

15 November 2024

Dear Parents and Guardians,

I hope this letter finds you well. I am writing to share significant news regarding some important and exciting developments at Notre Dame College.

As a part of our ongoing commitment to ensuring that all regional and rural students have access to outstanding Catholic schools, we are partnering with our fifty-five system-schools across the Sandhurst Catholic Diocese to implement the very latest educational research in our classrooms. While some of our staff have studied these advancements in recent years, it is now time to ensure that all our teachers and allied staff have access to the highest quality information and teaching resources available, so that your child receives an outstanding school experience.

The 'Magnify Sandhurst' project represents a major investment in the educational experience of your child. We are partnering with five national and international organisations across the areas of neuroscience, literacy, the Victorian learning curriculum and the behaviour curriculum as well as individual professional coaching for our teachers. In a first of its kind experience, and in partnership with our peers across Sandhurst, we are determined that you and your child can experience the very best that education in Australia has to offer.

'Magnify Sandhurst' will launch in 2025 and we have adjusted our student free days to manage its successful implementation.

Please find following a schedule of student free days for 2025 to assist you with planning for the year ahead:

Term 1 Dates	
31 January	First day for all students except year 8 students
3 February	First day for year 8 students
4 April	Last day of term 1 for students
Term 2 Dates	
22 April 23 April 24 April	Student Free Days (note: Students will have three weeks holiday) Staff Professional Learning Days <i>A three day joint professional learning programme for all staff aimed at delivering consistent standards, enhanced resource allocation, and collaborative opportunities across all Catholic Education Sandhurst Limited (CESL) schools.</i>
28 April	First day for students

20 June 27 June	Student Free Day Semester 2 Preparation <i>Semester 2 commences at the end of term 2 on 30 June 2025. This day is allocated to support teachers to focus on their preparation for Semester 2 teaching and assessment activities.</i>
4 July	Last day of term 2 for students
Term 3 Dates	
21 July	First day for students
13 August	Student Free Day Joint CESL Spirituality Day <i>A joint spiritual day for all staff to come together to explore teaching and cultivating wisdom in the curriculum with spiritual and religious formation and collaboration with colleagues across all Catholic Education Sandhurst Limited (CESL) schools.</i>
29 August 12 September	Student Free Day Professional Development Day – Marist and Staff <i>A designated training day for staff to focus on workplace culture and wellbeing.</i>
19 September	Last day of term 3 for students
Term 4 Dates	
6 October	First day for students
3 November	Student Free Day Professional Practice Day as per the agreement (CEMEA) <i>The current agreement under which we work under requires one Professional Practice Day per year for teaching staff. This day allows teachers to focus on developing their curriculum and planning for their teaching and assessment.</i>
28 November	Student Free Day <i>This day is allocated to support teachers in their Professional Learning Teams to plan together in reviewing and updating their curriculum.</i>
12 December	Last day for students

Kind Regards



John Cortese

Principal