



WHAT'S ON NEWSLETTER

Term 1 Weeks 4 and 5 (Monday 19 February – Sunday 3 March)

IMPORTANT NEWS

Carparking and College Entry Update

We thank you for your patience during building works at Merici College. Following the meeting with the Project Control Group and the builder:

1. Pick up and drop off

- Barricades will be set up in the Wise Street carpark along side the auditorium wall to keep foot traffic and cars separate during pick up and drop off peak.

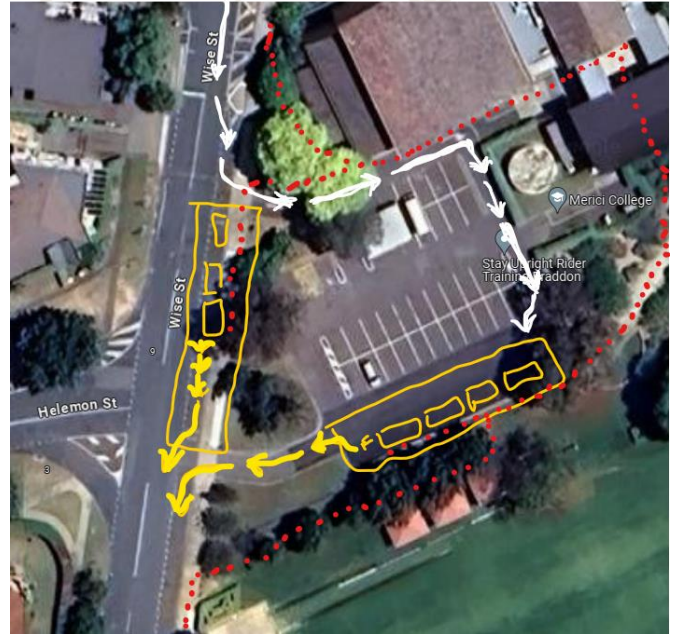
Note: Along with the drop off zone on Wise Street between the red gates, the car-park will remain open as a means to increase the overall capacity for students to be picked up and dropped off during the peak.

- Please do not park nose-in in the drop off zone of the car park as reversing back out is difficult. And please do not remain standing there for too long to keep the traffic flowing.
- If using Wise Street drop off zone between the gates, please ensure you *do not queue across / block the entrance to the car-park*.
- To facilitate a quicker arrival and exit and thereby reduce congestion, it is helpful if you have a clear arrangement with your daughter(s) as to where they will be picked up.
- Please ensure patience and courtesy to others during the busy periods and please definitely give way to buses!

Supervision will continue to be provided and this latest arrangement be further monitored and tweaked again if necessary.

2. School Entrance

- The entrance to the school via the auditorium foyer will close completely in the coming week and the builder's fence will move accordingly.
- **Entrance to the school is ONLY via the wise street carpark pathways.** Temporary signage to main entrance and student services has been erected.



WHOLE SCHOOL ACTIVITIES

Assessment Calendars 2024 Semester 1

Please see the links below to find your daughter's assessment calendar for Semester 1. Students should use these calendars for planning out the due dates for all of their tasks. Tasks are identified by subject, task type and teacher. It is important to identify which subjects your daughter is studying as not all scheduled tasks will apply to her.

These tasks should be reflected in your daughters Unit Outlines for each subject, which are available on their course SEQTA page.

If you have any questions, please contact your daughter's teacher or the Studies Coordinator of the subject. Year group calendars can be found using the links below:

[Year 7 Assessment Calendar Semester 1 2024](#)

[Year 8 Assessment Calendar Semester 1 2024](#)

[Year 9 Assessment Calendar Semester 1 2024](#)

[Year 10 Assessment Calendar Semester 1 2024](#)

[Year 11 BSSS Assessment Calendar Semester 1 2024](#)

[Year 12 BSSS Assessment Calendar Semester 1 2024](#)

Bridge Restaurant (Wednesday 21 February 12.30pm)

The Bridge Restaurant will be open on Wednesday 21 February from 12:30pm. Please email bridge@merici.act.edu.au for all bookings. Visit www.bridge.restaurant for more information and sitting times.

