



# WHAT'S ON NEWSLETTER

Term 2 Week 10 and Term 3 Week 1 (Monday 26 June – Sunday 23 July)

## IMPORTANT INFORMATION

### End of Semester Reports

On Friday 30 June, Semester 1 reports will be released through SEQTA. Students will be able to see their reports through SEQTA Learn and parents will be able to access them through SEQTA Engage. If you have not registered your SEQTA Engage for parent access, please go to the school website ([www.merici.act.edu.au](http://www.merici.act.edu.au)) to register your account. The reports are a culmination of your daughters learning across Semester 1. If you have any questions or concerns about your daughters report, please email the teacher of the subject. Our email addresses all follow the pattern of [firstname.surname@merici.act.edu.au](mailto:firstname.surname@merici.act.edu.au).

### Drop Off/Pick Up Carpark Areas

Please note that morning student drop-off is to occur in the Wise Street carpark (at oval). We have received concerns from staff that drop off in the Limestone Avenue carpark is impeding entry with cars exiting at the same time, causing near-vehicle collisions. In addition, we have observed many families dropping off/picking up daughters from the crossing along Wise Street, blocking the view of students using the crossing. To ensure the safety of pedestrians, please refrain from parking in this area.

### School TV- Social Media Influencers

Social media influencers have become powerful individuals who often shape the opinions and beliefs of others due to strong connections with their audiences. In today's fast-paced digital world, attention has become a valuable commodity.

However, the impact of social media influencers on youth mental health is a growing concern, most recently, the controversial actions and statements of Andrew Tate. His rise to fame has made him a polarising figure, amassing a significant following of mostly young males. Educators and families have raised urgent concerns about the damaging nature of Tate's content, worried that his messages may radicalise students and create a generation of young men with regressive and harmful beliefs.

Young people often compare themselves to the idealised lives presented by influencers, leading to feelings of inadequacy, low self-worth and dissatisfaction. Social media algorithms may also expose them to inappropriate or harmful content such as explicit material, promotion of harmful behaviours, or distorted perceptions of body image or mental health.

It is important to guide a young person's social media use and promote open communication. Be curious to comprehend why they might be drawn to radical influencers, like Andrew Tate, and actively seek understanding as part of the solution. While not all influencers have a negative impact, parents play a vital role in ensuring a balanced approach to social media. By actively modelling kindness, respect and positive values, parents can help tackle the sway of radical influencers and be part of the solution to countering unhealthy masculinity.

This Special Report provides guidance on how to respond to misinformation and disinformation, instead encouraging critical thinking and emphasising the value of real-life connections. We hope you take a moment to



reflect on the information offered, and as always, we welcome your feedback. If this raises any concerns for you, a loved one or the wellbeing of your child, please consider seeking medical or professional help.

Click on this link to view the Special Report [https://merici.act.schooltv.me/wellbeing\\_news/special-report-social-media-influencers-au](https://merici.act.schooltv.me/wellbeing_news/special-report-social-media-influencers-au)

## COUNSELLORS CORNER – Final Weeks!

The final weeks of Term 2 have come around so fast and we are already halfway through another school year. A huge congratulations to all students who have juggled assessments and exams over recent weeks, and a big thank you to teachers tireless efforts in marking assessments and preparing reports – I bet you are all looking forward to the school holidays!

The school holidays are an important time for teenagers to have a break, recharge their batteries and reconnect with the rest of their lives. After a hectic school term, your teenager probably needs a fair bit of chill out time to help them replenish their energy and charge their social and emotional battery. You might like to try the ideas found [here](#) to help your kids enjoy their time off, while managing any schoolwork or other commitments that they might have over the break.



## WHOLE SCHOOL ACTIVITIES

Term 2 Ends (Friday 30 June)

Term 3 Begins (Tuesday 18 July)

School resumes on Tuesday 18 July for all students. Monday 17 July is a Staff PD Day and the College will be closed.

**P&F Committee Trivia Night – Save the Date: Thursday 7 September**

The Merici College P&F Committee are excited to share an evening of trivia with you to be held on Thursday 7 September. A fun night of trivia! Great prizes, silent auction and raffles! Prizes include a laptop, electric Loft bike, gift vouchers, movie passes, dining vouchers, to name a few. All funds



raised from the raffles will contribute to the cost of resurfacing of the external multipurpose courts.

We would love to receive any donations that you may be able to provide as part of Trivia prizes and silent auction items. We would welcome gift vouchers, goods, services, any other items that can be used. In appreciation of your support, you and/or your business will be acknowledged, and your logo displayed on our school website and social media networks. Please contact Ros Parisi ([ros.parisi@merici.act.edu.au](mailto:ros.parisi@merici.act.edu.au)) for information. Thank you to many of our families that have donated items! Your support is greatly appreciated.

