



WHAT'S ON NEWSLETTER

Term 3 Weeks 2 and 3 (Monday 25 July – Sunday 7 August)

IMPORTANT INFORMATION

Catholic Education Director's Letter Term 3 - COVID Impact on Schools

Please click [here](#) to find important information from Ross Fox, Director of Catholic Education regarding COVID and its impact on schools throughout Term 3.

Principal's Letter to the Community Term 3

Please click [here](#) to find important information regarding College COVID protocols and events for Term 3.

ACT Pupil Free Days Term 3

Please click [here](#) to find a letter from Ross Fox, Director of Catholic Education, regarding two planning days/pupil free days to be held on Friday 5 August and September 9 September. The letter gives the timing of these planning days. The planning days are pupil free for Years 7-10 students. However, arrangements will be made for the supervision of those students who need to attend school. Further details will be provided well in advance of the days.

Please note that these two pupil free days **do not** apply to Year 11 and 12 students (BSSS and IB) who are required to attend to meet the hour requirements for their courses.

College Registration

The College will be subject to Registration and a School Improvement Review this year. The purpose of this is to monitor compliance with ACT and Commonwealth Education Acts and CECG requirements to ensure schools meet agreed standards, as well as the provision of support from Catholic Education for our school's continuing performance improvement journey.

The dates for Registration are Tuesday 26 July to Thursday 28 July with a panel of eight representatives from Catholic Education visiting the College. There will be mix of presentations, interviews and classroom observations scheduled across these days.

Merici Vinnies Sleepout changed to Hoodie, Oodie & PJs Day (Thursday 4 August)

Due to Catholic Education COVID protocols for Term 3, the Vinnies Sleepout will no longer be held on Thursday 4 August. However, a special 'Hoodie, Oodie & PJs' Day will be held for all students to replace the Sleepout. We are committed to supporting St Vinnie's initiative to raise funds for those who are impacted by homelessness in Canberra and the wider region! Every night, thousands of Australians experience homelessness. But it doesn't have to be that way.

Students are invited to come to school dressed with a hoodie, oodie or pyjamas and will be required to make a donation of \$5.00. All electronic funds will contribute towards a Merici College tally and donated to Vinnies Canberra to support those requiring assistance in our local community (link below). Families are also invited to make a donation to help Mrs Masters reach her target. Donating \$50 can make a huge difference to people who need it most.

Your donation can be made here, <https://www.ceosleepout.org.au/s/12266/51451/e>

Thank you so much for any help you can offer.

SchoolTV

In this edition of SchoolTV - POSITIVE PARENTING

Despite the best efforts of parents around the world, the reality is, there is no such thing as the 'perfect parent'. However, arming yourself with the right information is a good start!



Research shows, that one of the most important protective factors in the lives of young people, is a close relationship with a supportive adult. With the mental health of today's young people being at an all-time low, it is simply not enough to parent effectively. Parents need to familiarise themselves with practical skills, knowledge and strategies when it comes to raising children.

Many parents today are over-protective, resulting in children being less independent, unable to problem-solve or self-regulate. Parents are failing to set clear boundaries, which is unfortunately making kids feeling less secure. There is too much pressure on kids today. Parents fill their days with too many activities in an effort to avoid their child's boredom.

In this edition of SchoolTV, parents will learn what is the best approach for primary and secondary school aged children.

We hope you take time to reflect on the information offered in this edition of SchoolTV and we always welcome your feedback. If you have any concerns about your child, please contact the school counsellor for further information or seek medical or professional help.

Here is the link to the Positive Parenting edition of SchoolTV: <https://merici.act.schooltv.me/newsletter/positive-parenting>.

WHOLE SCHOOL ACTIVITIES

Nationally Consistent Collection of Data on School Students with Disability (NCCD)

Every year, all schools in Australia participate in the Nationally Consistent Collection of Data on School Students with Disability (NCCD). The NCCD process requires schools to identify information already available in the school about supports provided to students with disability. These relate to legislative requirements under the *Disability Discrimination Act 1992* and the *Disability Standards for Education 2005*, in line with the *NCCD guidelines* (2019).