Claim the Date: International Women's Day Soiree (Friday 8 March 5.30pm-7.30pm)

Our annual International Women's Day celebration will be held on Friday 8 March in the restaurant from 5.30pm to 7.30pm. More information to follow.

YEARS 7, 8 AND 9 NEWS

NAPLAN

Merici students in Year 7 and 9 will participate in NAPLAN Online testing from **Wednesday 13 March-Tuesday 19 March 2024**, with Tuesday serving as a catch-up test date. Closer to the date, we will release a timetable to students and parents outlining when each test is scheduled.

Education ministers agreed that NAPLAN would move to Term One from 2023. This will mean results will be available to education authorities earlier in the year to inform school and system teaching and learning programs and will assist teachers to better determine support students' needs for the coming year.

At Merici College, we would like to reiterate that NAPLAN serves as a growth measurement and not something that students should feel they have to study for. Rather, the skills and knowledge that students are learning at Merici are guided by the principles of the Science of Learning, which will ensure that our girls are equipped with the skills they need to show growth in their NAPLAN journey.

If you have parental controls on your daughters laptop with regards to downloading apps, can you please download the NAPLAN locked browser from this website: [Locked down browser | Online National Assessment Platform \(assessform.edu.au\)](https://www.naplan.edu.au/locked-down-browser). For all other students, we will do this with them at school.

As a parent, you can become familiar with NAPLAN Online tests by visiting the public demonstration site, <http://bit.ly/naplanonline>. The purpose of the site is to familiarise students with the type of items they will see on NAPLAN Online and related functionalities. This level of familiarisation is worthwhile to help students understand and be comfortable with the format of the test.

NAPLAN Online allows for tailored testing. This means that student are presented with sets of questions based on their performance during the test. This model provides students with the opportunity to better demonstrate their range of literacy and numeracy skills and it is more engaging for students. Further information explaining tailored testing can be found at [NAP Tailored tests](https://www.naplan.edu.au/naplan-online/naplan-online).

If you have any questions or wish to withdraw your daughter from NAPLAN testing, please contact our Naplan Coordinator Nicole Commins at Nicole.commins@merici.act.edu.au.

Further information on NAPLAN Online, including the public demonstration site, is available at www.naplan.edu.au/online-assessment/naplan-online.

Year 7 Aspiring to Achieve Parent Workshop Recording

Thank you to families who were able to attend the presentation on Tuesday 6 February. We hope that the information presented was helpful.

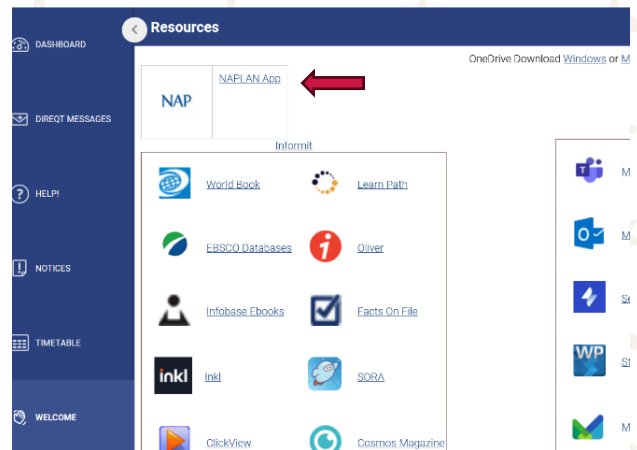
Please find the recorded presentation here, https://youtu.be/QKSOUV_i_s0 for reference

Invitation: CASE Junior Space School– Training for Young Explorers



All students in 2025 Years 7, 8 and 9 are invited to join our CASE Space School International Study Program and visit NASA in the USA! This unique program is experiential STEAM learning at its best and is recommended to all students pursuing any study path. All participants are eligible to receive a University of California (UC) approved GPA 5.0 academic transcript, showcasing their aptitude to top tier universities at home or internationally.

Always at the forefront of innovation, the space industry is experiencing a global boom. It's the most stimulating environment to inspire the next generation of STEAM-skilled leaders prepared to take on and succeed in our innovation-hungry world.



