

22 July 2026

Dear MLC School Year 8 Parents and Carers,

Re: Changes to the 2027 Year 9 Adventure and Immersions Program

We are writing to inform you of an important update to the Year 9 Adventure and Immersions Program, which will take effect in 2027.

Currently, all Year 9 students attend a camp during the final week of Term 1, with those enrolled in the Cadet program taking part in the Annual Field Exercise (AFX), and the remainder of the cohort participating in the Urban Challenge. Feedback from students and staff has highlighted that Cadets feel they are missing out on the Urban Challenge experience. This program is often regarded as a highlight of Year 9, where students work in teams to plan their own travel, food and budget as they navigate an unfolding journey through the Sydney CBD and surrounding suburbs.

We believe every Year 9 student should have the opportunity to participate in a shared year-group experience, regardless of their involvement in Cadets. This approach is consistent with the Year 10 and Year 11 structure, where students take part in both a year-group camp and the separate Cadet AFX.

Additionally, as the MLC School Cadet Unit continues to grow, it is important that it remains aligned with our broader Adventure and Immersions program, which offers meaningful experiences and development opportunities for all MLC School students.

Therefore, from 2027, all Year 9 students will take part in the Urban Challenge, with students enrolled in Cadets completing the Cadet AFX as a separate, additional program.

The 2027 dates are as follows:

- Year 9 Urban Challenge – Week 10, Term 1 (**Wednesday 7 April – Friday 9 April**)
- Cadet Annual Field Exercise – Week 1, Term 2 (**Tuesday 27 April – Friday 30 April**)

For students enrolled in Cadets, the Anzac Day public holiday on **Monday 26 April 2027** will result in the first day of Cadet AFX, Tuesday 28 April, falling on an MLC School student free day. This arrangement allows the camp to still run for four days, while ensuring that students return home on Friday afternoon in time for Saturday sport. Further details will be communicated with families shortly.

Importantly, by scheduling the camps across the final week of Term 1 and first week of Term 2, we ensure that learning is not interrupted at multiple points throughout the year. Students not enrolled in the Cadet program will still attend normal classes during Week 1, Term 2.



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The total cost of the Year 9 Urban Challenge program is \$700 and will be spread across the first three fee statements of 2027. Please note that for students participating in Cadets, fees for this program are charged separately throughout the year, as outlined in the letter sent to you earlier this term.

We understand that for some students, this change may now encourage them to take part in the Cadet program. If your daughter is now interested in enrolling, please contact the Officer Commanding, **Xaiver Maling**, at xmaling@mlcsyd.nsw.edu.au.

If you have any questions or concerns regarding these changes, please don't hesitate to contact **Jack Rudd** at jrudd@mlcsyd.nsw.edu.au.

We look forward to seeing all of Year 8 on the upcoming Immersion to Mudgee.

Kind regards,

Jack Rudd

Adventure and Immersions Coordinator

Sarah Jauncey

Director of Experiential Learning



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