



2020 Return to On-site Learning

Dear Parents, Guardians and Carers of St Patrick's College,

We are excited to be in the final days of preparing to welcome the first of our students back to on-site learning, following this unusual period of enforced remote and flexible learning.

We have been greatly appreciative of the co-operation between staff, students and parents during this time. There have been many wonderful initiatives explored in this new setting and many lessons have been learned which will continue to inform our offerings for many years to come. From crisis, comes great opportunity and, as a College, we will seek to harness these opportunities in the future.

However, now our focus turns to the safety and wellbeing of all in our community as we welcome students back to school in the coming weeks.

As we did some seven weeks ago, the College has again compiled a list of Frequently Asked Questions which we hope provides a user-friendly format for easy access to information.

Once again, we offer the following with a proviso that some questions (and some answers) may change over time.

As such, we ask you to keep visiting the special [COVID-19 page on the College website](#) for all the latest information as the effects of the pandemic continue to unfold.

Should you have any questions which are not answered in the document below, we invite you to email them through to Deputy Principal Mrs Elizabeth Ryan at eryan@stpats.vic.edu.au

Thank you again for all that you do to help us in the education of your son.

We really can't wait to welcome him back on-site.

Frequently Asked Questions

1. When will students return to class?

In accordance with State Government and Catholic Education Commission Victoria (CECV) advice we plan for our Year 11 and Year 12 and select Year 10 students to return to school for on-site learning on Tuesday, May 26 and for all Years 7 – 10 to return on Tuesday, June 9.

Once on-site each day, students will not be permitted to leave College grounds without parents/guardians until classes conclude.

2. Do these return dates apply to boarders?

Our Boarders will return, observing the same staggered system as our Day Students. Specific correspondence will follow for our Boarding families.

3. Until that time, will the College be open to provide supervision for boys whose parents are at work?

Yes. While it is expected that the majority of students will engage in remote and flexible learning until they return to class, the Department of Education and Training (DET) has specified the following criteria for those students who should be treated as an exception to the stay-at-home recommendation.

- Children on days when they are not able to be supervised at home and no other arrangements can be made. This will be available for children of parents who cannot work from home (including parents who work in schools), and vulnerable children, including:
- children in out-of-home care;
- children deemed by Child Protection and/or Family Services to be at risk of harm;
- children identified by the school as vulnerable (including via referral from a family violence agency, homelessness or youth justice service or mental health or other health service and children with a disability).

4. My son is in Year 10 and is studying VCE Unit 1 or VET class? Is he required on-site or will this class be taught online?

On days when a Year 10 student has a VCE or VET class, he will come to school for the whole day. He will attend his VCE or VET class face to face in his timetabled classroom.

For the rest of the day's classes, he will be supervised at school while he receives these lessons remotely.

5. My son is in Year 10 and is studying VCAL? Is he allowed on-site or will this class be taught online?

All Foundation VCAL classes will continue to be taught remotely. Year 10 VCAL students will not return to school until June 9.



6. My son is in a Year 9 VET (Japanese Language) program. When does he return to school?

All Year 9 classes will resume on-site on June 9 including the Japanese VET classes. Until then all Year 9 classes will be delivered remotely.

7. Will the College canteen be open when students return?

The canteen will not be open before school or at recess.

All students are required to bring their own morning tea to school. Further, the State Government has cautioned against sharing food. Please take the time to discuss this with your son.

The College is currently engaging with Ultimate Schools to have in place an online ordering system, the details for which will be sent in the coming days outlining access, ordering times and payment arrangements.

Please note at this stage we expect to allocate different year levels to different days to encourage social distancing and there will be no more walk-up purchases or cash transactions.

Vending machines will operate as normal within the College, however, will be cleaned regularly as they have high touch points.



8. Are students required in class on Monday, May 25?

No. This will be a student-free day, in accordance with State Government advice, to allow teachers time to plan for the return to on-site learning. Schools will use this day to ensure the health advice will be followed in their school, re-establish school routines, establish an approach to assessing student learning progress during the period of remote and flexible learning, and identify students in need of immediate health and wellbeing support.

9. How will social distancing be managed at pick-up and drop-off?

The College is requesting that all parents remain in their cars at these times.

10. When will Term 2 end and Term 3 commence?

Term 2 will end at 3.25 pm on Thursday, June 25. Friday, June 26 will be a student free day for staff.

Term 3 classes will start on Monday, July 13. Students will be expected in class on this day. The first day of Term 3 will no longer be a student free day.

Please note that these dates represent a substantial change from previously published calendars.

11. I feel nervous about sending my son back to school at this stage. Will remote and flexible learning continue to be provided if I choose to keep my son at home?

No. All students returning to on-site schooling as per the scheduled dates are expected to attend school.

Schools are not expected to provide remote learning where parents elect to keep these students at home.

Normal arrangements for students who may be absent for prolonged periods of time will resume. If your son is in this category please contact your relevant Director of School.

