



# WHAT'S ON NEWSLETTER

Term 2 Weeks 2 and 3 (Monday 5 May – Sunday 18 May)

## IMPORTANT NEWS

### Open Day Thanks!

We would like to acknowledge the wonderful contribution made by students which, in no small part, contributed to the success of our Open Day, Be Merici Girl Days and Talk and Tours. Over 300 students participated in these activities. The students were all wonderful ambassadors for our school and we have received excellent feedback from all of our visitors on their exceptional skills in conducting school tours, participating in Science, Mathematics, Food Technology, Art and Textiles classroom activities, presenting dance, music, vocal and drama information. In particular our visitors commented on how our students spoke about Merici life with such pride and enthusiasm.



We would like to extend our special thanks and appreciation to our Advancement Team, Maintenance, Canteen and Hospitality staff who worked tirelessly to prepare for our Open Day, and our teachers who coordinated and supervised activities in order to present a small snapshot of the exceptional work they do every day. Their enthusiasm for teaching and learning and their dedication to the school is greatly appreciated.

### Enrolment Process

Please note that Mrs Masters has commenced enrolment interviews for 2026. If you are interested in submitting an enrolment application, please follow the link <https://www.merici.act.edu.au/enrolment>. Please ensure that all supporting documentation is uploaded as required. Documentation includes:

- Birth certificate (not commemorative) or passport.
- Certificate of Baptism (if applicable).
- Last report from previous school (This documentation is required for all applications at Merici College.)
- Family Law, Personal Protection Order or Other Relevant Court Orders (if applicable)
- Visa grant notice for permanent and temporary visa-holders (if applicable) – for both student and parent(s) / legal guardian(s)
- Australian Citizenship Certificate (if applicable) – for parent(s)/legal guardian(s)
- Any medical reports and/or other assessment reports for students with additional learning needs (if applicable).

If your daughter is currently attending Year 6 at one of our Catholic Education (CE) primary schools, please ensure that the information entered on the College enrolment application is the same as the information you

have previously provided when enrolling your daughter at their primary school. (For example, residential address, email, telephone number).

After your application is submitted, please contact Narelle Patrick, Enrolments Officer, on telephone 02-62434150 or email [narelle.patrick@merici.act.edu.au](mailto:narelle.patrick@merici.act.edu.au). Narelle will then schedule an interview for your family to meet with Mrs Masters at a mutually convenient time.

### Year 11 2026 - Senior College at Merici

Year 10 parents and students, please note that it is **not** necessary to re-enrol your daughter Year 11 at Merici. Your daughter's enrolment will automatically continue.

### **Carparking**

With the growth of student numbers at Merici College the imperative for safe driving around the college is greater than ever.

Teaching Staff wearing hi-viz vests act as traffic wardens in and around drop-off zones for students. They help keep traffic moving but more importantly they *help keep students safe around moving cars*.

1. Please refrain from dropping students off in non-designated drop off zones, especially around buses – the presence of which when held up by cars causes delay and obstructs vision.
2. Please DO NOT drop off students at carparks on Limestone Avenue. Entering and exiting carparks on Limestone Avenue is restricted to a single-lane driveway, so to drop off students is dangerous especially during peak hour as cars must stand and wait on Limestone Avenue. There have been several near-misses reported as there are no traffic wardens there to help keep students safe.
3. Only use drop off zone at the Wise Street carpark.



### **A Toast to Gerard Ryan! (Saturday 31 May)**

Please join us as we celebrate staff member Gerard Ryan and his incredible 40 years of dedication to teaching at Merici College.

Through his unwavering commitment to education and passion for excellence in teaching, Gerard has shaped countless young minds and left a lasting legacy in our community.

Let's raise a glass in his honour and express our gratitude for his years of inspiration and service at a very special event on Saturday 31 May, 5pm-8pm at the Bridge Restaurant, Merici College.

Please find the invitation below —we would love for you to join us!

[Gerard Ryan 40th Anniversary celebration](#)



## WHOLE SCHOOL ACTIVITIES

### St. Angela Merici Day (Friday 30 May)

Friday 30 May will be our annual celebration of our College, St Angela Merici Day. This day allows for the community to come together as one. The structure of the day will look like this:

- Period 1 and 2: St Angela Merici Day Mass and Christian Service Learning Program Awards
- Period 3 and 4: College Captains – Merici Olympics Scavenger Hunt
- Lunch: House Food Stalls run by House Captains with support of students
- Period 5 and 6: House Activities Indigenous Garden and Oval.

