



4 October 2021

Dear Parents and Carers

I trust you are well and safe as we stay strong, together, through this extended lockdown in the ACT.

First of all, on behalf of myself and all school staff, I would like to offer my sincere thanks, once again, for the support and patience you have shown as we have navigated the challenging and changing circumstances surrounding COVID-19. We are all constantly working through so much information and ultimately following directions from our territory advisors and system office.

As per ACT Government advice, we are following a staged return to on-site schooling over the first five weeks of Term 4. Throughout this staged return we will continue our Remote Learning Timetable and routines. We do ask that those students who are not required on-site remain at home. For students of essential workers and those who are unable to provide alternative care for their daughters, we will continue on-site supervision of Remote Learning in the iC. Should you need to send your daughter to school, please be aware that we require time to arrange staffing and plan 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.

This letter is to be read in conjunction with the attached MS Teams Etiquette infographic.

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 subject specific 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.

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.

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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.

School Day on Campus

Weeks 1 and 2:

- Students in Years 7-11 will be learning at home. Those attending school will be supervised and assisted to continue with their remote learning programs by teachers and support staff. Supervision will be provided to all students attending the campus between 8.30am-3.30pm.
- Face to face teaching will resume at this time for Year 12.

Week 3:

- Years 12 and 11 on-site learning.
- Students in Years 7-10 will be learning from home. Those attending school will be supervised and assisted to continue with their remote learning programs by teachers and support staff. Supervision will be provided to all students attending the campus between 8.30am- 3.30pm.

Week 4:

- Years 9 -12 on-site learning.
- Students in Years 7-8 will be learning from home. Those attending school will be supervised and assisted to continue with their remote learning programs by teachers and support staff. Supervision will be provided to all students attending the campus between 8.30am-3.30pm.

Week 5:

- Years 7-12 on-site learning. Face-to-face Learning Timetable and routines will resume.

During Weeks 1-4 students attending school on-site will need to follow their Remote Learning Timetable. Students should abide by theMS Teams etiquette and ensure they follow the Digital Community Agreement.

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

- sign in at the iC before 8:45am so that they are ready to join their online PC
- wear her summer uniform or full school PE tracksuit
- ensure they have all their equipment for the school day: laptop, notebooks, pencil case, textbooks
- bring food for the day including recess, lunch and a water bottle. The school canteen will be operating with pre-ordering and through Click and Collect.
- stay on campus until 3:00pm (Year 7-10 are able to go home at 2:00pm 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 ACT Health restrictions.

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. Toilet paper, soap, and sanitiser are available at school. Hygiene regimes are to be followed by all.

If any student is ill or showing even minor symptoms, they are to stay at home. If they arrive at school exhibiting illness they will be sent home immediately.

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 as it is for all of us. If you have further questions, please contact me at principal@merici.act.edu.au.

As you know, responses to COVID-19 can change and we will be guided by government mandates. Rest assured, we will continue to keep you informed of any changes or new information that emerges in this evolving crisis.

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 your daughter's wellbeing, so I encourage her 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