

WHAT'S ON NEWSLETTER

Term 1 Week 10 and Term 2 Week 1 (4 April- 1 May)

IMPORTANT INFORMATION

Merici College School TV

In this edition of SchoolTV - FRIENDSHIP & BELONGING Learning how to make new friends and keep them involves a number of skills every young person needs to understand and develop. For some these skills will come very naturally, allowing them to easily move between different friendship groups, sharing their experiences and opening up to new people. For others, this can be much harder to navigate. Belonging to a group that is like-minded with similar interests is highly beneficial to a young person's wellbeing. It gives them a sense of security helping them feel valued which in turn builds their confidence.



Positive friendships are an important part of the journey to adulthood. Adult carers can support their child or teenager by providing guidance in the many social and emotional skills required for a healthy relationship. This will help them to obtain, retain and maintain friendships. However, not all friendships are regarded as positive. Sometimes young people develop negative or toxic friendships. Therefore it is also important for them to learn how to identify, avoid or deal with such a friendship.

In this edition of SchoolTV, adult carers can learn how to support their young person's friendship so that they experience a sense of belonging.

We hope you take time to reflect on the information offered in this edition of SchoolTV and we always welcome your feedback.

Here is the link to the Friendship & Belonging edition of SchoolTV
<https://merici.act.schooltv.me/newsletter/friendship-belonging>.

Meet our Studies Coordinators

Over the next few weeks, we will be introducing you to our Studies Coordinators.

Stephanie Spiller, Global Studies Coordinator



Stephanie returned to Merici College in 2022, stepping into the role of Global Studies Coordinator. She began her teaching career at Merici in 2004 and as part of a Defence family, she has enjoyed a variety of positions at schools in Townsville, Brisbane, and Canberra. Stephanie has also taken on the role of CAS facilitator, and is looking forward to supporting our IB Diploma students throughout their DP journey.

As an educator, she is passionate about high impact inquiry-based learning and the integration of service learning into the curriculum - something the talented team in Global Studies manage with flair. She is also looking forward to supporting the Sewing for Community co-curricular and her goal for 2022 is to find more opportunities to engage our wider school community in the program. In her spare time, Stephanie enjoys walking bush trails with her family and two cheeky schnauzers. Stephanie can be contacted via email stephanie.spiller@merici.act.edu.au.

Meet our School Counsellor – Hannah Johnson

I am very excited to be joining the Merici College community this year after moving down to Canberra from Queensland. I have spent the past 10 years in Brisbane, where I have enjoyed working within several roles in Child and Adolescent Mental Health both in public health and non-government organisations. As a counsellor I am approachable, friendly, non-judgemental, and kind. I know that life can be challenging and unpredictable, and at times we all need someone alongside us to provide support, encouragement, guidance, and advocacy to continue our journey. I strive to provide a space where you can feel safe, heard, and understood. I am very passionate about supporting young people to be the best versions of themselves and work to provide practical knowledge and skills to enable you to get through some of the challenges that life can bring. My goals for this year include navigating my way to work without relying on google maps and finding opportunity to become involved in the broader school community. I am a lover of nature, the outdoors, being creative, spending time with loved ones and playing with my very cheeky sausage dog Bruno.



WHOLE SCHOOL ACTIVITIES

Bridge Restaurant (Wednesday 6 April 12.30-1.30pm)

The Bridge Restaurant will be open on Wednesday 6 April from 12.30pm. Please telephone mobile 0458 704 947 or email bridge@merici.act.edu.au for all bookings. Visit www.bridge.restaurant for more information and sitting times.

Term 1 ends (Friday 8 April)

We wish all our students and families a very happy and safe Easter and holiday break.

Term 2 begins for Students – Wednesday 27 April

Please note that Term 2 commences on Wednesday 27 April for students as all Catholic Education (CE) staff members are required to attend a full day of CE Catalyst professional development on Tuesday 26 April.

Winter Uniform and Uniform Shop Hours of Operation

Please note that winter uniform must be worn from the commencement of Term 2. We draw your attention to the following uniform requirements:

- Skirt lengths (at knee length)
- Nail polish (neutral shade)
- Jewellery (simple ring, bracelet, a silver or gold chain necklace and maximum of two pairs of small sleeper/studs in the lobe of the ear only). No other necklaces, items or piercings are permitted. Please be mindful that body piercings need to be removed whilst at

school. Band-aids covering body piercings and transparent piercings are not alternatives to remedying the situation.

