



Friday, 10th April 2020

Dear Parents and Carers

Re: Update of Arrangements for Term 2

Earlier this week the Victorian Premier announced significant changes to school arrangements for Term 2. The changes are designed to increase physical distancing across the population and slow the spread of the coronavirus. **Children who can learn from home, must learn from home in Term 2.** 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 on days when they are not able to be supervised at home and no other arrangements can be made.

Children Working at School

Special arrangements are in place that require parents/carers to book their children in for school supervision. A booking form will be available on the school website or by contacting me on the number below. Individual bookings on school buses will also be required for those needing a bus service. All students attending school need to be approved by me in advance.

Students who are approved to attend school will be supervised by a staff member and they will be completing the work the other students are completing at home. There will be no direct instruction at school and only a small number of staff will be present. For all staff and students who attend, social distancing and hygiene arrangements will apply. No canteen facilities will be available for staff or students. School crossings will not be supervised.

Computers and Internet Access

The Victorian Government has committed to providing computer devices and network access to all students who do not have digital access at home. This will take the form of students borrowing a school device for the duration of this interruption. We are undertaking a survey to ascertain the need across our community. I ask you to complete the survey at the link below and please be patient and understanding while we organise devices, as this will take some time.

Survey Link

<https://forms.office.com/Pages/ResponsePage.aspx?id=N7Ns2Ycaz0S2mzzsM0pMH3mdtKp1LUVDnwe4CbYThhZUQUFYWEMzUjU4SkFURjZWWjBLQlFBTTZTQy4u>

Work Packs

This week we mailed out work packs to all students in Years P-9 and Specialist. These packs contain an outline of the work that needs to be undertaken and suggested timetables and ways in which to develop good study habits. All students are expected to undertake this work. An electronic link will be available on the MEC website for all students next week. Staff will be in contact with you and your child in the first couple of days of term and then connecting with you and your child regularly after that. Arrangements will be made for the submission and assessment of the completed work.

Later Years

Years 10-12 students will be undertaking a mix of video, email and more traditional textbook learning. The arrangements for the completion of VCE and VCAL are still being finalised by the Department of Education and Training and the Victorian Curriculum and Assessment Authority. On occasion small groups of VCE students may be invited into the school to complete practical assessments. The teachers will communicate with students and parents if and when this is happening. It is expected that VCE and VCAL certificates will be finalised, with completed scored assessments, by the end of this year or early next year. The plan is to have ATARS finalised by the start of the 2021 tertiary academic year. More information on this will be communicated to VCE and VCAL students and families in the days and weeks ahead.

Contacting Us

The vast majority of MEC staff will be working from home next term and they remain committed to providing the highest quality education under these altered circumstances. They will be available for contact at designated times during the school day. Parents are not expected to teach their children curriculum content, this will still be done by their teachers. All parents and carers are asked to refrain from coming on to the site. We should be able to manage most enquiries over the phone or by email. Any visits to the school will need to be arranged in advance.

Term 2 commences on Wednesday 15 April. Assistant Principals will be available to support you and your child as we adjust to this new way of working. Our student services team will also be available online to support students and families with issues as they arise. The Doctors in Schools program will still run; however, Dr Adele will be working from the Nightingale Clinic.

If you wish to contact me about the needs of your child during this time please ring or text me on 0488617900 or email maryborough.ec@education.vic.gov.au The regular school phone number will also be in service.

As I live with family members who are medically compromised, I will be working from home for the term. A member of the leadership team will attend school every day during the term.

Further Information

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/departments/Pages/coronavirus.aspx>

I thank you in advance for your understanding and kindness during these challenging times.

I wish you and your families a quiet and happy Easter.

Warmest regards

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'David Sutton', followed by a long horizontal flourish.

David Sutton
Principal