Dear parent/carer,

Firstly, thank you for your patience during this initial 7 day lockdown and for your ongoing support as we move into the two week extended lock down. Our teachers and administration staff have been working hard to ensure our students can access engaging content while we are learning from home.

Our school will be moving to a period of teacher-led remote learning from Friday 20 August 2021, where students are encouraged to stay at home while the ACT enters a more prolonged lock down as part of our health response to COVID-19.

Our school will remain open for students of essential workers and  vulnerable young people who cannot work from home. Those students will access the same remote learning program as their classmates, delivered by their usual classroom teacher/s.

I would like to acknowledge the challenging time we are all facing right now and thank you for your ongoing support as we transition to another period of remote learning.

Home learning will begin tomorrow, Friday 20 August 2021. Below is an initial timetable for Friday. Please note that all students are required to attend check-in, which is the official attendance for structured home learning.

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Time** | **Activity** |
| **9am-9:30am** | Check-In |
| **9:40am - 10:10am** | A line |
| **10:10am - 10:40am** | B line |
| **10:40 - 11:30am** | Recess |
| **11:30am -12pm** | C line |
| **12 - 12:30pm** | D line |
| **12:30 - 1pm** | E line |
| **1 - 2pm** | Lunch |
| **2 - 2:30pm** | F line |
| **2:30 - 3pm** | G line |

Later this afternoon, all students will receive an email to their schoolsnet email account that will include:

* Friday’s timetable
* Week 7 timetable
* Their Check-In Google Meet code
* Teacher email addresses

Please ensure your young person checks their email address.

Students can access this email account through their Chromebook and logging into the following web address: <https://backpack.ed.act.edu.au/>. If your child needs assistance accessing a computer or internet access, please contact the school front office (61420700) and we will be able to assist.

For the next few weeks, the most important thing you can do is support your child’s wellbeing – they may be feeling anxious or distressed or overwhelmed with the information they are seeing on the media and they may need some guidance to help them find the most-appropriate information. Keep in mind that young people can express their feelings in many ways. I encourage you to speak openly with your young person about what they are feeling.

As a parent or carer you can help your child with what they’re experiencing:
• Listen to their concerns – let them know you’re there for them and acknowledge how they are feeling
• Make time to talk – provide a space for them to share their feelings and worries
• Focus on strengths and hope.

If your child/ren requires extra help and assistance, our school psychologists area available to provide support through telehealth. To access the service, a booking request may be made via an [online form](https://forms.office.com/r/PLa8gTawBK) or by calling 6205 1559 between 9:00am and 4:30pm. We have also compiled a range of [useful wellbeing resources for students and families](https://www.education.act.gov.au/public-school-life/information-on-novel-coronavirus-covid-19) that may help you with these conversations.  We will be reaching out to you regularly to ensure you are kept up to date with any changes or new information. Please contact the school if you have any concerns.

In the meantime, you can find more information and stay up to date with what the ACT Education Directorate is doing, by visiting [COVID-19 school arrangements - Education (act.gov.au)](https://www.education.act.gov.au/public-school-life/covid-school-arrangements) and following us on social media.

You can keep up to date with the latest health information, advice and resources on the ACT’s COVID-19 website [www.covid19.act.gov.au](https://l.facebook.com/l.php?u=http%3A%2F%2Fwww.covid19.act.gov.au%2F%3Ffbclid%3DIwAR30OkxYy0XBg2i_EzMi8JVWkZH9dGW0d1xo7G6MHxm9Nuuq0-rfBMnedP8&h=AT1lE5qDQMZMYe5IonAu0PpHX-7mQxB25PHRIBmTFMb3sfWVu5cS2Uy0rpMtkY4e2GHsLx7Zrr-mt3bA9blyhsE5bfFGToSwrtvJ3TNr2fbwXCl6O5PkE-jRXY1xGE-d5g&__tn__=-UK-R&c%5b0%5d=AT1C4t7dEQO9mj05EqMA8xO6VvlZm4g0Kz7EnpsrvxPyAvVymbdG-xGPyQy4DbOXP2FeflcdbtOqy15t98rVnmL37d2H1OXmYGd_qzO8EFaT8hLiKgpcsndDAM9we0bZKA0Jjxbzq97phqsNf3K4qe3nMFnuhbicanWei3KI198uVnhykj1cABafBr1hFuVkN3TNqg_ug4h-)

Again, thank you for your patience and support during this difficult time.

Regards,

Simon

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| --- | --- | --- | --- |
|  | Simon VaughanPrincipal | Melrose High SchoolMarr St PearceCanberra ACT 2607 | Ph: (02) 6142 0700[www.melrosehs.act.edu.au](http://www.melrosehs.act.edu.au/)[www.facebook.com/MelroseHSCanberra](http://www.facebook.com/MelroseHSCanberra)  |
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