



WHAT'S ON NEWSLETTER

Term 4 Weeks 4 and 5 (Monday 4 November-Sunday 17 November)

IMPORTANT NEWS

Student Movements 2025

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 advise your daughter's House Coordinator and Narelle Patrick, Enrolments Officer (email: narelle.patrick@merici.act.edu.au) so that we can finalise timetables and classes for 2025.

2025 School Term Dates

Term 1 Start: Tuesday 4 February (<i>Years 7, 11, 12, new students</i>) Finish: Thursday 10 April (<i>Years 8, 9, 10</i>) (<i>Friday 11 April Pupil Free Day, Staff PD</i>)	Term 2 Start: Tuesday 29 April Finish: Thursday 3 July (<i>Friday 4 July Pupil Free Day, Staff PD</i>)
Term 3 Start: Tuesday 22 July Finish: Thursday 25 September (<i>Friday 26 September Pupil Free Day, Staff PD</i>)	Term 4 Start: Tuesday 14 October Finish: Friday 12 December (<i>Years 7, 8 and 9</i>)

2025 School Student Transport Scheme (SSTS) Travel Passes

Applications are now open for 2025 School Student Transport Scheme (SSTS) travel. Students in the Opal network applying for an Opal card (including a Term Bus Pass) for the first time will receive their School Opal card at their nominated postal address from mid-January 2025. Students who require a School Opal card or travel pass but have not yet applied need to [apply](#) or [update](#) their details as soon as possible. For more information, please visit transportnsw.info/school-travel.

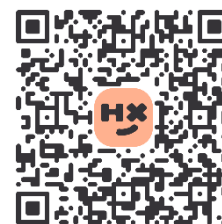
WHOLE SCHOOL ACTIVITIES

2024 Sports Awards (Monday 11 November)

This year's Sports Awards will be held on Monday 11 November. An invitation has been sent to parents of students receiving an award. We kindly ask that parents who receive an invitation keep it a surprise for their daughter, as we'd like this to be a special surprise for the students. Students receiving awards are expected to wear their school uniform.

We are thrilled to welcome Taryn Dickens as our guest speaker! Taryn will share her inspiring life story and remarkable achievements as a Nordic skier, parabiathlete, track cyclist, Co-Captain of Team Australia at the 2023 Invictus Games, and Gold Medalist.

Refreshments will be held at 5:00pm in the Auditorium Foyer. Formal presentations will commence at 5.30pm in the Auditorium. To assist with catering, please click here, <https://events.humanitix.com/2024-sports-awards-cbv53atx> or scan the QR code to register your attendance by Thursday 7 November. Please indicate special dietary requirements.



Community Council Open Forum (Tuesday 12 November)

On behalf of the Merici College Community Council, I would like to extend an invitation to our community to attend the Open Forum meeting on Tuesday 12 November. At the forum, the Leadership Team will present the 2025-2027 Strategic Plan, incorporating insights from community consultations conducted at the Open Forum in February.

The forum will commence at 6:30pm in the auditorium. Light refreshments will be served in the auditorium foyer from 6.00pm. Please RSVP your attendance to Ros Parisi, ros.parisi@merici.act.edu.au by Thursday 7 November. Please indicate the number of people attending and any special dietary requirements.

P&F Christmas Family Picnic and Showcase (Friday 22 November)



An invitation is extended to all our Merici family and friends to attend our Creative and Performing Arts Showcase and P&F Christmas Family Picnic to be held jointly on Friday 22 November at 5:00pm-7:30pm in the Indigenous Garden, Merici College.

Our students are looking very forward to showcasing their outstanding work of visual art works and performance pieces. We will also have tomato plants grown in our garden for sale. 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** by scanning the QR code or <https://events.humanitix.com/p-and-f-christmas-family-picnic-and-creative-and-performing-arts-showcase>. Dinner orders close **Monday 18 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.

YEARS 7, 8 AND 9 NEWS

Year 7 Information Session Self-Harm Behaviours

During Week 5, Term 4, the school counsellors Chelsea and Xian will be running an information session for Year 7 students about self-harm behaviours, also known as Non-Suicidal Self Injury (NSSI). Please click [here](#) to find a letter that will provide you with information about the topic, as well as what to do if you are concerned your child or one of their peers is engaging in this behaviour.