Students are expected to wear full school uniform for the Mass and Awards ceremony in the morning but have the choice to change into free clothes at recess. **BLAZERS MUST BE WORN TO THE MASS. NO PUFFER JACKETS.**

Normal attendance processes apply for the day including the regular sign out procedure whereby a parent/guardian must come in to collect and approve the absence.

### Cashless Stalls and Entertainment

This year St Angela Merici Day will operate as a token only event. What does this mean and what do you have to do?

#### 1. What does this mean?

This means that tokens will take the place of cash on the day. Tokens for all activities and stalls will be pre-sold. Each token is worth \$1:00 and we will only accept tokens – not cash for stalls and entertainment.

Please find below a list of food items and activities that will be offered on the day and how many tokens are required.

#### Entertainment and Activities:

- |   |                                       |
|---|---------------------------------------|
| • Quoits – 1 token                                | • Bottle Flip – 1 token               |
| • Chocolate Bar toss – 1 token                    | • Prize Pong – 1 token                |
| • Photobooth – 3 tokens for strip of three photos | • Mechanical Bull – 5 tokens          |
| • Just Dance – entry 2 tokens                     | • Bungee Run – 3 tokens               |
| • Temporary Tattoos – 2 tokens per tattoo         | • Inflatable Wrecking Ball – 3 tokens |
| • Target Challenge – 2 tokens                     | • Inflatable Dart Board – 3 tokens    |
| • Henna – 3 tokens                                | • Gladiator Sumo Wrestling – 3 tokens |
| • Karaoke – entry 2 tokens                        | • Inflatable Velcro Wall – 3 tokens   |
| • Disco – entry 2 tokens (includes 2 glow sticks) | • Inflatable Basketball – 3 tokens    |
|   | • Big Slide – 4 tokens                |
|   | • Calming Space – Free entry          |

#### Food Stalls:

- |                            |                                    |
|----------------------------|------------------------------------|
| • Pizza Scrolls – 3 tokens | • BBQ Sausage Sandwich – 3 tokens  |
| • Hot dogs – 3 tokens      | • Hot Chips – 3 tokens             |
| • Donuts – 2 tokens        | • Popcorn – 2 tokens               |
| • Goodberrys – 5 tokens    | • Watermelon cups – 2 tokens       |
| • Zooper Dooper – 2 tokens | • Drink stall – 2 tokens per drink |
| • Noodles – 3 tokens       |                                    |

Please note that Angie's Café will be open for limited recess service on the day. The canteen will be closed at recess and lunch time. Students are welcome to bring their own food.

## 2. What do you have to do?

Tokens can be purchased in the following ways:

- Online via Trybooking at <https://www.trybooking.com/DBNVH>
- Pre-purchase at recess and lunch times a week before the event or purchase on the day. Students will only be able to pay for these tokens using cash or EFTPOS, not their student cards. All pre-purchased tokens will be distributed to students during PC on the morning of St Angela Merici Day itself.

Further points to note:

- All token purchases should be viewed as a donation to the House charities. There will be no refunds for unused tokens;
- At the end of the activities, students can write their name on any unused tokens and we will conduct a raffle the following week for some great prizes.

If you have any queries, please feel free to contact Rohan Langford, Head of Student Wellbeing on [rohan.langford@merici.act.edu.au](mailto:rohan.langford@merici.act.edu.au).

## COUNSELLORS CORNER

Seasons for Growth - Learning to live with change and loss. Expressions of Interest, Term 3.



We are inviting Expressions of Interest from parents/carers of students in **Years 7–8** to participate in our *Seasons for Growth* program, running in Term 3.

**Seasons for Growth** is a small group program that aims to support young people who have experienced significant change or loss - such as family separation, death, or other major life transitions. The program helps participants understand and manage the impacts of change, build resilience, and strengthen their emotional wellbeing in a safe and supportive environment.

The program uses a wide range of age-appropriate activities to explore feelings, develop coping strategies, and foster connection with others who may have had similar experiences. It is important to note that this program is an educational program and not a counselling/therapeutic small group program.