## YEARS 10, 11 and 12 NEWS

### Year 10 Transitions Forum (Monday 26 June – Friday 30 June)

The Transitions Forum is an important week for Year 10 students. During the forum your daughters will consider how to make decisions, reflect on what is important in life, prepare for senior study and much, much more. Students are not expected to wear uniform during this week.

Lunch will be provided on Monday and Friday. Students will be required to bring or buy their own recess for the week as well as lunch on Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday.

The days have been specifically organised into different areas:

- Monday: A full day presentation, 'Day of Hope' with Glenn Gerreyn from the Hopeful Institute, Sydney. He concentrates on goals and motivation and in the past, he has had our students on the edge of their seats with his inspirational words.
- Tuesday: Students will be given presentations on -
  - IB Diploma Programme/BSSS Program
  - University degree pre-requisites and recommendations
  - Extra- curricular academic activities available in Senior College
- Wednesday: Students choose two institutions that they would like to visit. The options are Canberra Institute of Technology, Australian National University, Australian Catholic University, University of Canberra and ADFA. Students will be sent an online form to submit their preferences.
- Thursday: All students will be doing independent work on Personal Project.
- Friday: The final day of the Year 10 Transitions forum is dedicated to the Year 10 Reflection Day, which will be run by Mrs Veronica Harrold-Carter, Head of Mission and Community.

Please click [here](#) to find the Transitions Forum Booklet. The consent form for academic visits to different institutions on Wednesday 28 June can be found [here](#) for electronic lodgement.

### Year 10 Reflection Day (Friday 30 June)

During Transition Week, our Year 10 cohort will be participating in their reflection day on Friday, 30 June 2023. The day will take place in the College Auditorium.

The reflection day is designed to encourage students to be open to developing their own personal relationships with each other and with Jesus and to further explore their faith in a fun and friendly environment.

This year, the retreat theme is "Fidelitas" meaning Loyalty and faithfulness in Latin. Through a variety of talks, reflections and practical workshops, students will explore ideas around the importance of Fidelitas in their lives, including friendships, family relationships and other areas of life. During the day, students will have the opportunity to ask questions and discover more about their faith development. The day is the perfect opportunity for our students to learn from each other as well as further build relationships within our school community.

Lunch (Sausage sizzle) will be provided on the day. Students will provide their own morning tea.

Students will be asked to go to the PC class in the morning to have their names marked off and then they will proceed to the Auditorium for the remainder of the school day.

All students are required to wear full PE uniform.

## Year 12 Retreat (Wednesday 19 July-Friday 21 July)

As Year 12 come to the end of their journey at Merici College, they are required to attend their annual Year 12 Retreat. It is an overnight Retreat from Wednesday (after school) 19 July to Friday 21 July 2023. Students will have normal lessons on Wednesday 19 July before leaving for the Retreat at the conclusion of the school day.

The Year 12 Retreat is called "Into the Light It is a compulsory "camp style" session off campus. It will be facilitated by Veronica Harrold-Carter (Head of Mission and Community). The venue is conducive to reflection, meditation, spiritual journaling, walking, and drawing. The Retreat has a very strong spiritual focus to allow students to reflect deeply as their journey at Merici comes to an end. Students are encouraged to discuss their goals for Year 12 and for the years ahead and to reflect on the potential for the transformation that exists in the obstacles and difficulties they will encounter in their future. Students will be led to a deeper awareness of the values and beliefs necessary to achieve their dreams through an exploration of the metaphor of light. Students will also participate in active team-building games, walking, short bushwalk(s) and an evening campfire (weather permitting).

The Retreat will be held at the Warrambui Retreat and Conference Centre in Murrumbateman, a perfect venue for reflection. The students will travel by coach; leaving Merici College at 4.15pm on Wednesday afternoon, returning to Merici College at 3.15pm on Friday afternoon.

Please click [here](#) to find the permission note and medical information form that must be completed no later than Friday 23 June 2023. The consent form is an online form and will be received electronically. You will receive an email to your nominated email address (entered on the permission note) to CONFIRM your online permission.

## IB NEWS

### Personal Project – Year 10



Year 10 students are coming to the final stage of their Personal Project. Last week students started working on Part C – Evaluating the impact of their project. They have two remaining workshop sessions:

- Week 9 (Friday 23 June) – Report writing instructions
- Week 10 (Thursday 29 June) – Report writing day

Parents and guardians will have received an email with information about the report writing day last week.