- Hair (extreme hairstyle and colour is not acceptable)
- No visible tattoos
- School shoes must be lace-up and polished. No mary-jane or buckle shoes are permitted
- The Merici school bag is also compulsory and needs to be in good condition
- Blazers are to be worn as the outermost garment. The co-curricular hoodie is not part of the uniform and may be confiscated if worn at school
- HPE jacket is only to be worn for pe lessons

Every Merici student is an ambassador for our College, and there is an expectation that uniforms will be worn responsibly and respectfully, to the highest standard of presentation. All students are expected to wear the correct school uniform while at school and when travelling to and from school each day. Uniform is checked and monitored each morning in Pastoral Care by the PC Teacher. We understand that there may be a situation where a student attends school in incorrect uniform from time to time. In this instance, parents and guardians are asked to email their daughter's PC Teacher or House Coordinator, and the student will be issued with a uniform pass.

If students are wearing incorrect uniform items without notification from parents, they will be asked in the first instance to remove these and rectify the uniform concern. Should the student continue to wear incorrect items, consequences will be applied as per the student behaviour management guidelines.

Please familiarise yourselves with the uniform guidelines and support the College in its efforts to ensure the uniform is worn with pride and respect. <https://www.merici.act.edu.au/my-merici/resources/uniforms>

Uniform Shop

We are pleased to advise that the Merici College Uniform Shop will be offering extended hours to meet your uniform requirements for the Winter season. In addition to extended hours of operation, the shop will continue to have the online ordering available.

Please be reassured the shop has a good supply of stock, with a broad size selection of all garments in readiness for new orders. We are confident all orders can be immediately filled.

Here is the link to order online: <https://shop.merici.act.edu.au/MonitorOnline/app/#!/shops>.

The extended hours during the school holidays are as follows. Please do not make an appointment to only pick up online orders. You can collect at any time the shop is open.

- Wednesday 20 April 2022 9am - 5pm by appointment
- Thursday 21 April 2022 12 noon – 6pm by appointment

Please book at this link:

<https://outlook.office365.com/owa/calendar/MericiCollege1@merici.onmicrosoft.com/bookings/>

All enquiries to Susan Anderson, uniform@merici.act.edu.au.

Merici College Enrolling Now 2023 and Beyond Campaign (April/May 2022)

Please click [here](#) to find important information on Open Day, Be a Merici Girl days and Information Night, as well as Bridge Restaurant bookings. Online registration for these events is available and we would welcome your support in forwarding this information to your family members, friends and work colleagues.

Important Dates:

- Open Day – Tuesday 3 May 2-4.30pm and 5-7.30pm (Principal's Address and Year 7 Information Session: 3pm-4.30pm and 6pm-7.30pm. School Tours will be conducted from 2pm-3pm and 5pm-6pm
- Be a Merici Girl Days – Friday 29 April, Monday 2 May, Monday 9 May
- Talk and Tour – Saturday 7 May
- Year 11 2022 Information Night – Tuesday 10 May 5.00pm-6.30pm

School Tours:

On Monday 4 April, a meeting will be held with students interested in conducting school tours on our Open Day. A permission note will also be given out to the students for return to Student Services (previously emailed to parents). Please note that Merici can accept the returning of permission notes from a registered parent/guardian email address. There is no need to print and scan. Email to student.info@merici.act.edu.au. Students are required to wear full school uniform on the day and afternoon refreshments will be provided.

YEARS 7, 8 AND 9 NEWS

Year 7 Activities Afternoon:

Next Thursday, 7 April, Year 7 Students will participate in an afternoon of activities led by the House Coordinators and Student Leaders. The purpose of the afternoon is to provide students with an opportunity to come in their House Groups to celebrate a fantastic first term of Highschool. From period four onwards, Students will participate in fun activities held on campus. Students are encouraged to dress in their House Colours or can wear their PE uniform for the day.

YEARS 10, 11 AND 12 NEWS

Year 10 Immunisations (Wednesday 6 April)

Year 10 Meningococcal immunisations will be held on Wednesday 6 April. Students have been given an information card that needs to be returned prior to the day. Students are requested to wear their PE uniform on the day.

For more information from ACT Health please follow the link below.

