



Bacchus Marsh
Grammar

PO Box 214
Bacchus Marsh VIC 3340
E school@bmg.vic.edu.au
www.bmg.vic.edu.au

11 August 2021

Dear Parents/Guardians,

I hope you remain well. I want to start by apologising for the late notice in relation to changed arrangements at the Maddingley Campus. Given the changing circumstances of COVID infection in Caroline Springs we were asked to act as quickly as we could, hence the communication last night. I want to stress that it was a request to close the site, not a request to exclude metropolitan students. I would like to thank parents and students for reacting so quickly. The Victorian Health team have also been enormously appreciative of the School Community's willingness to act to protect the broader community through lockdown and this reaction to circumstances.

It is likely that online learning will continue at both the Maddingley and Woodlea campuses for the remainder of this week and next.

Both the Maddingley and Woodlea campuses will remain open for the children of essential works and the normal bus timetable will operate.

In my email yesterday to Maddingley parents I made clear the two priorities we had in relation to dealing with this crisis:

- i) We will act on health advice and follow the public health directions of DHHS.
- ii) We will endeavour to be open when we can be open from a strong conviction that traditional learning led by a teacher gives students the best outcomes.

Yesterday was a difficult day for all of you and I do understand how sudden changes like that which we had are sapping your energy and that of the students, however, the nature of the situation we are in demands it.

I am at present concerned about two key areas in relation to student learning:

- i) Mental Health
- ii) Engagement

In developing programs over the next week these two factors will be central to our thinking as we continue to reshape programs to deal with the situation, we find ourselves in.

This brings us to Friday's Mid-Term Break. I have had several people writing to me asking for the day to be cancelled and to be a normal online day. I have considered this position and looked at a range of options. My judgement at the moment is that staff and students are exhausted, they need a long weekend to catch up and indeed process the last month. I have formed the view we need a break to reset and that will be better for students' long-term learning. I again realise that any decision here is going to upset some, however, I think that at the moment maintaining medium to long-term engagement is the most important goal.

I wish you well over the coming days and we look forward to having students back onsite as soon as possible.

Kind regards,

Mr Andrew A. Neal - Principal