



WHAT'S ON NEWSLETTER

Term 4 Weeks 6 and 7 (Monday 18 November – Sunday 1 December)

IMPORTANT NEWS

Outstanding Term 4 School Fees

Term 4 fees and any outstanding fees from previous terms were due last Friday 8th November 2024.

We have a number of families who have outstanding fees and, with the end of the school year fast approaching, we would appreciate if you could please arrange to have these paid as soon as possible.

If you have not been receiving your fee or monthly statements via email, are experiencing any financial difficulties or would like to discuss your fee account or payment options please contact our Finance Manager Jodi Wrenford at fees.office@merici.act.edu.au or call 6243 4108 to discuss. Thank you to those families who have already paid. If you are on a direct debit or payment plan this request does not apply to you.

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>) Wednesday 5 February (<i>Years 8, 9 and 10</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>) <i>Tuesday 25 November (Year 11 and 12), Thursday 27 November (Year 10), Friday 12 December (Years 7, 8 and 9)</i>

WHOLE SCHOOL ACTIVITIES

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

Please join us for 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 forward to showcasing their 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*



COUNSELLOR'S CORNER

As we approach the end of the school year, we want to inform parents, carers and students about important updates regarding school counselling this term.

To ensure that we can effectively wrap up existing support and action external referrals for students currently engaged in counselling, we will not be taking any new referrals as of **Week 7 (i.e., from 25 November)**. After this point, any new referrals will be directed back to the student's House Coordinator for further guidance and support. We will continue to liaise with the pastoral care team regarding any urgent matters for students during this period; however, please be aware that we will be unable to commence 1:1 school counselling sessions with new students after this cut-off date.

If you hold concerns for your child's wellbeing and would like to discuss school counselling, please speak to your House Coordinator to arrange a referral before this cut-off date. You can find more information about what school counselling here: [Counsellor's corner](#).

As the new year approaches, please be aware that any request for counselling in 2025 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 2024.

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.

Additionally, be aware that the school counsellors will be out of office over the summer break from 16 December 2024 and returning on 4 February 2025.

Additional support avenues over the school holidays:

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 (24/7):** 1800 55 1800 or WebChat ([About WebChat Counselling | Kids Helpline](#))
- **Lifeline (24/7):** 13 11 14 (call) or 0477 13 11 14 (text)
- **Beyond Blue (24/7):** 1300 22 4636 or Webchat ([Beyond Blue Webchat Support Service - Beyond Blue](#))
- **MindMap** mental health portal for young people - <https://www.mindmap.act.gov.au/>
- **Access Mental Health Line ACT (24/7):** 1800 629 354
- **NSW Mental Health Line (24/7):** 1800 011 511

Wishing everyone a restful holiday season!

Chelsea & Xian, Merici School Counsellors

YEARS 10, 11 and 12 NEWS

Year 10 Christian Service Week (Monday 18 November – Friday 22 November)

Year 10 students will be participating in their Christian Service Week from Monday 18 November to Friday 22 November.

Year 10 Christian Service Week Reflection and final week arrangements

On Monday 25 November, all Year 10 students are required to attend school and will participate in a Service Week reflection and PPEP presentation. Activities have been organised for the cohort for their remaining days of Year 10 with their final day being Thursday 28 November after their awards ceremony. School uniform applies.

Year 10 Periods, Pain and Endometriosis (PPEP) Presentation (Monday 25 November)

Further to a presentation made to all year groups made earlier this semester, Year 10 students will attend a more specific PPEP Presentation on Monday 25 November during Periods 5 and 6.

Year 10 Awards Ceremony and Advent Mass (Thursday 28 November)

It is with great pleasure that we invite our Year 10 parents and carers to attend the 2024 Advent Mass and Year 10 Awards Ceremony at on Thursday 28 November 2024. **Year 10 students are required to come dressed in full school uniform and all students will be receiving a certificate.**

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, at which time Year 10 students can leave with their parents.

Please click [here](#) or scan the QR code to RSVP by Friday 22 November.



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/Furneau St, Forrest)
- Year 12 Graduation Dinner and Awards Ceremony– 6:30pm. The dinner will be held at the Southern Cross Club, Corinna Room, 92-96 Corinna St, Phillip ACT 2606.

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

IB NEWS

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

Event	Date	Information
Exam Week	18-22 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.

Personal Project Expo (Friday 22 November)

Please join us on Friday 22 November at 5pm to attend the Personal Project Expo which will be held in conjunction with the CAPA Showcase and Christmas Family Picnic. The expo will be held in the restaurant.

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](https://www.reachsiemreap.org).

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.

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



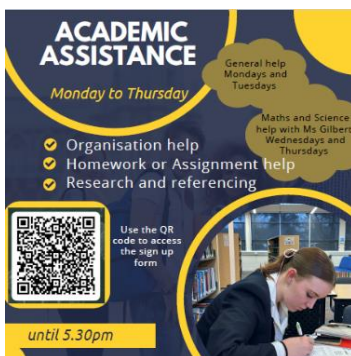
The iC staff make a point of creating appealing displays about the events or tasks going on around the school. For Remembrance Day, there is a display in the foyer cabinets outside the iC. Inside the iC we have a display of the books to celebrate Hispanic Day and our New Books. Encourage your daughter 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. Over the coming weeks 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.

