



WHAT'S ON NEWSLETTER

Term 1 Week 10 and Term 2 Week 1 (Monday 3 April – Sunday 30 April)

IMPORTANT INFORMATION

Merici College Enrolling Now 2024 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 – Wednesday 3 May 2pm-7:30pm (Principal's Address and Year 7 Information Session: 3:00pm-4:30pm and 6:00pm-7:30pm. School Tours will be conducted from 2:00pm-3:00pm and 5:00pm-6:00pm)
- Be a Merici Girl Days – Friday 28 April, Monday 1 May, Monday 8 May
- Talk and Tour – Saturday 6 May
- Year 11 2024 Information Night – Tuesday 9 May 5:30pm-7:30pm

Please note that no registration of attendance is required for the Open Day and Information evenings.

Open Day School Tours

On Monday 3 April, a meeting will be held with students interested in conducting school tours on our Open Day. The meeting will be held in the CRLC at lunch-time. Please click [here](#) to find more information and a link to an online permission note for parents' completion. Students are required to wear full school uniform on the day and afternoon refreshments will be provided.

Enrolment Process

Please note that Mrs Masters has commenced enrolment interviews for 2024. If you are interested in submitting an enrolment application, please follow the link <https://www.merici.act.edu.au/enrolment>. Please ensure that all supporting documentation is uploaded as required. Documentation includes:

- Birth certificate (not commemorative) or passport.
- Certificate of Baptism (if applicable).
- **Last report from previous school (This documentation is required for all applications at Merici College.)**
- Family Law, Personal Protection Order or Other Relevant Court Orders (if applicable)
- Visa grant notice for permanent and temporary visa-holders (if applicable) – for both student and parent(s) / legal guardian(s)
- Any medical reports and/or other assessment reports for students with additional learning needs (if applicable).

After your application is submitted, please contact Narelle Patrick, Enrolments Officer, on telephone 62434150 or email narelle.patrick@merici.act.edu.au. Narelle will then schedule an interview for your family to meet with Mrs Masters at a mutually convenient time.

Assessment – Expectations and Processes

We have now arrived at a peak in our teaching and learning cycle. It's wonderful to see our students displaying excellent *self-management* skills by meeting assessment deadlines, using time well in class and *communicating* effectively with their teachers and peers to seek and give feedback on their work in the lead up to assessment due dates.

Developing good routines is important as it helps prepare students for Year 11 and 12, or beyond school when they embark in further study or in the workforce.

Please familiarise yourself with the following processes that impact your daughter's classwork and assessment:

- All absences must be communicated to the school and explained by parents (Student Services-Attendance Team).
- BSSS Senior Courses have particularly rigid rules around attendance and submission of assessment. Students can risk voiding units if they fail to meet attendance requirements - see details below for Senior Students.
- If any student (Years 7 to 12) is unwell for 3 or more consecutive days a medical certificate must be provided.
- If a student is absent on the day of an assessment task, a parent email addressed to the teacher on the day of the absence is expected. If an email was not sent by the parent, the student must present a parent's note or medical certificate to the teacher on the first day back, indicating an understanding that the absence took place when an assessment task was due. This rule also applies to all students.
- Extension Requests for assessment tasks are ONLY granted on exceptional and unforeseen circumstances.
- Students must provide at least 48 hours' notice if applying for an extension for any assessment task.
- Applying for an extension does not automatically guarantee an approval.
- IT issues and family holidays will not be counted as an excuse to apply for an extension,
- Students must always use the Extension Request link provided on SEQTA to apply – do not email teachers:



[Extension Request Y11-12](#)



[Extension Request Y7-10](#)

- Students will NOT be granted an extension due to school-based events, such as excursions or competitions.
- If there happens to be a re-scheduled school event that *unforeseeably* impacts an assessment due date listed in our Assessment Calendar eg. an excursion, this will be formally approved by Senior Executive Leaders. In this situation:
 - Students will still need to submit a 'hand-in' task by the original due date, or
 - If the task was to be completed at school eg. test/exam, oral presentation, students will be expected to complete the same task in the next lesson for that or if possible, during a Senior student's study line (whichever comes first).

- Years 7-10 → Students have one week to submit a late piece of work and have it considered for their semester reports. Any late submission will be reflected in the learning behaviour component of the report. The student will also be at risk of being awarded a grade that is lower than they could have achieved.
- Seniors → Strict BSSS penalties apply for late submissions and will impact student's marks and grades. It is important that you are familiar with the information outlined in Senior Unit Outlines. Some key points are listed here:

Additional Expectations for BSSS Students

- Students will risk voiding the unit if they fail to submit assessment tasks worth in total 70% or more of the assessment for the unit.
- Students are required to attend all scheduled classes/contact time/structured learning activities. They will risk voiding the unit if attendance is less than 90% in that course. Therefore, explaining any absence is critical and attendance is key to successful learning.
- Students MUST provide a medical certificate if absent for 3 or more consecutive days or at any stage during the examination period.
- Any absence must be explained by parental notes within 5 school days of the return to school.
- Any late assessment submissions must include adequate documentary evidence (medical certificate).

