



WHAT'S ON NEWSLETTER

Term 4 Weeks 8 and 9 (Monday 28 November – Friday 9 December)

IMPORTANT INFORMATION

School Dates 2023

Term 1:	Term 2:	Term 3:	Term 4:
Tuesday 31 January: Year 7, Year 11, Year 12 and new students Wednesday 1 February: Year 8, Year 9 and Year 10 Finish: Thursday 6 April	Wednesday 26 April - Friday 30 June	Tuesday 18 July - Friday 22 September	Monday 9 October - Friday 8 December

COVID Smart Measures

NSW and ACT Health recently advised that they are starting to see a rise in COVID-19 transmissions within the community, with a peak of cases expected in early December. COVID-smart measures continue to be in place and are vital in allowing us to keep our schools operational while prioritising student and staff wellbeing. These measures include:

- staying home if unwell and/or showing any symptoms
- mask-wearing strongly encouraged, particularly when indoors and/or when physical distancing is not possible, and on public transport
- continued mandatory mask-wearing for anyone working with students at greater risk of serious illness whether they are in specialist centres, support unit or mainstream classroom
- using rapid antigen tests (RATs) when showing symptoms or exposed to COVID-19
- encouraging all students, staff, and families to keep up to date with their vaccinations, including COVID-19 booster shots if eligible.

Rapid antigen tests are available from the Student Services office for student use.

Staff News 2023

As the end of the year nears, we would like to share with you some staff news:

Resignations at the end of 2022

Lee Hennequin: Lee leaves Merici after 22 years. She will be retiring at the end of this year, having started employment in January 2000 in the role of Student Administrative Officer/Computer Administrator. Over the years of her employment, Lee's areas of responsibilities were varied, from providing assistance primarily to the Deputy Principal (Teaching and Learning) to meet the assessment and reporting requirements of the College, to assisting teachers to use the SEQTA Reporting Program.

Lee also provided College Timetable support, software management to collect student subject choices and assisted in the administration of the major semester exams and Parent/Teacher interviews administrative support.

Gillian Dingley: Gillian has been an extremely well-known staff member amongst students and families. Gillian will be retiring at the end of 2022. She commenced employment here in Term 2, 2009 in the role of Student Services and Attendance Officer. Gillian has efficiently and effectively managed the Student Services Office. This has included general day-to-day support to teaching staff, assistance to the student cohort, administrative support for attendance, first aid, excursions, immunisations, lost property. The list goes on and on...

Brooke Wood: Brooke has recently announced that she will be moving from Merici after 14 years. Brooke has taught Health and Physical Education, Sport and Recreation, Sports Science and Religious Education. She was also involved in the establishment of the Fitness Club back in 2010 and was a House Coordinator in 2011, 2012 and 2013. Brooke is looking forward to exploring opportunities that sit outside of teaching to continue with her personal growth and development across a broad range of areas. She is currently working as a HR consultant in the AFP.

Phil Coe: Phil leave Merici after 12 years of exceptional service. Phil began at Merici in October 2010, initially teaching Media & Maths having returned from teaching in central London for 4 years. In 2015, he was successful in gaining the position of Head of Senior School, responsible for the academic care of all students in Years 10, 11 and 12 a role that he transformed and made his own. In 2017 he was appointed as Deputy Principal, responsible for Pastoral Care & Staffing, undertaking this role until 2022 when his focus become more closely related to administration and compliance.

Phil has taught a range of subjects over the years include Mathematics (Senior & Junior), Senior Business Studies, Information Technology, Media and Economics & Business. There was nothing that Phil couldn't teach (maybe not Music).

Over the last 5 years, staff have been amazed at his ability to use data for the improvement of teacher's knowledge of our students. Phil's legendary student data sheets presented at the beginning of each year have continued to amaze teachers. It is with sincere regret that we farewell Mr. Phil Coe who has accepted a position at St. Clare's College in 2023.

