



8 April 2020

Dear Students, Parents, and Carers,

Thank you for your continued patience and support during this challenging time. The final years of school can be a stressful undertaking at the best of times and we are critically aware of the additional stress that this uncertainty may be causing. We have been working consistently over the last few weeks to ensure that any disruption to VCAL and VCE programs is minimised and that our students will be in the best possible positions to achieve their personal best at the end of the year.

This letter sets out the most recent advice that has been issued as well as our advice to parents and students.

## 1. Official Government Advice to All Schools

As per the announcement from the Premier and Education Minister yesterday, "Victorian students will be educated from home when Term 2 starts next week to ensure the physical distancing will help slow the spread of coronavirus. The message to students and parents of government schools is clear: all children who can learn at home must learn from home – with exceptions only in extremely limited circumstances." We are still waiting for further clarification around possible student access to specialised equipment and materials for VCE/VCAL practical subjects.

VCE students will still receive an ATAR score, but there will be a number of changes to the academic timetable for VCE and VCAL students:

- The GAT test will move from June to October or November
- End of year exams will be postponed until at least December (i.e. one month later)
- School based assessment tasks will be reduced where possible to relieve some pressure on students as they move to remote and flexible learning arrangements
- Universities will be asked to delay the start of the 2021 university year to account for impacts of coronavirus on senior secondary students.

VCE study scores will continue to be a combination of school-based assessment and external exams. VCAL students will have more time to complete their courses and this will be consistent with the revised dates for the VCE.

A small number of students undertaking VET may have the award of their VCE or VCAL delayed until the beginning of 2021 so they can complete mandatory practical or workplace learning requirements – ensuring that they are not disadvantaged by the lack of hands on practice while we fight this pandemic.

## 2. Our Plans for VCE and VCAL Students

Mordialloc College staff continue to prepare to minimise the disruption of the 'remote learning' period. We are all working towards ensuring that all our students are as prepared as possible for the end of year exams.

A copy of the SAC calendar can be found at the end of this letter clearly outlining key SAC assessment dates which will be conducted under altered conditions. Students must adhere to the SAC conditions set by their teacher, which may include online video monitoring of assessment tasks or other measures to ensure authentication of student work.

To support students, we will still have our University Tutors available for online consultation starting in Week 2 of Term 2. Individual subject teachers may also have additional support sessions outside of school hours.

Over the break and into next term, we will also have some online study skills and motivational sessions from high performing former Mordialloc College students.

We are still working towards a modified program for VCAL students (due to students not being able to attend Structured Workplace Learning and VET/TAFE courses) that will enable them to complete their certificates by the end of the year.

### **3. Student responsibilities**

In addition to the guidelines in the letter sent to all students of Mordialloc College, it is particularly important for VCAL and VCE students to continue to work towards achieving your personal best as well as taking responsibility for accessing lessons and completing tasks and assessments.

All teachers have Google Classrooms which students must join to be able to access lesson content and links to video conferencing via Google Meet. It is of course important to behave appropriately during online lessons; the same high expectations that exist in school, will exist online. Students should ensure that whilst uniform is not necessary, they are dressed appropriately and in a suitable location. If students have difficulties accessing any Google Classrooms, they should email their teacher and co-ordinator before the start of Term 2.

Attendance of at least 90% is a VCAA requirement for VCAL and VCE which means that students must 'attend' online lessons and complete tasks or assessments set by teachers. If a student is 'absent' they must, as always, provide a medical certificate.

During online SACs, tests, or outcomes, students must demonstrate integrity by adhering to the instructions given by teachers. This means not accessing notes during the SAC, or sharing information with other students. Everything completed during SACs should be the student's own work. For Year 12, the final exam will be used to moderate unit 3 and 4 results so any discrepancies will be identified at the end of the year and could result in SACs being moderated down if scores appear to be inflated.

As some SACs have moved to after school (as there is more than one class and SACs need to be conducted at the same time), students may need to inform employers that they are not available at certain times. The dates and times are on the SAC calendar so that students can plan ahead. If a student has a regular shift at work which clashes with an after school SAC, they must contact their Year Level Co-ordinator and Mrs Greenhalgh before the start of Term 2.

### **4. Parent responsibilities**

Please ensure you have a copy of the SAC calendar visible in your home so that you can check in with your children about their progress. A schedule of VCAL assessment tasks to meet all required outcomes will also be available shortly.

Additional ways that you can support your students can be found in the letter that has been sent to all parents and carers of Mordialloc College students.

## 5. Questions and Concerns

### Year Level Coordinators

- Year 10: [Josephine.Stephens@education.vic.gov.au](mailto:Josephine.Stephens@education.vic.gov.au)
- Year 11: [Aaron.Davis@education.vic.gov.au](mailto:Aaron.Davis@education.vic.gov.au)
- Year 12: [Timothy.Randell@education.vic.gov.au](mailto:Timothy.Randell@education.vic.gov.au)
- VCAL: [Krystle.Collyer@education.vic.gov.au](mailto:Krystle.Collyer@education.vic.gov.au)

### Careers and Pathways

- [Emma.White3@education.vic.gov.au](mailto:Emma.White3@education.vic.gov.au)

### Director of Senior School

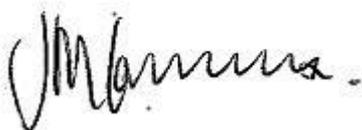
- [Joanne.Greenhalgh@education.vic.gov.au](mailto:Joanne.Greenhalgh@education.vic.gov.au)

### Senior School Assistant Principal

- [andrew.moffat@education.vic.gov.au](mailto:andrew.moffat@education.vic.gov.au)

This will be a challenging time for families, students, and staff but we are all working together to ensure our community will emerge from this stronger than ever and our VCAL and VCE students will achieve the outstanding results we have come to expect at Mordialloc College.

Thank you for your support,



Jo Greenhalgh  
Director of Senior School



Andrew Moffat  
Assistant Principal



Michelle Roberts  
Principal