



Albany Rise Primary School

ABN 13 548 109 436

PO Box 1312, Waverley Gardens. VIC.3170
Albany Drive, Mulgrave. VIC. 3170

T: 03 9547 1146

F: 03 9547 8848

E: albany.rise.ps@edumail.vic.gov.au

W: www.albanyrise-ps.vic.edu.au

COVID-19 (coronavirus) Update
Tuesday 7th April 2020

Dear Parents/Carers,

I hope everyone is staying safe and well during this extended holiday period and globally challenging circumstances.

You may have heard media reports today in relation to Remote Learning arrangements for all Victorian Government Schools for Term 2, 2020.

Attached is the media release that the Premier provided online today.

During these holidays, our staff have been accessing professional learning and regularly communicating and planning to ensure our move to remote learning will continue to be as smooth as possible for all students.

Further detailed information is anticipated from the Education Department tomorrow, in relation to some of the practicalities of remote learning for schools. I will be sure to pass this on as soon as it is available.

For families who have limited or no access to digital devices (to enable access to our Remote Learning @ Home program), arrangements can be made to borrow school devices on a case by case basis. You can send a Dojo message to me if you require this support.

I wish you all the best and will be communicating with you all again soon.

Take Care,
Judy Drew

Media Release

The Hon Daniel Andrews MP
Premier



Tuesday, 7 April 2020

VICTORIAN STUDENTS TO LEARN FROM HOME, AS VCE TIMELINES REVISED

Most Victorian students will be educated from home when Term 2 starts next week to ensure the physical distancing will help slow the spread of coronavirus, with free internet access and laptops for those students who need it most.

Premier Daniel Andrews joined Minister for the Coordination of Education and Training – COVID-19, James Merlino to announce that following advice from the Chief Health Officer all Victorian government primary, secondary and special schools will move to remote and flexible learning and teaching .

VCE students will still receive an ATAR score, but there will be a number of changes to the academic timetable for VCE and VCAL students:

- The GAT test will move from June to October or November
- End of year exams will be postponed until at least December
- School based assessment tasks will be reduced where possible to relieve some pressure on students as they move to remote and flexible learning arrangements
- Universities will be asked to delay the start of the 2021 university year to account for impacts of coronavirus on senior secondary students.

VCE study scores will continue to be a combination of school-based assessment and external exams. VCAL students will have more time to complete their courses and this will be consistent with the revised dates for the VCE.

The Victorian Curriculum and Assessment Authority (VCAA) is also examining a compressed end-of-year exam schedule – including slightly shortening each exam – in recognition of the disruption caused by the pandemic.

A small number of students undertaking VET may have the award of their VCE or VCAL delayed until the beginning of 2021 so they can complete mandatory practical or workplace learning requirements – ensuring that they are not disadvantaged by the lack of hands on practice while we fight this pandemic.

As we act to slow the spread of coronavirus, the message to students and parents of government schools is clear: all children who can learn at home **must** learn from home – with exceptions only in extremely limited circumstances.

On-site learning will only be available for children whose parents can't work from home and vulnerable students without access to a suitable learning environment at home. Small groups of VCE and VCAL students can also attend on-site for short periods if their learning requirements cannot be conducted at home. Physical distancing provisions will be made for the safety for teachers and kids.

To ensure more kids can learn from home, the Government will loan more than 6,000 laptops and tablets to students who don't have access to digital technologies. Schools will also distribute other classroom devices as required to ensure all students who do not have access to a laptop or tablet at home will be provided one.

Internet access should not determine a child's access to education – so we will deliver free SIM cards or dongles to thousands of students at government schools who need them the most. This includes an agreement with Telstra to provide 4000 SIM cards for government primary and secondary school students. The Government has also purchased an extra 1000 SIM-enabled dongle devices.

Priority for the SIM cards and dongles will be given to senior secondary students, students in bushfire affected areas, and families who cannot afford an internet connection at home.

Media contact: Matthew Dixon 0438 190 148 | matthew.dixon@minstaff.vic.gov.au