Giles Thompson: Giles came to Merici right after finishing his Graduate Diploma. He was working as a tutor and a lab tech and an GIS engineering firm. He commenced work at Merici in 2013. Giles has taught Senior Biology, Chemistry, Physics, and IT, Junior Science, IT/Digital Technology, Engineering, Maths. He has also assisted in the Duke of Ed program and Gaming Group. Giles will be working as a data science and trainer in the Federal public service.

Trish Young: Trish commenced employment at Merici in January 2020. She taught Hospitality, Food Technology and Photography. Trish also coached Merici AFL teams for at least 6 years and travelled to Darwin, Sydney and Melbourne with the ACT School girls' team. She was also the ACT Under 18 Assistant Coach, the year they defeated the NSW team. Trish also worked with the girls to win the Teen Chef competition three years in a row and contributed regularly to the College's 'Cooking For Others' program, making hundreds of meals for Karinya House and Oz Harvest (formerly Yellow Van). She coordinated over 200 after-school functions, including Bridge Restaurants, Stella Bella balls, Father's Day dinners, Alumni Soirees, staff farewells, International Women's Day events, Catholic Education award nights and Support Staff recognition dinners, Year 10 Socials and High Teas, to name just a few.

Karen Mahony: Karen departs Merici having started with us in 2021. Karen will likely continue with us undertaking some relief work in 2023.

Kate Wiseman-Taylor: Kate has been working at Merici in varying contract positions, teaching Food Technology, Textiles, Religious Education Geography, Visual Arts and most recently, Hospitality. Kate is planning to relocate to Northern New South Wales and we wish her well for the future.

Appointments

We welcome the following staff members for 2023:

- PE Coordinator: Kylie Olsthoorn
- Literacy Coordinator: Nicole Commins
- RE Teacher: Bianca Porcheddu
- RE Teacher & Indigenous Officer: Alyssa Markmann
- Languages Teacher: Tina Rodriguez
- Languages Teacher: Giuseppe Battaglia
- Hospitality: Jasmine Pitts
- Maths Teacher: Michael Lewthwaite
- Science: Katherine Morris
- Science: Vicki Goss

Long Service Leave/Leave

- Kathryn White
- Amy Connellan

P&F Committee Membership Vacancies

The P&F Committee is currently seeking two positions to be filled. The purpose of the P&F Committee is to build community; to engage and connect parents, carers and friends of the College; and to support the College's vision, mission and purpose. Please click [here](#) to find the P&F Committee Charter. Membership on the Committee is for a minimal of one year and a maximum of three years.

We are seeking expressions of interest from our parent community, especially from our 2023 Year 7 families, for the following positions:

- Parent Volunteer
- Parent Volunteer

Please email your expression of interest for membership on the Committee by Friday 2 December to ros.parisi@merici.act.edu.au. Please indicate on your email your daughter/s names and the Year group she/they are currently enrolled in. Please also indicate areas where you feel your skills could contribute to the community.

SchoolTV

We hope our families are finding SchoolTV a helpful resource. The purpose of SchoolTV is to provide parents and carers with up to date and credible information on issues affecting teenagers and their well-being. You can access SchoolTV here, <https://merici.act.schooltv.me/category-latest-newsletter>.

Counsellor's Corner – Holidays

It is hard to believe that we are in the final weeks of the 2022 school year, and the festive season is knocking on our door! All students, families, teaching, and support staff have had a challenging year as we have navigated ongoing COVID related stress, full time face to face learning, rescheduled camps, teacher absences and unseasonably cold weather – just to name a few. It has been inspiring to see the determination of our students continue to show up for themselves and others and regularly apply themselves.

Despite being new to the College this year, I feel honoured to have gotten to know so many of the incredible students that attend Merici, and I am grateful for the broader school community for accepting me into your lives and making me feel so welcome. I am excited to welcome our new Year 7 cohort for 2023 and look forward to broadening my relationship with our continuing students while working to enhance student wellbeing and positive learning outcomes.

