



15 February 2024

Dear Parents and Caregivers,

2024 Term 1 Week 3 College Update

Key Staff Contacts

We understand that in a school the size of Cabra Dominican College, it is sometimes difficult to know who to contact. The [2024 Cabra Handbook](#) has a guide which may help parents/caregivers identify who to contact with any queries. Alternatively, please always feel free to phone us or email cabra@cabra.catholic.edu.au and we will direct your query to the relevant staff member.

Attendance

To continue our smooth start to the year, the following information is essential:

- Irrespective of the reason for absences, non-attendance affects student outcomes
- There is no 'safe' threshold for absences; every day counts
- Declines in achievement are evident with any level of absence
- The impact of absence increases with the number of absences (Australian Institute for Teaching and School Leadership, 2019)
- The school day begins with Lesson 1 at 8:50am (students should be moving to their timetabled learning space at 8:45am)

Mobile Digital Devices

The College's Mobile Digital Devices Policy outlines that students are not to use mobile digital devices on school grounds during school hours, unless given permission by a supervising teacher. This includes during lesson times, recess, lunchtime, in between lessons, or during after-school activities.

We recognise that there are some exceptional circumstances where students will require an exemption from the policy.

Exemptions include:

- The mobile digital device is used to help monitor or manage a health condition.
- The mobile digital device is a negotiated adjustment to a learning program for a student with a disability, learning difficulty or English as an additional language.
- A student has personal circumstances that require them to have more readily available access to their mobile digital device, such as being the primary carer for younger siblings.

Requests for exemptions from parents/caregivers will be considered by the Principal or their delegate on a case-by-case basis. We encourage you to read the full policy, available on our website and at this link: [Mobile Digital Devices Policy](#)

If you wish to apply for an exemption to the Mobile Digital Devices Policy, please do so via this [Exemption Form](#)

Photo Permission Reminder

A reminder to parents and caregivers to please choose your child's photo consent preference in Consent 2 Go. We love to showcase all the activities going on around our campus via social media and unless we are acknowledging a specific achievement, we do not identify students by name. To access Consent 2 Go, please click this link: [Consent 2 Go](#)

Year 12 Formal 2024 | Adelaide Oval

Photos from the Year 12 Formal held on Friday 9 February have now been loaded to the Festival Photography website. Simply click on the link to log on and view photos from this event: [Year 12 Formal – Cabra Dominican College](#)

Enter the Access Code **Cabra2024** to view photos. For the next three weeks, Festival Photography are running a promotion. Purchase any five high resolution digital downloads for the website for only \$50, or 10 for just \$80. Simply add the package in your shopping cart.

Year 7 Camp

We wish Year 7 students and staff well as they embark on their Camp (Normanville) in Week 4. Year 7 parents/caregivers are asked to note the final reminders below:

- Students are to meet on the Small Oval on Wednesday 21 February at 8:00am
- Buses will depart Cabra at 8:30am
- Students will return to Cabra on Friday 23 February approximately 2:45pm
- All students need to provide their Recess and Lunch on the first day
- Food for the remainder of the camp will be provided by Wilderness Escape

Please also refer to previous parent correspondence (what to bring, group itinerary etc) and information from Wilderness Escape Outdoor Adventures for further details.

Please email Andrea Emerson (College Administration) via camps@cabra.catholic.edu.au with any queries.

Little Street Entrance | Wednesday 21 February

Please note that with Year 7 students embarking on their Camp on Wednesday 21 February (as outlined above), traffic flow on this day through the Little Street entrance after 8:00am will change and be restricted to accommodate the buses and coaches. This ensures traffic does not get banked up on Little Street and Eaton Street, respects our neighbours and surrounding businesses, and allows for the smooth and on-time departure of buses.

Importantly, please note that:

- There is no entry for parent drop offs via Little Street carpark on Wednesday 21 February
- A traffic controller will be stationed in the morning at the intersection of Eaton and Little Streets, guiding parents away from this entrance
- The College's on-site roadway in the morning via Little Street will only be accessible for bus access through the back entrance to the school
- As usual, there is no drop-off access to the main carpark off Cross Road

We anticipate all buses to have departed by 8:45am.

Please also remember that the City of Mitcham regularly monitors the streets surrounding the College and in particular, the "No Standing" zone on Eaton Street.

Advance Notice – BYOD Laptop Chargers | Tagging and Testing

Please note that all BYOD laptop chargers used at the College need to be tagged and tested to comply with safety regulations and standards. The College will provide this service for students at the ICT Help Desk later this term (exact week to be advised). Chargers are to be labelled with the provided name and class stickers and placed into the correct Mentor Class box at the ICT Help Desk. Chargers should then be ready for collection at Recess/Lunch. Tagged chargers will have a visible Testel label with student name, date and next test due date.