If you believe your child would benefit from this opportunity, please complete the Expression of Interest form or scan the QR code below:

👉 <https://forms.office.com/r/4jPp5P73Ed>

*Please note: completing this EOI does not guarantee placement, but it allows us to gauge interest and plan appropriately. Families of selected students will be contacted closer to the end of Term 2 with further details.*

If you have any additional questions or would like to discuss further, please contact us at [counsellors@merici.act.edu.au](mailto:counsellors@merici.act.edu.au).

*Xian & Chelsea, Merici School Counsellors*

## YEAR 7, 8 AND 9 NEWS

### Year 9 Reflection Day (Thursday 22 May)

The Year 9 Spirituality Day is a one-day session on campus. The day is aimed at motivating students to strengthen their faith through identifying their connection with both a loving God and their relationships with others. The day will involve a series of engaging activities, and reflection exercises.

Lunch (sausage sizzle) will be provided on the day. Students will provide their own morning tea.

Students will be asked to go to the PC class in the morning to have their names marked off and then they will proceed to the Auditorium for the remainder of the school day.

All students are required to wear full PE uniform.

## YEARS 10, 11 and 12 NEWS

### Art and Design Students Year 11 and 12 Excursion (Wednesday 25 June)

One-day workshop on Fashion Illustration will be held at the Whitehouse Institute of Design in Sydney. The workshop will be delivered by Whitehouse teachers with all materials provided.

Art and Design students in Years 10-12 are invited to participate in a Fashion Illustration workshop held on the Canberra Day Public Holiday at the Whitehouse Institute of Design in Sydney. Students will travel to Sydney via private coach and will be accompanied by Merici teachers. There is a maximum of 40 places for this excursion, with preference given to students in Years 11 and 12.

More information can be found on Compass.

## HEAD OF MISSION AND COMMUNITY

### Push Up Challenge

This year, Merici is once again participating in the Push Up Challenge! Our names are Jess and Aurelia, and we are your student ambassadors this year. Registrations are open and we're back again to promote mental health at Merici and have fun while doing it! We're getting involved from 4-26 June 2025 and would love for you to join us.

The Challenge is to complete 3,214 push-ups (or 1,607 if you choose the half target) in 24 days to raise awareness and funds for mental health. This represents the 3,214 people who died by suicide in Australia in 2023 (the most recent stats), which is why we want to push for better, and hope you will too.

Sound like too many push-ups? No worries, you can do the half target and substitute push-ups for alternative exercises, like squats and sit-ups.

It's free to take part and there's a great app where you get daily targets and mental health facts, track your progress, and can check out our collective stats.

We have created a community, which is grouped into all of the PC's, and by joining our community as a member of your PC, we'll be able to track our collective stats, as well as see our own personal leader board for PC's and individuals.

We know the challenge isn't for a while, but we'd love for you girls to join your PC through our Community page to get ready for June:



<https://www.thepushupchallenge.com.au/fundraisers/MericiCollege>

We'll be talking more about this at assembly's and even some competitions with prizes up for grabs! We would love to see all of you registered this year! Head to [The Push-Up Challenge website](#) or flick me or Aurelia a message if you have any questions.

Thanks girls!

Jess and Aurelia

## IB NEWS



### IB MYP Awards Ceremony

The IB MYP Year 10 2024 Award Ceremony will take place on Friday 23 May 2025, during Period 6 (2:14pm). This is an opportunity for us to recognise the academic achievements of our Year 10 2024 students. Certificates will be awarded for the completion of the Personal Project along with Certificates of Merit and Distinction.

Families of current Year 11 students receiving an award will receive an email invitation containing further details within the coming days. This event will also be live streamed and recorded for those who are unable to attend the ceremony.

### Year 10 Personal Project

Year 10 students have been making progress with their Personal Project and working towards the following deadlines this term:

2	Criterion A: Planning Report Draft Due Date	Wednesday Term 2 Week 2 7/5/25
3	Product Deadline	Wednesday Term 2 Week 4 21/5/25
4	Report Writing Day	Term 2 Week 10 Year 10 Transitions Week (Date TBD)

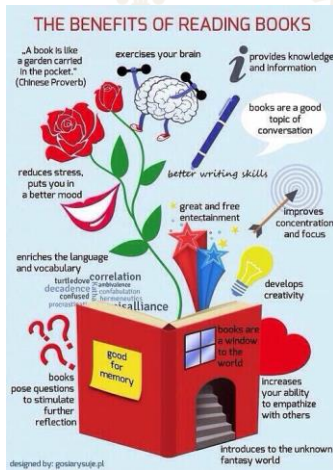
Students should have submitted **Criterion A: Planning Report Draft** and arranged a meeting with their supervisor to discuss their draft and get some feedback.

