



27 March 2025

Dear Parents and Caregivers,

## 2025 Term 1 Week 9 College Update

### Term 2 Student Learner Conversations

The College acknowledges the primary role of parents and families in student learning and recognises them as valued partners in the learning process. The upcoming Student Learner Conversations are an opportunity for parents and families to engage with staff at the College to ensure the best for each individual student.

Student Learner Conversations take place on Monday 5 May from 2:00pm to 7:00pm (face-to-face in Caleruega Hall) and on Monday 12 May from 4:00pm to 6:00pm (via telephone to Parent/Caregiver Contact 1). **Students must be in attendance** and are expected to be involved in these conversations. You will receive an email on Friday 28 March from **edval-noreply@tes.com** with your personalised web code for Edval Interviews. Please check your Junk Email folder if you do not receive this in your Inbox. Please note bookings close Thursday 1 May 9:00am.

Student Learner Conversations will focus on learning, and how your child can continue to grow and succeed in their subjects. The Student Learner Conversation is not a time to discuss, in detail, major learning difficulties – this may best be left for a separate occasion where there is more time available.

**Note:** Students will be dismissed at 1:00pm on Monday 5 May and at the usual dismissal time of 3:15pm on Monday 12 May. The Monica Farrelly Atrium will close at **4:00pm** on both days.

### Year 8 Parent Event | Parent and Community Committee

The Parent and Community Committee (PCC) invites Year 8 parents to a **“Catch-up before Camp Pick-up”** – this is a great opportunity to get together in the Caleruega Hall foyer for a chat over a cup of tea or a cold drink while waiting for the buses to return. Please see specific details in this [Invitation](#).

## Concussion Policy

The Australian Concussion Guidelines have been developed by the Australian Sports Commission and Australian Institute of Sport in response to growing concern about sport-related concussion and potential health ramifications, as well as the impact concussion can have on student learning and attendance. To meet the guidelines, Cabra Dominican College has developed a [Concussion Policy](#), outlining how the school responds to and manages concussion.

The [Concussion Policy](#) applies to all students at Cabra, and is intended to provide direction to parents, caregivers, staff and volunteers. It is intended to assist in the management of concussion and does not replace the need to seek medical assessment. It relates to concussion experienced in school-related activities, as well as students who might be concussed in club or elite level sport, who then are impacted in terms of their learning and school attendance.

- **What is Concussion?** Concussion is a brain injury that affects the way a person thinks, feels and remembers things, and it can affect students in a variety of ways.
- **What causes Concussion?** Concussion occurs through a collision where there is ultimately a force to the head or brain. All concussions are serious.

### Key Points | Parents and Caregivers

#### 1. Concussion Incident and Diagnosis:

- a. Please report concussion incident details to the Student Services Manager via [studentservices@cabra.catholic.edu.au](mailto:studentservices@cabra.catholic.edu.au) as soon as practicable
- b. Student Services Manager will:
  - Receive and record incident details
  - Work with parents to ensure prompt assessment by a health care practitioner
  - Notify relevant stakeholders including the Mentor Teacher

#### 2. Return to Learning:

- a. Returning to school should take priority before returning to College Sport.
- b. Return to learning commences with a short period of rest of 24 – 48 hours.
- c. Parents must provide a medical clearance and doctor certificate that clears the student for return to school.
- d. Should part-time schooling need to be actioned whilst the student recovers, parents must meet with the Learning & Teaching team to establish a support plan.

#### 3. Return to Sport:

- a. Students must be symptom free for 14 days (at rest) before return to contact training, and not return to any competitive contact sport until a minimum of 21 days from the time of concussion.
- b. To be clear, that is not 14 days from the time of concussion. It is 14 days from when the student becomes symptom-free.
- c. The Student Services Manager liaises with parents to receive and upload health care practitioner documentation that clears the student for a return to sport.

Parents are asked to familiarise themselves with the [Concussion Policy](#) (available in SEQTA via "Documents") and to be alert to behaviour that is unusual or out of character, or when students exhibit signs of disorientation, clumsiness or loss of balance. If you have any questions regarding the Concussion Policy, please contact me via [jmccabe@cabra.catholic.edu.au](mailto:jmccabe@cabra.catholic.edu.au)

## Family Holidays

The College recognises that, from time to time, parents/caregivers may seek to absent students from school for an extended period, such as for a holiday.

Whilst the College recognises the positive impact family holidays can have on a student's development, the College's position is that extended periods of absence from term time can negatively impact a student's learning program and as such, **should be avoided where possible**.

Parents/caregivers and students need to be mindful that:

1. Extended absences may inhibit the ability for the College to provide a detailed academic report, due to the lack of learning evidence.
2. It is incumbent on students to be proactive in reviewing SEQTA for a summary of the learning programme.
3. Teachers will not be required to send work home, provide work in advance of a family holiday, or meet with students on their return to catch them up.
4. Missed work can have a detrimental impact on SACE completion and final Year 12 results.
5. Absence due to family holiday does not entitle a student to special provisions; if compulsory SACE requirements are not met, it may result in a student having to repeat work or catch up at a later date for SACE completion to be achieved.

Exemption from attendance at school can be sought for family travel or holidays during the school term. For family holidays, parents/caregivers must contact Student Services to request an Application for Exemption from School form and return to Student Services at least two weeks prior to the family holiday, so the Principal can review. In addition, for Year 10 – 12 students, the student is required to contact Subject Teachers regarding deadlines and SACE requirements.

Irrespective of the reason for absences, non-attendance does affect student outcomes. There is no "safe" threshold for absences. Every day counts, and declines in achievement are evident with any level of absence. At Cabra Dominican College, teaching and learning happens face-to-face in community, with peers. Whilst SEQTA Learn is a useful online resource, it ultimately exists to complement the explicit instruction and learning that occurs in the classroom.

For further details, please refer to the College's [Attendance Policy](#).

## Breakfast Club | Project Compassion Fundraiser

On Wednesday 2 April (Week 10) from 8:00am – 8:45am under the Canteen undercroft, Year 12 Student Leaders will be running a **Breakfast Sale** to raise money for [Project Compassion](#).

Year 12 Student Leaders will be selling Hot Cross Buns, Ham and Cheese Croissants and an assortment of Freshly Baked Muffins (Blueberry, Cinamon etc.). Each item will be sold for \$3 each either Cash or EFTPOS.

## On the Horizon

Please see some general dates below for upcoming events. If we have not already, we will write to you with details of the below events if they affect your child.

Date	Event
Monday 31 March – Wednesday 2 April	Year 8 Camp 1 (Moore and Murphy Houses)
Monday 31 March	Winter Sport Coach Induction – Catch Up Session (Monica Farrelly Atrium, 5:00pm)
Wednesday 2 April – Friday 4 April	Year 8 Camp 2 (Boylan and Kavanagh Houses)
Wednesday 2 April	Year 10 Music Performance Evening (Therese Sweeney Music Centre, 6:00 – 6:45pm)
Wednesday 2 April	Stage 1 and Stage 2 Music Performance Evening (Therese Sweeney Music Centre, 7:00 – 8:30pm)
Monday 7 April – Thursday 10 April	Year 12 Retreat
Monday 7 April	Year 7 – 11 Instrumental Showcase (Therese Sweeney Music Centre, 6:00 – 7:00pm)
Friday 11 April	Year 12 Student Free Day
Friday 11 April	End Term 1 – Dismissal 3:15pm

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

Yours sincerely,

**Jarrad McCabe**

Deputy Principal: People, Culture and Operations