



## **Covid-19 Update 16 September- Lockdown Extension and Term 4 arrangements**

Dear Parents and Carers,

As we come to the end of the term, I hope that the coming two weeks break provide an opportunity to reset and refresh after what has been a challenging term. When we entered the snap lockdown in August, I do not think that any of us envisaged that we would end the term still learning from home. I would like to acknowledge the work done by our staff who are continuing to adapt and develop engaging learning experiences, our students who have adapted and adjusted to learning, not just gaming or playing, in front of a screen, and our families for juggling the many complex facets of daily life.

As you would be aware, the Chief Minister announced on Tuesday that the ACT Lockdown Restrictions will be extended for a further four weeks until **midnight Friday 15 October**. Coupled with this announcement, the Chief Minister and Chief Health Officer also announced information in relation to the return of students to face-to-face learning in Term 4. There is much detail to be worked through in relation to many aspects of the return of students to face-to-face learning. I thank you for your patience and support as we navigate and develop our plans. The health and safety of students, staff and families, remains our number one priority. Public health advice will continue to guide our decisions about the return to face-to-face learning for all students.

Please continue to monitor the ACT Covid-19 website for the most up to date information in relation to restrictions and Covid-19 exposure locations/sites <https://www.covid19.act.gov.au/>. For those families living in regional NSW, please also consult the NSW website <https://www.nsw.gov.au/covid-19>.

As we return to face-to-face learning, can I reiterate that should your student be unwell and experiencing cold and flu symptoms, they should not be attending on site, face-to-face, learning. Likewise, if a student or member of their immediate household has visited a listed exposure site, please ensure that the advice of ACT Health in relation to testing and isolation are followed. This will enable us to keep our community as safe as we can for as long as we can.

### **Year 12 Students**

At this stage, pending no further changes to the advice from the ACT Government or ACT Health, all Year 12 students are able to return for face-to-face learning on **Tuesday 5 October**. This decision acknowledges that all Year 12 students have been prioritised by ACT Health to access the Covid-19 vaccination. Under the current ACT Health Orders, all Year 12 students will be required to bring and wear masks whilst at the College. Students will also be required to regularly wash and sanitise their hands and physically distance where possible. They will also be required to check in each day using the Check in CBR App.

Further information will be provided to Year 12 students and their families in the coming week in relation to the expectations and arrangements that will be in place for face-to-face learning given that their return to school falls within the current lockdown period. This will also include information about the AST Tests which will take place on Tuesday 12 October and Wednesday 13 October under strict Covid-safe protocols.

### **Year 11 Students**

Pending no further changes to the advice from the ACT Government or ACT Health, all Year 11 students are able to return for face-to-face learning on **Monday 18 October**. Classes for Week 11 and Week 12 will continue online for Year 11 students, however, Period 6 classes will resume as scheduled timetabled lessons from the beginning of Term 4. Students are expected to attend their Period 6 classes from Tuesday 5 October.

Under the current ACT Health Orders, all Year 11 students will be required to bring and wear masks whilst at the College. Students will also be required to regularly wash and sanitise their hands and physically distance where possible. They will also be required to check in each day using the Check in CBR App.

For students in Year 11 who may be in a combined Year 11 and Year 12 class, further details are currently being worked through and instructions will be provided when available.

### **Year 7-10 Students**

At this stage no firm date has been given for a face-to-face return for students in Years 7-10 and for the first four weeks of next term online learning will continue for these year groups. We will maintain the timetable schedule that has been in place for the final weeks of Term 3 with no Teams conferences being held during the Period 6 lesson each day. Students will be expected to login for their PT class at **8:45am on Tuesday 5 October** to begin Term 4.

It is expected that further advice from the ACT Government and ACT Health, regarding confirmation of more exact dates for the return of all students to face-to-face learning, will be forthcoming in the weeks ahead.

### **Assessment in Years 7-10**

We are conscious of the challenges that students face in undertaking assessment during extended periods of remote learning. Whilst we are still required to assess student progress and provide grades at the end of the semester, we will be reducing the number of assessment items scheduled in all subjects. Teachers will work on updating the assessment schedules published in Daranet in preparation for Term 4. As such we wish to emphasise the importance of students engaging in classwork as this (more than ever) will be used to support semester grade allocations. If students wish to request an extension for an assessment task, they are reminded to use the form available via the Teaching and Learning tab in Daranet.

### **Essential worker student supervision:**

Supervision will continue to be available for students of **essential workers only** for Term 4. Students will be provided with basic supervision while they access their learning online with the other members of their classes, including their teachers, who are at home. Students will need to wear a mask while they are on site. Canteen facilities will be available on site and students are strongly encouraged not to visit Dickson shops on their way to and from school due to the number of casual Covid-19 exposure sites that have occurred there.

The registration process for those students who need to attend school during the lockdown period is available on Daranet. The link for the registration to attend each day can also be found [HERE](#).

Essential Worker's Students who attend the College and require NSW bus transport will be supervised until the end of Period 6 each day. Those requiring Transport Canberra services for their student to attend Weeks 11-14 need to contact their student's Pastoral Leader as soon as possible, as normal school services are not in place at this time and extra arrangements may be possible via Transport Canberra with notice.

### **College Canteen:**

The College canteen will reopen on **Tuesday 5 October** for students and staff to access. The decision to reopen the canteen is based on the current lockdown restrictions so as to minimise the movement of students and staff to potential Covid-19 exposure sites.

### **Financial Support:**

Families who are experiencing changed financial circumstances due to the current Covid-19 pandemic, are encouraged to contact the College Business Manager, Hugh Boulter, to discuss support that may be available to you. He can be contacted via email on [hugh.boulter@daramalan.act.edu.au](mailto:hugh.boulter@daramalan.act.edu.au).

**Uniform Shop:**

Under the current Lockdown Restrictions, the College Uniform Shop remains closed. Should the restrictions in relation to retail change over the coming weeks enabling the Uniform Shop to open, these details including the opening hours will be posted on the College website.

**Collection of Resources and Items from the College:**

Considering the extension to the ACT lockdown the College is offering students a brief opportunity to collect essential items from their locker in order to continue working from home for an extended period. Families should only take up this offer to collect items that are essential for home learning to continue.

**Details**

- Tuesday 5 October 2021
- 2:30pm – 4:30pm
- Students only, parents are not able to collect items from the College
- Wearing of a mask is mandatory and entry is via Reception
- Students must sanitise their hands on entry and exit to the College
- Must sign in using the CBR App

Whilst the return of some year groups to face-to-face learning is pleasing news, we understand that many families will continue to face many challenges over the coming weeks. As always, please contact your student's Pastoral Leader, via email, in the first instance. Their contacts can be found on Daranet at [Pastoral Contact details](#). Likewise, if you are experiencing internet or access issues please email the Pastoral Leader so that we can look at how best to support your student in their learning once we return for Term 4.

Please continue to keep safe and I hope that you are all able to have a restful break after what has been a challenging term for students, families and staff. Our staff have also been advised to have a restful break away from their screens to enable them to return refreshed and renewed for the new term. It may be the case that many staff are not available to respond to emails until term begins on Tuesday 5 October.

Best wishes

Rachel Davies  
Principal  
16 September 2021