Read full article [here](#).

Extended Uniform Shop Hours January 2023

We are pleased to advise that the Merici College Uniform Shop will be offering extended hours during the January 2023 school holidays to meet your uniform requirements.

If you wish to visit the shop for a fitting, the extended hours are as follows:

1. Wednesday 18 January 2023 9am - 3pm by appointment
2. Thursday 19 January 2023 9am – 3pm by appointment
3. Friday 20 January 2023 9am – 2pm No appointment needed.

We have good supply of stock, with a broad size selection of all garments in readiness for new orders. We are confident all orders can be immediately filled, we also encourage families to book early.

Parents are strongly encouraged to use the online ordering system as the preferred option for supply, including part orders for Click and Collect. Garments can be returned due to incorrect sizes but please ensure that items have not been worn and tags attached.

Here is the link to order online:

For new families: <https://outlook.office365.com/owa/calendar/UniformShop@merici.onmicrosoft.com/bookings/>

For current families: <https://pay.merici.act.edu.au/mymonitor/>

Please click [here](#) to find the school uniform price list as at November 2022.

Please contact Susan Anderson with any enquiries at shop@merici.act.edu.au.

schooltv.me™
AVAILABLE NOW AT YOUR SCHOOL
Featuring Dr Michael Carr-Gregg

CONNECTING • INFORMING • EMPOWERING

Essential information for modern day parenting
SchoolTV offers parents a fresh approach to the growing issues and pressures faced by Australian youth. SchoolTV is a unique online resource delivering powerful and credible information to empower parents with the skills to address these issues and raise happy, well and resilient kids.
The purpose of SchoolTV is to provide a single resource for parents, about a specific topic, to streamline reputable information from leading specialists. Content is based around major topics of influence and is delivered via a series of videos presented by leading youth health specialists, Dr Michael Carr-Gregg.
SchoolTV is available via mobile, tablet and desktop and is designed especially for Australian schools.

SchoolTV will be presented as a monthly e-newsletter which will be emailed to you from your school and/or accessible via your school's website. Each month a new topic will be presented and introduced by Dr Michael Carr-Gregg.
Some topics will include:
• Youth Anxiety
• Depression
• Digital Addiction
• Screen Addiction
• Drug and Alcohol use
• Cyberbullying
• Social Networking
• Self-harm and Suicide
Credible and independent information presented by leading experts such as Professor Ian Hickie, Professor Pat McGorry and Dr Li Li Scott.
Want to know more?
Go to www.schooltv.me or contact your school's IT support team for more information.

Snapshot of Young People in Australia
• 99% of young Australians are online
• 23% of parents feel digitally disconnected and concerned about their kids online
• 1 in 7 children experienced a mental disorder
• 1 in 3 girls and 23% of boys, report being bullied
• 23% of youth are self-harming
• 23% of 14-17 year old girls have studied education, 1 in 13 actually achieved it.
Source: Australian Bureau of Statistics, 2021
Reported by: Australian Bureau of Statistics, 2021

WHOLE SCHOOL ACTIVITIES

Years 7-9 and 11 Academic Awards (Friday 9 December)

Students who have earned academic awards for Semester 2 will be presented with their awards on Friday 9 December. Students and parents will be notified via email in the coming week if they are to receive an award. Year 11 students are asked to attend the event to receive their award in full school uniform. Details for the event will be included in the email to parents so that you can attend in person at school. The event will also be livestreamed for those parents unable to attend. We look forward to celebrating your daughter's achievements with you.

Semester 2 Reports: Years 7-11 (Friday 9 December)

Semester 2 reports will be released to families on the last day of school – Friday 9 December. These reports will reflect learning and assessment from Semester 2. Reports will be released in SEQTA Learn (for students) and SEQTA Engage (for parents). Any questions about your daughter's report needs to be addressed with her subject teacher.