Please click [here](#) to find an information letter for parents. To find out more, please refer to the [Australian Government's Privacy Policy](https://www.education.gov.au/privacy-policy) (<https://www.education.gov.au/privacy-policy>). Further information about the NCCD can be found on the [NCCD Portal](https://www.nccd.edu.au) (<https://www.nccd.edu.au>). If you have any questions about the NCCD, please contact the school.

NCCD Nationally Consistent Collection of Data of School Students with Disability

What is the NCCD?
The NCCD is an annual collection of information about Australian school students with disability.

Information collected:
Year of schooling
Level of adjustment
Broad category of disability

The purpose ...
To ensure that all students with a disability have equal access to education

Annual collection
The NCCD is held each year in every Australian School.
2019: Friday 2 August

Who is involved?
School staff, students and parents / carers.

Where learn more?
Visit the new NCCD Portal www.nccd.edu.au

WHAT WHY HOW WHEN WHERE

Catholic Schools NSW Walking with NSW Catholic Schools on the 2020 NCCD

August Census Collection of Data

Please click [here](#) to find a notice from the Australian Government Department of Education, Skills and Employment outlining the Department's requirement to collect certain information about your child's school, its staff, and student body to be used for the August Census.

Academic Awards Semester 1 2022 (Monday 1 August)

The Academic Awards Ceremony will take place on Monday 1 August. Unfortunately, due to COVID restrictions, we cannot have parents attend onsite but we will be livestreaming the ceremony via <https://merici.college/go/livestream> beginning at 11:30am. Please note that students receiving awards or scholarships will be notified shortly through Pastoral Care groups and correspondence will be emailed home to parents. We are unable to indicate the award your daughter is receiving until the time of the ceremony. Students will be receiving their awards in the Auditorium.

YEARS 7, 8 AND 9 NEWS

Year 8 Retreat (Rescheduled)

Please note that the date of the Year 8 retreat has moved from Wednesday 20 July to Wednesday 17 August. More information to follow.

MISSION AND COMMUNITY

Year 7 Grandparent's Day Postponed (Tuesday 2 August)

It is with regret that we advise that Grandparent's Day has been postponed due to Catholic Education COVID protocols. This special event will be held in Term 4. More information will be communicated to families as arrangements are finalised.

IB NEWS



Event	Date	Audience	Information
Personal Project Draft Feedback	Week 2	Year 10 students	Students should arrange a meeting with their supervisors to discuss their Personal Project draft reports and receive feedback to implement before their final submission
Personal Project Final Report Submission	Wednesday 3 rd August, Week 3	Year 10 students	Report, Academic Honesty Form and Bibliography to be submitted separately to SEQTA by 4pm.

A huge congratulations to the MYP class of 2022 completing their major project this year! Watch this space for the celebration and exhibition of the year 10 students' amazing projects in Term 4.

Approaches to Learning (ATLs) in Maths



MYP unit: Money, products and data

Skill cluster: Social skills

Specific Skill: Negotiate effectively.

For Year 8 in Semester 2, we have decided to focus on “negotiating effectively” as this relates to the real-world context of money and global trade – two areas of direct interest during this Unit. Furthermore, “negotiating” is going to be a skill used and reflected upon in one of their assessment items during the Semester. Students began developing their negotiating skills by using the L.I.S.T.E.N tool. This acronym is a list of tips for students to keep in mind when they are struggling to work with others.

- **L**ook and **L**isten (make eye contact, watch for body language)
- **I**nquire and find **I**nformation (ask questions about what the other person said)
- **S**ummarise (what did someone else say?)
- **T**ake a breath (when you speak, don't talk too much)
- **E**ncourage and show **E**mpathy (think about someone else's feelings)
- **N**eutralise your feelings (be open to new opinions and ideas)

Students began with some games focused on developing specific negotiating skills in interpreting body language and showing empathy in interpreting the feelings of other.



