SCHOOL DEVELOPMENT DAYS AND TERM DATES IN 2017

The Minister has recently approved six school development days for 2017. Students do not attend on these days so your staff are able to be involved in planning, review and professional learning.

You must adhere to the gazetted start and end dates for students – Wednesday, 1 February 2017 and Thursday, 14 December 2017. This is a legal requirement for all our schools and these dates are available publicly.

As in previous years, the two days before students commence (Monday, 30 and Tuesday, 31 January 2017) must be used as school development days. They cannot be flexibly scheduled nor traded-off.

You continue to have the flexibility to schedule and use three school development days in consultation with your school council/board and school community. In determining how you intend to schedule these three days, it is important to work closely with your school council/board and neighbouring schools as many parents have children attending these schools. Please also consider public holidays such as Anzac Day, as well as NAPLAN and ATAR examination dates; and plan other services such as bus timetables, crosswalk supervision and communication with affected businesses.

As is currently the case, Independent Public Schools have the flexibility to trade-off all school development days except Monday, 30 and Tuesday, 31 January 2017. All other schools continue to have the flexibility to trade-off the last school development day of the school year (Friday, 15 December 2017).

Trading-off school development days must be done in ways which best support your school improvement agenda. For example, you may negotiate with staff to convert some or all of the school development time from the day to provide time for planning, review and professional learning out of school hours.

While the term dates website has been updated, it does not include arrangements specific to each school. That is why, once you have determined your school's arrangements for 2017, you need to include the information on your school website, social media sites and in other communications so parents are aware in Semester 2, 2016 the days that their children will not attend school in 2017 due to school development days.

SHARYN O'NEILL
DIRECTOR GENERAL

28 June 2016