



WHAT'S ON NEWSLETTER

Term 4 Weeks 6 and 7 (Monday 13 November – Sunday 26 November)

IMPORTANT NEWS

2024 School Term Dates

Term 1 Commences: Wednesday 31 January (Years 7, 11, 12, new students), Thursday 1 February (Years 8, 9, 10) Ends: Friday 12 April	Term 3 Commences: Tuesday 23 July Ends: Friday 27 September
Term 2 Commences: Tuesday 30 April Ends: Friday 5 July	Term 4 Commences: Tuesday 15 October Ends: Friday 6 December

School Fees reminder

The end of the school year is fast approaching, and it is time to have your school fees all up to date. Term 4 school fees were due for payment last Friday 3 November 2023.

If you haven't already done so, we would appreciate if you could please settle any outstanding fees as soon as possible. This does not apply to those families who have direct debit arrangements in place.

If you are experiencing any financial difficulties or would like to discuss your fee account please contact our Finance Manager, Jodi Wrenford at fees.office@merici.act.edu.au or call 6243 4108 to discuss the options that are available to you.

Merici College ... Our Catalyst Journey

Please click in the below link to find a video with some of our dedicated staff, students and parents reflecting on our Catalyst Journey. At Merici College, we are proud of the positive impact evidence-based teaching practice is having in the classrooms.

<https://catalyst.cg.catholic.edu.au/news/catalysts-impact-at-merici-college-braddon/>

Save the Date – Merici College 65th Anniversary Ball



Next year, Merici College will celebrate 65 years since first opening its doors in 1959. To celebrate this milestone, a 65th Anniversary Ball will be held on Saturday 1 June 2024. Arrangements are currently being planned and more information will be sent to the community, but please put this date in your diaries to save the date.

WHOLE SCHOOL ACTIVITIES

Christmas Movie Night (Wednesday 22 November)

'Over the last year, the cost of living crisis has become increasingly dire as prices continue to soar and inflation is at some of the highest levels we've seen since the early 1990's...More and more people are so desperate to survive, they just don't have the resources to think about Christmas. How can they begin to dream of buying the little extras that make Christmas so special when they can't even afford to pay the bills?' (Source: St Vincent De Paul Society, 2023).

For many families experiencing poverty and financial hardship across Australia, the festive season is a time of uncertainty and anxiety. The Vinnies Christmas appeal collects donations of gifts, non-perishable foods and money to bring Christmas joy into the lives of those who are struggling.

To address this need in our community, Merici will be hosting a Christmas Movie Night for students, where all funds will go towards the Vinnies Christmas Appeal.

When: Wednesday, 22 November, 5:00pm-8:00pm

Where: Auditorium

Cost: \$10 (cash or EFTPOS) on arrival OR physical donation for Vinnie's Christmas appeal hampers (see donation guide attached for ideas)

Food: Pizza and popcorn provided

What to wear: Christmas pyjamas, Christmas outfit, or something comfy

What to bring: Pillows, blankets + extra snacks (optional)

Please click [here](#) to find the permission note and donation guide. Please note that gifts must be new and unwrapped. For more information on the Vinnies Christmas Appeal, please visit this website: <https://donate.vinnies.org.au/christmas-kindness#Donation>.

Permission notes must be filled out and sent to Mrs Ros Parisi (email ros.parisi@mericia.act.edu.au) by NO LATER than Wednesday 15 November.

This is being organised as our CAS project to meet our IB Diploma Programme requirements. We hope to see as many students as possible attend!

2023 Sports Awards (Thursday 23 November)

We are pleased to advise that the annual Sports Award night is scheduled to take place on Thursday, 23 November 2023 in the Merici College Auditorium from 5:00pm until approximately 7:30pm.

The evening recognises the achievements and success of those who have participated in sport, as well as those students who have excelled at sport and represented in both State and National teams.

An invitation is extended to all our students and families to attend. This year of *Communitas*, we are encouraging the larger community to attend, not just the award winners. We will be sending out specific invitations to the families of students receiving major awards.

The evening will begin at 5:00pm with canapes and drinks in the Auditorium foyer. We will then proceed into the Auditorium for the formal presentation of awards.

RSVP essential at <https://events.humanitix.com/merici-college-sports-award-ceremony> by Friday 17 November.



CAPA Showcase and P&F Committee Christmas Family Picnic (Friday 24 November)

An invitation is extended to all our Merici family and friends to attend our Creative and Performing Arts (CAPA) Showcase and P&F Christmas Family Picnic to be held jointly on Friday 24 November at 5:00pm-8:00pm in the Indigenous Garden, Merici College.

Our students are looking very forward to showcasing their outstanding work of visual art works and performance pieces. Our P&F Committee is currently organising Christmas hamper raffles and lots more to raise much needed funds for the Vinnies Christmas Appeal.