### Key Dates

This is a list of some key dates for IB Year 12 students.

| Event             | Date    | Information  |
|-------------------|---------|--|
| EE Draft Feedback | 30 June | Extended Essay draft feedback from supervisor                                      |
| Extended Essay    | 18 July | Extended Essay final submission  |
| Math IA           | 28 July | Change to date of Math IA draft. Final submission still 19 <sup>th</sup> September |

## MISSION AND COMMUNITY

### Can Line Thank You!

A big thank you to all our students and families for supporting our 2023 Can Line. Please see below a thank-you message received from the Vinnies Gowrie Conference President:

*"On behalf of the volunteers and companions of the Gowrie Vinnies Conference, I would like to thank you all for your very generous canned food donations. Our conference, along with the Calwell and Kambah Vinnies conferences, were the beneficiaries of your recent House competition food drive. We were overwhelmed by the sheer volume of canned products donated to Vinnies which allowed us to restock our depleted food pantry. These donations will allow us to temporarily redirect our funds to other areas to support our companions.*

*Our thanks to the students, staff and parents of the Merici Community for the difference that your donations will make to the support we can offer our companions."*

Paula Bounds, Vinnies Gowrie Conference President.

## SCIENCE NEWS

### International Chemistry Quiz (ICQ) (3 August 2023)

"The ICQ provides a major focus for secondary school students on the relevance of chemistry in an exciting and stimulating way. The ICQ is not a nationwide assessment of chemistry knowledge, but rather an opportunity to promote Chemistry and for teachers to gauge the understanding their students have of the subject.

While some questions will rely on knowledge and understanding covered as part of studying the Australian Curriculum, we have endeavoured to make the quiz interesting and to promote chemistry and chemical thinking. The Quiz attracts students throughout Australia and 20 other countries around the world, including India, Germany, and China."

To register for the quiz, please follow this link: <https://forms.office.com/r/vA3tb7CqQc>

### Senior Science Olympiad Exams

Science Olympiad Exams for physics, chemistry, biology, and earth and environmental science will be held early in Term 3:

- Physics – Monday 31 July 2023
- Biology – Tuesday 1 August 2023
- Earth and Environmental Science – Wednesday 2 August 2023
- Chemistry – Thursday 3 August 2023

To register for the science Olympiad exams, please follow this link: <https://forms.office.com/r/yXTmgTGS1e>

## iC NEWS

The iC will be closed at 3:30 on the last day of term, Friday, 30 June.

In readiness for the winter holidays, we have two great displays in the iC, *Winter Warmers and Christmas in July*. A collection of books perfect to snuggle up with and get lost in the worlds within. Encourage your daughters to come in and collect some holidays reading.



The use of Overdrive or Sora continues to be a popular platform for e-books. For those families who have not yet discovered the e-book collection they can follow the instructions below and try it out during the upcoming holidays.

The collection contains novels, non-fiction, audiobooks, magazines, graphic novels and is available 24/7 from any device. It can be accessed through the [Merici SEQTA](#) home or by downloading the Sora app onto your IOS or Android device. Books can also be read offline on a laptop accessing Sora through [soraapp.com](https://soraapp.com).

1. Download the Sora app (free from the App store)
2. Search for a school (type in): ACEN Member Collection
3. Choose our school from the drop-down menu: Merici College
4. It will redirect you back to the Merici Login
5. You can then borrow three items at any one time



Just as a gentle reminder, the return of Semester 1 textbooks would be greatly appreciated.

Happy Reading!

iC Staff

## CREATIVE AND PERFORMING ARTS NEWS

### Alice in Wonderland Musical Performance (Tickets on sale Monday 19 June)

Tickets on sale now!

Book, Music and Lyrics by Janet Yates Vogt and Mark Friedman. Based on the classic story by Lewis Carroll. By Arrangement With Origin™ Theatrical on Behalf of Theatrical Rights Worldwide, New York.

This brand new musical version of the timeless classic takes you down the rabbit hole with zany characters, mad tea parties, flamingo croquet on the lawn, and tap dancing playing cards, all in a land where nothing is as it seems. The ever-curious Alice, the White Rabbit, Tweedle-Dee and Tweedle-Dum, the Mad Hatter, the Caterpillar, the Mock Turtle, the mysterious Cheshire Cat, the Queen of Hearts, and all your favourites from Lewis Carroll's beloved books, *Alice's Adventures in Wonderland* and *Through the Looking Glass* make this a magical, tuneful, and over-the-top entertaining musical for the whole family!

#### Shows:

Friday 28 July – 7:00pm

Saturday 29 July – 2:00pm and 7:00pm

Sunday 30 July – 2:00pm

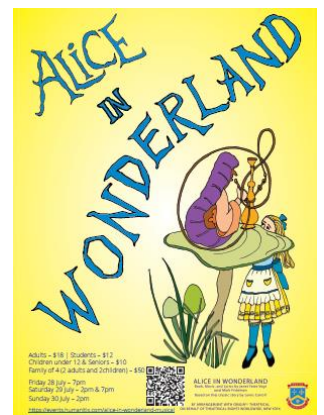
#### Tickets:

Adults - \$18

Students - \$12

Children under 12 & Seniors - \$10

Family of 4 (2 adults, 2 children) - \$50



Tickets available for purchase from Monday 19 June at <https://events.humanitix.com/alice-in-wonderland-musical>

## DEFENCE NEWS

Families are always welcome to contact myself to update family deployment or posting information.