12. My son has downloaded the COVID-19 app. Will he be permitted to have his phone in class?

No. The school policy around mobile phones in the classroom remains unchanged. Schools are managed environments that include records of student/staff/visitor attendance which can support contact tracing.

13. Will students and staff be required to wear masks or other PPE?

No. Advice from the Victorian Chief Medical Officer does not recommend wearing masks in schools at this stage. Additional Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) is not required to provide routine care or first aid for students who are well, unless such precautions are usually adopted in the routine care of an individual student.

14. Will people arriving on site be forced to sanitise their hands?

Sanitising stations have been installed in classrooms and other high traffic areas throughout the College. Staff and students will be encouraged to adopt the prescribed hygiene requirement, including sanitisation.

15. Will people arriving on site have their temperature taken?

Advice from Australian Health Protection Principal Committee (AHPPC) is clear on the question of temperature checks in schools: "Schools should not conduct wide-scale temperature checking of students as there is limited evidence to demonstrate the value of such checks."

16. My son has a cold but has tested negative for COVID-19. Can he come to school?

No. Parents must ensure all students with cold and/or flu-like symptoms must stay at home until the symptoms fully clear. Students arriving with symptoms will be isolated in a suitable place and then collected by a parent/guardian as soon as possible.

17. Will bus services be available to get my son to and from school?

The College has been advised that there will be no Country Buses running on Monday, May 25 given that this will be a student free day. All Country Buses will resume normal services from Tuesday, May 26.

18. How will social distancing be managed when on-site learning returns?

The Australian Health Protection Principal Committee (AHPPC) has advised that a 'venue density rule' of no more than one person per four square metres is not appropriate or practical in classrooms or corridors, nor maintaining 1.5 metres between students during classroom activities. Therefore, the previously established ratio of 10 students per class is no longer required in schools.

19. What is my son to wear?

All students must wear full winter uniform, including appropriate hair styles, when they return to class.

In the interests of enhancing ventilation more doors will be opened around the College, accordingly, it will be a little colder than usual in some areas. Students will be permitted to wear their College winter spray jackets in class. Other branded jackets are not permitted.

20. Will breaks such as recess and lunch be staggered to ensure social distancing?

This is not practicable in a secondary setting. However, students have been allocated year level specific areas around the College campus for break times.

21. How has the school improved its cleaning processes?

Normal cleaning services have resumed with hospital grade products and the addition of a deep hygiene clean prior to staff and students returning. Progressive cleaning will now include scheduled sanitisation and disinfection of high touch points throughout the day in student, boarding, staff and reception areas.



22. Will my son be reminded of the need to social distance and regularly sanitise his hands?

Yes. Whilst the social distancing requirements only apply to adults we will encourage the boys to follow these directions to the extent practical in an educational setting. Throughout the College there will be appropriate signage and floor decals reminding them of best practice.

23. Will College water taps be in use?

The bubblers have been disengaged and only the bottle filler function (we have expanded the number available) will be operational. Students must bring to school their own clearly labelled water bottle.

24. Will parents be allowed on College grounds?

No, in the interests of social distancing parents are not to enter the College grounds unless they are only going as far as the Sturt Street reception or are attending a specific appointment. There will be no scheduled year level meetings, gatherings or events for the duration of Term 2.

The electronic locks on College gates will operate as usual to assist in the protection of the College community.

25. How can I book to visit the College Shop?

Purchases from the College Shop can be arranged by making an appointment with Michelle Roberts on 5322 4313 or by emailing her at mroberts@stpats.vic.edu.au. The shop will reopen for ordinary operations from Monday, May 25. Social distancing measures will apply in the College Shop.

26. Will my son still need an appointment to see ICT staff should he have any difficulties with his device/software?

Appointments can be made via helpdesk@stpats.vic.edu.au between 10am – 12 noon each day until Friday May 22.

The ICT Hub will be closed to students on Monday, May 25.

From Tuesday, May 26 ordinary ICT services will resume for students on-site.

Students still engaged in remote learning will need to make an appointment.

From Tuesday June 9 ordinary ICT Helpdesk services will resume for all students.

27. What about Physical Education and Sport – will they continue when school resumes?

Normal timetabled Physical Education classes will resume. However, visits to external facilities (i.e. Lawn Bowls) are on indefinite hold. Further, external providers will not be able to attend the College to deliver specialised classes (i.e. Dance).

PE equipment will be regularly cleaned. The weights room will be closed pending Government advice on gym re-openings.

All after-school sport has been cancelled for Term 2

28. My son is having private music lessons. Will these be delivered remotely or on-site?

Between May 26 and June 5, remote lessons will continue to be provided for students in Years 7 – 10. During this time, VCE and VET students on-site will not be permitted to leave class to attend a private music lesson.

All private music lessons will resume as normal face to face on Tuesday, June 9.