If the tagging and testing is not completed during the allocated week via the ICT Help Desk, then students and families will need to complete this through an external company before the laptop charger can be used at the College.

Year 7 and 9 NAPLAN

In preparation for the 2024 NAPLAN Testing Window, a practice test will be facilitated by the College on Tuesday 27 February 2024. This test is an omnibus test, and its purpose is to generate familiarisation for students, staff and systems before the formal testing period.

NAPLAN online tests are tailored or adaptive. Students at each level start with a similar set of questions. Depending on each student's answer, the next set of questions may be easier or more difficult, giving students greater opportunity to demonstrate what they know. Should you wish to explore the types of questions asked in the tests, please access the [Public Demonstration Site](#).

In order to facilitate the tests, students will need to download the relevant locked down browser. The locked down browser can be downloaded at this link: [Locked Down Browser](#)

There are some instances where students may be **exempted** from one or more of the NAPLAN tests or marked absent (for the purpose of the tests), or **withdrawn** from the tests.

While a range of adjustments are available for students with disability, exemption may be suitable for some students with disability and for some students with a language background other than English. In both cases, the College needs to discuss the proposed exemption with the student's parent/caregiver and gain their permission prior to testing. Adjustments are provided to students with disability to support access to the tests and encourage maximum participation. Students with significant intellectual disability and/or those with significant co-existing conditions which severely limit their capacity to participate in the tests may be exempted from sitting the national tests. This is determined after consultation has occurred between the Principal and the relevant parent/caregiver, and if it is decided the student is not able to access the tests with adjustments.

NAPLAN tests are a routine part of the school calendar. However, students may be withdrawn from the testing program by their parent/caregiver for reasons such as religious beliefs or philosophical objections to testing. This is a matter for consideration by individual parents/caregivers in consultation with the College.

A formal application for withdrawal must be received by the Principal prior to testing. Should you wish to execute your right to withdraw your child, please email learningandteaching@cabra.catholic.edu.au with your child's name.

2024 Student Residential Address Collection Notice

The Australian Government Department of Education will be undertaking residential address data collection in all systemically-funded Catholic schools between 14 February and 13 March 2024, as required under the Australian Education Regulations 2023.

Cabra Dominican College is required to provide the department with the following information about each student at the school:

- Names and residential addresses of students' parent(s) and caregiver(s)
- Student residential address (excluding student names)
- Whether the student is a primary or secondary student (education level)
- Whether the student is boarding or a day student (boarding status)

Please notify the college registrar of any changes to your residential address via registrar@cabra.catholic.edu.au

Please note that parents and caregivers with only a PO Box address recorded are required to advise us of their residential address as well. Correspondence will still continue to be sent to their PO Box address. Further information is available via this link: [Collection Notice](#)

Pick Up, Drop Off and Parking Reminders

Please note there is no student pick up or drop off from the main Cross Road entrance unless using the disabled parking. The drop off zone on site is via the Little Street entrance at the rear of the College. Please also avoid parking on or across residential driveways.

Monica Farrelly Atrium Opening Hours

Students are welcome to use the Atrium for study before and after school. Please note students are not to access the Atrium outside the hours listed below, as the space is unsupervised.

Day	Open	Close
Monday – Thursday	8:00am	5:00pm
Friday	8:00am	4:00pm

On the Horizon

Please see some general dates below for upcoming events:

Date	Event
Friday 16 February	2024 Welcoming Eucharist (Lessons 1 – 2)
Monday 19 February	Year 12 SRC Meeting (Lesson 3)
Wednesday 21 – Friday 23 February	Year 7 Camp
Wednesday 21 February	Year 11 Student Leaders Morning Tea
Friday 23 February	Year 8 – 10 House Captain Speeches and Voting (Lesson 3)
Monday 26 February	Year 7 – 12 Sports Day Nominations (Lesson 3)
Tuesday 27 February	Year 7 and 9 NAPLAN Coordinated Practice Test
Wednesday 28 February	Year 7 – 12 School Sport SA Swimming Secondary Championships: C Grade
Wednesday 28 February	Year 10 Student Leaders Morning Tea
Wednesday 28 February	Principal's Tour (5:30pm)
Thursday 29 February	Year 7 House Captain Speeches and Voting (Lesson 3)
Thursday 29 February	Summer Sport Photos (Lessons 6 and 7)

The College Calendar is located on SEQTA Engage and the [College Website](#).

Please feel most welcome to contact us if you have any questions about this information or if you have any concerns about your child making a successful start to the year.

Yours sincerely,

Jarrad McCabe

Deputy Principal: People, Culture and Operations