



MINARET COLLEGE

Islamic College of Melbourne South and East

3 June 2021

Assalamu Alaikum wa Rahmatullahi wa Barakatuh Minaret Families,

I hope this letter finds you in the best state of health and iman.

Today I have two important updates for our families – learning arrangements during our extended lockdown and the launch of our new Sentral Parent Portal.

Learning arrangements during our extended lockdown

Yesterday the Victorian government announced an extension of our current lockdown. It's not what we were hoping for but Alhamdulillah, Allah (swt) is the best of planners. During the additional 7 days of lockdown and effective from tomorrow:

- Our ELC will continue to operate as normal
- Foundation to Year 10 students will continue to work from home as they have done this week
- Year 11 and 12 students and their teachers will return to classes being conducted onsite. No online classes will run for Year 11 and 12 students.

For Year 11 and 12 students returning onsite, the day will continue to be slightly reduced – the day will start at 9am and finish at 3pm InshaAllah. Students who catch buses will be picked up between 7.30 and 8am tomorrow. New pick up times will be sent from Otobus for next week. The canteen will be open with a limited menu. For students who may be concerned about assessments, the GAT has been postponed and we are awaiting confirmation of a new date. Tomorrow, our Heads of School will brief students on arrangements for SACs that have been impacted during the lockdown period.

Parents, we understand that for many of you, having students learning at home can be difficult. We also prefer for students to be onsite however only when it is safe. InshaAllah with some additional time and patience, we will welcome them back to school again soon. At this point we expect students will return on Friday 11 June however further updates will be made next week about how this transition will occur.

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Sentral Parent Portal – Now Available!

Now for a much more exciting update for the College and our families! Over recent months we have been working to introduce our Sentral Parent Portal to our families. We recognise that especially in secondary school, we were missing a means of direct communication to our parents. SMS messages are sometimes queued and important information doesn't reach our parents in a timely way. Our portal will allow us to send notifications directly to parents in real time. Other communication from the College, including letters such as this one, will also be made available through the portal. On launch, the following additional content will be available:

- A calendar including term dates and holidays and will be expanded to include other important dates like photo day or school sports
- The ability to register a student's absence with the College
- The ability to view the attendance record of your child(ren)
- Secondary student timetables

We know that the introduction of the Sentral Parent Portal will see an even better partnership emerge between the College and our families. Ultimately, these changes will benefit our students and for that reason, I'm excited to share this news with you today.

We are now preparing letters that will be mailed to each family in the coming days. The letter details further information about the portal – including the registration process. When creating your account, you will be asked to enter an access code. The access code is unique to each person and links you to your child or children in the portal. Please keep your eye out for mail from the College early next week. If you have any questions or require help with the setup process, please call our Admin team between 9am and 3pm and they will be more than happy to assist.

Thank you families for your continued support. InshaAllah we will see this lockdown through together. We will continue to keep you informed via our website, Facebook, and our new portal so please keep your eye out for further updates next week.

May Allah (swt) continue to keep our families safe and strengthen us both with sabr and iman. Ameen.

Stay safe,



Mohammed Taksim
Executive Principal