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**September, 2024**

**Dear Parents and Carers,**

I am writing to share significant news regarding some important and exciting developments at St John’s School and across the Diocese of Sandhurst.

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 into 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 Learning Support Officers 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/children. The Diocese is partnering with five national and international organisations across the areas of neuroscience, literacy, the Victorian learning curriculum, 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, the Diocese is determinedly committed that you and your child can experience the very best that education throughout Australia has to offer.

‘Magnify Sandhurst’ will launch in 2025 and to ensure that we can undertake the necessary professional learning for staff we will be shifting our usual student-free days. The following are pupil free days for 2025 as determined by the Diocese.

***Term 1***

Monday 27th January - Australia Day Public Holiday

Tuesday 28-29th January - Staff Professional Learning Days (Pupil free days)

Thursday 30th January - All students commence term 1.

***Term 2 (Students will have three weeks holiday)***

Monday 21st April Easter Monday Public Holiday

Tuesday 22-24th April Staff Professional Learning Days (Pupil free days)

Friday 25th April ANZAC Day Public Holiday

Monday 28th April Students commence Term 2

***Term 3***

Wednesday August 13 CESL Staff Spirituality Day (Pupil free day)

**Term 4**

31st October and the 3rd November - (Pupil free days)

Tuesday 16th December Students Last Day

Wed 17th December Staff Professional Learning Day

We are committed to keeping you informed about the Magnify Sandhurst project and how it will enhance your child’s educational journey. Over the coming months, we will provide additional resources and information to help you understand our curriculum model and how it will benefit your child’s learning.

I appreciate your continued support and cooperation as we work together to provide the best possible education for our students.

**Sincerely,**

**Kate Fogarty – Executive Director, Catholic Education Sandhurst.**