



# WHAT'S ON NEWSLETTER

Term 3 Week 10 and Term 4 Week 1 (Monday 23 September – Sunday 20 October)

## IMPORTANT NEWS

### Building Update

Following the completion of 4 new modular classrooms adjacent to the sport courts and the resurfacing of the courts themselves at the beginning of the year, an additional 4 classrooms are in the pipeline right now. Planning is almost complete, and construction is expected to commence next term and continue into the upcoming Christmas holidays, so that new classrooms are online for the start of the school year in 2025.

These are modern, comfortable and flexible educational spaces in a tranquil, green-setting on the side of our oval. Including additional toilets and change-rooms, they will better facilitate teaching and learning, enable better supervision of students, and will improve access and amenity for all our students especially for our PE classes.



There will likely be a traffic management plan required during the construction phase. More information on this will be provided when known.

The 2<sup>nd</sup> stage of this work involves the refurbishment of the old scout hall on Limestone Avenue known as the O'Donnell Youth Centre (OYC). Design work for this project is currently underway and is also expected to commence later this year. More information about this project as it becomes available.

### Dropoff Carparks

Please note that morning/afternoon student drop-off/pickup is to occur in the Wise Street carpark (at oval). We have received concern from staff that drop off in the Limestone Avenue carpark is impeding entry with cars exiting at the same time, causing near-vehicle collisions.

### Call for Parent Representatives for CSPACG Council

Catholic Schools Parents Archdiocese of Canberra Goulburn (CSPACG) Council will hold their AGM in Term 4 and are seeking representatives from all regions to fill vacancies. The Council meets four times a year with two meetings in-person and two online. This is a great way to learn more about advocacy, representation, engagement and support for our Catholic school parents and carers.

Nominees should complete the nomination form below and return it to [parents@cg.catholic.edu.au](mailto:parents@cg.catholic.edu.au) by 31 October.

Nomination Form Link: [PDF Parent Representative Nomination Form 2025.pdf](#)

For further information, contact the CSPACG Executive Officer, Sarah Rose on email [sarah.rose@cg.catholic.edu.au](mailto:sarah.rose@cg.catholic.edu.au) or 0447 888 326 (Family Engagement Officer).

## WHOLE SCHOOL ACTIVITIES

### Parent-Student-Teacher Interviews - Online Bookings Open - Monday 23 September 8:00am

Parent-Student-Teacher interviews will be held in Term 4 online via Microsoft Teams on Monday 14 October (2:00pm-6:00pm) and in the College Auditorium on Tuesday 15 October (4:00pm-6:00pm). Each interview has an allocated 6 minutes timeslot. If you need to speak to a teacher on a more in-depth basis, please contact the teacher directly. This is a mutually beneficial opportunity for parents to discuss their daughter's progress with the classroom teacher. Including your daughter in the interview helps promote independent learning.

If your daughter's teacher is requesting an interview with you, in regard to either Achievement or Application, you will receive an email indicating this. Please note: a teacher may request an interview both to commend a student's performance as well as discuss any concerns about progress. If teachers do not request an interview with you, you are still encouraged to make appointments with any teacher to discuss your daughter's progress.

### Compass – Parent Student Teacher Conference Booking Instructions

You will be using the function of **Parent Student Teacher Conference** in Compass for these interviews. This will allow you to book the interview times that suit you from any internet-connected computer or from your smartphone. If you wish to book appointments from your mobile, you will need to download the free **Compass School Manager** app from either the apple app store or the google play store.

Full instructions are provided to you after log in. Please note the following points:

- When you log on and click on **Parent Student Teacher Conference**, please choose **24S2 Parent Teacher Interview**.
- Click on **My Bookings** and **Show me How to Book** for instructions. Every parent/guardian can make a booking using one as a family booking or both if you want individual bookings.
- You will only see timeslots that are available at the time you are using the system. As timeslots are booked for your allocated teachers, those timeslots are no longer displayed as available.
- Please leave 6 minutes between appointments to allow for time to move between online rooms.
- When you have made your booking, please print a record of it. You can also log in and change your booking at a later date.
- Please note that bookings cannot be made after 8:00am on the day of the interview.
- If there are no timeslots available for an interview, please use the option requesting the teacher to contact you or contact them directly.