29. What about other school activities outside the classroom – will they continue?

In these disruptive times many co-curricular activities have been postponed or cancelled. Among such events are year level camps and retreats, after school sport competitions, social dances and the Year 12 formal, the joint College production of Matilda and so on. Unless otherwise directed, assume that all co-curricular activities scheduled for Term 2 are put on indefinite hold.

30. What should I do if my son is absent or unable to access his classes?

Please follow normal protocols. Notify the College of your son's absence using the Parent Access Module (PAM). Alternatively, you may call the College prior to 9am.

If your son or anyone in your immediate family is diagnosed with COVID-19 please contact Deputy Principal Elizabeth Ryan on 0428 138 945.

31. What should I do if my Year 7-10 son is unable to access his online classes before he is due to come back to school on Tuesday, June 9?

If your Year 7-10 son is unable to access his online classes for more than a day, please email his teachers or call the school so we can make adjustments.

32. What happens if a teacher is absent?

We will resume our usual arrangements to cover for absent teachers. Face to face classes will continue as per the timetable and a replacement teacher will supervise the class.





33. How can I contact my son's teachers?

Parents can contact subject teachers via PAM or via email. All staff email addresses are comprised of the staff member's initial, surname and @stpats.vic.edu.au. For example, Elizabeth Ryan is eryan@stpats.vic.edu.au and Hamish McCrum is hmccrum@stpats.vic.edu.au

34. What about practical subjects like Art, Drama and Technology subjects like food tech – will they continue when school resumes?

All practical classes will resume with appropriate adjustments. We know the boys will be looking forward to these subjects.

35. Is Year 10 work experience proceeding?

Year 10 work experience has been cancelled and Year 10 classes will continue into Week 11.

36. How will my son's work across the whole term be assessed?

Assessment has been conducted while remote learning is in place and the results can be accessed through PAM. Some assessment will also be conducted when face to face classes resume. This will be spaced over the remainder of the term and into the first few weeks of Term 3. We do not want to bombard the boys with tests as soon as they return.

Importantly, for all students returning, significant class time will be devoted to revision and reconnection with their teachers, with their classmates and with their routine.

37. Will end of Semester One exams be conducted?

End of semester one exams have been cancelled.

38. Will I get an end of Semester One report? If so, when?

End of semester Statement of Attainment reports will be adjusted in response to remote learning. Reports will be published early next term. There will be no boarding or pastoral care reports.

39. What happens with VCE assessment tasks?

Unit 1 VCE classes have had ongoing assessment during the period of remote learning and some assessment will be conducted at school.

Unit 3 VCE class assessment will be conducted once face to face classes resume and will be spread over the last two weeks of term and into early Term 3.

40. How will my son's external VET program be delivered and assessed?

Arrangements will be confirmed by your Registered Training Organisation (RTO)

41. I have a son participating in a school-based apprenticeship. What does all this mean for him?

Arrangements will be confirmed by your son's employer.

42. Can my Year 12 son access the Year 12 Study Centre?

Yes. The OCA Year 12 Study Centre will be open as normal from Tuesday, May 26.

43. Will the library be open?

The KRC will be open as normal from Tuesday, May 26.



44. Who will I contact if I have queries about fees?

The College is aware that some parents will have lost significant employment or business income due to coronavirus. The College's immediate priority is to provide as much stability as possible for your child and we are committed to providing fast, flexible and confidential assistance to help you with managing your school fee commitments for 2020.

The College provides an inclusive education and our fee structure incorporates most costs and charges associated with educating our boys. Unlike many other schools, there are few additional charges or fees for specific subjects, compulsory camps or retreats, and sporting and other extra-curricular opportunities. Whilst we acknowledge that some of these activities have been postponed, we have incurred additional costs to move to online learning and then to prepare the College for a return to a face to face environment.

As a Catholic school in the Edmund Rice tradition - **no child will be denied ongoing enrolment due to inability to pay fees.**

We are committed to working with all our families throughout this complex time and will continue to monitor this situation throughout the year and thank you for your ongoing understanding.

Please do not hesitate to contact our Finance Office to discuss any of these items further. Our Business Manager, Mr Andrew Ballesty, can be reached via email at aballesty@stpats.vic.edu.au or by calling 0409 010 583.

45. Can my son access after-school tutoring and the Homework Club?

The Enhanced Learning Homework Group will recommence for approved students on-site on Tuesday, May 26.

Additionally, the DS Club will return for approved students on-site only at lunchtime on Tuesday, May 26.

46. As a parent, I need someone to talk to about how I'm dealing with remote learning and now the return to classroom learning at school. Who should I contact?

Your first point of contact will be your son's Pastoral Care Teacher.

47. How will the Year 9 Community Service Program operate?

We will only be able to operate the Community Service program in a limited capacity. Our internal groups including Ballarat City Council-Victoria Park, SPC Food Kitchen and Wood Working groups can all continue to function normally once we have returned to the College. Remaining groups of students, who perform their community service duties externally, will have to remain at school during these sessions until such time as the Victorian Government lifts all COVID-19 restrictions surrounding schools.