Where to go for academic support?

If you feel your daughter is struggling in a particular subject area, please reach out directly to the classroom teacher as a starting point for academic support and guidance. Study Coordinators are also happy to work with the classroom teacher to strategically find solutions to support your daughter in a particular subject area.

The IC is also a great place to access help after school. Additionally, teachers put notices on SEQTA about regular lunchtime tutorials. Students are encouraged to make the most of these opportunities.

If you feel there is a more widespread issue that is impacting multiple learning areas as well as the health and wellbeing of your daughter, please reach out to your Pastoral Care (PC) teacher who can then provide a broader pastoral perspective. The PC teacher can then direct or channel targeted support for your daughter as required, and work with the House Coordinator to provide pastoral support.

Where to find more information:

Please take the time to familiarise yourself with Student Unit Outlines, Assessment Calendars and related policies:

- [Key Academic Dates & Assessment Calendars](#)
- [Assessment Policies](#)
- [Attendance Policy - Senior Classes](#)
- [IB - DP Assessment Policy](#) - Students completing the IB – Diploma Programme have slightly different rules for assessment. Please refer to this policy for further details.

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>.

Counsellors Corner – School Holidays

I don't know about you, but we feel as though term one has flown by!

We hope that all students have settled into the school year and feel proud of what they have achieved this term. I think we are all starting to feel the fatigue of the term, feeling a bit drained and looking forward to a well-earned break!



Have you noticed that when you've got a flat battery, it can be harder to think straight or make good choices and it's easier to overreact to the little things that go wrong? These are examples of why it's important to take the time to slow down and take care of yourself. These school holidays, make sure you take some time to recharge your batteries so that you can feel prepared and flourish in Term two.

WHOLE SCHOOL ACTIVITIES

Palm Sunday Rally (Sunday 2 April)

We invite our community to attend the Palm Sunday Rally for Refugees on Sunday 2 April at 1:00pm. The rally will be held at Garema Place in the city. If your daughter is attending, we ask that she wears her full school uniform as she is an ambassador for Merici College. Mrs Harrold-Carter (Head of Mission and Community) will be attending, and staff and students can meet her at the corner of Bunda Street and Garema Place at Via Dolce (cake/ice-cream shop) at 12.50pm.



Easter Liturgy (Thursday 6 April)

Easter is the greatest celebration in the Catholic church signifying the completion of the Holy week that ends with the resurrection of Jesus.

To mark this special occasion in the Church's calendar, Merici College will commemorate these events with a liturgy that will take place in the auditorium on Thursday 6 April, commencing at 2.00pm. The Liturgy will run for one hour and students will be dismissed from school at the normal time.

You are invited to watch the event through the following streamed link: <https://merici.college/go/livestream>.

As a mark of respect, student services will be unable to sign students out of the College during the liturgy. We thank you in advance for your support and understanding.

Term 1 ends (Thursday 6 April)

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

Term 2 begins for Students – Wednesday 26 April

Please note that Term 2 commences on Wednesday 26 April.

Winter Uniform Requirements

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
- The blazer is a compulsory uniform item in Terms 2 and 3 to and from school. The blazer is also to be worn at formal school events throughout the year. It is an optional item in Terms 1 and 4. The school jumper and/or vest are additional clothing items for extra warmth.
- The Co-curricular hoodie is not to be worn during school hours and is not part of the uniform. The hoodie can be worn to co-curricular sports and training. If worn at school, this item will be confiscated until the end of the school day.
- PE tracksuit jacket is only to be worn for PE lessons or on school excursions as required.

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 – Extended Trading Hours (Friday 14 April and Friday 21 April)

Winter uniform items are available for purchase from the uniform shop. It is highly recommended that you purchase what you need prior to the start of the holidays or shop online to purchase what you need.

The uniform shop will also be open for a limited time during the holidays on Friday 14 April and Friday 21 April. Please note that these appointments are only 15 mins. Please be on time for your booked time.

If you need to book a time, please do so here:

[https://outlook.office365.com/owa/calendar/UniformShop@merici.onmicrosoft.com/bookings/.](https://outlook.office365.com/owa/calendar/UniformShop@merici.onmicrosoft.com/bookings/)

ANZAC Day Commemorative Service March (Tuesday 25 April)

Students from Merici College have been invited to attend the ANZAC Day Commemorative Service to be held on Tuesday 25th April 2023 at the World War One Memorial in Farrer Place, Queanbeyan.