If you encounter any problems using Parent Student Teacher Conference, please email [karen.chow@merici.act.edu.au](mailto:karen.chow@merici.act.edu.au).

### Brescia House Week: A Celebration of our House Community (Monday 23 September – Friday 27 September)

We are excited to announce that Brescia House will celebrate its annual House Week from Monday, 23rd to Friday, 27th September (Week 10, Term 3). This is a special time for our students and staff to come together in celebration of the rich history and vibrant traditions that define Brescia House. Throughout the week, we have an exciting lineup of activities that will foster House spirit and raise money for Mother of Peace Primary School in Cambodia.

Each day, students and staff will gather for fun and meaningful activities that highlight the essence of Brescia House. Students are encouraged to embrace their house spirit and pride by accessorising in purple for the week, but please remember that the full school uniform is still required.

### Highlights of Brescia House Week include:

Monday - raffle tickets will be sold at lunch and throughout the week. Winners will be drawn on Friday. We have 3 prizes:

1. Canberra Centre voucher
2. Jellycat toy
3. Hamper

Tuesday - Purple cupcakes at lunchtime and a special morning house assembly run by the Brescia girls who visited Mother of Peace Primary School in Cambodia.

Wednesday – Brescia/Balgo BBQ lunch in the indigenous garden (gold coin donation) and a whole school sports competition in the gym.

Thursday - Morning PC liturgy and lolly salad initiative at lunch. Gold coin donation for Mother of Peace Primary.

Friday - 'Brescia bring a plate' - Brescia pc picnics on the oval. Every girl brings a drink or food to share with their pc. The raffle will be drawn at recess!

Miss Tillack, our Brescia Pastoral Care Teachers, House Captains, House Executive, and Sister Genny are eagerly looking forward to celebrating all things Brescia with you. Let's make this week unforgettable as we come together in the true spirit of Brescia House.

### **Term 3 End of Term**

Term 3 will conclude on Friday 27 September. We hope all our students and staff have a restful term break.

### **Commencement of Term 4 for Students (Tuesday 15 October)**

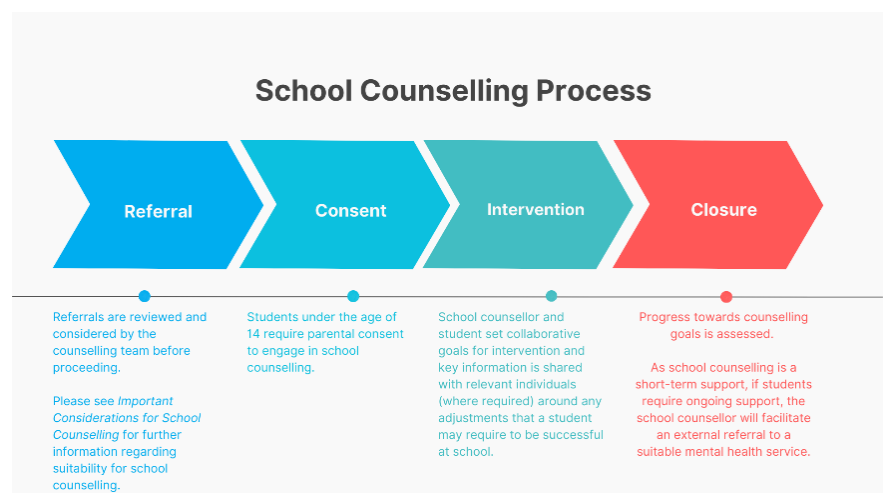
Term 4 commences on Tuesday 15 October for students as Monday 14 October is a designated Catholic Education Staff Professional Development Day.

