



WHAT'S ON NEWSLETTER

Term 4 Weeks 8 and 9 (Monday 27 November – Friday 8 December)

IMPORTANT NEWS

Student Movements 2024

It would be greatly appreciated if any families who are aware that their daughter/s will not be continuing at Merici College next year, could please complete the Student Leaving Form found [here](#) and return to Narelle Patrick, Enrolments Officer (email: narelle.patrick@merici.act.edu.au) so that we can finalise timetables and classes for 2024.

2024 School Term Dates

Term 1 Commences: Wednesday 31 January (Years 7, 11, 12, new students), Thursday 1 February (Years 8, 9, 10) Ends: Thursday 11 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

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.

Extended Uniform Shop Hours January 2023

We are pleased to advise that the Merici College Uniform Shop will be offering extended hours to meet your uniform requirements for 2024.

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

1. Wednesday 13 December 3:00pm-5:00pm - Drop in
2. Wednesday 24 January 2024 8:00am – 1:00pm - Drop in
3. Thursday 25 January 2024 8:00am – 1:00pm - Appointments only
4. Monday 29 January 2024 3:00pm – 7:00pm - Appointments only
5. Tuesday 30 January 8:00am- 1:00pm – Drop in

These times are in addition to usual trading hours of Tuesdays 8:00am-11:00am and Thursdays 3:00pm-5:00pm until Thursday 30 November. You are more than welcome to visit the shop at these times. No appointment necessary.

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: Please make a note of your login information.

<https://shop.merici.act.edu.au/MonitorOnline/app/#/login>

Online Booking Portal

Please book appointments at this link:

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

Once you have gone to the link, you need to click on the date you want and scroll to the date that is listed above.

Please visit <https://www.merici.act.edu.au/my-merici/resources/uniforms> to find information on all uniform requirements. The uniform price list can be found [here](#).

For all enquiries at shop@merici.act.edu.au

STAFF NEWS

Staff Movements

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

Appointments:

Amanda Brown (Maths)
Nicole Papisidero (English – replacing Jaime McDevitt – Term 1)
Dayne Spencer (CAPA and English)
Rohan Langford – Head of Student Wellbeing

Faith McCulloch – Learning Support Assistant
Xavier Borgia - Learning Support Assistant
Tara Blake - Learning Support Assistant
Tom White – Science
Zoe Salazer – Youth Minister

New Positions:

Kyla Firman – Humanities Coordinator
Jodie Muldoon – MYP Coordinator
Tina Rodriguez – Languages Coordinator
Jo Drummond – Mathematics

Head of IB – to be appointed
Chinese Language Teacher (job share) – currently advertised
Balgo House Coordinator – to be appointed

Long Service Leave:

Jaime McDevitt – Term 1

Robyn De Puit - 2024

Leaving:

Callan Martin – moving interstate
Clare Freeman - moving interstate
Natalie Fairfax - moving interstate
Amy Connellan - resignation
Louise Crockett – Public Service
Olivia Bundic – Contract end
Georgia Coombs – Contract end

Sandy Zhai – Full time ongoing position at Canberra Grammar School
Michel Lewthwaite – retirement
Oliver Barlow – Public Service employment
Theresa Bui - study
Karen Mahony – moving interstate

Thank you

Bianca Porcheddu - Academic Coordinator (Acting)

WHOLE SCHOOL ACTIVITIES**Last Day of Term 4 (Friday 8 December)**

We are currently organising activities to be held on the last day of Term. More information will be sent to students and parents as arrangements are finalised.

Years 7-9 and 11 Academic Awards (Friday 8 December)

Students who have earned academic awards for Semester 2 will be presented with their awards on Friday 8 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 and can be viewed here, <https://merici.college/go/livestream>. Please rsvp your attendance to ros.parisi@merici.act.edu.au before Wednesday 6 December.

We look forward to celebrating your daughter's achievements with you.

Semester 2 Reports: Years 7-11 (Friday 8 December)

Semester 2 reports will be released to families on the last day of school – Friday 8 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.

