



**Alkira**  
Secondary College

*Personalised learning for all. Respect for the individual learner.*

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### ***A letter to our school community;***

Dear All,

I hope you are all well and staying safe during this very challenging time.

We began the year with a focus on improving “the culture of learning” at Alkira. This is now the most important role we have as we transition to remote (at home) learning. We remain committed to ensure there is a continuation of learning for all of our students and to minimise any further disruption or interruption to their education.

Remote or distance learning is not a new thing. Many of our students have successfully undertaken subjects with Distance Education and the Victorian Virtual Learning Network, most of our teachers have undertaken online learning programs and much of our professional development is now done through remote programs. Our graduates who move on to University quickly realise their lectures are all online.

This is however, a very big shift for our students and families and requires a special commitment from all of us to ensure our students continue to have access for success. Our College values of Respect, Integrity, Care and Excellence have never been as important to us, as now.

We need to show **respect** and empathy for the situation we are now in. The restrictions in place to help support our community during the Covid 19 outbreak means we need to make some sacrifices and adapt to changes in the best interests of everyone.

Our staff will act with **integrity** to ensure the continuation of learning is planned, relevant and accessible to all. Students will need to repay this commitment by being active participants in the remote learning program and independently completing all set work and assessments.

One of our major concerns is for the **care**, welfare and wellbeing of our most vulnerable students. Our wellbeing staff and Homegroup teachers will maintain support for student counselling and we will have a dedicated contact for any student who needs support during this time. Our Literacy and Numeracy teams will also continue to support individual students in their learning programs.

We will continue to strive for **excellence**. I am confident that our staff are well prepared for this transition. They are working collaboratively to design appropriate and relevant learning programs and designing assessments that will support your child to achieve success and ensure that their learning continues as best as they can, until we all return to the more familiar classroom environment.

At this time we are continuing to use COMPASS as our default *Learning Management System* and the first point of communication with our school community. Student timetables, activities, learning resources and assessments will continue to be provided through COMPASS.

All teachers will continue to post up lesson plans and student work through COMPASS. Our teachers and Head of House/ Wellbeing leaders will continue to monitor student progress and provide support where necessary.

The College will continue to update students and their families in regard to the implementation of our “Learning from Home” program.

The Department of Education has directed that any child who can learn from home should learn from home.

We understand that there may be some difficulties with this and we urge the students and their families to contact the school directly. The Office will not be attended but enquiries by phone and email will be responded to from Tuesday 14<sup>th</sup> April.

Phone 03 5991 3500 or email [alkira.sc@edumail.vic.gov.au](mailto:alkira.sc@edumail.vic.gov.au)

You can expect a call from the College by Friday 17<sup>th</sup> April to confirm your readiness to begin “Learning from Home”

On Tuesday April 14<sup>th</sup>, we will provide further details and specific information (via Compass and your emails) to support your transition into our “Learning from Home” program. It is essential that your contact details are correct and we are advised of any changes.

Together we can ensure your child’s security, wellbeing and education are well looked after.

On behalf of every member of our staff and the College Council, I thank you all for the calm and considered way we have met these challenges to date and will continue to meet these challenges in the future.

Stay safe and stay in touch.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'John Shaw'. The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial 'J' and 'S'.

John Shaw

Principal