



Marian College

304 Barkly Street

ARARAT VIC 3377

Phone (03) 5352 3861

www.mcararat.catholic.edu.au

principal@mcararat.catholic.edu.au

Dear Parents and Guardians,

RE: COVID-19 Coronavirus

Parent Letter - 17

Final Day Term 3, 2020

Friday 18th September

As I write this final letter for the term, I would like to thank all staff, students and parents for what we have achieved together to keep students safe and engaged in learning throughout Term 3. For most students, now is the time to take some rest from the school schedules, routines and assessment. We understand this may not be the same for our senior class with so few weeks remaining. But I hope they find some downtime over the coming break to ensure there remains some balance in their life at this time.

Term 4

- Monday 5th October is a **Student Free Day**.
- Tuesday 6th–Friday 9th
 - All students return to remote learning.
 - Supervision of children of essential workers continues as previous.
 - Supervision classes will be in MC1 on Wednesday. Please enter via the front of the school this day only. This is to ensure we maintain distance between the GAT and supervised students.

Change to Day 2 Tuesday 6th October – This impacts Unit 3 and 4 VCE Students only.

My previous letter outlined Tuesday 6th October as a day onsite for Unit 3 and 4 VCE students only.

The purpose was:

- To assist students settle back to school before they have to face the GAT.
- To alleviate nerves and support student wellbeing.
- To increase understanding of the GAT, the high level of health and safety measures, requirements/equipment.
- To discuss organisation and protocols for Day 3.
- To provide an opportunity for students to touch base face-to-face with VCE teachers to discuss assessments before facing SACs from Day 1, Week 2.



Marian College A Kildare Education Ministries school in the Brigidine tradition

Unfortunately, advice has been received that our students cannot be onsite this day. Instead, we will do our best to provide a shortened Wellbeing and GAT session for the Unit 3 and 4 students (for about an hour only) via Zoom on the Tuesday 6th October. An invitation will be forwarded to the relevant students on the 5th October –the Student Free Day. My apologies for this change to my previous advice.

Please note that all students enrolled in VCE Unit 3 and 4 subjects must sit the GAT (General Achievement Test).

Procedures for Wednesday 7th October - GAT Day.

The College has implemented a range of safety procedures for all students and staff onsite. Students are required to bring their own water bottle and their lunch or snacks, and to wear a mask/face covering. Please note that the labels must be removed from any water bottle if taken into the exam.

Unit 3 and 4 students must arrive by 9.00 am and enter the College via the Moore or King Street gates only. Students will be greeted and temperature tested on arrival before making their way to the Brigidine Centre. Buses will run as normal.

Students who are unwell or awaiting COVID-19 testing results must remain home. Please see the information from VCAA included with this letter for more details or the VCAA website: <https://www.vcaa.vic.edu.au/administration/Key-dates/Pages/VCE-exam-timetable.aspx>. If you require further advice on the day please contact Mrs Lucy Edwards, the College Office, or VCAA directly. We wish all our students every success as they enter the final weeks of study and examinations.

School Photos

I know many students and parents may be disappointed with cancellation of the formal school photos for 2020. Unfortunately, we have moved this appointment around many times over the last term, without certainty that any further revised date is possible. As an alternative, we are exploring ways we can use our own resources to at least take Year 7 photos (required for our internal systems) and Year 12 photos in their final year. If more is possible, we will do our best to accommodate other year levels. More details will be forwarded when finalised. A refund will be provided for parents who have paid for the external provider.

I wish everyone a very safe and enjoyable holiday. We look forward to the term ahead when we can welcome everyone back onsite again.

Take care and stay safe, Carmel.

(Please see VCAA notes attached)



Marian College A Kildare Education Ministries school in the Brigidine tradition

The following points are from the Operational guidance for COVID-safe delivery of the 2020 General Achievement Test: A practical guide. (VCAA publication).

The VCAA recognises that health issues linked to the pandemic may impact some students participating in the GAT. Some students may become unwell during the test; others may be required to enter quarantine prior to the test. There may be students that are deemed to be severely medically vulnerable. While the GAT plays an important part in determining final results for the VCE, students who are unable to complete the GAT because of COVID-19 should be reassured that their final VCE results will be determined based on their achievement in their school-based assessments, external assessments and a range of additional data available that will be used in this year's quality assurance processes.

How you can stay well

- Stay at home and get tested if you have symptoms of coronavirus (COVID-19), however mild.
- Practise good hygiene – wash your hands regularly and cough and sneeze into a tissue or your elbow.
- Keep your distance – stay 1.5 metres away from anyone you don't live with.
- Wear a face covering when you leave home

Students with Hay Fever Symptoms

As there are some similarities between hay fever symptoms and those of COVID-19, students who have a known history of hay fever are advised to consider how this will be proactively managed during the VCE external assessment period. Finding the right approach to managing individual circumstances may require students seeking advice from their treating medical practitioner. Given the context of COVID-19, students likely to experience uncontrolled hay fever symptoms should seek advice from their medical practitioner and liaise with their school to make any reasonable adjustments that may be required during the VCE external assessment period. Students may want to seek medical advice about having medication on hand to take pre-emptively on exam days if hay fever symptoms are likely and get a medical certificate prior to the examination period to confirm a history of hay fever. A medical certificate may assist examiners/teachers should students develop symptoms on the day and there is a concern these could indicate COVID-19.

Evidence for exemption from the GAT due to COVID-19.

Students will be eligible for an exemption from the GAT if they are prevented from completing the GAT due to COVID-19. Evidence requirements include: • Supporting letter/incident report from the school • Evidence of testing for COVID-19 (includes a Medical certificate from an independent health professional recommending testing) or direction to isolate in quarantine having been identified as a close contact of a confirmed case of COVID.