BYO food and drinks **OR** order BBQ dinner online at <https://events.humanitix.com/p-and-f-christmas-family-picnic>. Dinner orders close on Friday 17 November and guests will not be able to purchase food items directly on the day.

Online dinner menu:

BBQ 2 Sausage Sandwich with drink \$10
BBQ 2 Sausage Sandwich without drink \$8
Steak Sandwich with drink \$10
Steak Sandwich without drink \$8
Vegie Burger with drink \$10
Vegie Burger without drink \$8

We are reaching out to community members for assistance in any donations that you may be able to provide for our Christmas Hampers. We would welcome gift vouchers, goods, services, any items that can be added to hampers (such as products, jams, kitchen items, picnic, BBQ items, wine, chocolates etc.). In appreciation of your support, you and/or your business will be acknowledged and your logo displayed on our school website and social media platforms. All funds raised from the raffles will be donated to the Vinnies Christmas Appeal.

Please do not hesitate to contact Ros Parisi, ros.parisi@merici.act.edu.au for any further information. Donations can be dropped off at the Front Office.



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 more information about counselling at Merici, please access the Counsellors Corner on our website at <https://www.merici.act.edu.au/building-futures/counsellors-corner>.

We are very happy to announce that Merici College is back to having two school counsellors. Xian's working days are Monday, Tuesday, Thursday and Friday. Chelsea will be available five days per week for the remainder

of Term 4. If you would like to get in contact with the school counsellors you can send through any enquires through to counsellors@merici.act.edu.au.

"Hi all, my name is Xian, and I am super excited to be joining the Merici Student Counselling team with Chelsea! I am a registered psychologist and have worked across different spaces including primary schools, Employee Assistance Program and most recently, NDIS.



I'm thrilled to be back in a school setting and am looking forward to supporting the wellbeing and positive learning experiences of the Merici community. My working days will be Monday, Tuesday, Thursday, and Friday. If you're around my office, please pop by and say hello and thank you to everyone I've met so far who have given me a very warm welcome."

Chelsea and Xian, Merici School Counsellors

ACADEMIC COORDINATOR

Upcoming Parent Webinar for parents – *How to Help Your Child Alleviate Stress*

We're excited to announce that Elevate Education's next free webinar will be taking place on Wednesday 8 November.

Elevate Education works with our students, delivering high impact workshops on study skills, motivation, wellbeing, and exam preparation. By tuning into their webinar series you will learn how you can help better support your children at home through reinforcing the skills they learn at school:

Wednesday 8 November @ 6:30pm (AEDT)

How to Help Your Child Alleviate Stress

[Click here to register for free](#)

In this webinar Elevate will be showing parents:

- ✓ How to spot your child's stress symptoms early
- ✓ How to start a conversation about emotional wellbeing
- ✓ Techniques your child can use to self-manage stress

YEARS 7, 8 AND 9 NEWS

International Arts and Culture Day (Wednesday 29 November)

The Arts and Languages staff at Merici College will be organising International Arts and Culture Day taking place on Wednesday 29 November. This is an experience for all students in Years 7 and 8.

We would like to invite those in our community to contribute to the day and share their culture with our junior students. We are seeking parents and/or senior students to run 50 minute workshops after lunch suitable for a group of 25-30 students, with the assistance of a Merici teacher.

As an IB school we value the development of intercultural awareness and international mindedness in our students. The purpose of the day is for students to develop new skills and knowledge about the arts and cultural practices in different places around the world.

If you have an artistic or cultural practice or knowledge from your cultural heritage that you would like to share with the Merici community, please contact the Languages Coordinator (clare.freeman@merici.act.edu.au) and

the Creative and Performing Arts Coordinator (alison.fogarty@merici.act.edu.au) to find out more and discuss the possibility of running a workshop. We would love to hear from you!

YEARS 10, 11 AND 12 NEWS

Year 10-12 Exams BSSS

Exams for Years 10-12 will be held on the following dates:

- Year 10 – Thursday 9 November - Friday 10 November
- Years 11 & 12 – Monday 13 November – Friday 17 November

Students have been emailed their individual exam timetable so that they are aware of what exams they have and when they are scheduled. Exams will take place in the Auditorium. Students with special considerations have been emailed about the location of their exams.

Students in Years 11 & 12 are only required to be at school when they have exams. Students should remain at home outside of their exams. Students are not required to wear school uniform for their exams, comfortable clothing is recommended.

Year 11 and 12 BSSS End of Year Dates and Deadlines

Please click [here](#) to find the key dates and deadlines for all Year 11 and 12 BSSS students for the end of the year. Please carefully go through this list with your daughter to ensure that they are clear on what is required.

Of note, is that their last day of school is Monday 20 November. The girls are not required to attend school after this date.

