



NEWSLETTER

August 5th 2020 - Week 4 Term 3

Principal's Message

We have an interesting time ahead of us for the next six weeks, but please remember we have all done this before, and we can again manage to look after everyone's learning and wellbeing through working together.

For the students in P-6 we will again be using a combination of hard copy packs and WebEx sessions. Each of the teachers will be providing you with more details around that. Again the bus network will be used to help distribute materials. For students in Years 7 to 10 a combination of Teams and WebEx and will allow them to access the learning tasks and to gain instructions to enable the learning. If necessary we will use the bus network to distribute any physical resources required for task completion.

For students in VCE we will use the previous methods that were employed to link teachers and classes. The opportunity to have students at Year 12 come in and complete SACs did work well for us in the last round and we expect to do this again.

For VCAL students we will again be providing work to complete at home via a range of means and will make some adjustments to the work that was planned.

Please remember that for many students a day of remote learning needs structure to it and that when you are able to establish the routines of the day you will reduce the potential for conflict. For others a more flexible approach is most helpful. A day of learning at home is not to replicate the day at school as that is not fair on either the student or the parent that is helping them.

The other strong and clear message is the need for physical activity as part of the day.

The opportunity of working through the next six weeks in this manner is not what anyone has asked for, but it is what it is. We will clearly have to change some events as set out in the newsletter recently and will make adjustments where possible in Term 4. I am aware that Term 3 is about planning and setting up the next transition. For our Year 6 students we will need to compress this into Term 4. For students at Years 10 and 11 the subject selection process will continue. We will just need to use other means rather than face to face. For the Year 12 students we will be able to work with them via WebEx to help them with the university selection process. The GAT has changed to October for those doing a Year 12 subject but results and ATAR are still being distributed to the revised timelines announced recently.

If during the next six weeks there are some additional care measures required to help your son or daughter deal with the complex world we are in at the moment then please get in touch so we can connect them with Lauren or another member of staff who will be able to help.

On site supervision will be available for children whose parents cannot work from home, vulnerable children or children with a disability. If this applies to you, please contact the school so they may attend on site. We need this information so we can plan for their supervision. Students attending need to bring their own bottled water, and wear a face covering if they are over 12 years old. The work they will be doing will be the same as their classmates, it's just they have to come to school.

Later in this newsletter we have printed again the message from Dr Kath about the importance of mask wearing, in school and in our community.

If there are any aspects of this which are unclear or are causing you concern, please get in touch and together we will work through to solutions.

Robert Boucher

Student Learning Packs

This week, the Student Learning Packs will be available on Thursday afternoon (tomorrow) to be picked up either from the Tambo campus, after 2pm, or from the bus. Please remember to be at the bus stop to collect these.

After this time, the new Learning Packs will be available for pick up or delivery every Wednesday afternoon from 2pm.

A message from our school doctor:

The Victorian Chief Health Officer advised mandatory face coverings for regional Victoria from Sunday night at 1159pm. This includes whilst at school for those aged 12 and over. I know there is some concern amongst the SC school community regarding availability of masks and difficulty sourcing them up here. As the GP visiting for the Doctors in Secondary Schools (DISS) program I would like to try and provided some reassurance and clarity around this.

Firstly, I would like to emphasise that both disposable and cloth face coverings are effective at reducing the transmission of the covid-19 virus. Cloth masks are likely to be a more practical option in remote areas where sourcing disposable masks is difficult. There are good instructions on the Department of Health and Human Services Website for making (and washing) cloth masks and I'm sure there are many clever members of this community who will be making great masks once they are able to source materials. Note that while the Chief Health Officer recommends a [mask with three layers](#), any face mask or covering is better than none. This includes a scarf or bandana.

Some of you may be asking, why should we have to wear face coverings when there has been no community transmission in East Gippsland to date? The answer is that we all need to do our best to keep community transmission at bay and that wearing face coverings has been shown to be an effective way to achieve this. Wearing a face covering helps keep you and others safe. Coronavirus (COVID-19) is spread from close contact with a person with coronavirus (COVID-19). Face coverings help stop droplets spreading when someone speaks, laughs, coughs, or sneezes, including someone who has coronavirus (COVID-19) but feels well.

The best way to protect other people against coronavirus (COVID-19) is keeping 1.5 metres apart, wash your hands often, and cough or sneeze into your elbow or tissue. Face coverings add an additional protective physical barrier to protect you and your loved ones.

At this difficult time, when so much seems out of our control, I would encourage everyone to focus on the simple measures outlined above that will help keep you, your loved ones and our community at large safe and healthy.

Dr Kathleen Connor
MBBS, FRACGP

VCE/VCAL Subject Selections 2021

Thank you to those Year 10 and Year 11 students and families that have already completed and returned their Later Years selection forms for next year. Could those students who have yet to return this form please do so ASAP and email it either back to me directly, or via your home group teacher or the school Office.

These documents are a vital part of the planning process for our VCE and VCAL programs for 2021. For your selections to be part of this planning we need to have these documents returned preferably this week. If you have misplaced your form please let us know and we can forward another copy electronically.

John O'Neill
Later Years Coordinator

TAFE VET Classes this week

We have just received notification that VET classes at TAFE Gippsland will NOT be running this week while they plan around the latest developments regarding the statewide coronavirus shutdowns. All students should also have received individual notification of this from the TAFE. At this stage we assume VET classes will most likely resume next week and revert to an online version.

John O'Neill
Later Years Coordinator

Book Club Years 7, 8, 9

Every student in Years 7, 8 and 9 has gone home this week with a book they have chosen to read from a fairly wide selection of offerings. Having a book of their choice to read hopefully means that everyone now has another way of entertaining themselves while staying at home. Plus, most students will be reading the same book as a small group of others who also chose that book. This will be their Book Club. Book Clubs will meet every Friday morning, via Teams, so students will have the chance to talk to one another about their book. Students also have a Reading Journal which they might record observations and ideas in as they read. Each Book Club has a teacher member who will set up the meeting, and will support the Club members to really enjoy the Book Club reading experience.