Merici College is partnering with Actura and the California Association for STEAM Education (CASE) to offer our students a unique opportunity to participate in an immersive, engaging and inspiring learning experience. Your child will:

- Visit NASA, Houston to discover awesome technologies with industry experts
- Participate in thrilling astronaut training and mission simulations
- Perform cellular analysis and design a space glove to understand the human body in space
- Engage with inspirational space industry guest speakers
- Enjoy a range of fun cultural events and activities
- Be eligible to receive a UC approved GPA 5.0 academic transcript

All Merici College students currently in Years 7 and 8 are invited to participate in CASE Junior Space School during July 2025.

This is a wonderful opportunity for all students to learn beyond the classroom and be inspired by the opportunities that lie ahead! Your child will return invigorated and motivated with new ideas, goals, passions - and the skills to make it happen.

**CASE Junior Space School
Information Evening**
6:00pm, Tuesday, 12th March 2024, via Zoom
For more information and to RSVP to the Information Evening,
visit: www.actura.com.au/MericiSpace

YEARS 10, 11 and 12 NEWS

Year 11 Conference (Thursday 29 February and Friday 1 March)

Each year we hold a Year 11 Conference to support our new senior students transition into Year 11.

The Conference is designed to create enthusiasm and energy around the learning and development your daughter will experience over the next two years and to ensure she understands academic requirements. It is also an opportunity for her to understand and reflect upon their academic and leadership responsibilities.

The Merici College Year 11 Conference will be held for two days at the Greenhills Centre, Stromlo from Thursday 29 March - 1 March 2024. No payment for the conference is required at this time; the fee will be included in the Term 1 fees. Please click [here](#) to find the information letter and permission note. Please also click [here](#) to find the administration of medication forms.

Invitation: CASE Senior Space School – Entrepreneurship for Young Leaders



All students in 2025 Years 10, 11 and 12 are invited to join CASE Space School International Study Program in July 2025! In partnership with Actura and the California Association for STEAM Education, this is Merici College's premier STEAM expedition for students in Years 10, 11 and 12 in 2025.

Visiting NASA, Houston and Silicon Valley in the USA, this unique program is experiential STEAM learning at its best and is recommended to all students pursuing any study path!

All participants are eligible to receive a University of California (UC) approved GPA 5.0 academic transcript, showcasing their aptitude to top tier universities at home or internationally.

Always at the forefront of technology and innovation, the space industry is experiencing a global boom, providing opportunities for STEAM-skilled young people to forge an exciting future! We believe the USA space industry is the most stimulating environment to showcase innovative technologies, opportunities for entrepreneurs and the impact of STEAM in our world.

At CASE Space School your child will:

- Visit NASA and be mentored by industry experts
- Undertake thrilling and immersive space mission simulations
- Visit cutting-edge space and tech companies in Houston and Silicon Valley
- Network with inspiring space industry guest speakers and entrepreneurs
- Enjoy a range of fun cultural events, activities and sightseeing in Houston and San Francisco
- Be eligible to receive a UC approved GPA 5.0 academic transcript

This is an outstanding opportunity for all students to learn beyond the classroom and be inspired by the opportunities that lie ahead! Your child will return invigorated and motivated with new ideas, goals, passions - and the skills to make it happen.

CASE Senior Space School Information Evening
7:30pm, Tuesday, 12th March 2024, via Zoom
For more information and to RSVP to the Information Evening,
visit: www.actura.com.au/MericiSpace

HEAD OF MISSION AND COMMUNITY NEWS

Merici College Gift of Life Walk – Tuesday 19 March

The annual Merici College Gift of Life Walk will be held at the College on Tuesday 19 March. More information to follow.

DonateLife Gift of Life Annual Walk – Lake Burley Griffin

The Gift of Life's Annual Walk is now in its 18th year. Prior to COVID, the Annual Walk was Canberra's largest community activity to support DonateLife to raise awareness and registration on the organ and tissue donor register. [CBR 2024 Walk Poster](#)

Gift of Life's Annual Walk is an important reminder to register on the Australian Organ Donor Register. And, most importantly, for every family to "have the chat that saves lives" with their loved ones to ensure the family knows their decision about organ and tissue donation. The Walk is not a fundraiser.