For Year 12 students, they will need to attend the College to collect their legal documentation (Year 12 Certificate, transcripts and VET Certificates) on Wednesday 13 December. Information about this process will be sent to the students via email next week.

Year 12 Graduation Day (Tuesday 28 November)

We are excited to announce the following Year 12 Graduation events to be held on one day, Tuesday 28 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)
- Year 12 Graduation Dinner and Awards Ceremony – 6:00pm (Year 12 students and immediate family members - maximum 4 guests per family includes Year 12 student – no partners). The dinner will be held at Ainslie Football Club, Majura Room, 52 Wakefield Ave, Ainslie.

Please note that no bookings are required for your attendance at the Graduation Mass at St Christopher's Cathedral.

Graduation Dinner Tickets: Three tickets have already been paid through 2023 school fees. If you would like a fourth family member to attend, please purchase a ticket.

Cost: \$65 pp (3 course meal, includes non-alcoholic beverages only)

Tickets: <https://events.humanitix.com/year-12-graduation-dinner-and-awards-ceremony>.

Bookings close 13 November 2023.



Year 12 Formal (Friday 1 December)

The Year 12 Formal will be held on Friday 1 December 2023 at the Canberra Rex Hotel, 150 Northbourne Avenue, Braddon.

Ticket price: \$150pp (3 course meal and soft drinks).

Bookings: <https://events.humanitix.com/merici-college-year-12-formal> (close Friday 17 November)

This invitation is extended to Year 12 parents, as well as one accompanying guest per student.

Please note the following requirements:

- Arrival: 6:00pm-6:45pm.

*Please click [here](#) to find the **arrivals road map** for entry and exit into carpark. All arrivals to occur from Henty Street, drive into the side carpark and directly to the front of the hotel, exit onto Northbourne Avenue. No arrival entry will be allowed from Northbourne Avenue. Parents and carers are most welcome to park at the College.*

- The Year 12 Group Photo will be taken at 7:00pm.
- Students and partners must bring photo ID.
- Students who arrive intoxicated or under the influence of alcohol will be sent home.
- A cash bar will be available to purchase alcohol for persons over the age of 18. These students will be issued with a wristband by their House Coordinator upon entry. Students can purchase a maximum of one drink at a time from the bar. Please note that under-age guests caught drinking will unfortunately be asked to leave the venue. Vaping and smoking are prohibited inside the premises.
- House Coordinators will be organising seating arrangements in consultation with Year 12 students.

Please click [here](#) to find the formal invitation for your information and we look forward to celebrating this very special occasion with you.

HPE NEWS

Year 10-12 Swim Teacher Australia Qualification

Merici College is proud to offer a new opportunity to students who are 16 years and over. Students have the opportunity to gain a qualification as a Swim teacher. The Swim Teacher Australia certificate will be run from Monday 4 December – Wednesday 6 December. Students will then need to complete 20 hours with a swim teacher in order to gain their qualification. These 20 hours can be completed through Aquatots who have locations in Gold Creek, Forde and Googong. Once that has been completed the successful students will gain a certificate of Attainment with the competence and knowledge to teach swimming and water safety to independent learners in groups of varying sizes.

The course will be delivered by Rhiannon Kocmar who was recently named Swim Australia Teacher of the Year 2023. She has also just been appointed as the National Education Officer for Swim Australia.


This entry level course features:

- Best practice blended learning delivery
- Online login enabling some self-paced theory study
- Practical sessions working with an industry provider and a primary school.

Students will complete theory components and CPR on Monday 4 December at Merici College. Tuesday 5 December and Wednesday 6 December will be based at Aquatots Gold Creek.

The cost for this course has been discounted for us and will be \$260.

For additional information have a look at these websites www.scta.org.au and/or www.swimaustralia.org.au.

Students will be required to complete the permission form to register their details.  [Swim Aust Qual Merici Letter & Consent.docx](#) before Monday 20 November.

For further information, please do not hesitate to contact Kylie Olsthoorn, HPE Coordinator on email kylie.olsthoorn@merici.act.edu.au.

Year 9 Driver Safety Training Program Consent and Payment (27 November – 5 December)

Merici College is proud to offer a new 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 and general maintenance.
- 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 Fairbairn Hill Climb Circuit, Sutton Road, near Queanbeyan.

The course will be run on four occasions:

- 27 November 8:45am-1:00pm
- 28 November 11:00am-3:00pm
- 29 November 8:45am-1:00pm
- 5 December 8:45am-1:00pm

Students will be allocated one day on which they will attend, they will be required to be in PE uniform and bring a packed lunch on their day. Students will be transported by 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 \$254 and payment is due prior to **Monday 20 November**. Once students have paid, they will be allocated a specific day to attend.

A credit card payment slip can be found in the letter of consent found [here](#). Please return the slip and the consent form to Kylie Olsthoorn, email kylie.olsthoorn@merici.act.edu.au.

