

From the Principal's Desk

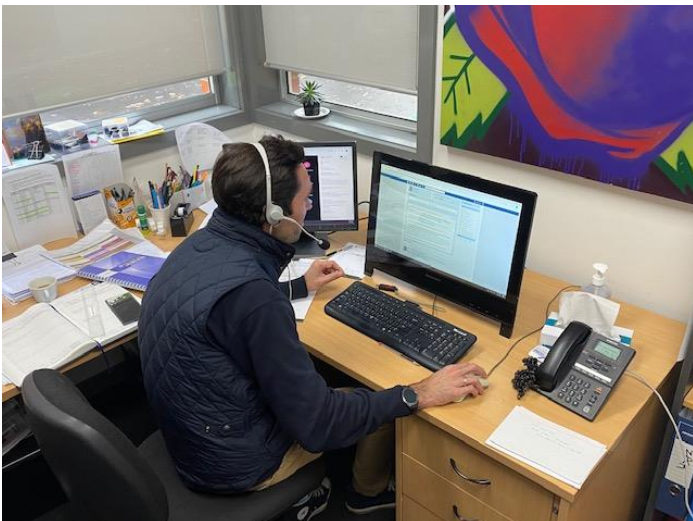
What a strange world we are currently living in. The concept of an entire education system moving to a remote learning platform would have been laughable prior to the outbreak of the current Covid-19 pandemic. But here we are, having just completed three weeks of our students undertaking their VCE, VCAL and VET programs in their homes via an ICT device.



The transition to remote learning has been highly successful for the vast majority of students with approximately 95% of them having been engaged in each of their subjects in every lesson. It is still early days and I understand that there remains an element of novelty with this new form of learning. Let's hope that this high level of engagement can be retained over the coming weeks.

I understand that many households would have made significant changes to the manner in which they operate to accommodate the shift to remote learning. Thank you to every parent and carer who has supported their child to allow them to concentrate on their studies. I'm sure that there will be many stories to tell about the "negotiations" that have taken place in order for this to happen.

There is not a doubt in the world that remote learning cannot replace what can be achieved in the classroom. Teachers and support staff have worked to ensure that our students' access to quality materials and learning opportunities has been maintained as much as possible.



Teachers report that they are spending a lot more time preparing work and that more time is required to get

through lessons when working online. It is also evident that students are taking more time to complete the tasks that have been set for them.

It is important that students take regular breaks from their work and spend time away from their screen. This is also true during lessons. Schedule time to stand up, have a stretch and go for a walk around the house. In most instances a break every 30 minutes is reasonable.

At this stage we have planned to continue with remote learning for the remainder of Term 2. The first semester that was originally planned to conclude in early June has now been extended until the last day of Term 2, Friday 26 June.

Naturally if the Victorian Government changes their stance on the operation of schools for this term, I will provide you with all of the required information. We would all welcome a return to "normality" when it is safe for all members of the school community to do so.

School Council

The first meeting of the new school council was conducted via video conferencing on Monday 27 April. The Annual General Meeting was also held and I would like to congratulate the following councilors on their election as office bearers.

President:	Susan Robertson
Vice-President:	Kate Galati
Treasurer:	Robert Lewkowicz

Oriel Flewell-Smith was elected as a Community Representative for 2020.

The college's Annual Report 2019 was presented, discussed and endorsed. A copy is available on the homepage of our website <https://sssc.vic.edu.au/>

Year 11 School Captains

The Student Involvement Leader, Tameka Carter, and I interviewed a number of very high calibre applicants for the roles of Year 11 Captains recently. The passion and insight shown by all candidates was inspiring. After much deliberation, the successful applicants are Rhiannon Mutch and Tara Parkhill.

Congratulations to both students! We look forward to the year ahead and are grateful to have such wonderful young leaders within our school community.