

Dear parents and carers,

I hope this information finds you safe and well.

Subject to the advice of the Chief Health Officer and as announced by the Victorian Government, Victorian government schools will commence a phased transition back to on-site learning during Term 4.

The purpose of the plan is to get students back in the classroom as soon and as safely as possible without putting at risk all that has been achieved through the period of restrictions to reduce the spread of coronavirus (COVID-19).

To achieve both these aims, the return to onsite learning needs to be staged, just as the easing of all other restrictions is staged.

There are two reasons for this.

The first is that in metropolitan Melbourne, health authorities need to monitor the impact of students and parents beginning to move across the city again before schools move to a full return. Having one million students return to school all at once could compromise the ability to monitor this impact.

The second reason is that VCE students must return in week one of Term 4 and must be able to complete the three-hour General Achievement Test (GAT) that week. In order to ensure the focus is on these students and the appropriate safety measures are in place, this means no other students can be on-site on our secondary or P-12 campuses the week before the GAT.

**Remote and flexible learning will continue for all students at Peninsula Specialist College in the week Monday 5<sup>th</sup> October 2020 – Friday 9<sup>th</sup> October 2020 (inclusive).** The current guidelines for student on-site attendance remain in place for that week unless we receive additional advice from the Victorian Government.

**Students at Peninsula Specialist College will return to on-site learning on Tuesday 13<sup>th</sup> October 2020, with Monday 12<sup>th</sup> October 2020 being a designated Student Free Day with no on-site attendance for any students. The other designated 2 student free days for Term 4 are Monday 23<sup>rd</sup> November 2020 and Friday 11<sup>th</sup> December 2020.**

It is recommended that parents/carers of students with complex medical needs, seek advice from the student's medical practitioner to support decision-making about whether on-site education is suitable. When on-site learning is permitted, schools are not expected to provide remote and flexible learning where parents or carers of students elect to keep their child at home, except where this is based on medical advice.

As on-site schooling resumes, we will continue to have in place strong measures to protect the health and safety of students, staff, families and the community. This includes possible staggered start and finish times, restricting parent access to school grounds and continued emphasis on hand hygiene and physical distancing where possible.

Our school, working with you, has shown it can be flexible and adaptable in responding to the challenges of coronavirus (COVID-19) and will continue to meet student needs as we look towards the end of the 2020 school year and ahead to 2021.

I encourage you to return to our website regularly to check for any additional information that might become available during the holiday period.

Please take care and stay safe

Peter

A handwritten signature in purple ink, appearing to be 'Peter', written in a cursive style.