



THOMASTOWN SECONDARY COLLEGE

80-90 Main Street, Thomastown 3074

Telephone 9465 0844

Email [Thomastown.sc@edumail.vic.gov.au](mailto:Thomastown.sc@edumail.vic.gov.au)

[www.thomassc.vic.gov.au](http://www.thomassc.vic.gov.au)

March 22<sup>nd</sup> 2020



Dear Parents and families

As promised, this is the latest update on the management of Victorian schools in response to the spread of the Coronavirus. While the Prime Minister has asked all schools to stay open until the end of Term 1, Victoria's school term will end on Tuesday 24<sup>th</sup> March 2020, four days earlier than planned. Tuesday will be a pupil-free day, allowing teachers to finalise online material for student into the future. [The last day for Term 1 for students at Victorian state school will be Monday 23<sup>rd</sup> March](#). What will happen after the holidays is still undecided and will depend on how this virus progresses as well as how responsibly Victorians respond to the measures being put in place to protect our health, especially the health of our very young, elderly and vulnerable. Below is the email I received this evening.

Dear principals, teachers, early childhood educators and education support staff,

This afternoon the Victorian Government announced additional steps to combat the spread of coronavirus (COVID-19), including bringing forward the school holidays in Victoria to commence from Tuesday 24 March.

All staff will use the next four days for planning and preparation for the likely transition to flexible and remote learning.

We are aware of the need for clarification around many issues. More information for schools and early childhood services will be provided as soon as possible tomorrow.

The coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic is without precedent in living memory, and it is taking us into the most challenging of times – as individuals, in our communities and as a society.

Thank you for your continued outstanding efforts during this time.

Yours sincerely

**David Howes**  
Deputy Secretary  
Schools and Regional Services

**Kim Little**  
Deputy Secretary  
Early Childhood Education

Tomorrow the timetable will be reorganized so that each VCE block can run for a period of 50 minutes ensuring every teacher of VCE is able to see their students at least once before they break for the holidays. Teachers have made a number of arrangements for communications with students and work will be provided through the COMPASS platform and via email.

It is your decision as to whether your children attend school tomorrow however I encourage you to send senior students in particular if they are well. Please do not send any children if they are unwell as they will only be sent home again. These are trying times but, as I said in my earlier letter, your children have been amazing, and your support has made a huge difference to our our ability to manage this rapidly changing environment.

I will provide more information as soon as it becomes available. I intend to email all VCE students to make them aware of their opportunity to meet with their teachers tomorrow but please remember the decision as to whether they should attend is always yours.

Yours sincerely

Leonie White



Principal