SCIENCE NEWS

Upcoming Science Competitions

In the coming weeks, a number of Merici students will be participating in several challenging science competitions. Students nominated themselves in Term 2 and have been registered by the College.

The dates and times of the competition are as follows:

- International Chemistry Quiz (Years 7-12): Thursday 28 July, 11am-12:15 pm, Room C1/C2.
- Australian Junior Science Olympiad (Years 7-10): Friday 29 July, 10:50am-1:10pm, iC computer lab
- Australian Biology Olympiad (Years 10-12): Thursday 4 August, 10:50am-1:10pm, iC computer lab
- Australian Chemistry Olympiad and Australian Earth and Environmental Science Olympiad (Years 10-12): Monday 8 August, 10:50am-1:10pm, iC computer lab

If your daughter is registered, she should be able to see the competition show up on her SEQTA timetable. Please get in touch with Dr White for any extra information about the competitions at email kathryn.white@merici.act.edu.au.

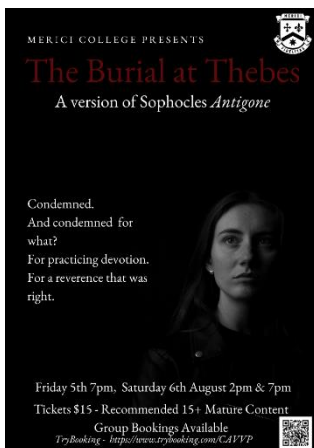
CREATIVE AND PERFORMING ARTS

The Burial at Thebes: A version of Sophocles' Antigone (Friday 5 August, Saturday 6 August)

Merici College proudly presents *The Burial at Thebes: A version of Sophocles' Antigone* which is a play by Irish Nobel laureate Seamus Heaney, based on the fifth century BC tragedy Antigone by Sophocles.

The play tells how Antigone, the daughter of Oedipus, gives her brother, the traitor Polyneices, a form of ritual burial (she scatters his corpse with dust) against the explicit instructions of her uncle, King Creon, and the advice of her sister, Ismene, even though she knows that the consequence will be her death.

Recommended 15+ Mature Content, limited seating due to COVID requirements.



Performances: Friday 5 August 7pm, Saturday 6 August 2pm and 7pm

Venue: Merici College Auditorium, Wise Street, Braddon, ACT, 2612

Tickets: \$15 per person, Groups of 8: \$12.50 per person

Tickets on sale now at <https://www.trybooking.com/CAVVP>.



Online E-tickets are also available for purchase: \$5 per person. On sale now at <https://www.trybooking.com/CBHGP>.

iC NEWS



We've begun the term with a *Christmas in July* display. The books are wrapped up with only a genre sticker to indicate the type of book. Students are invited to borrow a mystery book to read over the next few weeks.

Term 3 is the time where we celebrate the Children's Book Council Awards (CBCA). Book Week will be held in Week 6, 22-26th August. Throughout this term we delve into the short list of awarded picture books. Once a fortnight, during junior (year 7 -10) English classes, we will be exploring the shortlisted books for all categories: older readers, younger readers, picture books, early childhood, and The Crichton Award for new illustrators. Reading and sharing a picture book and novel are a beautiful way to celebrate stories, discuss a message and appreciate the illustrations and written word.

The theme of this year's Book Week is *Dreaming with eyes open*. Over the coming weeks we will share the activities for Book Week.

You are never too old for a picture book!

iC staff



DEFENCE NEWS

Birrigai Excursion Cancelled

Unfortunately our Birrigai Excursion has been postponed indefinitely. We are hopeful for this to be rescheduled once the COVID restrictions are eased. The refund process has been emailed to families who paid for the excursion. If you haven't received this information, please contact Kate Friend.