Additional to this course, Year 9 students will also be attending a heavy vehicle demonstration during Period 6 on Tuesday 5 December which will include a presentation and an opportunity to explore some different heavy vehicles.

Year 9 Road Ready Pre-Learner Licence Training Course

Merici College will be offering the Road Ready Pre-Learner Licence Training Course to eligible students on 1 December and 4 December. There is no cost for this course, and it will be facilitated by the HPE faculty.

Students who are 15 years or older on 4 December this year and live in the ACT are eligible for this. Once completed the Pre-Learner Licence Training Course is **valid for 1 year**.

The ACT Government has developed this Pre-Learner Licence Training Course (PLLC) for people who wish to apply for a learner licence (L-Plates). The Pre-Learner Licence Training Course educates new drivers about safe driving practices and ACT road rules. A person must successfully complete the course to be issued with an ACT learner licence.

Merici College will run this Road Ready Course on **Friday 1 December and Monday 4 December** from **8.45am – 3:00pm**. Students must complete both days and pass the test.

Please click on the link below to register your interest in completing the Road Ready course 2023. **Registrations close Friday 24 November**. Details regarding any pre-course work will be sent out to all registered participants in due course.

Link to register: <https://forms.office.com/r/Cj20ZxFhJg>

If you would like to start practicing for the test now, please follow the link below:

<https://safeplatestesting.act.gov.au/c/spt?a=apps&ap=mobikt&m=about>

If you have any questions, please contact Kylie Olsthoorn, HPE Coordinator on email kylie.olsthoorn@merici.act.edu.au.

IB NEWS



Key Dates

This is a list of some key dates for IB Year 11 students.

Event	Date	Information
Exam Week	13-17 November	Students will only need to attend school for their exams. Usual classes will not run during this week. Non-school uniform may be worn.

iC NEWS

The *iC* staff make a point of creating appealing displays about the events or tasks going on around the school. For Remembrance Day, in the display cabinets outside the *iC* there will be items from the loan Box from The Australian War Memorial, to complement inside the *iC* we have a display of the books available on that topic. Encourage your daughter to browse the latest displays.

As we near the end of the term, the biggest task is going to be chasing textbooks and overdue library resources. This is especially true for the seniors and Year 10 students as they finish up very soon. This week students will be emailed a list of the textbooks they have out in their name. We are seeking your help and support to check all areas of the home, school bags and lockers to locate and return all school resources. Students can check their account by logging into Oliver through SEQTA, the drop down on their name, shows their current loans.

Any problems please be in touch by email: library@merici.act.edu.au.

iC staff



DEFENCE NEWS

Thank you to the families who have communicated their change in posting or deployment information. You are welcome to contact myself any time, Kate.friend@merici.act.edu.au or phone 02 6243 4190.

Good luck to those who are posting out of Canberra and if you need any information or support before you depart, please let me know. I will be here at school until Thursday 14 December.

Students are always welcome into the Defence Office whenever I am there! Look through the glass door, knock and come in.

Kate Friend, Defence School Mentor

Week 6

Tuesday 14 November, Lunchtime Catch Up

Pop into Room 222 for a snack and a catch up with Defence friends. BYO lunch.

Week 7

Tuesday 21 November, Lunchtime Catch Up

Pop into Room 222 for a snack and a catch up with Defence friends. BYO lunch.

CO-CURRICULAR NEWS

Dance Troupe Performances

We welcome our community to come along and support our Dance Troupers at the Holy Spirit Parish Fete to be held on Saturday 25 November at 12:00pm.

OTHER NEWS

Yowani Junior Bowls Academy

Looking for something to do? Why not try lawn bowls?

Let's face it, not all children enjoy participating in body contact sports eg football, netball and the like.

Lawn Bowls provides an alternative pastime for children to exercise their minds and bodies, at the same time relieving the social pressures of modern technology!

The Academy is looking for young people aged 8- 18 years old who would like to give lawn bowls a go.

Lawn Bowls presents an opportunity to participate in a healthy, outdoors activity that will last a lifetime. On the way, long lasting friendships, lifestyle and bowls skills will flourish. Junior bowlers starting now are the champions of the future.

Yowani Junior Bowls Academy, located at 544 Northbourne Ave, Lyneham ACT (opposite Tram Stop/lights at Swinden St), is pleased to invite boys and girls to an introductory Junior Bowls Camp on Monday 11 December 2023, 4:00pm – 6:30pm. A follow- up Camp is scheduled for Tuesday – Wednesday, 16 – 17 January 2024 9:30am – 12:00pm.

Bowls Australia Accredited Coach and bowls supplied, flat soled shoes preferable (runners) and hat/cap. No payment required.

Please contact Phillip Beggs 0409 392 758 or email pbeggs@tpg.com.au for details.