



# WHAT'S ON NEWSLETTER

Term 3 Weeks 6 and 7 (Monday 22 August-Sunday 4 September)

## IMPORTANT INFORMATION

### School Fees Reminder

This is a friendly reminder that Term 3 school fees were due for payment last Friday 12<sup>th</sup> August 2022.

If you haven't already done so, we would appreciate if you could please settle any outstanding fees as soon as possible. This does not apply to those families who have direct debit arrangements in place.

If you are experiencing any financial difficulties or would like to discuss your fees account please contact our Finance Manager Jodi Wrenford at [fees.office@merici.act.edu.au](mailto:fees.office@merici.act.edu.au) or call 6243 4108 to discuss the options that are available to you.

### A reminder for parents about PE uniform

If a student has PE in period 5 or 6, they may wear their uniform home from school. This must be full PE uniform (shorts, polo shirt, Merici tracksuit, or a combination of these). Merici leggings are not to be worn home from school.

Students who have PE in period 1 must wear full school uniform to school. They will be given time to get changed into their PE uniform in class.

Students must wear full PE uniform for PE. Students are **not to wear** any hoodies for PE, this includes their co-curricular sports hoodies.

## Staff News

### Recruitment of Staff

Merici College is currently seeking to fill the following staff positions for 2023 due to the growth in enrolments:

[PE Studies Coordinator \(Term 4, 2022 or 2023\)](#)

[House Coordinators \(2023\) - Merici College - Braddon, ACT](#)

[European Languages \(French/Italian\) Teachers \(2023\)](#)

[Religious Education Teachers \(2023\)](#)

[Mathematics Teacher \(2023\)](#)

[Hospitality Teacher \(2023\)](#)

## SchoolTV

We hope our families are finding SchoolTV a helpful resource. The purpose of SchoolTV is to provide parents and carers with up to date and credible information on issues affecting teenagers and their well-being. You can access SchoolTV here, <https://merici.act.schooltv.me/category-latest-newsletter>.



## WHOLE SCHOOL ACTIVITIES

### Bridge Restaurant (Wednesday 24 August 12.30pm)

The Bridge Restaurant will be open Wednesday 24 August at 12.30pm. Please email [bridge@merici.act.edu.au](mailto:bridge@merici.act.edu.au) for all bookings. Visit [www.bridge.restaurant](http://www.bridge.restaurant) for more information and sitting times.

### Father/Daughter Mass and Dinner (Friday 2 September 6:00pm)

Further to an invitation emailed to families during the week, we have been overwhelmed with bookings for this special event and we are fully booked. If you would like to be included on a wait-list, please email Ros Parisi, [ros.parisi@merici.act.edu.au](mailto:ros.parisi@merici.act.edu.au) with your name, number of tickets, email address and any special dietary requirements.

NO WALK-INS please.

## YEARS 7, 8 AND 9 NEWS

### Year 9 2023 Subject Selections

Please click [here](#) to find a presentation made to your daughters on their subject selections for Year 9 2023. Your daughter has also been sent an email with the link to the subject selections portal. She has until next Monday 22 August to submit her preferences.

If you have any questions about specific subjects and their content or assessment, please feel free to contact the Studies Coordinator of the subject area. The Studies Coordinators contact details are as follows:

- English – [luke.nott@merici.act.edu.au](mailto:luke.nott@merici.act.edu.au)
- Maths – [ed.mickleburgh@merici.act.edu.au](mailto:ed.mickleburgh@merici.act.edu.au)
- Global Studies – [stephanie.spiller@merici.act.edu.au](mailto:stephanie.spiller@merici.act.edu.au)
- CAPA – [alison.fogarty@merici.act.edu.au](mailto:alison.fogarty@merici.act.edu.au)
- RE – [andrew.blakey@merici.act.edu.au](mailto:andrew.blakey@merici.act.edu.au)
- Science – [joanne.aboud@merici.act.edu.au](mailto:joanne.aboud@merici.act.edu.au)

Please discuss the selections with your daughter. Students are encouraged to pick subjects they are interested in, not what their friends choose. It is important that they enjoy their subjects, as they will be studying these for the whole year.

## YEARS 10, 11 AND 12 NEWS

### AFP Presentation

In long lesson Pastoral Care Monday, 29 August, Year 11 and 12 students will attend a presentation in the Auditorium from ACT Police on topics relevant to their age group such as alcohol use, drug taking, vaping, car safety, partying, festival going and violence. It is important that all students attend.

A guest speaker from St Vincent De Paul will then speak to students about volunteering opportunities with underprivileged youth.

## Year 10 2023 Subject Selections

Please click [here](#) to find a presentation made to your daughters regarding Year 10 2023 Subject Selections. Teachers from the subject areas went through the content and assessment from each subject area.