[Register now for the Lake Burley Griffin Walk - Sign up for free at \[giftoflife.asn.au\]\(http://giftoflife.asn.au\)](#)

Date: Tuesday 20 February 2024

Time: 6.30 for a 7am start to 8.30am

Location: Rond Terrace, Lake Burley Griffin

Great volunteering opportunity as well for our students! If you are interested in helping out in the morning,

please contact Catherine Scott, President, Gift of Life Inc. T: 0416 117 291, Email: contact@giftoflife.asn.au.
Christian Service Hours apply.

HPE NEWS

Merici Swimming Carnival - Tuesday 12 March

This year our Swimming Carnival will return to Dickson pool on Tuesday 12 March. The House Captains will let our students know what their themes are for this event.

Please note students will need to have transport to and from the pool on this day.

Students who travel by CDC Canberra (QCity) buses can get off and on at Daramalan College, use the crossing at the traffic lights and walk to the pool. Students who catch Transport Canberra (ACTION) buses will need to check bus routes as they may be able to get off at Daramalan or in Dickson as well.

For students who travel on the Merici dedicated bus services Run #1 and Run #2 buses, please note that the buses will drop off and pick up passengers at Dickson Pool. Students who travel on any other bus service that does not travel to/from the Dickson area will be able to take their regular bus to school and we will shuttle students to the pool by the Merici school bus.

Those students who are wanting to swim in the 100m Freestyle race will need to make their own way to the pool and be there at 8.30am.

Permission notes and further information about the day will be sent home shortly.

IB NEWS



MYP - Upcoming events

Event	Date	Information
MYP Assessment Workshop	Wed 28 Feb 6:00pm-7:15pm	This workshop is aimed at families with daughters in Year 7-10 who are new to the College. Parents are invited to attend with their daughters to gain some understanding into the way student work is assessed and how rubrics are used. A formal invitation will be sent out to families.
MYP Awards Ceremony	Fri 15 March Period 6	MYP Year 10 2023 (current Y11 students) Award Ceremony. Families will be invited to attend, and this will be live streamed and recorded for your convenience.
MYP Revision Skills Workshop	Mon 25 March from 6pm	A workshop for Year 7 families (students and their parents) to learn effective techniques to revise for tests and exam at high school. This will be an interactive workshop with practical strategies provided.

Personal Project

In their final year of the IB Middle Years Programme, Year 10 students complete the Personal Project. Each project has 2 goals: a learning goal (what students will learn from the project) and a product goal (something that they will create). Inspiration for the Personal Project can come from any number of places, including favourite hobbies or sports, subjects at school, career aspirations, or a community need. The current Year 10 cohort started this process at the end of 2023 when they were encouraged to start brainstorming their goals.

Erin Barry (Personal Project Facilitator) will continue running regular sessions with Year 10 students to support them through this process. In addition, every Year 10 student has been allocated a Personal Project supervisor.

In many cases, this is their PC Teacher, however, other staff will also take on students for supervision in cases where there are several Year 10 students in a particular PC.

If they haven't already done so, students should be contacting their supervisors to arrange their first meeting to discuss their ideas.

The upcoming Personal Project session in Week 4 will support students in articulating the personal connection to their goals and writing success criteria for their product, with later sessions focused on components such as writing an action plan and drafting sections of the Personal Project report.

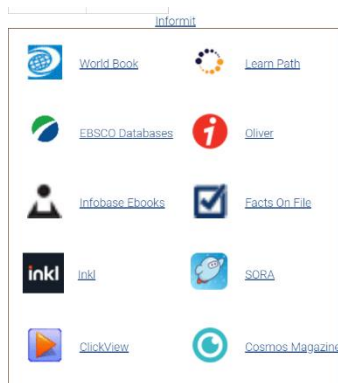
The first due date is also coming up, with the Project Proposal due on Wednesday 21 February (Week 4).