COUNSELLORS CORNER**End of Year Break**

A reminder to all our parents, carers and students that the school counsellors will be taking a break from the 8 December through to the New Year, returning on 31 January 2024. We wish everyone a well-deserved break to rest up, recharge, and celebrate the year that has been. Wishing you all a Merry Christmas and Happy New Year and we look forward to seeing you again in 2024.

As the new year approaches, please be aware that any request for counselling in 2024 will be considered a new referral, as a new year can often bring new challenges, stressors, and concerns. This includes students who have previously accessed counselling in 2023.

The referral process remains the same: referrals can be made by speaking with your daughter's PC teacher, House Co-ordinator or by emailing us at counsellors@merici.act.edu.au. Students under 14 years old will require parent/guardian consent to participate in school counselling.

We highly encourage you to speak with your daughter's PC teacher and/or House Co-ordinator regarding any initial concerns you may have for your daughter as they can play an important role in ensuring students are holistically supported during the school day.

How can you look after yourself in the school holidays?

As the school year comes to a close, it is important to prioritise your mental health and wellbeing throughout the end-of-year break. This time off can be a time to relax, recharge, and reconnect with friends and family, however, it can also be an incredibly busy time of year, bringing its own set of challenges. Additionally, it can be difficult for us to switch off and ease into relaxation after a busy year.

Here are some tips to help you navigate the school holidays to help you rest and recharge and prioritise your wellbeing.

- **Prioritise self-care.** Use this break to practise self-care by engaging in activities that bring you joy and relaxation. This can be hobbies such as reading, drawing, cooking, or listening to music.
- **Stay connected:** The holidays can sometimes feel lonely, especially if you're away from school friends. It is also natural to take some time for yourself during the holidays, however, be sure to keep in contact with friends and loved ones over the holidays.
- **Look after your physical health.** Exercise and physical activity are important in maintaining our overall health including relieving stress, helping with our sleep cycle, and improving our mood. Try to incorporate some form of physical activity into each day. This could be as simple as a walk around the block, or something that you can do with others, such as playing sports or going swimming.
- **Keep a regular sleep schedule.** Whilst the holidays are a time to get some extra and much needed rest, it is still vital to maintain a consistent sleep routine over the break. Ways to support getting a good night's sleep include:
 - Going to sleep and waking up around the same time each day.
 - Creating a 'wind down' routine before bed – this may include things like having a bath or shower, listening to calming music, journalling, or reading.
 - Avoid taking your phone or other electronics to bed.
- **Practice mindfulness.** To be mindful means paying attention to the present moment on purpose and without judgment. Engaging in mindfulness practices can help us to stay grounded and reduce worry. Ways to practice mindfulness in the school holidays include deep breathing, meditation and connecting with nature.
- **Engage in reflection.** Take some time to reflect on your achievements this year, as well as your future aspirations and goals for next year. Journalling can be a helpful tool for self-reflection.
- **Seek support if needed.** It is natural to feel overwhelmed or anxious during the holidays. If you notice that you are struggling, make sure that you reach out to friends and family so that they can support you.

In addition, we would encourage you reach out to the following services for professional support:

- Kids Helpline – 1800 55 1800 or www.kidshelpline.com.au/get-help/webchat-counselling (for online chat service)
- Lifeline – 13 11 14
- Beyond Blue – 1300 224 636
- Suicide Call Back Service – 1300 659 467
- 13YARN Crisis Support Line for First Nation Australians – 13 92 76
- MindMap ACT – 1800 862 111 (11am – 10pm, 7 days per week)
- Headspace - <https://headspace.org.au/>
- Access Mental Health Line – 1800 629 354
- In an emergency, please contact 000

We wish you all the best over the holiday period and look forward to all the exciting things to come in 2024!

All the best,

Chelsea & Xian, Merici School Counsellors

YEARS 7, 8 AND 9 NEWS

International Arts and Culture Day (Wednesday 29 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 29th November.