Please do not hesitate to contact us if you need any assistance by email: library@merici.act.edu.au.

iC staff

Academic Assistance/Homework Help after school



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 your Defence School Mentor (DSM) with any information regarding a new posting or absences impacting your family. If you have received a late posting notice for 2025 please let either Kate.friend@merici.act.edu.au or our Enrolments Officer, Narelle.patrick@merici.act.edu.au know as soon as possible.

Upcoming Defence Events

Week 6, Tuesday 19 November - Defence Drop In at lunchtime in room 109. BYO lunch, Icy Poles will be provided.

Week 7, Tuesday 26 November, Defence Drop In at lunchtime in Room 109. BYO lunch, some snacks are provided,

OTHER NEWS

ACT Sports Bulletin #18 2024

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

Do you wish to help your children in the field of Mathematical Word problems, via practice?

Ex-staff member John Carty has written a book for sale, written for parents of children from ages 10 to 16 years. John was our Maths Coordinator at Merici for many years prior to managing AST for the BSSS. As a long-term ACT Mathematics Senior teacher and test developer, John has an abundance of Mathematics knowledge.

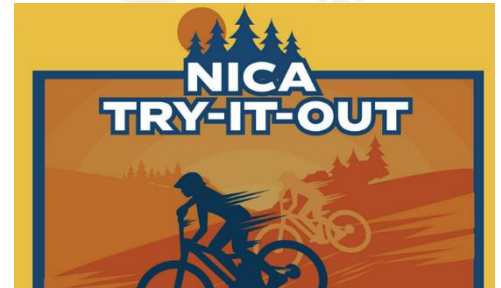
All answers provided. 777 questions in 7 categories.

RRP=\$39, Cash offer for \$35.

Call John on telephone 0418 674 733 or email cartyjohn@bigpond.com to purchase a book.

National Interscholastic Cycling Association (NICA) - Registrations Now Open!

The National Interscholastic Cycling Association (NICA) gets kids on bikes. They're outside, exploring new places. They're igniting a lifelong passion for riding. NICA's mission is to build strong minds, bodies, character, and communities through cycling, and their vision is for every youth to be part of a thriving cycling community. They strive to cultivate lifelong cyclists. They have no trials, and no one sits on the bench. Everyone rides. NICA Try-It-Out events are for all 12-17 year olds and anyone interested in being a Volunteer Coach. They are open to any level of rider – from those new to cycling, to the more experienced mountain bike rider.



There are six Try-It-Out events this Australian summer, starting in Canberra on 30 November. Events will also be held in Falls Creek, Beechworth, Sydney and Narooma. Sessions at each event start at 9am, 11am, 1:30pm and 3:30pm, and run for approximately 2 hours. Registration is open now for ALL events. [CLICK HERE TO REGISTER](#)

Don't have easy access to a bike? Not a problem - NICA has a selection of [Trek Marlin 6 mountain bikes](#) for you to borrow for your session. Book one as part of your registration (subject to availability) and they'll have you ready to go soon after you arrive. Book one as part of your registration (subject to availability) and they'll have you ready to go soon after you arrive. [CLICK HERE FOR MORE INFORMATION](#)

Try-It-Out event dates and locations:

- Mt Stromlo, Canberra – Saturday 30 November 2024
- Majura Pines, Canberra – Saturday 7 December 2024
- Falls Creek – Sunday 5 January 2025
- Beechworth MTB Park – Saturday 11 January 2025
- Wylde, Sydney – Saturday 18 January 2025
- Mountain Bike Narooma – Saturday 8 February 2025

Registered Disability Support Provider

Nurseaid Care is a local NDIS registered disability support provider, offering the following supports to clients:

- Community Access
- Domestic Assistance
- Transport
- Travel Training
- Personal Care
- Community Nursing
- Supported Independent Living



Are you or someone you know new to the NDIS?
 Are you or someone you know looking for a new Service Provider?
 Are you aged between 17-65?

Contact the team at Nurseaid Care by telephone 0432 844 826 or email admin@nurseaidcare.com.au.

Canberra Times Carols by Candlelight 2024 (Saturday 7 December)



Bring a picnic and your family and friends to The Canberra Times Carols by Candlelight, Stage 88, Commonwealth Park, December 7, from 6.30pm. Entry is free.

This year marks the 80th Carols by Candlelight, so a particular welcome to those with a long-standing interest in the event to join in.

The Carols are brought to you by The Canberra Times, Woden Valley Youth Choir, 2CA/2CC, National Capital Authority, Canberra Southern Cross Club, Eclipse Sound and Lighting, ECG Electrical, Canberra City Band and charity partner Lifeline.

Canberra Youth Ultimate is back!

Fyshwick Ultimate is excited to announce the Fyshwick Ultimate Academy - an introductory-level Ultimate Frisbee program designed specifically for youth players. The Academy is a 7 week, mixed-gender development program, with each session held shortly before Regular Fyshwick and Factory club training on Mondays.

The Academy will create a fun and inclusive environment for all players to learn the rules, skills and simple structures of Ultimate Frisbee. The program will prioritise "spirit of the game" and will be led by a team of experienced AFDA accredited coaches.

Visit the link below to find more information and register for the program:
<https://canberraultimate.com.au/e/fyshwick-ultimate-academy-youth-ultimate-frisbee/>

International Sports Camps

Great school holiday coaching camps in basketball, soccer and cricket in December and January at Canberra Grammar.

Scan the QR code on the flyer to receive a 35% Merici discount.