## **COUNSELLORS CORNER**

### **Counselling Update**

Merici College offers School Counselling on campus throughout the school year and is delivered by qualified mental health professionals with experience working with young people who have mental health concerns. As school counsellors, it is their role to serve the educational enterprise of the school by fostering conditions that maximise educational equity, student wellbeing and the learning success of all students. For additional information about school

counselling and how to access this support please refer to the Counsellors Corner on our website at <https://www.merici.act.edu.au/building-futures/counsellors-corner>.



## YEARS 10, 11 and 12 NEWS

### Commissioning of School Leaders (Monday 23 September)

The 2025 Student Leadership team will be commissioned into their roles on Monday 23 September at a special ceremony commencing at 10:00am. The ceremony will be livestreamed and can be viewed here:

<https://merici.college/go/livestream>.

### Year 10 Immunisations (Thursday 26 September)

All Year 10 students are offered the following vaccine, Meningococcal ACWY on Thursday 26 September. Consent forms have previously been provided to families for consent. For more information from ACT Health please follow the link below. <https://www.health.act.gov.au/services-and-programs/immunisation/adolescents>.

### Participation in Psychology experiment (Weeks 9-10)

Senior Psychology students are currently planning an experiment on the topic of cognition and are seeking willing participants.

A number of teachers have volunteered their classes to participate, but we require parental consent for students under 18 years of age.

If you have received an email about this via Compass, please respond at your earliest convenience to ensure our Psychology students can conduct their experiments in a timely manner.

Experiments will be conducted during Weeks 9-10 of Term 3.

### Year 11 Literature Excursion to the National Gallery of Australia (Monday 23 September)

In preparation for their upcoming creative writing task, the Year 11 Literature class will travel to the National Gallery of Australia to receive a guided tour, as well some free time to explore the artworks in the NGA collection. Artworks from this gallery will provide the inspiration for a piece of writing that students will submit in Term 4. This excursion is free of charge to students.

Students will travel to and from the gallery on the Merici school bus. Student should meet at the bus, ready for boarding at 12:00pm. The class will depart from the gallery at 2:15pm and will return to school before 3:00pm. As students will be at the gallery over lunch time, it is suggested that students eat their lunch sometime before boarding the bus, either at recess or during Period 3. There may also be an opportunity for students to have a snack outside the gallery if the bus arrives there early. If there are any concerns about this, students should inform the teacher.

Please click [here](#) to find some information on logging into Compass to access permission notes.

### Senior Psychology Excursion (Tuesday 24 September)

Senior Psychology students will be attending an excursion to an Escape Room during their Week 10 double lesson. This is an opportunity for students to apply their learning about cognition in a practical, engaging and hands-on experience. Please click [here](#) to find some information on logging into Compass to access permission notes.

### Year 10 History Excursion National Museum of Australia (Tuesday 14 October)

The College has organised an excursion on Tuesday 14 October to the National Museum of Australia for all Year 10 students who are studying History in Semester Two. The purpose of the excursion is an educational tour about First Nations rights and freedoms, led by museum guides. This tour is directly related to their

current focus in class, which is the history of First Nations' rights and freedoms. Students will be able to gather information and notes related to their final assessment task for Semester 2 - their Research Essay.

Students should carry with them, in a small bag (e.g. the College PE bag), only the following:

- A pencil and clipboard
- Water bottle

Uniform: Full Merici summer uniform (No PE Uniform)

Please access Compass to complete the permission note. Please click [here](#) to find some information on logging into Compass to access permission notes.

## Year 12 Graduation Day (Tuesday 26 November)

Please find below the program of events for the Year 12 Graduation Day to be held on Tuesday 26 November.

- Year 12 Final House Farewells – 9:30am (students only, to be held at the College)
- Year 12 Graduation Mass – 3:00pm (students and family members to be held at St Christopher's Cathedral, Cnr. Canberra Avenue/Furneaux St, Forrest). No bookings are required for your attendance at the Mass.
- Year 12 Graduation Dinner and Awards Ceremony– 6:30pm (Year 12 students and immediate family members - maximum 4 guests per family which includes the student – no partners or younger siblings). The dinner will be held at the Southern Cross Club, Corinna Room, 92-96 Corinna St, Phillip ACT 2606.