This will be a unique creative and intercultural experience where students will engage with guest speakers and performers and participate in workshops run by Merici staff and parents in the afternoon.

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 and instructions for students can be found here:

<https://forms.office.com/r/2cKNJekmGd>

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.

Year 8 Medieval Day (Monday 4 December)

The Year 8 History team have coordinated a wonderful day of curriculum-rich experiences to support the study of Medieval History. Students are encouraged to dress in accordance with the time period as they take part in bread baking, Viking games and traditional dancing around the maypole. Students are encouraged to ensure their costumes are weather appropriate and allow for safe participation in all activities, including fully-enclosed footwear.

YEARS 10, 11 AND 12 NEWS

Year 10 Awards Ceremony and Advent Mass (Thursday 30 November)

It is with great pleasure that we invite our Year 10 parents and carers to attend the 2023 Advent Mass and Year 10 Awards Ceremony at on Thursday 30 November 2023. The Advent Mass will commence at 9.30am and the Awards Ceremony will follow at approximately 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.

Please note that the Awards Ceremony will be livestreamed and can be viewed here, <https://merici.college/go/livestream>.

Your RSVP is essential at <https://events.humanitix.com/year-10-awards-ceremony> by Friday 24 November.

Year 10 students are required to come dressed in full school uniform. This will be the last day of Term 4 for the Year 10 students and they will leave at the conclusion of the Awards ceremony.

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.

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 has been emailed to the students.

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.

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.

IB NEWS



Personal Project Exhibition

The Merici College Personal Project exhibition for 2023 has launched. Please check out the wide variety of student interests and projects in 2023. Congratulations to all the year 10 students who completed their project and contributed to this exhibition.

<https://www.instagram.com/mericippexpo/>

You are welcome to like posts and leave comments, but please remember to interact in a positive and constructive manner.

MYP Coordinator Role

A welcome and congratulations to Jodie Muldoon who will be taking on the role of MYP Coordinator for 2024. As the IB programme continues to grow at Merici the decision was made to split the MYP Coordinator from the Head of IB role to ensure it can support the needs of the school and students.

Erin Barry will continue in her role as MYP Personal Project Facilitator.



Official IB Exams May Session 2024

Students have been registered for their May Exams and have checked and signed their registration information. Exams in May session 2024 are World Religions SL and Italian Language B SL. These dates are not changeable, and students must attend. An exam briefing for parents and students will occur early term 1 to ensure familiarity with the process and expectations (Date tbc).

World Religions

Paper 1 – Wednesday 15 May (Afternoon session)

Paper 2 – Thursday 16 May (Morning session)

Italian

Paper 1 Writing and Paper 2 Reading 6 May (Afternoon session)

Paper 2 Listening – Tuesday 7 May (Morning session)

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

Event	Date	Information
Group 4 Project	27 November	<p>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 then report to lab 106. We have DP students from Dubbo's Central West Academy joining us for the day. Permission notes will be emailed out this week as students are visiting Black Mountain Peninsula to collect water samples.</p> <p>A light morning tea and lunch will be provided for the day.</p>

Group 4 Project Evaluation	30 November	Group 4 Project evaluation – more details on timings to come. This will be in person for Merici students with a Teams meeting with the Dubbo students.
TOK Exhibition	5 December	Theory of Knowledge Exhibition – all DP students are involved in this. More details will be provided closer to the date. This will occur during P1-3.
End of Term	8 December	Last day for IB DP students

IB DP Year 12

A big congratulations to the IB Diploma Year 12 students who have completed all their official exams and are now awaiting results.

Results will be available to students on 3 January at 10:00am AEST via this portal: <https://candidates.ibo.org/#/>
Students have been emailed their personal PIN codes and log ins and will need to save these somewhere as access to their school emails will be cut off early December. Any queries about results should be directed to the IB DP Coordinator and not directly to the IB as they will refer students and parents back to the school.

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 Release” resources that have recently been purchased and a “Holiday Reading” display. For those students returning in 2023, 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 8th December.

We wish everyone a safe and happy holiday!