YEARS 7, 8, 9 NEWS

Year 7 and 8 International Arts and Culture Day (Wednesday 30 November)

As part of the IB Middle Years Programme, developing international mindedness in our students is at the core of teaching and learning at Merici. In developing this awareness and providing students with the opportunity to learn a range of international artistic and cultural skills and understanding, Year 7 and 8 students will be participating in an International Arts and Culture Day on Wednesday 30 November.

This will be a unique creative and intercultural experience where students will engage with guest speakers and performers, an inter-house trivia competition and workshops in the afternoon.

Workshop options:

1. Zumba
2. Crêpe making
3. International Short Film Festival
4. Visual Arts
5. Piñata making
6. Karaoke
7. Bocce competition
8. Théâtre Sports

Your daughter must submit preferences for the afternoon workshops they wish to attend, and these will be allocated on a first-in first-served basis. The link has been sent out to students via email. **Preferences are due by Friday 25 November at 4:00pm.**

Students must come prepared for a regular school day, but they are encouraged to wear their PE uniform (shorts or track pants). If they cannot wear the full Merici PE uniform, they should come in their summer uniform. Please click [here](#) to find key details about the day.

Festival of Year 8

Year 8 students have a number of activities scheduled to occur in Week 9.

- Geography excursion to Tidbinbilla (Tuesday 6 December)
- Academy for Enterprising Girls Design Thinking incursion (Wednesday 7 December).
- Year 8 Medieval Day (Thursday 8 December)

Permission notes have been distributed to students. More information on the Medieval Day will be communicated to families as arrangements are finalised.

YEARS 10, 11 AND 12 NEWS

Year 10 Awards Ceremony (Thursday 1 December)

It is with great pleasure that we invite our Year 10 parents and carers to attend the Year 10 Awards Ceremony on Thursday 1 December 2022 commencing at 11.00am. The ceremony will be held in the Merici College Auditorium, Wise Street, Braddon, ACT. Refreshments will be served in the New Quad at the conclusion of the Awards Ceremony. Your RSVP is essential at <https://www.trybooking.com/CEHQU> by Friday 25 November. Year 10 students are required to come dressed in full school uniform.

Year 12 End of Year Academic Arrangements

The next few weeks are very important for our Year 12 students academically and with regard to the end of year celebrations. Please click [here](#) to find End of Year academic arrangements for Year 12 students.

Important information about upcoming events and arrangements can be found [here](#).

Year 12 Graduation Day (Tuesday 29 November)

We are excited to announce that, for the first time at Merici, we have organised Year 12 Graduation events to be held on one day, Tuesday 29 November. Please find below the program of events:

Year 12 House Farewells – 10:00am (students only, to be held at the College)

Year 12 Graduation Mass – 1:30pm arrivals, 2:00pm Mass (students and family members, St Christopher's Cathedral, Cnr Canberra Avenue/Furneaux St, Forrest). Please note that there will be no certificates or awards will be presented to Year 12 students at the Mass. Please note that no bookings are required for your attendance at the Graduation Mass at St Christopher's Cathedral.

Year 12 Graduation Dinner and Awards Ceremony – 6:00pm to be held at Ainslie Football Club, Majura Room, 52 Wakefield Ave, Ainslie. Students are required to wear full school uniform. Certificates and awards will be presented to Year 12 students at the dinner.

Year 12 Formal (Friday 2 December)

The Principal and Staff of Merici College request the pleasure of your company to attend the Year 12 Formal on Friday 2 December 2022. The formal will be held at the National Museum of Australia, Lawson Crescent, Acton.

Please note the following requirements:

- Arrival 6:00pm with doors opening at 6:30pm
- 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. Parents and teachers will be allowed to purchase two drinks at a time. This is strictly enforced by the venue coordinators.

House Coordinators will be organising seating arrangements in consultation with Year 12 students.

IB NEWS



This week our Year 11 DP students were extracting DNA from a Kiwi fruit in their Higher Level Biology class.



