



VILLANOVA COLLEGE

7 May 2020

Dear Parents/Caregivers

Following updated advice from health authorities and as announced by the Queensland Government students will return to classroom-based learning beginning with Years 11 and 12 students from Monday 11 May. I am sure this news has been welcomed by all.

If low transmission rates continue, students in Years 5 to 10 will return to school from Monday 25 May. Confirmation of this further step will be made by Friday 15 May 2020.

For students returning to the classroom there are a number of important procedures and guidelines that will be put in place to ensure the safety of all in our community.

Who may attend classroom learning?

From Monday 11 May 2020, students in Years 11 and 12 will return to on-site learning.

Students in the following categories will also be able to attend school under the current learning at home arrangements:

- Children of essential workers when they are not able to be supervised at home and no other arrangements can be made. Essential worker means any worker who must continue to attend their workplace for essential business.
- Vulnerable children including children identified by schools or who are currently receiving services from Child Safety, including children who are subject to a child protection order or are subject to a youth justice order.

All other students in Years 5 to 10 will continue with learning at home arrangements at this time.

Where a student is learning at home, the parent or carer is responsible for the student's safety at home or elsewhere.

PLEASE NOTE - Years 11 and 12

The classroom teacher is not responsible for providing an alternative home-based learning program for students in Year 11 or Year 12 where parents elect to keep these students at home. However, if parents of these children contact the school, their teacher may wish to discuss with them ways they can best support their child at home.

I ask that the normal student absence procedures continue to operate. The College's preferred notification for student absentees is through Parent Lounge or the College App. An alternative number to report an absentee is 3394 5699.

Timetable

Year 5 and 6 students will continue with the existing Learning@Home timetable until returning to classroom learning hopefully on Monday 25 May.

Years 7 - 12

Unfortunately, it is organisationally impossible to run two timetables; one for students learning at home and another for students returning to classroom learning as teachers will teach across year levels.

From Monday 11 May we will resume classes with the normal school timetable.

8.30am – 8.45am	Pastoral Care
8.45am – 9.35am	Period One
9.40am – 10.30am	Period Two
10.35am – 11.20am	Period Three
11.25am – 12.00pm	Morning Tea
12.05pm – 12.50pm	Period Four
12.55pm – 1.40pm	Period Five
1.40pm – 2.10pm	Lunch
2.15pm – 3.00pm	Period Six

Students learning at home will need to take note of the new timetable. Teachers setting work for students learning at home will be mindful of the amount of work set for students and will allow adequate break times in addition to the normal morning tea and lunch breaks.

Personal Hygiene

Students will be reminded during the school day to regularly wash their hands, especially when returning from the school yard at break times. Hand sanitiser and tissues will be available in all classrooms. Extra hand sanitiser is available around the school grounds.

Students will need to adhere to coughing and sneezing protocols and spitting on the ground will not be tolerated at all. School cleaning will continue to prioritise areas most in use by students and staff, with extra attention to high frequency touch point surfaces such as door handles, light switches, desks, toilets, taps and sinks.

Drink Bottles

Students are requested to bring their own water bottle to school. Bubblers will be available for filling water bottles only. Students will not be permitted to drink from the bubblers.

Students who are unwell

I ask parents/caregivers to keep their son at home if he is displaying any cold or flu-like symptoms until the symptoms subside. If a student becomes sick during the school day, parents will be contacted, and students will be sent home in the care of his parents/caregivers.

Tuckshop

From Monday 11 May the Tuckshop will be open for all students on campus. Lunch breaks will be staggered to avoid overcrowding in the Tuckshop.

Uniform Shop

The Uniform Shop will be open next Monday 11 May between 7.45am and 10am. The Shop will be open each day between 8.00am and 12noon in the week beginning Monday 18 May until Friday 22 May by appointment only. Parents/Caregivers are asked to book their appointment using [this link](#) to avoid over-crowding in the Uniform Shop. Please do not turn up un-announced as the wait time will cause frustration.

Once school resumes for all students the Uniform Shop will resume normal trading hours.

Visitors to the College

In order to reduce the number of adult visitors on campus, parents visiting the College are asked to report directly to the College Reception (entry via Sixth Avenue) and sign in. The College Receptionist will ring the staff member advising their visitor has arrived. The only exception to this is when a parent is dropping off an item for their son. This drop-off can be completed quickly through the relevant Student Services Office; however, parents will be required to complete a sign-in register on arrival. At all other times please minimise visits to the College.

School Drop-Off and Pick-Up Areas

To avoid parents gathering in numbers, please be mindful around drop-off and pick-up areas as well as congregating at the front gate of the College when waiting for your son. At all times, please maintain the required physical distancing.

Face masks and Temperature Checking - advice from Chief Medical Officer

It is not recommended that non-medical face coverings be used as a mitigation strategy against transmission of COVID-19 or other similar communicable diseases, as the use of these masks has the potential to create more harm than good.

Additional Personal Protective Equipment (PPE), for example medical face masks, is not required to provide regular care for children or young people who are well, unless such precautions are usually adopted in the routine care of an individual child or young person. Good hygiene practices and environmental cleaning are more important for reducing risk.

Schools should not conduct wide-scale temperature checking of students as there is limited evidence to demonstrate the value of such checks.

Letter from Chief Medical Officer – Dr Jeannette Young PSM

Please take a moment to read [this letter](#) to parents and carers from the Chief Medical Officer.

In conclusion, I wish to thank all our families for their continued support of the College, its staff and for your assistance with the continuity of learning for all our students. I know it has not been easy for families to juggle the many demands of working from home and supervising



students doing schoolwork. Thank you for your patience and understanding. I am hopeful that the spread of the disease has now been effectively controlled in Queensland and we will slowly return to a semblance of normality. The effects of the pandemic will continue to be felt across the economy and Villanova College is prepared to offer every assistance to our families.

Please stay safe and healthy as the restrictions are slowly eased across our society.

Yours sincerely

Mr Mark Stower
Principal