YEARS 10, 11 and 12 NEWS

Marist College Year 10 Twilight Retreat (Tuesday 5 November)

We are pleased to inform you of a unique opportunity for our Year 10 students to participate in a Twilight Retreat at Marist College. The evening promises to be one of reflection, community, and spiritual growth.

Event Details:

Twilight Retreat: Pilgrims of Hope

Date: Tuesday 5 November

Time: 5.00-7.00pm

Location: Marist College Canberra

BBQ dinner provided

Students will make their own way to and from the venue and can wear neat, casual attire. Ms Amanda Flynn will be present during the evening to support the Merici students. The consent form can be found on Compass and is required to be completed by Monday 4 November.

Year 10 Exam Preparation session - Monday 4 November Long PC

Year 10 students will participate in an exam preparation session during Long PC (Period 4) on Monday 4 November. The goal of this session is to teach students about effective revision strategies and how to prepare for exams. This will include a presentation on the psychology of effective revision strategies as well as some interactive station activities to see some of these strategies in action. Senior student volunteers will be in attendance to support the running of the session. More information to come.

Year 10-12 Exams BSSS

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

- Year 10 – Thursday 14 November - Friday 15 November
- Years 11 and 12 – Monday 18 November – Friday 22 November

All students have been emailed individual exam timetables 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 and 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 uniforms for their exams, comfortable clothing is recommended.

Importantly, if your daughter is unwell on the day of a scheduled exam, she must send an email to Mrs Spiller (stephanie.spiller@merici.act.edu.au) and obtain a medical certificate to cover the absence. Medical Certificates from pharmacies are accepted as it can be challenging to get into a GP at short notice.

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 review this list carefully with your daughter to ensure that they are clear on what is required.

Of note, is that the last day of school for BSSS students is Monday 25 November. Students are not required to attend school after this date.

Year 12 students will need to attend the College to collect their legal documentation (Year 12 Certificate, transcripts and VET Certificates) on Monday 16 December. Information about this process will be sent to the students via email next week.

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, corner 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 is being covered by the school and payment is not required. Please email ros.parisi@merici.act.edu.au to confirm the number of people and student name attending. Please also let us know 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 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-3rl7c6wv>.

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.

Coral Bell School of Asia Pacific Affairs Secondary School's Global Challenge



On Friday 18 October, five Year 11 Politics students participated in The Coral Bell school of Asia Pacific Affairs secondary school's global challenge in partnership with Canberra Grammar Schools Centre for Global Citizenship. Participating in the political crisis simulation was an exhilarating experience. As a delegation, we navigated intense negotiations, built strategic alliances, and collaborated to overcome unexpected challenges. The simulation's realistic scenarios demanded quick thinking and collaboration, pushing us to apply theoretical knowledge from our classes in a dynamic environment. The pressure to make decisions with limited information mirrored real-world political challenges, enhancing our understanding of global diplomacy. By the end of the day, our team had not only practiced but fine-tuned our negotiation skills, gained a deeper understanding of the multifaceted world of diplomacy, and a deeper appreciation and understanding of international relations. We are so grateful for the support of the ANU professors, especially Dr George Lawson, Head - ANU School of International Relations who mentored our team, and Mr. Langford, who supported us. We are already looking forward to participating again next year! *Samantha Nguyen-Aulmann (Year 11 Student)*

IB NEWS

Celebrating the Hard Work of Our IB Diploma Students

Over the past two weeks, our International Baccalaureate (IB) Diploma students have been diligently sitting their final exams, marking a significant milestone in their academic journey. These assessments have included rigorous examinations in Biology, Mathematics, and Language Acquisition—subjects that have challenged and inspired our students throughout the course of their IB studies.

As we move into Week 4, our students prepare to tackle the final week of exams. This marks the culmination of two years of dedication, and growth. We extend our best wishes to the girls as they face this last set of exams, knowing they have been thoroughly prepared by our committed staff and through their own hard work.