<https://www.health.act.gov.au/services-and-programs/immunisation/adolescents>

It is not compulsory for students to receive their vaccinations in the school setting. If your daughter would be more comfortable having this vaccination via your GP we encourage you to arrange this yourselves. Unfortunately, ACT Health does not offer a catch up day for students who are absent during the school based immunisations.

INTERNATIONAL BACCALAUREATE (IB) NEWS



Learner Profile Focus

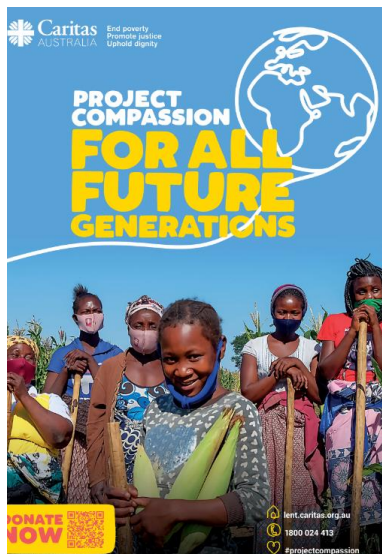
BE PRINCIPLED

We act with **INTEGRITY** and **HONESTY**, with a strong sense of **FAIRNESS** and **JUSTICE** and with **RESPECT** for the **DIGNITY** and rights of people everywhere. We take **RESPONSIBILITY** for our actions and their consequences.

With the world around us seemingly becoming more challenging with every week that passes, the importance of developing principled individuals could not be overstated. From the pandemic, to war, to floods, to rising poverty rates our world needs individuals with a strong sense of justice and respect for the dignity of all people. These traits are exemplified in the actions of our IB students, staff, and wider community.

We want to thank you for the way you have kept others at the forefront of your minds and taken action to promote their rights and dignity. Whether this be prayer cards and donations for the people of Ukraine, engaging with Project Compassion in Religious Studies, celebrating the diversity of our community for Harmony Day or wearing vintage to raise

money for flood-affected communities, your principled actions have not gone unnoticed. Have a blessed Easter season and may you continually be reminded of the call: *Serviam*.



Year 10 Personal Project Update

Year 10 students have been working on their products and will be drafting the Part A: Planning section of their report. They have one more workshop with Miss Freeman in Week 10 before the holidays. The next deadlines to be working towards are:

2	Criterion A: Planning Report Draft Due Date	Wednesday Term 2 Week 2 4 th May 2022
3	Product Deadline	Wednesday Term 2 Week 15 25 th May 2022

Year 10 students can attend the final Term 1 drop-in session Tuesday lunch Week 10 in the IB HUB.

If you have any questions, please email Clare Freeman (MYP Facilitator):

clare.freeman@merici.act.edu.au

Keep up the great work!

MISSION AND COMMUNITY

DonateLife Walk (Wednesday 6 April)

On Wednesday 6 April Merici College students and staff will participate in our DonateLife Walk (<https://www.giftoflife.asn.au/>) as part of the virtual walk being held this year. The purpose of the walk is to promote increased organ and tissue donation awareness. One donor can transform the lives of up to 10 people and significantly improve the lives of many more (see flyer attached). Thousands of Canberrans are expected to take part in their own walks either individually or as a team to show their support for this cause between 1-7 April. Please refer to the Gift of Life website for further details (<https://donatelife.gov.au/>).

We are very happy to welcome Canberra FM's Josh and Ned broadcasting their breakfast show live from Merici on the morning of the walk.

The walk will take place on the Merici College Oval from 7.15am – 8.30am, students are encouraged to walk up to 5km. A free cooked breakfast will also be provided to students after the walk. Students will have permission to wear Gift of Life or DonateLife Walk t-shirts and hats for the school day with their sports uniform shorts/tracksuit pants on Wednesday 6 April. Students are encouraged to wear t-shirts and hats they have received in previous years, as a limited amount of new merchandise will be available on the day. Please note that merchandise is provided free of charge to our school community by Gift of Life Inc. Students are required to register as part of the Merici College team at: ros.parisi@merici.act.edu.au by Monday 4 April. Registration online to Gift of Life Inc is not required. Please indicate special dietary requirements in your registration.

The DonateLife Walk is a good opportunity to discuss your thoughts on tissue and organ donation with your family and friends and to register your donation decision on the Australian Organ Donor Register at www.medicare.gov.au or www.donorregister.gov.au (donations cannot go ahead without the consent of family).

