



12 August 2021

Dear Parents and Carers

I apologise, in advance, for this lengthy correspondence. However, it is my hope that by the end of this letter all the questions you currently have about next week will be answered.

First of all, on behalf of myself and all school staff, I would like to offer my sincere thanks for the support and patience you have shown as we have navigated the new and difficult circumstances surrounding CO-VID 19. With so many conflicting news stories, it has been tricky to sift through the information and ultimately follow the direction from our territory advisors and system office.

As per ACT Government advice, we ask you to keep your daughters at home, if possible. Our school is open to students of essential workers and those who are unable to provide alternative care for their daughters. Should you need to send your daughter to school, please be aware that we require time to arrange staffing to ensure a safe environment for all. Please provide at least 2 days notice to my email, via: principal@merici.act.edu.au before sending your daughter to school.

Students attending Merici College will undertake the same remote learning program as their friends at home.

This letter is to be read in conjunction with attached correspondence: Remote Learning Timetable/Program and MS Teams Etiquette infographic.

THE SCHOOL DAY AT HOME

Students need to follow their modified remote learning timetable. We will continue to use MS Teams (with ability to record the lesson by the teacher), email, Moodle/SEQTA, and other software packages used by teachers.

Students will need to ensure they are set up and ready for their school day at 8.45am. Attendance will be taken at the beginning of each lesson. Students should abide by the MS Teams etiquette and ensure they follow the Digital Community Agreement.

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Students will need to be supervised for some activities at home, depending on your daughter's age. For example, Food Technology, Science, Textiles, Art, Dance or PE. Please ensure your daughter works in a safe environment.

There have been some questions around what the students should be doing in the breaks. As suggested, on the timetables these should be screen free times and an opportunity to stand up and get active. Students will have reading, work, tasks and assessments set by teachers that will also need to be completed during this time.

THE SCHOOL DAY ON CAMPUS

Students attending school will be supervised and assisted to continue with their remote learning programs by teachers and support staff. However, no face to face teaching will occur at this time. Supervision will be provided to all students attending the campus between 8.30am-3.30pm.

Students need to follow their modified remote learning timetable. Students should abide by the MS Teams etiquette and ensure they follow the Digital Community Agreement.

To support your daughter and help her to engage with their learning and have a successful day, they need to:

- sign in at the iC before 8:45am so that they are ready to join their online PC
- wear their winter uniform or full school PE tracksuit
- ensure they have all their equipment for the school day: laptop, notebooks, pencil case, text books
- bring food for the day including recess, lunch and a water bottle as the school canteen will not be open
- stay on campus until 3:00pm (Year 7-10 are able to go home at 2pm if they are picked up by parents or a guardian, Year 11-12 are able to go home earlier if they have no classes in the last session of the day). Seniors will not be able to leave campus in between classes, as they may be putting themselves and others in a situation where they are in conflict with current outdoor social distancing guidelines.

Attendance will be recorded daily. Please contact student services if your daughter is unwell and will not be in attendance.

HEALTH AND SAFETY

We will continue with the extensive cleaning regime we have in place at the College. Parts of the school will be shut down in order to prevent students from accessing unnecessary areas. Toilet paper, soap, and sanitiser are all available at school.

FEES

Please contact finance.office@merici.act.edu.au with any questions or concerns regarding fees.

COMMUNICATION

We understand that this is a challenging time for families and this situation is new for all of us. If you have further questions please contact myself at principal@merici.act.edu.au

In the spirit of honesty and transparency, I do not know how long this will go on for, it could just be for 1 week or 4 weeks or the entire term. We will continue to keep in touch and keep you informed regardless.

Remember that your daughter's mental health and wellbeing is more important than anything else at this time. Take time to pray together as a family, for our community and for the world. Pastoral Care time in the morning (Monday to Thursday) and on Friday afternoon will be integral for our wellbeing, so I encourage you all to get involved at this time.

I would like to assure you that staff in our school and across the broader Catholic Education, Canberra and Goulburn community are working extremely hard to ensure that we continue to provide a high quality learning environment with our outstanding pastoral care. Thank you for your continued support and please know that my staff and I remain available to discuss any concerns you may have in relation to your child's education.

Kindest regards and best wishes

Anna Masters
Principal