We are incredibly proud of each student's journey to this point. They have not only engaged deeply with their chosen subjects but have also developed resilience, critical thinking, and a global outlook that will serve them well beyond their exams.

Good luck to all our IB Diploma students—your hard work and dedication shine brightly, and we know you are ready for whatever comes next!

HEAD OF MISSION AND COMMUNITY NEWS

Merici College Side by Side Challenge – Get Involved!

We are excited to announce that Merici College is participating in the **2025 REACH Side by Side Challenge** to support Cambodian youth! This is a fantastic opportunity for our community to come together, raise funds, and make a difference in the lives of children who need it most.

What's the Challenge? The Side-by-Side Challenge is a 200km activity that you can complete over two weeks by walking, running, cycling, or swimming. All funds raised will directly support REACH Siem Reap's mission to empower Cambodian youth through education, health care, and essential life skills.



Why should you get involved?

To assist the REACH Community and achieve the following goals:

GOAL 1

Raising substantial funds to support REACH Siem Reap with their poverty alleviation projects for more than 100 families living in abject poverty.

GOAL 2

Empowering youth to believe in themselves by actively competing in a challenge that supports their future, and the future of their community.

GOAL 3

Connecting with REACH and its other supporters globally, creating a shared experience to raise awareness and support young people and their families in a holistic, ethical and engaging manner.

For more information on the Ride and Reach itself visit [REACH](#).

How You Can Get Involved:

1. **Form a Team** – Grab your friends, family, or classmates and register your team.
2. **Set a Goal** – Each team is encouraged to raise a minimum of **\$200 AUD**.
3. **Start Moving** – Track your kilometres via the free STRAVA app as you work towards the 200km goal!

For every **\$750 AUD** raised, we sponsor one Cambodian youth to participate in the REACH program, helping them break the cycle of poverty.

Donations:

Australia (AUD \$2 or more): Donations qualify for tax deductions as REACH Siem Reap Ltd. is a registered Deductible Gift Recipient (DGR) with the Australian Charities and Not-for-profits Commission (ACNC).

Next Steps:

- **Register your team** via this [Expression of Interest Form](#) and use the QR code below to sign up.
- Collectively, your team will make a donation of **\$200 AUD** at the start of the challenge.
- Attend our exciting **launch event** at the **CRLC on November 8th** at 4:00 PM. Be in the running for some awesome Merch, enjoy delicious pizza, hear from REACH staff and the Merici students who recently visited RERACH, and start accumulating your kilometres!

Benefits for Teams:

- **Angel Hours:** 50 Angel Hours awarded to each team, split equally among members.
- **Certificates:** Teams completing the challenge will receive certificates of achievement.
- Being part of a **global movement** making a lasting impact on the lives of disadvantaged youth in Cambodia.

Together we can show the power of our community! Every step and every dollar raised helps change lives.

Scan the QR code to donate and register your team today! For more information, please contact Mrs Harrold-Carter (Head of Mission and Community), email veronica.harrold-carter@merici.act.edu.au.



iC NEWS

Students growing up in the technical age have a strong reliance on the free web, “to Google”. This often leads to use of poor-quality sources. Some students have struggled in their organisation, not leaving themselves enough time to research, note take and draft, good assignments take time.

We are continuously working with classes, on the skills of note taking, paraphrasing, academic integrity, and the use of quality resources. Plagiarism can take many forms, and we want students to research widely and well, use their own words, to quote when necessary, and use evidence that supports their own ideas and writing.



[World Book](#)



[Learn Path](#)



[Oliver](#)



[Facts On File](#)



[Inkl](#)



[SORA](#)



[ClickView](#)



[Cosmos Magazine](#)



[Informit](#)

One of the best things you can do as parents is to talk to your daughters about their research and tasks. This helps to solidify their ideas and ensures they understand their reading, enabling them to put the information into their own words, to paraphrase. As a school we use Turnitin as a similarity tool. Students are able to submit a draft before the submission date to check the assignment similarity, it will pick up if the writing is too similar to another source this then gives the student an opportunity to redraft the task before it is too late.