Please note that the cost of the dinner for two parents and one Year 12 student were built into the school fees and payment is not required. Please email [ros.parisi@merici.act.edu.au](mailto:ros.parisi@merici.act.edu.au) if there are any special dietary requirements by Friday 8 November.

The maximum number of tickets per family is 4 people (immediate family members only, no student partners, no younger siblings). Should you like to purchase one more ticket for an immediate-family member, please purchase through our online booking portal, <https://events.humanitix.com/year-12-graduation-dinner-and-awards-ceremony-se3wdtvy>. Bookings close Friday 8 November 2024. Cost: \$70 pp (3 course meal, includes non-alcoholic beverages only).

Please contact Ros Parisi on email [ros.parisi@merici.act.edu.au](mailto:ros.parisi@merici.act.edu.au) if your family situation requires additional tickets.

## Year 12 Formal – Friday 29 November

The Year 12 Formal will be held on **Friday 29 November** at the National Museum of Australia in the Gandel Atrium (invitation attached). Students and parents are encouraged to attend this event (partners welcome to attend). The cost of the ticket is \$230 per person and includes a three-course meal, non-alcoholic beverages. The Baker Boys band, together with a photo booth and professional roving photography, will add to what will be a very special celebration.

Tickets can be purchased here: <https://events.humanitix.com/merici-college-year-12-formal-3r17c6wv>.

Students will be required to present their ID for alcohol purchases.

Arrivals: 6pm-6.30pm

Professional Group Photo: 7pm-7.15pm

All students and guests will be required to be seated 7.30pm.

Bookings close: Friday 15 November

House Coordinators will be organising table seating.

## iC NEWS

It's been an amazing term. Term 3 is always our favourite in the library. From author visits to Book Week and all the research in-between, it's been busy and so much fun.

A reminder to return any textbooks that have been finished for the term. Encourage your daughters to come and borrow a collection of books for the holidays. Or to log in and check out a Sora read, you as parents are welcome to use the collection on your device as well (you'll just need to sign in with your child's Merici login). There are magazines, junior books, audio books and adult books, something for everyone.

In preparation for the new carpet over the holidays, the library will only be open before school and during Pastoral Care class, we will close at 9:00am on the last day of term, Friday 27 September.

The iC will not be open on Friday 27<sup>th</sup> September after school.

Yours in reading,

iC Staff

## HPE NEWS

### Sports Tour Christchurch, New Zealand 2025

Building on the recent success of Merici Sports at the local level, we are excited to announce a 7-day tour to New Zealand for our students. This initiative will provide an opportunity to further hone their skills and gameplay while proudly representing our school on an international stage. The tour will immerse students in competitive matches and offer exclusive opportunities to interact with professional players. Additionally, elite coaches will lead specialized training sessions, equipping our teams with advanced knowledge and techniques in their respective sports.

Beyond athletics, the students will also engage with the rich Māori culture and explore the distinctive geography and landscapes unique to New Zealand. Furthermore, the tour will include team building and development activities aimed at strengthening cohesion and fostering a deeper sense of community and school pride.

By offering this multi-sport tour, we aim to cultivate a strong sense of belonging, unity, and Merici pride through shared experiences in sport and competition.

Here is a brief outline:

- Dates - July 5-12, 2025 flying from Canberra - Christchurch
- Where - Christchurch, New Zealand
- What - 1 team from each of the following sports - Netball, Basketball, Soccer, Volleyball. Open to all students in all Year levels.
- How - Students will trial and be selected to travel. Trials held Term 4 2024
- Cost - Approx \$4500 - \$4700

Please click [here](#) to find information presented at the Parent Information Meeting held on Tuesday 17 September. Please register your daughter's interest here, <https://forms.office.com/r/8J92qhHT45> before Friday 27 September.

For all enquiries, please contact Kylie Olsthoorn, HPE Coordinator on email [kylie.olsthoorn@merici.act.edu.au](mailto:kylie.olsthoorn@merici.act.edu.au).