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

Event	Date	Information
Psychology IA due	28 Nov	Official Internal Assessment for Psychology due.
Group 4 Project	30 Nov 4th Dec	Please note this date change to accommodate the attendance for staff and students at Advent Mass. Group 4 Project for all IB DP students all day. Students may attend wearing casual clothes and will be involved with a cross science project, a requirement of their science course. Students to attend PC as usual first. Room 209
TOK Exhibition	5 Dec	Theory of Knowledge Exhibition – all DP students are involved in this. Period 3 during normal TOK lesson. A video recording will be taken of the Exhibition and a select group of junior students will be invited to visit. A link to the video will be sent to families.
Group 4 Project Evaluation	8 Dec	Group 4 Project evaluation – Period 1, 2 and 3. All DP students will be involved. Room 209
End of Term	9 Dec	Last day for IB DP students



We celebrate another year as an IB World School developing internationally minded young women and being a school of choice for students from a range of linguistic and cultural backgrounds. Here is a message from our students wishing you all a wonderful holiday season and a joyful Christmas!

View [The Christmas Message.mp4](#) to our diverse community!

Year 10 2023 Personal Project Information Session

Thank you for those who were able to attend the Year 9 2023 Personal Project Information Session last Thursday 17th November. Please find the link [HERE](#) to the recording of the presentation for viewing together as a family in your own time.

Event	Date	Audience	Information
Service as Action Flex	Monday 28 November P3	Year 8 students	Service as Action lesson focused on developing a folio and reflecting on the Yr8 CSLP biodiversity project.
Personal Project Workshop #1	Monday 5 December P6	Year 9 students	Students will be working on harnessing personal interest to generate ideas and set goals for their Personal Project in Year 10 2023

LANGUAGES NEWS

Canberra Academy of Languages Summer School

There are Summer School programs for Korean and Japanese running in January 2023. Please see the news on the Canberra Academy of Languages for information and pricing.

<https://cal.act.edu.au/news.htm?fbclid=IwAR2lpB679KLhJ6JfSU2Zqmk8RGtXCrKugkfRc5ldSk51j7gsytZf4rBwJGw>

French Poetry Competition Award

In October, the MLTA organised the 2022 French Poetry Competition. Our school participated with two entries from Year 10. Caelan Edghill, was awarded 2nd place for her performance of the poem *Qui est vraiment l'homme de couleur?* by Léopold Sédar Senghor. She took part in a ceremony at the Alliance Française de Canberra, where Caelan recited this poem. As our Year 10 students finish four years of Language Learning, we celebrate their achievements in and outside the classroom.



Día de la Hispanidad

October was the month to celebrate Día de la Hispanidad (Spanish Day), where we remember the historical and cultural importance of 21 Spanish-speaking countries, including Spain, Mexico, and Peru. Students participated in House quizzes, a fútbol match and a photo booth. The canteen served some delicious Spanish food, and the churros ran out quickly. Thanks to Laura Harris, Arts and Culture Captain, and all those who joined enthusiastically. Viva el español!



CO-CURRICULAR

Working With Vulnerable People (WWVP) Registration for Volunteers

It is a requirement for volunteers (coaches, managers, etc) in any capacity with Merici College will need a WWVP. As the process takes approximately 8 weeks, you may like to consider applying now, especially since a wide range of sports begin in Term 1. It is free for volunteers.

Please follow the link to apply [New Application \(act.gov.au\)](#).

Music Program

Instrumental and Vocal Opportunities

At Merici College, students have the opportunity to participate in private instrumental lessons to learn a musical instrument or sing with one of our vocal tutors, during school hours on campus. Individual tutor rates are \$41 per half hour lessons. Lesson times are rotated to allow for flexibility with school timetabling.

Instrumental Tutors

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

Merici Music Groups

We also offer a wide variety of instrumental and vocal opportunities which include:

- String Ensemble
- Vocal Group
- Merici Concert Band
- Guitar Group

Instrument Hire

Musical instruments are available at Merici College and can be signed out to students at no charge for up to 12 months. There is a security deposit of \$150 which is fully refunded upon return of the instrument.

