

Dear Parents/Carers

Earlier this week, the Victorian Government announced that, on the advice of the Victorian Chief Health Officer, regional and rural Victoria will move to Stage 3 restrictions and metropolitan Melbourne will move to Stage 4 restrictions to slow the spread of coronavirus (COVID-19).

These requirements apply to all schools across the government, Catholic and independent sectors and across all metropolitan Melbourne and rural and regional Victoria.

The changes to Eaglehawk Secondary College operations to transition to remote and flexible learning as a result will come into effect from Thursday 6th August. This is following our two student free days on Tuesday 4<sup>th</sup> and today, Wednesday 5th August, and are likely to apply until the end of Term 3.

As outlined in the Chief Health Officer's advice on Friday, schools remain safe places for staff and students – but these steps are critical measures to reduce the movement of students and families across the state. I want to thank School Council for their support to move our scheduled staff professional learning day in late August to today, which has assisted our transition enormously and has provided invaluable time for staff to prepare.

The survey feedback provided by students, parents/carers and staff during the last period of remote learning has enabled us to take into consideration changes we could make this time. These are to support our students with opportunities for independent learning and flexible contact with teachers to support learning and engagement.

### **School Day**

Our restructured school day consists of four 40 minute sessions between 9:00am – 12:20pm. The sessions will be inclusive of structured and explicit teaching, independent learning, reflection and feedback. Units of work will include assessment rubrics so both students and parents/carers know and understand what concepts, skills and knowledge is being taught and assessed.

### **Times are as follows:**

9:00 - 9:15am Teacher Advisory

9:15 - 9:55am Session 1

10:00 - 10:40am Session 2

10:40 - 10:55am Morning Break

10:55 - 11:35am session 3

11:40 - 12:20pm session 4

Students finish formal classes at 12:20pm and following a lunch break, continue learning independently, seek teacher support or have opportunity for a physical activity break or rest.

Subject teachers will be available to students who require additional support between 1:20 - 3:05pm for flexible contact and be available to parents/carers until 3:50pm.

### **Online Attendance and Engagement**

In the previous remote learning period, we were concerned that some student engagement levels did not sustain throughout and feedback gave valuable insight into possible reasons why. Making the day more flexible and still providing structured learning in the morning, we hope will enhance this as well

as shorter breaks between sessions to maintain momentum of learning.

It's important for parents/carers to know if their child is online and attending their scheduled classes so to communicate this timelier, an absence text will be sent to parents/carers at 9:15am in the morning then again at 12:30pm to notify an absence.

### **Virtual Homework Club**

Homework Club is very popular on site and so we wanted to provide this opportunity remotely also. Students who don't necessarily need specific help from their regular subject teacher however would like to join with others who are catching up on work, working independently or revising will be able to join the virtual Homework Club. The Club will require parent/carer consent to join through Compass and will be supported by Teacher Assistants and classroom teachers who drop in to help students across a range or subject areas.

### **Student Wellbeing Support**

Teacher Advisors will continue to be you and your child's main support during remote learning. However, we encourage parents/carers to contact subject teachers directly via Compass if you have concerns about your child's learning or would like some feedback about their learning progression during this time.

Teacher Advisors will contact parents/carers via email or phone from time to time to check in. We understand that supporting parents/carers is just as important during this time and so we want to be available to answer your questions or provide additional support if necessary.

The school Wellbeing Team will also be available to speak to parents/carers or provide additional support to students to help manage learning from home and to stay connected to school and others.

Majority of staff will be working and teaching from home and using their own mobile phone on 'no caller id'. Please either answer or listen to messages and return contact via Compass if you miss a call.

The general office will remain open between 8:30am - 4:00pm Monday to Friday to answer calls and provide assistance.

Our expectations for reducing the amount of adults on the school grounds is still in place so if you need to come into the school for ICT support or other please contact the general office prior to arrange and continue to follow our good hygiene practices and social distancing.

Finally, I'd like to thank our incredible staff who have worked tirelessly over the past two days to ensure our readiness to support a smooth transition for students. Importantly, we are all in this together and we are here to help you and support your child to be as successful as they can be learning from home.

Yours sincerely,



Dani Derksen  
Principal