### Sports Points / Angel Hours

Students are eligible to obtain points which accumulate throughout the year and work towards the Merici College Junior and Senior Athlete of the year. These points are also used for students to gain Angel hours and work towards a St. Angela Merici Award.

We need to gather this information in an efficient manner. This year **students** will complete the form and attach their evidence of representation. <https://forms.office.com/r/KqgHTwtZkQ>

Students who have participated in a school team or a gala day team will have these automatically to their points tally. Only those with a Merici email address can respond to the form and add attachments.

If you have any questions please email Ms. Olsthoorn [kylie.olsthoorn@merici.act.edu.au](mailto:kylie.olsthoorn@merici.act.edu.au)

### Year 9 Ascent Training Services – Youth Drive Program

Merici College is proud to offer an opportunity to Year 9 students which will be run by Ascent Training services. This half day program will include a safety workshop, vehicle demonstration and a supervised drive of a dual-control vehicle on a purpose-built track.

The program will include:

- Road safety workshop involving discussion about sharing the road, passing distances for cyclists, fun interactive activities about braking times, the effects of alcohol on driving ability and a road rules quiz
- Vehicle demonstration describing the components of a vehicle, including safety features, general maintenance and tire changing.
- Supervised drive in a dual-control vehicle in a controlled environment to give the students their first experience of driving a vehicle and what is required to do it safely.

This program will take place at Thoroughbred Park, Lyneham.

The course will be run on three occasions:

- 22 November 8:45am-1:00pm
- 25 November 8:45am-1:00pm
- 27 November 8:45am-1:00pm

Parents wishing their daughter to participate in this program will be required to choose the day for their daughter, as reflected on the Compass consent forms.

Students will be required to be in PE uniform and bring a packed lunch on their day. Students will be transported by Merici bus to and from the venue. Please note this day is **optional** and students not attending will continue with their regular classes.

The cost per student will be \$282 for one session and payment is due prior to **1st November**.

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

If you have any questions, please contact Ms. Kylie Olsthoorn, email [kylie.olsthoorn@merici.act.edu.au](mailto:kylie.olsthoorn@merici.act.edu.au).

## LANGUAGES NEWS

### Chinese Gala Day (Tuesday 24 September)

Year 9 Chinese students will be performing at the Chinese Gala Day at Brindabella Christian College in Week 10 this term on Tuesday 24 September from 9.30am to 12.30pm. All students will perform the "Little Apple" dance together, and two students, Grace Shum and Savannah Speirs, will sing a 4-minute Chinese song. All are welcome to attend.

### Italy Study Tour 2024

27 excited Merici girls from Years 10 -12, who study Italian, are embarking on the first Merici Study Tour since the Covid Pandemic. The tour group are heading to Italy on a 21-day tour from Saturday 21 September to Friday 11 October. The group will travel from the north to the south of Italy, visiting some iconic places such as Venice, the Colosseo in Rome to the ruins of Pompeii. Our students and staff are also excited to be visiting and being hosted by two Italian schools, Il Liceo Bagatta in Desenzano on Lake Garda and Il Liceo Fermi in Salo', also on Lake Garda. A big thank-you to the parents who have supported this trip. The group is looking forward to coming back and sharing their stories. Please follow the Merici Instagram account to see daily photos of the tour.

### Chinese Excursion: Nan Tien Temple in Wollongong (Friday 18 October)

Our Year 10 to 11 Chinese language students will be embarking on an educational excursion to Nan Tien Temple, the largest Buddhist temple in the Southern Hemisphere on Friday 18 October. This visit aims to enhance students' understanding of Chinese culture, religion, and language through immersive experience. The excursion covers a guided tour, and 2 cultural activities included Tai Chi and basic Buddhism talk for 3 and half hours.

Please complete the permission note by Monday 30 September which can be found on Compass. Please click [here](#) to find some information on logging into Compass to access permission notes.

