (COVID-19), is to ensure that any unwell staff and students remain at home and get tested, *even with the mildest of symptoms*. Detailed information about health and safety at school is available at our [Returning to school/On-site Learning](#) page. This page will be updated as further information or advice becomes available or changes to arrangements are deemed necessary.

The return to school of all students is not expected to be entirely plain sailing but we trust it will be a change of course that leads us into smoother waters.

Best regards

Trevor Smith

(Principal)

Brief Outline of arrangements for return of all students

School arrival and departure arrangements for Term 4

To support physical distancing at our school we have arranged for the following staggered arrival and departure times and entry/exit points:

- **Junior School - Year 7&8 - 9:00 am**
- **Middle School - Year 9&10 - 8:50 am**
- **Senior School - Year 11&12 - 8:40 am**

Classes held on **Level 2 operate 5 minutes ahead of the normal schedule** (either side of a recess and lunchtime break) to alleviate congestion in corridors as students move in and out of the building.

Students to **use the stairwell closest to the timetabled classroom**. See [stairwell allocations](#) - and also posters placed around the school for clarification.

Reducing mixing between student groups

Scheduling of classes for Year 11 and 12 classes are prioritised to Level 3. **Check revised *Compass* room allocations carefully - there are many room changes from October 26.**

Face coverings

- All school staff on site will wear face coverings unless exempt due to a medical condition or disability but may remove their face covering when teaching students.
- All students over the age of 12 must wear a face covering unless they are exempt due to a medical condition or disability.
- Students are encouraged to bring their own face mask to school but will be provided with a single-use mask if they forget their own mask, or if they do not bring a mask for any other reason.
- All secondary school students need to wear a face covering, including when travelling to and from school, unless they are travelling alone in a vehicle or with members of their household.

Physical distancing

- Wherever possible we will encourage and support physical distancing of students however the Department and Victorian Chief Health Officer has acknowledged that physical distancing in schools is practicably difficult to achieve and has not mandated this practice.
- Non-contact greetings are encouraged and physical distancing of 1.5 m should be adhered to where practicable.
- **Bags will replace lockers. You will not have access to your LOCKER.** Bags will be required to be placed in the safest area of the room as directed by your teacher. i.e. under a chair or under a table. You need to keep your bag with you throughout the school day. If you are concerned about carrying a bag full of books you might choose to leave the hard copy text book at home and use the eBooks whilst at school, perhaps have a book buddy where you bring books for some subjects and your buddy brings the books for other subjects; this could help lighten the load. A bag with wheels could be of benefit rather than a back pack. Only bring books that you require for each day.
- Teachers can still move around the classroom to assist or supervise you with your work in a similar way to usual if they choose.
- Furniture has been positioned to optimise physical distancing within classrooms. *Please do not move the tables and chairs.*
- The use of the lift is restricted to a maximum of one adult or two students; unless with the specific permission of the Principal.
- Parents are asked to observe physical distancing requirements (1.5 metres) whenever dropping off or collecting students from school and must not congregate at the school entry/exit points.

Recess and Lunchtime Arrangements as of 26 October for Princes Park use.

- Year 7/8 students to have access to Zone 3
- Year 9/10 students to have access to Zone 1
- Year 11/12 to have access to Zone 2
- All students will need to adhere to public guidelines when in the park i.e. need to be 1.5 metres apart in their social gatherings/circles.
- Students can play non-contact sport.

Information will be updated at our [Returning to school/On-site Learning](#) page as changes or further advice or clarification becomes available.