Dear parents and carers,

As you are aware, the situation regarding coronavirus (COVID-19) continues to evolve. I would like to take this opportunity to thank you for your support during the early commencement of the Term 1 holidays.

The Victorian Government has now advised that all schools will move to remote and flexible learning when students return for Term 2 on Wednesday 15 April.

**This means that all students who can learn at home must learn from home**. This is a very clear directive by the Victorian Government **based on the advice of the Chief Health Officer.**

All students will be learning from home, except for children in exceptional circumstances who cannot be at home. As we are a Secondary School with students aged 12 and over, it is unlikely we will have students that meet this criteria to come to school from an age/supervision perspective. However, we will be doing a risk assessment regards any students who might need to come to school and you will be able to complete a request form to attend school that we can assess.

It is essentially for vulnerable children, including:

* children in out-of-home care
* children deemed by Child Protection and/or Family Services to be at risk of harm
* children identified by the school as vulnerable (including via referral from a family violence agency, homelessness or youth justice service or mental health or other health service and children with a disability).

Please note for Secondary Schools there is a line in the policy that states up to 10 students at a time, can attend VCE or VCAL practical activities for short periods that cannot be completed at home. Teachers will communicate with their classes if this is required and how this would work.

This is not an action being taken lightly, and I understand it may cause you and your family concern and stress. Please know this step is being taken to slow the spread of the virus and ensure the health and safety of all Victorians.

Most of our teachers will also be working from home. All of them have been working hard to put curriculum plans in place to ensure continuity of learning and to support the wellbeing of all our students. Work is also underway to identify students who do not have access to digital technologies at home. Devices such as laptops and tablets will be made available on loan to these students free-of-charge to ensure no student misses out.

This is clearly going to be a challenging time for all of us. It’s going to be critically important that we work very closely together to ensure that we provide the very best possible support for the ongoing wellbeing and learning of our students and your children.

The Department of Education and Training’s Learning from Home website also provides information and resources for parents and carers: <https://www.education.vic.gov.au/parents/learning/Pages/home-learning.aspx>

Further information regarding coronavirus (COVID-19) and schools can be found on the Department’s website, which will continue to be updated as the situation evolves: <https://www.education.vic.gov.au/about/department/Pages/coronavirus.aspx>

Thank you for your support during this time.

Yours sincerely,

Tristan Lanarus

Principal