## DEFENCE NEWS

The Defence School Mentor is located in the new front office area, behind Student Services. Kate Friend, our Defence School Monitor will be available every recess and lunch (except Wednesdays) in Room 109 in Brescia and students are welcome to drop in. If students need to speak with their DSM during other times, please come to Student Services and ask for Ms Friend. Ms Friend will continue to be at Merici College every day except Wednesdays.

### Upcoming Defence Events

**Week 10, Tuesday 24 September**, Defence Drop In at lunchtime in Room 109. BYO lunch, some snacks are provided.

**Week 11, Tuesday 15 October**, Defence Drop In at lunchtime in Room 109. BYO lunch, some snacks are provided.

Defence families are always welcome to contact your Defence School Mentor (DSM) with any information regarding a new posting or absences impacting your family. [kate.friend@merici.act.edu.au](mailto:kate.friend@merici.act.edu.au) or telephone: 02 6243 4190



## CO-CURRICULAR NEWS

### Duke of Edinburgh - Tomaree Coastal Walk (Thursday 26 September – Sunday 29 September)

Students will be completing a 3 day bushwalk for their Silver/Bronze Duke of Edinburgh's Award hike along the Tamoree Coastal Walk in Tamoree National Park. The students will meet at Merici College at 3.15pm on Thursday 26 September and be driven via school bus to Murray's Bus station to catch the 4.00pm Canberra to Sydney Murrays Bus. Students will spend the first night in Sydney and the next two nights camping along the hike route. They will catch the 5.36pm train from Sydney to Canberra on Sunday 29 September, arriving at Kingston Train Station in Canberra at 9.44pm.

## OTHER NEWS

### ACT Sports Bulletin #15 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.

### 2024 Young Canberra Citizen of the Year Awards Nominations Open (Nominations will be closed in 2 weeks)

The Young Canberra Citizen of the Year Awards (the Awards) is an annual celebration established in 1989.

The Awards are an opportunity to recognise and celebrate individual young people and groups of young people. The Awards shine a light on young people who have made a big personal achievement or been actively involved in the community in areas like community work, sport, education, science, culture, the arts or the environment.



The Awards are supported by the ACT Government and the Award's sponsors, who are committed to recognising the diversity and talent of individuals and groups from a wide range of backgrounds and experiences.

- Young Canberra Citizen of the Year Award - This award is sponsored by Beyond Bank Australia
- Young Achiever Award - This award is sponsored by the ACT Youth Advisory Council
- Personal Achievement Award - This award is sponsored by Anglicare ACT
- Individual Community Service Award - This award is sponsored by Youth InterACT
- Environment and Sustainability Award - This award is sponsored by Ginninderry
- Arts and Multimedia Award - This award is sponsored by the ACT Government
- Group Achievement Award - This award is sponsored by the Australian Catholic University

2024 Young Canberra Citizen of the Year Awards nominations are now open and nominations closing date is 30 September 2024. To apply, go to <https://dhcs.smartygrants.com.au/YCCY2024>.

For further information on the 2024 Young Canberra Citizen of the Year Awards, contact the Office for Youth Engagement Team on [6205 3064](tel:62053064) or via email [youth.interact@act.gov.au](mailto:youth.interact@act.gov.au).

## Sustainable Steps Poster Competition



The Sustainable Schools Program team is pleased to announce their new competition, aimed to provide school students with a voice for sustainable action.

[The Sustainable Steps Poster Competition](#) invites Canberra school students to create a poster that will inspire Canberrans to take a simple action for sustainability.

The competition is open to school students from preschool to Year 8. Entries close on Friday 11 October 2024.

Finalists' posters will be displayed and winners will be announced at the Sustainable Schools Awards in early December 2024. Winners will receive a book prize.

[Find out more](#) and download the [entry form](#).

## Northside Community Service Holiday Program

Please click [here](#) to find information on the Northside Community Service Spring School Holiday Program, for young people aged 12-25.

Please note that registration is required for all activities and spaces are limited. The registration form can be found online on our [website](#). It's quick and easy!

All activities are **FREE!**