The **Product Deadline** is Wednesday 21 May. Students should submit photos or screenshots to SEQTA to provide evidence of their completed product (or their progress towards its completion).

We have heard about so many wonderful ideas, and we are excited to see more of the finished products in Week 4. Keep up the great work, Year 10!

## iC NEWS

There was an article last month in *The Guardian* titled '[Most parents don't enjoy reading to their children](#)', - this was in response to a survey conducted by Nielsen and Harper Collins. As educators and parents, this was a worrying article. Our role is to promote both literacy and the importance of reading. Yet many parents feel that reading and literacy is just a skill, not something that we should encourage children to love. A follow up [article published](#) last week stated that "children become fluent readers by being drawn into the enjoyment of books".



If adults are not promoting reading, modelling reading for pleasure and discussing the books we are reading with our young and older children, we are all missing out on this important learning opportunity. We have all seen the articles on the 'benefits of reading'. They highlight the importance to our health and wellbeing, both from a personal perspective and for academic success. Throughout the year junior students are provided with a lesson a fortnight to read for pleasure in their Integrated Humanities or English classes.

During these Wide Reading lessons, we talk about the benefits of reading for pleasure. Those students who chose to pick up and read a book for the love of it are more likely to make significant progress in vocabulary, spelling, and maths than those who read very little (Sullivan and Brown, 2013; Merga, 2021). Reading for pleasure can increase empathy, improve relationships with others, reduce depression and stress and improve wellbeing throughout life (The Reading

Agency, 2015). At school we provide many opportunities to celebrate books and be involved as readers, such as participating in the Kids' Lit Quiz, Book Club and various Book Week activities (Term 3). This week, we start reading the picture books from the short-listed CBCA titles during Wide Reading. How are you supporting your child's recreational reading at home?

The co-curricular activities offered by the iC staff for Term 2 during lunch times are as follows:

- Monday – Book Club
- Wednesday Week B – Chess Club in the Small Group Room
- Thursday – Cosy Café and Digital Detox (read a book, crochet or play a game with hot chocolate in the Reading Area).

Yours in reading, iC Staff

## CREATIVE AND PERFORMING ARTS NEWS

Merici College presents Legally Blonde the Musical Jr.

Shows:

Thursday 24th July ~ 7pm

Friday 25th July ~ 7pm

Saturday 26th July ~ 2pm & 7pm

Sunday 27th July ~ 2pm

Venue:

Merici College Auditorium | Wise Street, Braddon ACT

Tickets:

Adults ~ \$18

Students ~ \$16

Child (under 12) ~ \$14

Seniors ~ \$12

Family (2 adults & 2 students/children) ~ \$55

<https://events.humanitix.com/merici-college-presents-legally-blonde-jr>





MERICI COLLEGE PRESENTS

# LEGALLY BLONDE

*The Musical*

Original Production by Hal Luftig, FoxTheatricals, Dori Berinstein, James L. Nederlander, Independent Presenters Network, Roy Furman, Amanda Lipitz, Broadway Asia, Barbara Whitman, FWPM Group, Ruth Hendel, Cheryl Wiesenfeld, Hal Goldberg, David Binder, James D. Stern, Douglas L. Meyer, Stewart F. Lane, Bonnie Comley, Robert G. Bartner, Michael A. Jenkins, Albert Nocciolino and Warren Trepp; Produced in association with MGM Onstage, Darcie Denkert & Dean Stolber

## Production Team

Merici College Creative & Performing Arts Faculty

## Venue

Merici College Auditorium |  
Wise Street, Braddon ACT

## Shows

Thursday 24th July - 7pm  
Friday 25th July - 7pm  
Saturday 26th July - 2pm & 7pm  
Sunday 27th July - 2pm



## Tickets

Adults - \$18  
Students - \$16  
Child (under 12) - \$14  
Seniors - \$12  
Family (2 adults & 2 students/children) - \$55

Legally Blonde JR. is presented through special arrangement with & all authorised materials are supplied by Music Theatre International, New York, NY

(212) 541-4684 [mtishows.com](http://mtishows.com)

[www.merici.act.edu.au](http://www.merici.act.edu.au)