

Benalla P-12 College

Executive Principal - Tony Clark



A MESSAGE FROM OUR PRINCIPAL

COLLEGE VISION

BENALLA P-12 COLLEGE ENSURES THAT EVERY CHILD LEARNS AND IS PREPARED FOR THE FUTURE THROUGH A COMMITMENT TO EXCELLENCE IN TEACHING, HIGH EXPECTATIONS AND POSITIVE RELATIONSHIPS IN A SAFE AND INCLUSIVE ENVIRONMENT

Dear Parents, Carers and Friends of the Benalla P-12 College Community,

Well we have made it through the first few days of remote learning and are about to embark on the first full week of learning from home. As I have said previously, you have all done a great job so far and will continue to do so. You are not expected to be literacy and numeracy or other subject matter experts. Please just focus on supporting your children to have a safe and positive learning environment at home. Regular communication between home and school will be vital in getting us through this. Hopefully you have had contact from someone via email or phone of text or Class Dojo or some other means. If you need support – please get in touch and ask for help.

Online Learning

We completed a survey of families last week to find out who had access to the internet at home and/or a suitable device for online learning. There are a number of families who don't have one or the other and we are trying to resolve this as much as we can. Year 12 and 11 students have been offered laptops to loan and many have taken up this offer. We have more laptops on the way and these will be made available to students in Year 10 as of next week.

Primary students will be offered an iPad to collect at the end of this week. Further information will come out to families about this later this week.

Internet access at home is a different issue. We are waiting on advice from the DET as to how we can support families in this way.

Collection of work packs

Thankyou to those families who came to collect work packs on Friday. Any uncollected packs are available at either Waller (P-6) or Faithfull (7-10 and VCAL).

The same process will occur this Friday, with work packs available at each campus (Avon and Clarke morning only). At this stage, until we can guarantee all students have access to a suitable device and the internet, we will continue with hard copy work packs for students in P-10. These may be accompanied by additional extension work available via Google Classroom.

Attendance

The Department of Education is expecting that we will mark attendance every day for students. This is easy for those students who attend on site. For those students at home, attendance can mean attending an online webex class, completing and submitting some work or a staff member making contact with someone from the family during the day.

For this reason, it is very important that all students do engage in remote work each and every day so that we can mark them present.



TERM 2 DATES, TUES 14TH APRIL- FRI 26TH JUNE

Onsite attendance

Attendance at school during the day remains a last resort for those families who cannot provide supervision at home and alternative arrangements cannot be made. All parents will need to complete the online application on a weekly basis to allow us to prepare for appropriate staffing. The link to the form for week 3 will be posted on Compass tomorrow or a hard copy form can be filled in at Waller or Faithfull Street Campuses.

Please remember that the advice of the Chief Medical Officer of Victoria is that all students who can learn from home must learn from home. Students who do attend on-site are only completing the same work packs provided to all students.

Communicating with Teachers

All staff are working hard in these challenging circumstances too. They are learning new skills and putting a lot of time and effort into planning and delivering remote lessons and take home learning packs. Most staff are working from home and are expected to work the same hours they would be at school which is 8.30am to 4.30pm. Some staff are part time and only work 2-4 days per week.

Please be mindful of this when communicating with staff. You can do this by keeping emails and phone calls meaningful and short. Being patient in waiting for responses is also important and try to avoid contacting teachers outside of working hours. Your co-operation with this is greatly appreciated.

VCE and VCAL

We have received some advice about changes to the way the year will operate for senior secondary students. There is a weekly newsletter for senior students and a weekly online assembly via webex that will help communicate this information. The important thing to remember is that everything is being done to ensure that all senior students will complete their courses this year and that no students will be disadvantaged because of this. I can guarantee that all our senior secondary staff are working hard to provide our students with everything they need to get through this.

Advice for Learning From Home

Finally, just a few reminders and tips for successfully managing remote learning:

Establish routines – encourage your kids to get out of bed, get dressed and get ready for school as you do normally. There will be plenty of opportunity for 'down time' and having a clear routine will reinforce the value of learning time.

Rest and self-care are important – encourage your kids to eat well and get some daily exercise, and even better, model this yourself by joining in or doing your own thing.

Remember to stay positive. Your best will be enough

Tony Clark

Executive Principal

Audible Books

For as long as School is closed Audible are providing **Free** Audio Books for Kids.

These stories are free to stream on your desktop, laptop, phone or tablet.

Listen to the Tales of Beatrix Potter , Fun Songs or learn the Alphabet.

Explore Literary Classics or Folk & Fairy Tales.

You may be interested in listening to books like Anne of Green Gables or Harry Potter.

To access google stories. [audible.com](https://www.audible.com)

Our College Values

Respect

Responsibility

High Expectations

Integrity

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P: 035762 1646

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Waller St

Yrs F-4

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Attendance Hotline
035762 2600

Clarke St

Yrs 5-6 Hub

P: 035761 2752

Attendance Hotline
035761 2747

Faithfull St

Yrs 7-12

P: 035761 2777

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