



THE
HAMILTON
AND ALEXANDRA COLLEGE

FROM THE PRINCIPAL

Tuesday, April 28, 2020

Dear international students, families and agents

As you may know through the news, the coronavirus situation in Australia appears to be settling and the curve has been successfully “flattened”. Now, there are moves to begin easing the restrictions put in place because of the coronavirus in Australia and, as new regulations are announced and clarified, we want to keep you informed about developments.

Currently, the Victorian government’s expectation is that all students who can study at home should do so. Other than a very small number of students with special circumstances, all our students are working at home and all students’ work is being provided remotely.

In some other states, schools are returning to a more normal situation where classes operate. We expect this will occur in Victoria sometime in the next months. At that time, we anticipate that we will reopen the boarding house.

For international students who are overseas, it is important to note that the restrictions on entry to Australia by non-citizens remain in place.

We have contacted our local member of Parliament, who is also the Minister for Education in the Australian Government, to ask that this rule be relaxed for students wishing to return to their school studies. Previously, exemptions were possible for students enrolled in VCE subjects and it may be that, to begin with, a similar limit exists if exemptions are granted. We suggest a further two-week period of isolation will be a condition of any permission for students to return to Australia.

We will let you know when any announcement is made, just as we will let you know of changes for local students and class attendance.

We are keen to see our international students return to classes as soon as possible but it may require some patience before this can occur. Our teachers will continue to provide lessons for international students until a return is possible. We want the students to keep working.

In the meantime, we would like to receive confirmation that your child(ren) will wish to return to Australia if an exemption for school students is granted and that you will be willing to allow this to happen. Given international travel restrictions, flights will be difficult to arrange and students (and their parents) should understand that it may be that they need to commit to remaining in Australia until the end of the year.

With best wishes to you all
Yours sincerely

Dr Andrew Hirst
Principal

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