

17 April 2020

Principal's Report

Term 2 remote learning

Welcome to Term 2.

It is very different to how only a month or so ago I envisaged this year would be. Teachers have worked very quickly to ensure we were ready for remote learning. There has been further planning across the holiday period and Wednesday seemed to go quite smoothly. Of course, there will be some glitches but we believe we have the support structures in place to assist. Please check the names at the back of the Parent and Student Guide for who to contact if you need support.

This is certainly a different time and space. It is really important that we maintain contacts and engagement in learning. It reinforces for me the importance, in learning, of the relations that are built up through interacting face to face with people and the learning that occurs when we are able to respond to all nuances including body language, facial expressions and the other cues that we as teachers use to recognise the needs of students. While we are maintaining our connections to colleagues, students, family and friends through various on line environments, it will be good when we can re-establish our connections to people by being able to be with them.

In the meantime, I am confident that we have managed the transition to remote learning as well as we possibly can. We will continue to be flexible, recognising that there may be changes across the term. But at this stage, the program we have in place will continue.

I asked Georgina Padula to seek some comments from her Year 7 class about their reactions to the first day of remote learning and their comments are included in this newsletter.

I hope that you are all well and managing the restrictions as well as you can.

Dr Mary Cannon
Principal

College Patron Dr Judith Slocombe

We are:

A learning community in which members respect each other

We value:

- Success in academic, creative and sporting endeavours
- Individual achievement and contribution to group activities
- The development of self-esteem and integrity
- Initiative, leadership skills, teamwork
- Active participation in our diverse co-curricular program

School Council

Welcome back to Term 2, a term that is unlike all those previously for all students and parents. There have been many challenges for the school and the teaching staff as they head into Term 2 and prepare for the new remote teaching regime. Although remote teaching in itself is not new, it is new when an entire class, the whole school, and pretty much the state makes this significant change with so little warning.

This is a huge change for the school and especially the teachers. A massive amount of work has gone into making this happen as lesson plans have been revised and activities amended to be workable in a remote teaching environment. All this has been done by a group of very devoted teachers for the benefit of the students. We should all appreciate how this has come together for the students, the better this works for students, the better it is for us as parents also.

Please do keep in mind that this is a huge change for all of us in a short period of time so it can be expected that not everything will be perfect. Please be patient and understand that the school and especially the teaching staff are doing their absolute best to make this happen and be as seamless as possible. There may be some issues along the way but these will be sorted out and resolved as quickly as possible.

Another issue as a result of the huge change and short time frame is the inconsistent messaging between what you may hear directly from the school and the varied messages that may come across in the media. In Victoria, it is the State Government 'Department of Education and Training Victoria' that is responsible for the running of all state schools. CGSC is following the directives and guidelines issued by this department for all the changes in relation to Term 2. We recognise that there may be differences between what other states are doing, what the private sector is doing and what you see in the press. While this may create confusion, please be assured that we are following the directives of the 'Department of Education and Training Victoria' for all changes that have resulted in the remote learning for Term 2.

Thank you for the patience and support you have already provided to the staff at CGSC. It is very much appreciated.

Tim Clarke
School Council President

Student Reflections

On Wednesday 15 April, students started to use Microsoft Teams to begin their online classes due to COVID-19. For the majority of students, it was a very new experience for them to learn how to communicate and adapt the use of Microsoft Teams. For me, as a Year 7 student, it was a very interesting and new experience to learn online, and I found it quite enjoyable because we can still have the opportunity to learn even though we are all in different places. Another reason I found online learning enjoyable was that we could experience different learning techniques and styles from different teachers. Having different learning styles made me really enjoy participating in each class to experience how the teachers can teach in their own way online. Continuing on the topic of different learning styles, there are multiple features teachers can access to make online learning more efficient. For instance, the feature 'Microsoft Whiteboard' allows teachers and students to draw/write on a screen, which then allows everyone on the video call to see what is drawn or written. I believe that this feature is very helpful in art class, as students can understand more about their topic of drawing. Share screen, is another powerful feature, which most teachers use to make the learning more vibrant. Sharing the screen allows students to see what their teacher is doing on their laptop. This is useful when teachers are giving out instructions, and with sharing their screen, it is visible to students to follow the instructions more easily. Overall, I really enjoyed my first day of online learning and I am looking forward to the classes for the rest of Term 2!

Katie Wong, Year 7

Today we all had our first day of online schooling and it was very different to how I thought it would be. It was nice knowing you could take your time to get up, and not have to stress about getting to school on time. We used Microsoft Teams to do our online lessons. There were occasional glitches due to loss of connection but we all got better with it throughout the day. Although I missed seeing my friends in person, it was great to be able to communicate with them online in this time of isolation.

Ava Murphy, Year 7

I personally think online learning is great considering the circumstances right now. I liked how all the teachers used different ways of teaching us like sharing their screen and many more. I especially like seeing all my friends even though it might not be face to face. It is still great to catch up and just talk with them. I love the way all the teachers and staff have organised our classes. They have not just taught us something but they have all made it fun and engaging. Therefore, online learning is very efficient and useful.

Shenaya Ranaweera, Year 7

CGSC Music – Remote Learning

Instrumental Music Teachers (IMTs) and ensemble conductors will make contact via email within the week to outline learning support and expectations while remote learning is in place.

Lessons and rehearsals will be scheduled on Compass and recommence remotely from next week on Teams. Ensemble Rehearsals will take place in the same way on Teams, however due to technical barriers there will be revisions on how ensembles will run.

Rehearsals that would normally occur before school, will be re-scheduled to a later time in the day. We felt that 7.45am might be too early for beginner instrumentalists to be rehearsing online!

Instrumental Music on Moodle

A new subject page for instrumental music has been created on Moodle. All students have access to the subject page entitled INMU. Teachers will be uploading resources over the coming weeks.

Please be aware that some IMTs work across multiple schools and will answer to communications when they can. Emails can also be forwarded to myself at maw@cgsc.vic.edu.au or our Music administrator Tash at nan@cgsc.vic.edu.au

Thank you to all for your patience and support to the music department in this difficult time. We look forward to seeing you at our next concert, whenever that may be!

Michael Sword
Head of Music