Students interested in marching must wear full winter school uniform and meet Mrs Stephanie Spiller at the City Council Chambers at 10:00am.

The march will commence at the City Council Chambers and conclude at the World War One Memorial in Farrer Place for the service commencing at 10:30am.

Invitation Online Information Evening: 2024 CASE Ocean School – Ocean Exploration for Young Adventurers (Tuesday 2 May)

All aboard! 2024 CASE Ocean School launching now in Australia

CASE Ocean School is an Australian study program providing students with an all-encompassing STEAM experience focusing on marine biology, ocean ecology, cutting-edge research, and technologies.

Delivered using real-life content, CASE Ocean School also focuses on building student's personal leadership and development skills by improving higher order and critical thinking skills.



CASE Ocean School inspires a new generation of leaders and is recommended to all students, especially those with a passion for adventure and looking to kick-start their career with 21st century skills. This is a fantastic opportunity. Your child will return more curious, confident and passionate to pursue their goals and give them the skills to make it reality.

An online information evening will be held on Tuesday 2 May for:

- Junior Camp - 6:00pm-7:00pm for parents and students in Years 7, 8 and 9 in 2024
- Senior Camp – 7:30pm-8:30pm for parents and students in Years 10, 11 and 12 in 2024

For more information and to RSVP to the Information Evenings please visit:

[https://actura.com.au/merici/.](https://actura.com.au/merici/)

YEARS 10, 11 and 12 NEWS

Year 11 2024 - Senior College at Merici

Year 10 parents and students, please note that it is not necessary to re-enrol your daughter Year 11 at Merici. Your daughter's enrolment will automatically continue. We will hold our Information Evening in Term 2 on Year Tuesday 9 May 5:30pm-7:30pm where we will go through different packages and pathways for your daughter in Year 11 and 12.

IB NEWS

IB Global Conference

The IB Global Conference was held in Adelaide from the 18 - 21 March. Mrs Anna Masters, Mrs Renee Taylor, Ms Natalie Fairfax, Ms Clare Freeman and Ms Erin Barry attended the conference, which had the theme *Education for an Inclusive Future*. The conference included inspiration speakers as well as information and interactive sessions that focused on wellbeing, upcoming changes to the MYP and DP programmes, programme development strategies, and student agency and empowerment. The conference was highly valuable and already some ideas from the conference are being implemented in classrooms.

LANGUAGES NEWS

Languages Work Placement

We would like to warmly welcome Anna Aguzzi, our Italian Assistant, who has joined our Merici community this term to work with the Italian teachers and students. Anna comes to us fresh off the plane from Italy and has been assisting our Italian students in the classroom with their language skills and cultural understanding. Anna grew up in Varese near Milan and moved to Milan in high school to study music at the Conservatorium.

She attended a language high school studying 3 languages: English German Spanish! Anna has lived and studied in Germany and attended university in Milan to undertake a Bachelor of Philosophy with a Masters in Politics, Philosophy and Public Affairs. We are delighted that Anna has made the jump to move to Australia and experience everything it has to offer.



Student Exchange Reflection – Gabrielle Shoebridge



Way back in 2014, when I was in Year 2, my family went on a 'big trip' around Europe – we spent a week in Berlin, and I was hooked (looking back, it was probably the colourful, life-size bear statues we ran into wherever we went). I've been taking German lessons ever since. The more I learned about the language and culture, the more I craved to be there, in Germany, surrounded by it all – an exchange seemed like the perfect opportunity for me.

Read full article [here](#).

iC NEWS

It has been a busy term, we have loaned out 4,491 resources, 3,084 being textbooks. We have catalogued 2,740 new resources, adding 371 copies to the textbook collection and removed 2061 resources from the catalogue, this is both physical and digital records.

The ACT Girls Interschool Chess Championship is being held at Merici today, 30 March. Last year we qualified for Nationals, this year we have 18 players competing in the event. We wish all players well.

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 3:30pm after school on the last day of Term 1, Thursday 6 April.

Happy reading!

iC staff

SCIENCE NEWS

Big Science Competition

The Big Science competition will be held in early Term 2. This Australia-wide science competition is open to all students in years 7 to 10! If you would like to participate in the Big Science Competition, please register your interest using this form: [Big Science - Register your interest](#). For more information, check out the website here: [Big Science](#).

NARRAGUNNAWALI NEWS

Reconciliation Action Plan (RAP) Workshop (Tuesday 4 April 3.30pm)

Please click [here](#) to find an invitation to the Reconciliation Action Plan (RAP) workshop held Tuesday 4 April in Week 10. The event will start at 3:30pm and end at approximately 4:30pm. Merici College have goals in our strategic plan to better celebrate, recognise and teach about Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander cultures and spiritualities. To aid this we are beginning the process of creating a RAP. For further information, please contact Alyssa Markmann, First Nations Education Contact Officer (email Alyssa.markmann@merici.act.edu.au).

