

7 April 2020

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**COURAGE**



Dear Parents and Guardians of The Geelong College

First, thank you for your immense support over the last few weeks as we have transitioned to our Remote Learning model. We also wish to acknowledge the dedication and professionalism of our teaching and support staff who continue to work tirelessly during this significant transition.

The College is deeply aware of the stressful challenges much of our community are facing with the growing response to the COVID-19 virus pandemic, the impact of which is vast and deep.

In recent weeks we have endeavoured to maintain regular updates, which provide information about our response to the ever-changing and complex COVID-19 situation. Thankfully, we have no confirmed cases in our community, but the steady cancellation of events and the progression towards Remote Learning has taken its toll on many.

The purpose of this letter is to notify you of some important matters directly relevant to parents and students of College for the term scheduled to start on Wednesday 15 April.

### **Term 2 Fees**

Mindful of the impact of the pandemic on the College's ability to deliver our full educational program, The Geelong College Council has resolved that a financial consideration of 20% will be applied to Term 2 tuition fees for all students from Early Learning to Year 12. In addition to this:

- The consideration will be applied after allowing for any existing discount or other arrangement that may be in place;
- Parents of boarders will not be charged any boarding fees for the weeks their children are not resident in Mackie or Mossiel in Term 2; and,
- The building levy has been removed from the Term 2 fee statement.

Council considers these interim measures to be responsible, reasonable and proportionate. Further work is being done to model the impact of various scenarios on the College's future operations.

### **Remote Learning continuation**

Our teaching and support staff are planning to continue with Remote Learning for at least the first four weeks of Term 2 from our scheduled commencement on 15 April. The rate at which events are presently unfolding means it is impossible to predict with any certainty when normal school operations will be able to resume in full. We appreciate this creates considerable uncertainty for families and students, particularly those who are in their senior years.

We continue to actively monitor developments, consult widely and plan for different scenarios. We will keep you regularly informed about our response as things evolve.

### **Early Learning and Additional Support**

In an effort to provide support for families with young children, we are planning to provide EL facilities for all currently enrolled EL students. Also, we will be providing supervised spaces for enrolled students who are children of "critical workers" from Prep to Year 8. The details relating to arrangements for these highly modified programs will be circulated later this week.

The Geelong College  
PO Box 5 Geelong VIC 3220  
150 Noble Street Newtown VIC 3220  
ABN 22 005 988 205 CRICOS: 00142G

Senior School: Talbot St Newtown Phone: +61 3 5226 3111  
Middle School: Aberdeen St Newtown Phone: +61 3 5226 8444  
Junior School: Minerva Rd Newtown Phone: +61 3 5226 8433  
Email: [info@tgc.vic.edu.au](mailto:info@tgc.vic.edu.au)  
Website: [www.geelongcollege.vic.edu.au](http://www.geelongcollege.vic.edu.au)



It is also important to note the recent Federal Government announcement regarding free of charge Early Learning care does not apply to The Geelong College Early Learning service.

### **Financial Support**

Beyond the financial consideration outlined above, Council understands the current economic circumstances are presenting, or may in the near-term present many of our families with significant financial difficulty. Council is committed to ensuring a principled, fair and consistent process is applied to provide reasonable support and flexibility for affected families where possible. Further guidance will be available from the Director of Business Operations:  
[Shannyn.leach@geelongcollege.vic.edu.au](mailto:Shannyn.leach@geelongcollege.vic.edu.au).

### **Wellbeing Support**

Each family and child will be influenced in different ways at different times by the current circumstances. The welfare of our students is of paramount concern. Our Term 2 programs at all levels will address these issues in addition to our well-established pastoral system and Chaplaincy team.

At College we have a range of resources available to support families and students experiencing distress. We encourage all families to make use of these resources.

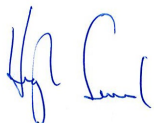
### **Further Information**

Before the commencement of Term 2 each Head of School will be distributing information relating to their respective school. This information will reflect the experiences of the final week of Term 1, including the lessons learned and feedback received.

Matters specific to the Junior, Middle or Senior Schools might be best directed to the Head of School in the first instance. However, if you have any questions about the matters raised above or would like to contact the school confidentially, please do not hesitate to send a note to:  
[Principal@geelongcollege.vic.edu.au](mailto:Principal@geelongcollege.vic.edu.au).

The Council and the Principal together with our enormously capable and devoted staff are committed to supporting every student and their family at this unparalleled time in the life of our community.

Yours sincerely



**Dr Hugh Seward**  
Chair of Council



**Dr Peter Miller**  
Principal