[Kate.friend@merici.act.edu.au](mailto:Kate.friend@merici.act.edu.au) or phone 02 6243 4190

### Week Ten – Tuesday 27 June - Hot Chocolate in the OYC

Tuesday 27 June mid-year Hot Chocolate and Brownie's. Please RSVP to [kate.friend@merici.act.edu.au](mailto:kate.friend@merici.act.edu.au) with any dietary requirements by Friday 23 June.

### Week One Term 3 - Defence Catch Up

Tuesday 18 July, drop into Room 222 for a snack and relaxed catch up with Defence friends.

## CO-CURRICULAR NEWS

### Spring Volleyball Registration and Gold Coast Trials

Please find below registration information for the Spring Competition which begins on 18 July. Could you complete this by 30 June 2023 please. **Please attend the grading process in the gym on Monday 26 June 3.30pm-5.30pm.**

Also included is the information and permission form to trial for the Australian Volleyball Schools Competition held in December at the Gold Coast. **Trials will be held in the school gym on Monday 26 June 3.30pm-5.30pm.**

If you need any further information, please contact Susan Anderson at [susan.anderson@merici.act.edu.au](mailto:susan.anderson@merici.act.edu.au).

[Information Letter to Parents](#)

[Merici College Sport Code of Conduct](#)

[Permission to Trial AVSC 2023](#)

## OTHER NEWS

### Invitation to Community Farewell Celebrations: Anne Hodgkin, St Monica's Primary School

Anne Hodgkin has taught at St Monica's and St Matthew's for over 46 years. Members of our community are warmly invited to attend an afternoon tea to farewell Anne to be held on Thursday 29 June at 3:45pm at St Monica's Primary School, Evatt.

### 2023 Sharing Best Practice Conference (Saturday 9 September)



An invitation is extended to all staff to attend the 2023 Sharing Best Practice Conference - Translating Research into Classroom Learning.

The conference will be held at Merici College on Saturday 9 September 2023 from 8.30am-4:00pm.

For more information, please visit <https://www.sharingbestpractice.com/>.

Bookings can be made [here](#).



## Canberra School of Tennis - Holiday Camps

Tennis Australia qualified coaches, flexible times, lots of fun!

Dates: Week 1 - Monday 3rd - Fri 7th July, Week 2 - Monday 10th - Fri 14th July

Time: 8.30am drop off for a 9:00am start

Location: Weston Creek Tennis Club, Dillon Cl, off Namatjira Dr (Behind McDonald's)

Enquiries: Email [info@csot.com.au](mailto:info@csot.com.au) or call 0432 118 204 (Head coach Robert Jamieson, Tennis Australia Qualified, Tennis ACT Coach of the Year 2021)

Fruit & Drinks Provided • All Equipment Provided • All Day, Half Day, Blue Stage (3-7 Years), Tennis / Chess

Invite Only Performance Squad Camps

Visit [www.csot.com.au](http://www.csot.com.au) for booking information.



## AAS Cricket Coaching – Holiday Camps and Skills Clinics

The team at AAS Cricket Coaching are excited to announce our upcoming Holiday Camps and AASC Skills Clinics this coming July.

Catering to ages 6-17+, our **ACT Winter Holiday Cricket Camp** will be held on July 11 to 13<sup>th</sup> at Reid Oval from 9:00am - 3:00pm and includes access to:

- A structured & enjoyable program delivered in a fun, team-based learning environment
- Coaching covering all aspects of the game including batting, fast & spin bowling, fielding, running between wickets and wicketkeeping
- Technical, tactical & game sense tuition
- Qualified & experienced coaches
- T10 Challenge Cup
- Daily & weekly prizes up for grabs!



Please note that clinic size is limited to ensure an appropriate player to coach ratio. Players will be grouped according to age and skill level.

Plus, book in to attend one of our **AASC Skills Clinics** on Monday July 10<sup>th</sup> (suitable for intermediate to advanced players - i.e. stage 2 & 3 graded, colts and above), with 2hr masterclasses running for batting, fast bowling, and spin bowling athletes. Please see booking link for more info.

To book your spot, visit <https://aascricketcoaching.as.me/aascholidaycricketcamps>

For any enquiries, please contact AAS Cricket Coaching's Head Coach (Holly Halford-Smith) on 0400 125 342 or [activeallsports@outlook.com](mailto:activeallsports@outlook.com)