Students have been emailed a link to the subject selections portal, so that they can go in and enter their preferences. We ask the students to think about their choices carefully as it is their choices that determine what classes we run for 2023.

If you have any questions about specific subject areas, please contact the Studies Coordinator of the subject with your queries. The Studies Coordinators contact details are as follows:

- English – [luke.nott@merici.act.edu.au](mailto:luke.nott@merici.act.edu.au)
- Maths – [ed.mickleburgh@merici.act.edu.au](mailto:ed.mickleburgh@merici.act.edu.au)
- Science – [joanne.aboud@merici.act.edu.au](mailto:joanne.aboud@merici.act.edu.au)
- RE – [andrew.blakey@merici.act.edu.au](mailto:andrew.blakey@merici.act.edu.au)
- Global Studies – [stephanie.spiller@merici.act.edu.au](mailto:stephanie.spiller@merici.act.edu.au)
- Creative and Performing Arts – [alison.fogarty@merici.act.edu.au](mailto:alison.fogarty@merici.act.edu.au)
- VET – [kerry.mcdonnell@merici.act.edu.au](mailto:kerry.mcdonnell@merici.act.edu.au)

Happy choosing with your daughters!

## ANU Extension - Information Evening Webinar (Monday 19 September)

FOR CURRENT YEAR 10 STUDENTS WHO WILL BE YEAR 11 STUDENTS IN 2023

ANU Extension is an academic program designed to provide an enhanced learning experience for Year 11 and 12 students. The program is open to all domestic students that will have a concurrent full-time enrolment in Year 11 at an Australian secondary school in 2023. Successful completion of studies in ANU Extension may lead to an early offer for entry to ANU that will allow students to articulate into an ANU Bachelor degree program and receive credit towards this bachelor degree. ANU Extension programs contribute to the Senior Secondary Certificate and toward the ATAR calculation.

It is anticipated that in 2023 advanced courses will be offered in ASTROPHYSICS, CHEMISTRY, BIODIVERSITY, PHYSICS, SPECIALIST MATHEMATICS, DISCOVERING ENGINEERING, CREATIVE COMPUTING, JAPANESE, CHINESE (MANDARIN), INDONESIAN, KOREAN AND COMMERCE.

Webinar Information Evening will be held over ONE night on Monday 19 September from 6pm-8:15pm.

Please register your interest through our webpage Registration is essential. [Webinar Registration - Zoom](#)

Please click [here](#) to find more information.

## iC NEWS

### Book Week

The Book Week Committee has been working hard to prepare activities to celebrate Book Week in Week 6, 22–26 August, *Dreaming with eyes open*. It is going to be a weeklong celebration about books, illustrators, characters and authors.

Along with daily PC quizzes, the week's schedule looks like this:

Monday: Cake Decorating competition, students are invited to bring a pre-made already decorated cake to enter the competition in the iC. Judged before lunch.

Tuesday: Guess the Shredded Book Competition in the iC (gold coin donations raising funds for Indigenous Literacy Foundation)

Wednesday: Scavenger Hunt in the iC

Thursday: Dress Up Parade at lunch, students are invited to come to school dressed up as their favourite **recognisable** book character or matching the theme. Normal free dress rules apply.

Friday: Book Week Trivia and a celebratory cake to finish the week.

Yours in books

iC staff



## IB NEWS



Event	Date	Information
Pupil Free Day	9 Sept	DP students will attend lessons as usual in full school uniform on this day.

## LANGUAGES NEWS

### Exchange and Host Family Opportunities

Being an IB school we value the benefits of international mindedness fostered by language acquisition and an education that encourages us to look outwards. School-based in-country experiences have been difficult over the last few years, and we have really missed the opportunity to enrich student learning with overseas travel. However, High School exchange offers a fantastic opportunity for students to discover and learn about the world and another culture, make life-long international friends, challenge themselves and learn more about themselves and what they are capable of. Years 9 or 10 are generally good years for going on exchange.

As a College we would love to see students taking up the opportunity to have in-country experience, not only to support their language acquisition, but also to develop intercultural understanding and resilience. Merici students are encouraged in particular to consider short-term programs that operate during our extended summer holiday period.

One of the student exchange organisations registered in the ACT is World Education Program WEP, a not-for profit student exchange organisation, with a manager based here in the ACT. They are running an online info session on 30 August (see details below), a chance to find out more, including some key deadlines coming ups soon.

Below is a message from Erika, the WEP NSW/ACT Manager:

Greetings from Erika, WEP NSW/ACT Manager!