Please remind your daughter that appropriate behaviour is expected at all times as she is a representative of the College. For further information, please do not hesitate to contact us on 6243 4100 before the excursion.

Easter Reflection Friday 8 April

All staff and students will have the opportunity to reflect on the significance of Easter on Friday 8 April.

Year 7 Lenten CLSP

Year 7 Students are reminded to complete their Lenten Project journals over the period of Lent; registering the 10 hours of service and reflecting on the experience through responding to various questions in the journals. The completed hardcopy journal needs to be submitted to their relevant RE Teachers by Week 1, Term 2. If students have misplaced their journal, they need to contact their Religious Education teacher.

Please contact Ms Maria Tolfree, Head of Mission and Community at maria.tolfree@merici.act.edu.au if you have any questions.

iC NEWS

A reminder to all students to return their library and textbooks for the end of term. We are still chasing many overdues from last year.

Encourage your daughters to come into the iC to collect some holiday reading, this could be a book, a Kobo or to checkout an Overdrive/Sora title.

The library will be closed at 3:30 after school on the last day of term 1, Friday 8th April.

Happy reading
iC staff

DEFENCE NEWS

Queanbeyan 2022 ANZAC Day Commemorative Service

Merici College have been invited as guest speakers for the ANZAC Commemorative Service in Queanbeyan. Charlotte Green and Elizabeth Ween will be speaking and laying wreaths on behalf of the College, with the support of Stephanie Spiller, our Global Studies Coordinator.

The service is after the ANZAC Day March at the WW1 Memorial on Farrer Place, Queanbeyan. General Public are welcome to the outdoor service which is expected to start after 10.30am. Due to the current COVID situation the march has been restricted to Service and Ex Service personnel, therefore we will not have students marching this year. I know both Charlotte and Elizabeth will do a wonderful job in representing Merici College at the service. *Kate Friend, DSM*

March On Thank you!

Thank you for your support of our March On for Soldier On. We have raised over \$650 and we had over 60 students participating. It was a great mix of both defence and non defence students

walking around the oval. I really enjoyed seeing our students come together for a worthwhile cause. Donations close 31st March, if you would like to donate please use this link.

<https://www.marchonchallenge.org.au/fundraisers/MericiCollege>

Defence Catch Ups.

Week 10 – Easter Catch Ups and ANZAC Service Rehearsal

- Year 7 and 8 Monday 4 April
- Year 9 and 10 Tuesday 5 April
- Year 11 and 12 Wednesday 6 April

ANZAC Service Rehearsal (Thursday 31 March)

A rehearsal for our ANZAC Service will be held in the Auditorium at lunch for all students who have volunteered to participate in the Merici College service.

ANZAC Day Service (Wednesday 27 April 12.00pm)

Defence families have been invited to join us in the auditorium and for refreshments afterwards. Please RSVP to ros.parisi@merici.act.edu.au by 6th April for catering purposes. Please contact kate.friend@merici.act.edu.au or 02 6243 4190 with any questions or if you have not received your invitation via email.

CAREERS NEWS

Please visit <https://www.mericicareers.com/> to find the latest Careers newsletter and information.

CO-CURRICULAR NEWS

Duke of Edinburgh's Award Parent Information Evening

Parents and students are invited to attend an information session to find out more about The Duke of Edinburgh's Award and how it operates within Merici College. All welcome.

Date : Monday 4 April, 5–6 pm

Location: Auditorium, Merici College

Adventurous Training Hike Preparation

Prior to the Parent Information Evening, there will be an Adventurous Journey training and preparation session offered to Bronze Award participants. All welcome.

Date : Monday 4 April, 3.30-5pm

Location: Auditorium, Merici College

Bronze Award Adventurous Journey

On the weekend of 9/10 April, participants will head out on their first journey for the year. The girls will hike on The Australian Alpine Walking track in Namadgi National Park and camp at Honeysuckle Campground. This hike is the practice expedition for the Bronze Award and will provide bushcraft, navigation and bushwalking experience for Bronze participants. There will be another held in May for those who cannot attend this hike.

For further details about either of these events or about The Award in general, please contact Jackie Males jackie.males@merici.act.edu.au.

UPCOMING EVENTS (Term 1 Week 10 and Term 2 Week 1)

Upcoming events will be advised.