Please click [here](#) to find the Music Tuition Policy.

Participation

Students are invited to join a co-curricular group at our Activities Expo held in Term 1 of each year. Enrolment in private lessons or hiring an instrument can be made by emailing the Music Department.

Performances

Through the Music Co-Curricular Program students can perform at a number of events throughout the year. These may include; the Australian National Eisteddfod, Floriade, Open Day, Creative and Performing Arts Showcase, Merici College Masses, Grandparents Day, and much more.

Contact : Heather Lloyd, Music Department

Email: music.program@merici.act.edu.au.

For further information, please click [here](#).

HPE NEWS

Road Ready Program Years 9 and 10

Year 9 and 10 students have been invited to participate in the Road Ready Pre-Learner Licence Training Course that is offered through the school. The program will be delivered on Wednesday 30 November. Please contact Mrs Jackie Males (jackie.males@merici.act.edu.au) for further information.

iC NEWS

Thank you to everyone for the support of the Information Centre, encouraging your children to use the digital resources, to pick up a book off the shelves for research, and to browse the shelves to find a book to read just for fun.

Just in time for the holidays we have two great displays; "New Books" resources that have recently been purchased and a "Holiday Reading" display. For those students returning in 2022, we encourage you to come in to collect your holiday reading, students can borrow up to ten items. Over the holidays there is also Sora (our e-book library) that can be accessed on your own device.

Drawing to the end of the year we ask that all overdue resources be returned. Now is the time to return all textbooks. Please have your daughter check under beds, desks and bags. We have begun to send emails home, chasing textbooks still outstanding and your support is appreciated.

The iC will not be open after school on the last day of term, Friday 9th December.

We wish everyone a safe and happy holiday!

iC Staff

OTHER NEWS

AAS Cricket Summer Holiday Camps

The team at AAS Cricket Coaching are excited to announce our upcoming ACT Summer Holiday Cricket Camps. 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 wicket-keeping
- Technical, tactical & game sense tuition
- Qualified & experienced coaches

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.

Programs will be held at Reid Oval or Watson Oval from 9:00am to 3pm each day. After hours care may be available for an additional charge on request.

Register before November 30 to receive 10% off. Just use the code AASCSSUMMER10 at the checkout! Book online today at <https://linktr.ee/activeallsports>.

For any enquiries, please contact Holly Halford-Smith on 0400 125 342 or activeallsports@outlook.com.

North Canberra Christmas Nativity Festival: General Public

Saturday 12 December and Sunday 13 December from 9am to 7pm.

The Catholic, Anglican and Uniting Churches of Watson / Hackett are hosting an Ecumenical Nativity Festival. The display of some 200 nativity scenes from 45 countries provides a great catalyst for discussions and activities about the true meaning of Christmas. St Margaret's Hall, Cnr Antill St. & Phillip Ave, Hackett.

Ecumenical Christmas Concert, 'Sausage Sizzle' & Carols

Holy Cross Church Grounds, Cnr Antill St & Phillip Ave., Hackett

- Sat 10th: 5:30pm 'Looking Glass Percussion' Concert
- Sun 11th: 6:30pm Community Christmas BBQ free & open to all
7:30pm Carols by Candlelight

Find us on Facebook: www.facebook.com/northcanberranativityfestival



North Canberra Nativity Festival
Friday 9 – Monday 12 December
 200 PLUS NATIVITY SCENES!
 FREE & OPEN TO ALL
 OPEN 9-5 EVERY DAY
 KIDS CRAFT ACTIVITIES
 Saturday 10 December 5.30pm
 Family Concert 'Looking Glass Percussion'
 Sunday 11 December 6.30pm
 Community BBQ & Carols by Candlelight
 Holy Cross & St Margaret's, Hackett
 northcanberranativityfestival

**Wishing all our students,
 parents and community
 members a very happy and safe
 Christmas and New Year Season.**