Week 2 Catch Up

Thursday 28 July, all year groups. Lunch time drop into Room 222 for a warm spot to eat your lunch and grab a snack.

Week 3 Catch Up

Lunch will be provided this week on Thursday 4 August, all year groups. Invitations to be emailed shortly, please RSVP with dietary requirements to Ms Friend by Wednesday 3 August.

Families are always welcome to contact Kate with any questions or to update family deployment information. Kate.friend@merici.act.edu.au or phone 02 6243 4190.

OTHER NEWS

DonateLife Week (Sunday 24 July – Sunday 3 July)

DonateLife Week (DLW) 2022 starts this Sunday (Sunday 24 July – Sunday 3 July). We are excited to share what is planned to raise awareness of organ and tissue donation in the ACT for [The Great Registration Race](#), the official DLW theme. Join us in the ACT as we race to encourage 100,000 more Australians to register on the Australian Organ Donor Register (AODR).



We know 4 in 5 Australians support donation, yet there are around 13 million Australians aged 16+ who are eligible to register as an organ and tissue donor – but haven't yet.

For around 1,750 Australians currently on the organ transplant waitlist, it can be a matter of life and death. There are also an additional 13,000 people on dialysis who may benefit from a kidney transplant. For others, an eye or other tissue transplant is a path to a greatly improved quality of life. That's why, this year, our message is 'don't delay, join the Great Registration Race today'.

The supporter kit has information about how you can get involved in The Great Registration Race for DLW.

[Download our supporter kit](#)

<http://www.donatelife.gov.au/sites/default/files/2022-07/DonateLife%20Week%202022%20supporter%20kit.pdf>

DonateLife ACT values its past and present volunteers and the invaluable support you provide to us. If you would like to participate in The Great Registration Race for DLW 2022 or in any way throughout the year, please let us know, we are always very happy to hear from you. Feel free to contact the DonateLife ACT Team via email or phone at organ.donation@act.gov.au or 02 5124 5625.

ANU School of Music Opportunities for Students

The School of Music currently have two opportunities for students aged 12 – 21. The first is a contemporary songwriting and performance program with Kirklandd, which runs on Monday evenings from 5:30pm-7pm and is completely free. More details can be found here: <https://music.cass.anu.edu.au/songwriting-hip-hop-performance>

The second is an opportunity for a drummer to join our DMP Jazz program (Wednesday 5:30pm-6.30pm ensemble). DMP jazz ensembles meet for 14 weeks per semester, and the cost is \$135 per semester. For more information or to apply, students can email: openschoolofmusic@anu.edu.au

Alliance Of Girls' Schools Australasia (AGSA)

This term the Alliance has more exciting events coming up for our community.

[Engaging girls in sport – the opportunities and challenges | WEBINAR PANEL](#)

A panel discussion on how schools can keep girls engaged in sport throughout their schooling, the long term benefits of consistent sports participation, and innovative tools to improve the sports experience for students, parents and staff.

DATE: 9 August 2022

TIME: 12.00 pm to 1.00 pm (AEST)

This is a FREE webinar for members.

[REGISTER HERE](#)

Latest evidence on improving body image in adolescent girls (and their mothers) | WEBINAR

Director of Student Counselling at Brisbane Girls Grammar School, Jody Forbes and body image, mental health and wellbeing expert Dr Zali Yager will present research into body image in adolescent girls.

DATE: 17 August 2022

TIME: 12.30 pm to 1.00 pm (AEST)

This is a FREE webinar for members.

[REGISTER HERE](#)

L-Platers: How to help our girls on the road to adulthood - with Madonna King | WEBINAR

Author Madonna King shares insights gained from researching her latest book 'L-Platers' looking at experiences and perspectives of older teenage girls.

DATE: 22 August 2022

TIME: 12.30 pm to 1.30 pm (AEST)

This is a FREE webinar for members.

[REGISTER HERE](#)

UPCOMING NEWS (Weeks 4 and 5)

Upcoming events will be advised.