



SCOTCH COLLEGE FOUNDATION UPDATE - AUGUST 2020



THE SCOTCH COLLEGE FOUNDATION



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Scotch has continued to respond quickly to the rapid developments resulting from the COVID-19 pandemic, and we are writing to you, as committed supporters of Scotch, to extend our best wishes during these confronting times.

As metropolitan Melbourne retreats into stage four of COVID-19 restrictions, we thought it timely to provide you with another update of the School's response to the challenges it faces.

It was wonderful to welcome the boys back to school during Term 2; but sadly, as Melbourne's case numbers continued to climb during the mid-semester break, we only saw a return to on-campus learning for our Year 11 and 12 VCE students at the commencement of Term 3. That all changed again last week when the stage 4 restrictions were announced, requiring all schooling to be conducted via remote learning from Wednesday 5 August for at least six weeks. It is a

credit to our teaching staff in both the Junior and Senior Schools who have been able to adapt to this new teaching platform so willingly and expertly, and they have been ably supported by our committed non-teaching staff.

Remote learning provides challenges for boys, staff and parents, but we have been amazed at the adaptability and flexibility of all concerned. Scotch's Information and Communication Technology Department deserves enormous credit for what they have done to facilitate remote learning through the School's Learning Management System. This would not have been possible if this invisible menace had been present 20 years ago.

However, technology cannot replicate the on-campus Scotch experience that we value. The loss of one-on-one interaction; the ability for a teacher to respond to facial expressions of comprehension or confusion in the classroom; the unifying spirit of sport, its training and competition; the coordination of the orchestra performing in harmony or the timing of delivery on stage; or the life skills learnt through our services program – most of these have been noticeable omissions from the Scotch offering throughout much of this year.



Despite the difficulties 2020 has brought, there have been major advancements at the School, which you will be able to read more about in the September edition of *Great Scot*. The Keon-Cohen Dining Hall was officially opened on Tuesday 15 April, through a unique on-line ceremony, believed to be the first of its kind – at Scotch, anyway! The boys' response to the new Dining Hall has been overwhelmingly positive, and it is undoubtedly a significant improvement on the much-loved but inadequate old Tuckshop.



The English Department moved into its new home in the Lithgow Centre over the Term 1-2 holidays, and boys and staff have enthused about the great new facilities. English is now appropriately located near the Senior School Library (now referred to as the Centre for Learning) and the Fraser Smith Lecture Theatre.



The new Scotch Shop was open for the majority of Term 2, albeit by appointment only, with strict social distancing protocols in place. The shop has brought about major improvements in school uniform supply, benefiting parents and boys, as has the new range of Scotch sports uniforms, which will be revealed when APS sport resumes.



OSCA House, at No. 3 Morrison Street, is ready to welcome Old Boys when the times permit, and the Archives Museum will elevate and secure Scotch's wonderful collections. These three facilities comprise the building known as the Tolson Centre, named in honour of Scotch's first Archivist, Geoff Tolson, and are scheduled to be opened on the School's 169th birthday – 6 October.

In accordance with Victorian government advice, the majority of staff are working from home, including Development Office staff who are now working remotely, where they will continue to keep you connected in these challenging times.

It would be remiss of us not to acknowledge and thank all the brave people who are currently putting their own lives at risk for others all around the world. They are true heroes.

While the Development Office at Scotch is physically closed during the stage four lockdown, we are still very much open for business in the virtual sense. Please do not hesitate to contact us if we can help in any way.

Thank you again for all you do for Scotch. We hope that you will come through the COVID-19 crisis as safely and positively as possible!

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Doug Lording".

Doug Lording AM
Scotch College Foundation President

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Tim Shearer".

Tim Shearer
Scotch College Director of Development
Scotch College Foundation Executive Director