



Mildura Specialist School

11 April 2020

Dear Parents and Carers,

As you are aware, the situation regarding coronavirus (COVID-19) continues to evolve. I would like to take this opportunity to thank you for your support during the early commencement of the Term 1 holidays.

The Victorian Government has now advised that all schools will move to remote and flexible learning when students return for Term 2 on Wednesday 15 April.

This means that all students who can learn at home must learn from home. 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.

We will continue to offer limited on-site learning for those students who need to access this, including for students on days when they are not able to be supervised at home and no other arrangements can be made. Please contact me directly if you would like to discuss a plan for your child by calling the school on 5021 3311 or emailing mildura.ss@edumail.vic.gov.au. There is an On-Site Attendance Application Form for completion where you can indicate the days/times you require your child/ren to attend school on site if eligibility is met.

Please continue to access our website <https://www.mildss.vic.edu.au> for the latest information.

Approval has also been given for schools to have small groups of VCE and VCAL students on-site to complete their learning requirements if this is necessary and cannot be undertaken at home. Further information about this will be provided by your school if these arrangements are necessary. All appropriate physical distancing and hygiene measures will be put in place.

This is not an action being taken lightly, and I understand it may cause you and your family concern and stress. Please know this step is being taken to slow the spread of the virus and ensure the health and safety of all Victorians.

Most of our teachers will also be working from home. All of them have been working hard to put curriculum plans in place to ensure continuity of learning and to support the wellbeing of all our students.

Work is also underway to identify students who do not have access to digital technologies at home. Devices such as laptops and tablets will be made available on loan to these students free-of-charge to ensure no student misses out.

This is clearly going to be a challenging time for all of us. It's going to be critically important that we work very closely together to ensure that we provide the very best possible support for the ongoing wellbeing and learning of our students and your children.

This factsheet, Information for Parents and Carers provides ways you can support your child during this transition.

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/department/Pages/coronavirus.aspx>

Thank you for your support during this time.

Yours sincerely,

A small, square image containing a handwritten signature in blue ink. The signature appears to be 'P. Hale'.

Penny Hale

PRINCIPAL