We can't wait to see the wide range of unique Personal Projects that our Year 10 students will come up with this year!

iC NEWS

The Co-Curricular Expo was held today and some activities will begin this week. It is exciting to have many of our co-curricular activities run by seniors. Book Club will begin on a Monday of Week 4, new members are always welcome, we meet in the iC small group room at lunch. Thursday will be digital detox day where students are encouraged to get off devices and play board games, cards, puzzles, or colouring in. We have a games cupboard in the iC students are welcome to choose their game of choice or to bring one in from home. We also run a Chess Club, it runs weekly in the iC small group. See Mrs Blakey for details.

The Kids' Lit Quiz Canberra Heat will be held at Merici on Thursday 11 April. This is a fun competition for students who love reading. Students must be 13 years old on 1 June, so only open to Years 7 and 8. They work in a team of four to answer quiz questions about authors, books and all things literature. Encourage your daughter to register their interest in being part of a team, as a co-curricular activity with Mrs Blakey on ann.blakey@merici.act.edu.au we train each Tuesday recess in the iC.



During the upcoming weeks students will begin their assessments. It is not unusual for students to feel a little overwhelmed, not knowing how to start the task or where to find relevant and reliable information. The Information Centre (iC) has a wealth of quality information that can be accessed through books and online. Encourage your daughter to visit the iC to browse the shelves. Also, to access the iC services online through SEQTA for database access. The databases available include; the catalogue *Oliver*, Informit, Facts on File, World Book, EBSCO Databases, ClickView and Inkl (the online newspaper subscription).

The iC staff are available before school, lunch and after school to assist individual students to find the best information to meet their research needs. For more information you can contact the iC staff at library@merici.act.edu.au.

Yours in all things library,

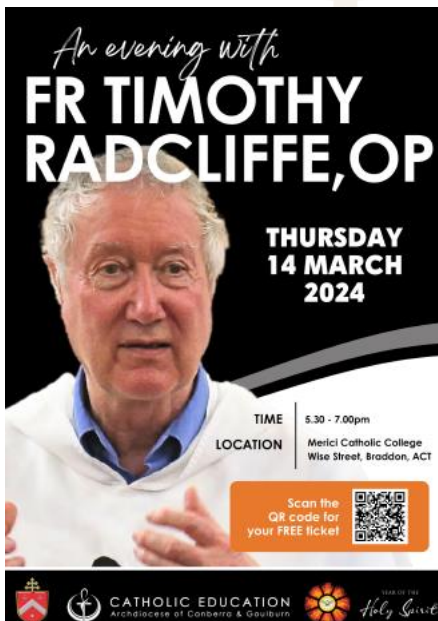
iC staff

OTHER NEWS

ACT Sports Bulletin #2 2024

Please click [here](#) to find the latest School Sport ACT bulletin to keep our community up-to-date on school sport events in the ACT.

An evening with Fr Timothy Radcliffe, OP (Thursday 14 March)



Catholic Education Archdiocese of Canberra & Goulburn in conjunction with the Archdiocese of Canberra & Goulburn invite you to attend an evening with Fr Timothy Radcliffe, OP. The evening will be held at Merici College Braddon, 5.30pm Thursday 14 March 2024.

Fr. Timothy Radcliffe, OP, stands as a distinguished figure within the Catholic Church, acclaimed for his profound contributions as both an English Catholic priest and a Dominican friar. Born on August 22, 1945, Radcliffe's spiritual journey has been marked by a rich tapestry of theological insights, intellectual pursuits, and leadership roles. He was Master of the Order of Preachers from 1992 to 2001, during which he provided guidance and direction to the global Dominican community. Beyond his administrative responsibilities, Fr. Timothy Radcliffe is widely recognized for his thought-provoking writings, engaging lectures, and a deep-seated commitment to fostering dialogue and understanding within the Catholic Church.

Most recently he was chosen by Pope Francis in 2023 to lead the pre-Synod Retreat and as one of those chosen to provide regular reflections for the members during the Synod.

In this evening, Fr Timothy will provide us with unique insights into the Synod as it demonstrates synodality in practice and discerns the future of the Church.

[Please register for a ticket here with code **Synod** to obtain your reserved ticket.](#)