DEFENCE NEWS

ANZAC Assembly

The Merici College ANZAC Assembly will be held on Wednesday 26 April in the College Auditorium, day one of Term 2. Invitations have been emailed to our Defence Families, if you have not received your invitation, please let Kate Friend know. Please RSVP to either kate.friend@merici.act.edu.au or ros.parisi@merici.act.edu.au by Friday, 14 April.

ANZAC Assembly Rehearsals for Students

We have ANZAC Assembly rehearsals scheduled for the following times. Please note that class assessments do have priority, just let Ms Friend know you can't make the rehearsal.

- Thursday 6 April Period 1 and Period 2 in the Auditorium for all volunteers and cadets.
- Wednesday 26 April Period 1 and Period 2 in the Auditorium for all volunteers and cadets.

Defence Catch Ups

Our Defence Catch ups will now be held on TUESDAYS! Thank you for those who participated in the poll.

Week Ten- Defence Catch Up - Tuesday 4 April, OYC

A surprise snack to celebrate the end of Term 1.

Term 2 Week 1 – ANZAC Assembly - Wednesday 26 April

Rehearsals for all volunteers in P1 and P2.

All Defence students are invited to walk in together, please meet outside the Auditorium at 11.45am.

CO-CURRICULAR NEWS

Instrumental and Vocal Opportunities

Merici students have the opportunity to participate in private instrumental lessons to learn a musical instrument or sing with one of our vocal teachers, during school hours on campus.

Please be advised: **Instrumental lessons will be \$41 per half hour + GST from Term 2.**

Instrumental lessons are available in the following:

- Woodwind – flute, clarinet and saxophone
- Brass – trumpet, trombone, french horn, euphonium and tuba
- Guitar and bass guitar
- Strings - violin, viola, cello and double bass
- Piano and keyboard
- Voice

Merici Music Co-Curricular

Students are welcome to take part in instrumental and vocal opportunities which include:

- Concert Band (each Monday at 3:30pm – 4:30pm)
- String Ensemble (each Wednesday at lunchtime)
- Vocal Group (each Thursday at lunchtime)

Instrument Hire

Brass, Woodwind and String instruments are available for hire at Merici College. There is a security deposit of \$100 which is fully refunded upon return of the instrument in good condition.

If you would like to enrol in instrumental lessons, please complete the enrolment form via the link:

<http://merici.college/go/musictuition> The form will ask you to confirm before it is submitted. You will receive a pdf via email upon completion of the form.

Contact: Heather Lloyd - Music Co-Curricular Facilitator, email: music.program@merici.act.edu.au

ACT Subaru Interschools Snow Sports Championships

ACT Interschools are holding the 2023 Sports competition from Tuesday 18th – Friday 21st July at Perisher Blue Ski Resort. Our Snow-Sports Team has grown over recent years and in 2023 Merici Girls are looking to enter one of our strongest teams ever. With that, on behalf of the College ski team, we extend a warm welcome to new participants. Please refer to the details below prior to granting your daughter permission to attend.

Please remind your daughter that appropriate behaviour is expected at all times as she is a representative of the College. Also, winter sports such as skiing and snowboarding carry risks of injury and other safety concerns, therefore, we ask that your daughter has had some skiing or snowboarding experience and is at least of an intermediate level where she is able to competently turn and stop. Your daughter should be able to confidently ski green and blue runs and be comfortable on less-than-ideal trail conditions. Note - It is not an event for beginners.

Please click [here](#) to find the permission note which needs to be returned by Friday 28 April.

OTHER NEWS

AAS Cricket Coaching Holiday Camps

The team at AAS Cricket Coaching are excited to announce our upcoming ACT Easter Holiday Cricket Camps this coming 18-20 April 2023.

Catering to ages 6-16, our school holiday cricket programs include access to:

- A structured & enjoyable program delivered in a fun, team-based learning environment
- Coaching covering all aspects of the game including batting, fast & slow 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. All programs will be held at Reid Oval (corner of Euree Street & Limestone Avenue) from 9:00am - 3pm each day.

Players are welcome to attend for 1 day or come for all. Half day attendance options can be organised upon request.

To book your spot, head to <https://aascricketcoaching.as.me/easterholidaycricketcamps>. For any enquiries, please contact Holly Halford-Smith on 0400 125 342 or activeallsports@outlook.com.

Parentline – Telephone Parenting Counselling

Professional counsellors are now just a phone call away on (02) 62873833.