Is your daughter dreaming about a life-changing experience discovering another culture and way of life? WEP offers ACT students the powerful experience of living 'as locals' in another country through family homestays and local school attendance. Your daughter could become a local in France, Italy, Germany, Argentina, the USA, South Korea, Denmark or one of 13 other countries. Exchange students return home more mature and bring back lifelong friendships and a 'big picture' view of the world in their experience backpack!

Now is a good time to start looking into exchange. If interested in short term programs (Nov-Jan), deadlines for Italy and France are 30 August. These programs are particularly beneficial for Year 10 students as it allows for uninterrupted senior study. For semester and year programs starting in Jan/Feb 2023, deadlines are also fast approaching (30 Jan or 13 Sep, depending on destination). There is a little more time to apply for a July/Aug 2023 semester or year programs (deadlines in March).

Attending an info session is a really important step to work out whether student exchange is for you and whether WEP programs are what you are looking for. You can [register here](#) for our upcoming online information sessions on 30 August.

Meanwhile, take a look at the choice of countries, costs and requirements at <http://wep.org.au>, and order an info pack [here](#) ahead of the info session.

Or do you as a family rather want to bring another culture and new friendships into your family and experience seeing your world through their eyes? Host families come in ALL shapes and sizes, so find out more about hosting an exchange student [here](#) or SMS 'host' to 0428246633 for more info.

See you at the info session on 30 August!

## SUSTAINABILITY NEWS

### Biodiversity Restoration Project has started!

A Biodiversity Restoration project has commenced at Merici College which will have short-term and long-term stages. Given the decline in Australian wildlife and biodiversity and Australia having the highest rate of species extinction in the world, largely due to land clearing and use of synthetic chemicals, it is important for Merici to make our contribution to the solution. Merici can provide an important travel link and food source for wildlife between Black Mountain and Mount Ainslie.

Advice has been provided from ANU Professor of Biodiversity Conservation to provide understory habitat and nesting boxes. A consultation has been held with the local Landcare group, ACT Sustainable Schools horticulturalist and the Sustainable Schools team. The intention is to create stages for implementation this year and in coming years. The co-curricular Sustainability at Merici (SAM) group will be working on the project.

Planting commenced in Week 4 along the fence line on Henty Street and will continue this year and next to establish food and habitat sources for wildlife. Nesting boxes will be incorporated into the area once food supplies are established.



## DEFENCE NEWS

### Week 6 Activities

Wednesday 24 August: Year 12 Defence Students have been invited to their "Farewell Lunch" at the Bridge Restaurant. Please RSVP to [kate.friend@merici.act.edu.au](mailto:kate.friend@merici.act.edu.au).

Thursday 25 August: All Defence Students are welcome to drop into Room 222 for lunch and a chat. Bring your own lunch.

### Week 7 Catch Up with a warm hot chocolate

Thursday 1 September: All Defence Students are welcome to the OYC at lunch for a warm hot chocolate to have with your own lunch. Please RSVP to [Kate.friend@merici.act.edu.au](mailto:Kate.friend@merici.act.edu.au) with any dietary requirements associated with hot chocolate.

## OTHER NEWS

### Caring For Creation Conference (17 September 2022)

The Social Justice Group of Holy Spirit Parish are pleased to announce that a member of the Vatican Ecology Taskforce, Jacqui Remond, will be the keynote speaker at their September 17, one-day conference on Caring for Creation. This milestone conference will enable parishes, schools and families to forge practical plans to protect the Earth.

Archbishop Christopher Prowse will open the Conference to lend his support and blessing.

"From Pope Francis to the people of the Pacific, and from scripture to politics, we are hearing the cry of the Earth. We are called to live in harmony and respect with the Creator, one another, and all of creation," said Alison Weeks former chair of the Gungahlin Parish Council.

Chair of the Social Justice Group, Peter Peterson said: "I welcome how this Conference, inspired by the Papal encyclical *Laudato Si'*, reflects the decrees of the recent Australian Plenary Council. In fact, those who participate in the Conference will be well positioned to support parishes, schools and agencies to develop their *Laudato Si'* Action Plans as endorsed by the Plenary Council and requested by Pope Francis.

The Caring for Creation Conference will help Holy Spirit Parish take a cohesive and active approach to the ecological, economic and social challenges facing God's creation.

Please click [here](#) to find an information flyer. All are welcome to attend.

To learn more about Caring for Creation, which will be hosted by John Paul II College, Nichols and to purchase tickets, visit the website of Holy Spirit Parish Gungahlin: [www.holyspiritgungahlin.org.au/care-for-creation](http://www.holyspiritgungahlin.org.au/care-for-creation)

## UPCOMING NEWS (Weeks 6 and 7)

Upcoming events will be advised.