Using quality resources is a must for high school and college research, the iC provides many quality databases for all students to access through SEQTA.

iC staff are always happy to assist in research tasks.

Yours in research, iC staff

Academic Assistance/Homework Help after school

ACADEMIC ASSISTANCE
Monday to Thursday

- General help Mondays and Tuesdays
- Maths and Science, help with Ms Gilbert Wednesdays and Thursdays
- ✓ Organisation help
- ✓ Homework or Assignment help
- ✓ Research and referencing

Use the QR code to access the sign up form

until 5.30pm

The iC is offering academic assistance/homework help after school, between the hours of 3:30-5:30pm. Monday and Tuesday is general academic help and Wednesday and Thursday is Science and Maths assistance. Your daughters are encouraged to drop into the iC after school and seek out the iC Tutor. The poster shown here is located around the school for students to scan the QR code. This takes them to a form to submit specific questions or requests for help and to book in for a session. Another option is to follow [this link](#) to the form.

HPE NEWS

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 (FULL)
- 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.

DEFENCE NEWS

Defence families are always welcome to contact Kate Friend, Merici College Defence School Mentor (DSM) with any information regarding a new posting or absences impacting your family. Kate can be contacted on email Kate.friend@merici.act.edu.au or telephone 02 6243 4190.

Upcoming Defence Events

Week 4, Tuesday 5 November Defence Drop In at lunchtime in Room 109. BYO lunch, some snacks are provided.

Week 5, Monday 11 November Remembrance Day. Merici College students have been invited to attend and for some students to participate in the National Remembrance Day ceremony at the Australian War Memorial from 9.15am on Monday 11 November. Currently Year 9 – 12 students from Defence families have been invited, we have a limited number of spots available. If your daughter is interested in attending and does not have any in class assessments during P1 – P3 please let Kate Friend know by Tuesday 5 November. There is no cost for this excursion.

Week 5, Tuesday 12 November, Defence Drop In at lunchtime in Room 109. BYO lunch, some snacks are provided.

CO-CURRICULAR NEWS

Dance Troupe Performance (Saturday 2 November)

We are excited to announce that the Dance Troupe will be performing at the St John Vianney Primary School Fete again this year on Saturday 2 November at 11.15am. All welcome to come along and support the community.

OTHER NEWS

ACT Sports Bulletin #17 2024

Please click here [ACT Sports Bulletin #17](#) for the latest School Sport ACT Bulletins to keep our community up-to-date on school sport events in the ACT.

Sustainable Canberra Expo – this Saturday!



The Sustainable Canberra Expo is a family-friendly event for ALL Canberrans!

There will be face painting, colouring in and a scavenger hunt for children, along with cooking demonstrations, EVs on display and an array of stallholders with information for householders who are interested in sustainable living. The

Sustainable Schools Program team will be there, and you are invited to vote for the People's Choice award in the Sustainable Steps Poster Competition.

Come along to EPIC this Saturday 2 November between 10am and 4pm.

Girls' Programming Network (GPN) (Sunday 24 November)

The Australian Signals Directorate is excited to announce the Term 4 Girls' Programming Network (GPN) event, scheduled for Sunday, 24 November 2024 at ANU.

What is GPN?

- The Tech Inclusion Girls' Programming Network is a workshop series for girls in grades 6-12.
- It is a community of women and girls interested in computer science, programming, and information technology.
- The workshops are led by Tech Inclusion tutors and local women studying or working in IT in industry, academia, and government.
- In the workshop, girls will be completing the Password Cracker project, seeing how passwords work behind the scenes and learning how to crack insecure passwords!
- Tutors will cover the basics for beginners and introduce advanced concepts for those with more experience.
- The Australian Signals Directorate has a long-standing relationship with the GPN and supports the Canberra node of this fantastic program.
- The workshops are free, and no prior coding experience is required.
- Lunch, snacks, and computers will be provided for students.



Registration details:

- Opens: Sunday, 3 November 2024
- Closes: Friday, 22 November 2024, at 5:00 PM
- Register here: <https://events.humanitix.com/gpn-canberra-term-4?c=asd>