



15th July 2021

Dear Damascus students and families,

What unusual times we live in and how amazing our community is in adapting and responding to uncertainty and change. This afternoon, at the Victorian Government's press conference, we were notified of a snap lockdown effective from midnight tonight extending from Friday 16th July to midnight on Tuesday 20th July.

To provide the optimal remote learning opportunities recognising the announcement's timing, Damascus College staff will use tomorrow to prepare for remote learning on Monday and Tuesday. Students are encouraged to use this time to undertake study and to ensure suitable space and resources are established for remote learning on Monday and Tuesday. Subject teachers may contact students tomorrow in preparation for remote delivery on Monday. We ask students to please check their emails throughout the day.

We appreciate that the timing of the lockdown has not enabled students to take home all of their learning equipment. Staff will set lessons mindful of this. There is not a need at this stage for families to come onsite and clean out lockers, as we are hopeful that this lockdown will be short, and we will be back onsite soon. Should the lockdown be extended, arrangements will be made for families to come onsite to get things from lockers. If Year 12 or Unit 3/4 students have work at school that they need, please contact the office, and we will facilitate a time for them to get the resources they need. Anyone onsite, at any time, must wear a mask.

Damascus College will be open to support students of essential workers and vulnerable students throughout the lockdown period. Should you wish to access that support, we would appreciate you completing this form-<https://forms.gle/zYx3qAdxsCPYHkQy6>

It is important to note that tomorrow (Friday 16th July), the College will be providing a supervised study program solely for students of essential workers and vulnerable students. This opportunity will be for private study supervision only.

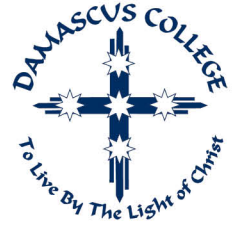
Many of our families may again be impacted by job uncertainty and income diminishment. Please be assured that Damascus College will work with you to provide stability for your family and the continuity of your children's education. Fee concerns can be directed to fees@damascus.vic.edu.au

The College will send an update and the link for our remote learning resources tomorrow. MS Teams will be the vehicle for remote learning from Monday, as it has been in previous lockdowns. From Monday, we will work to the timetable, and each day will begin with TA at the usual time.

I am mindful that there will be significant uncertainty around the school events schedule for next week, such as the College production, sporting events, etc. More detail on these events will be provided over the coming days. The "Spelling Bee" production team have been amazing

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in creating an awesome show which is ready to go. We are excited about presenting this to the community at the appropriate available opportunity, hopefully in the near future.

Please reach out to the College through info@damascus.vic.edu.au if you have questions or concerns. For students who may be feeling vulnerable as a result of this next lockdown, please reach out to your TA, House Leader or counselling@damascus.vic.edu.au

The response of this community to these challenges has been amazing over the past 18 months and I again turn to Catherine McAuley, foundress of the Sisters of Mercy; "We have one solid comfort in all this tripping about, our hearts can always be in the same place, centred in God. Oh God, look on us with love and then we will be able to do anything, no matter how difficult to accomplish"

God bless

Regards

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "M Byrne".

Matthew Byrne
Principal