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 to provide updated information. Kate.friend@merici.act.edu.au or telephone 02 6243 4190.

Good Luck and safe travels to those who are posting out of Canberra and if you need any information or support before you depart, I will be here at school until Thursday 14 December.

Students are always welcome into the Defence Office whenever I am there.

I have emailed Defence families and their students the link for the 2023 Program (Defence School Mentor Program) Impact Survey for Defence Families. If you have time to complete the survey it really helps Defence understand the impact of this program. The survey is open until 31 January 2024.

Wishing all our Merici families a safe and Merry Christmas and best wishes for 2024.

Kate Friend, Defence School Mentor

Week Eight

Tuesday 28 November - Lunchtime Catch Up: Pop into Room 222 for a snack and a catch up with Defence friends. BYO lunch.

Soldier On and IBM have partnered for a two-day pilot work experience program. Four of our Year 10 students from Defence families will be attending and I can't wait to see what our students learn about the career options at a multi-national company.

Week Nine

Tuesday 21 November- Lunchtime Catch Up: Drop into Room 222 for an icy pole and a catch up with Defence friends. BYO lunch.

CO-CURRICULAR NEWS

Australasian Futsal Champion of Champions

From the 9-13 November, the 9/10 Girls Futsal team travelled to Brisbane to in the Australasian Futsal Champion of Champions, after qualifying for the tournament earlier this year.

The students started the first day of competition strong with 3 comfortable wins of 4-1, 6-0 and 5-1. On Day 2 of the competition, students had a tougher day losing 2 out of the 3 games against tougher opponents. This meant it all came down to their final round game to determine whether they would qualify for finals. The girls came together and were successful to make the grand final with a 4-2 win over their final opponents before the Grand Final.

In the Grand Final, students were faced with a team they previously lost 4-0 and knew that it would be tough game, physically and mentally. Despite their efforts, the students unfortunately were unable to take the lead and had a narrow loss of 3-2. Their performance not only showed huge improvements from the beginning of the competition, but from last time they faced the opposition.

Although the students did not come away champions, they all had an excellent time and developed not only new friendships, but their futsal skills and knowledge of the game playing against some fantastic schools across Australia.

Some students were also selected in the All Stars Team, made up of the top 10 players from the tournament as well as being invited to travel to China and play with a select Australian School team. I would like to congratulate the following girls on their achievements:

- Tiarna Ruberto (All Stars Team)
- Zoe Caddeye (All Stars Team)
- Jasmine Vikan (All Stars Team)



- Rachel Hofmeier (All Stars Team)
- Sarah Brann (All Stars Team)
- Annabel Brookes (All Stars Shadow Player)
- Tara Holmes (All Stars Shadow Player)
- Isabella Teece
- Phoebe Gordon
- Hannah Morrison

We cannot wait to return for the gold next year!

Miss Jess Giovinazzo

HPE Teacher

OTHER NEWS

Christmas at Haig Park Village Markets

Starting from 8:00am until 2:00 pm, this free, family friendly event will feature over 120 stalls, a 'Christmas Spirit' drinks garden, multicultural cuisines, and a visit from Santa - all whilst accompanied by an all-day live lineup of talented musicians.

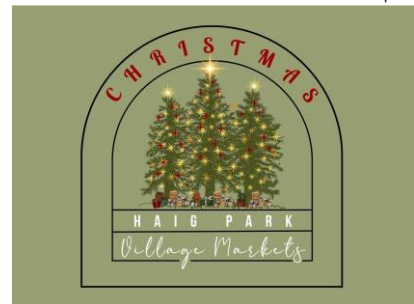
Where: Haig Park, Braddon

When: 3 December 2023

Bookings: Entry to the event is free and no bookings are required.

Website: <https://haigparkvillagemarkets.com.au/>

Facebook Event: <https://www.facebook.com/events/160291017155968>



Holiday Happenings

The next Holiday Happenings edition is now available online. To see the programs, activities and events happening these holidays, go to

www.holidayhappenings.com.au/online-booklet.



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

