



THE  
**HAMILTON**  
AND ALEXANDRA COLLEGE

FROM THE PRINCIPAL  
Thursday, March 19, 2020

Dear Parents and/or Guardians

I write to update you on two further developments over the past 48 hours.

We remain fortunate that we do not have any cases of COVID-19 at College, nor do WDHS or South West Health Care report any cases in western Victoria at this stage. I want to assure you that at the heart of our decision making, the health and safety of our students, staff and families at the core.

First, last night the Board and Executive agreed The College will remain operational and continue to follow the advice of government and health authorities. We believe that it is in the best interests of our community to keep the school running.

To ensure continuity of education for all our students, ELC to Year 12, we will commence a week long trial of remote learning at home commencing Monday 23 March 2020 until the Easter break. Our staff will continue to work from school and we have provisions and technology in place that will allow us to keep educating the children. We aim to recommence normal classes after Easter on Wednesday 15 April 2020.

Second, we are acutely aware of our duty of care to our boarding community, particularly our international students who have not seen their families for months. Current government advice is that overseas citizens should return home and accordingly we have facilitated the opportunity for our international boarders to return home this weekend should they wish.

The College will make provision on-site (at both the Junior and Senior Schools) for any family who feels their child will not be able to access distance learning or would struggle to provide a supervised learning environment next week. Please contact either Associate Principal, Mr Neil MacLean and/or Head of Junior School, Mr Stephen Nelson if you wish to discuss this.

More information will follow in coming days to prepare you for our trial and I look forward to your feedback. All the staff and I understand the responsibility we have to make sure we look after our community during this health crisis. Nothing is more important at this time.

We hope that making this announcement today will help our school community to prepare for the changes required for next week.

Yours sincerely

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[WWW.HAMILTONCOLLEGE.VIC.EDU.AU](http://WWW.HAMILTONCOLLEGE.VIC.EDU.AU)

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Dr Andrew Hirst

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