



WHAT'S ON NEWSLETTER

Term 3 Weeks 4 and 5 (Monday 11 August – Sunday 24 August)

IMPORTANT NEWS

Important information - Future of Education Equity Fund

Please see below important information from the ACT Government regarding increased support for families through the Future of Education Equity Fund.

As part of the 2025–26 ACT Budget, the ACT Government has announced a \$600,000 boost to the Equity Fund. This will enable an additional 1,000 eligible ACT students to receive financial assistance in the 2025 school year.

The Equity Fund is available to families of students enrolled in preschool to Year 12 in any ACT school—government or non-government—who are experiencing financial disadvantage. Support provided through the Fund assists with education-related expenses and aims to ensure that all children have an equal opportunity to fully participate in their learning.

Funding amounts for 2025 are as follows:

- \$400 for preschool students
- \$500 for primary school students
- \$750 for high school and college students

In 2024 alone, the Fund has supported over 5,000 students across the ACT, distributing more than \$3 million to families in need.

Further information, including application details, is available on the [ACT Education Directorate website](#).

Price Increase – Uniform Shop

Please note that there will be a general price increase for garments sold in the College uniform shop. On average, prices will increase by approximately 6% and will take effect beginning of Term 4 later this year. This increase is necessary to cover increases in operational costs and is being kept to an absolute minimum. Prices have only risen once before since we commenced trading with our own uniform shop in 2019.

The uniform shop will move to new larger premises in 2026 as part of the planned refurbishment of the Scout Hall on Limestone Avenue known as the O'Donnell Youth Centre.

WHOLE SCHOOL NEWS

Academic Awards Semester 1 (Monday 11 August)

The Academic Awards Ceremony will take place on Monday 11 August, 10:00am – 10:40am (Session 1), 11:00am-12:00pm (Session 2). This event will also be livestreamed via <https://merici.college/go/livestream>.

Please note that students receiving awards or scholarships will be notified through Pastoral Care groups and correspondence will be emailed home to parents. We are unable to indicate the award your daughter is receiving until the time of the ceremony.

Car parking for the event is available in the car park next to the oval and the student car park off Henty Street. Parents need to follow parking signage on Wise Street, Henty Street and Helemon Street. Parents are urged NOT to park on nature strips, school crossing zones or in a dangerous position (i.e. too close to intersections) as parking inspectors may be out and about and parking infringements will be issued for any vehicle that does not comply with the above. Parking may be difficult for the second ceremony at 11:00am, as parents attending the first session will still be at school on your arrival.

Visitors will be directed to enter the Auditorium via the two doors accessible from Wise Street and be seated for the commencement of the ceremony.

Please RSVP your attendance by Friday 8 August to Ros Parisi on email ros.parisi@merici.act.edu.au. RSVPs are compulsory for us to have enough seats for the whole community and guests.

Moderation Day #2 (Thursday 14 August)

Please note that Year 7-10 students will have a Pupil Free Day on Thursday 14 August. Year 11 and Year 12 students are required to attend an AST Practice (Tertiary students only) from 9:00am to 12:00pm. Year 11 and 12 BSSS Accredited students do not need to attend. Information will be communicated to IB DP students regarding their attendance at school on this day.

Creative and Performing Arts

Legally Blonde The Musical JR.

A Dazzling Success!

Harvard's most fashionable law student lit up the stage in week one of term three as Merici College proudly presented Legally Blonde The Musical JR. to a series of sold-out audiences. The production, full of pink, heart, and high-energy performances, was a standout success and a true testament to the dedication and talent of our students and staff.

For months, our cast and crew poured their hearts into rehearsals, preparing to bring Elle Woods' empowering journey from sorority sweetheart to courtroom powerhouse to life. What unfolded on stage was nothing short of spectacular. Audiences were swept away by the hilarious one-liners, unforgettable songs, its fabulousness, and energetic dance numbers, including crowd favourites like 'Omigod You Guys,' 'Whipped Into Shape,' and 'Bend and Snap.'

This year's musical was more than just a performance, it was a celebration of creativity, resilience, and teamwork. From the stunning costumes to the dynamic lighting and flawless execution, every element of the show showcased the collective talents of our Performing and Creative Arts community at Merici.

Special thanks must go to the entire CAPA team (particularly Mr Spencer, Miss Papa, Mr Luck and Ms Hillsdon), the dedicated staff who supported behind the scenes, our wonderful volunteers, and of course, the extraordinary student cast and crew who brought the story to life with such passion and polish. Their energy, commitment and collaboration made this production one of the most successful in Merici's recent history.

We also thank our college community for the incredible support. Your cheers, applause, and enthusiasm filled the auditorium each show and made this experience truly unforgettable for everyone involved.

As Elle Woods herself might say, 'What, like it's hard?' Our students made it look effortless, but we know just how much effort, time, and love went into every moment. Bravo to all involved!

Check out our digital program -

<https://sites.google.com/merici.act.edu.au/mericilegallyblondemusicaljr25/home>

With much joy,
Mr Dayne Spencer



St Edmund's College Grease Musical Auditions

Interested students are invited to audition for the St Edmund's College 2026 Musical - Grease (School Edition). Please click [here](#) to find the audition pack. Auditions will be held on Wednesday 27 August, Thursday 28 August and Friday 29 August. Sign up by scanning the QR Code:



YEARS 10, 11 and 12 NEWS

When your Year 11/Year 12 student comes home and says class is cancelled.

For parents who are hearing this from their child when arriving home in the middle of the day saying their classes have been cancelled.

At Merici College we don't 'cancel' classes. We do notify students when we do not have enough relief to cover classes whose teachers are away on camps, excursions, PL or absent due to illness or carer's leave.

By Year 11 we expect that students have the capacity to complete the work that has been left for them on SEQTA. As BSSS students have 55 hours of coursework to complete for each unit (IB students even more), it is imperative that students complete the work set for them by their absent teachers. (Please note here that staff are always expected to leave content on SEQTA).

As senior students they are allowed to sign out, but this is not something we actively encourage. Students are welcome to complete work in the library, or in specially allocated Senior Study space – both areas are actively supervised.

If students stay at school and work, they will meet their content hours and can seek assistance from staff or each other if required. Driving home or going out with friends means that time is lost which should be spent completing course work. An uncovered class isn't cancelled; it means that students need to independently complete the work set on SEQTA.

Year 10 Personal Projects

Congratulations to our Year 10 students on successfully completing the 2025 Personal Project! The final report, submitted on Wednesday, 6 August, represents the culmination of their personal project, including the learning process, the creation of their chosen product, and thoughtful and critical reflection on their achievements and overall outcomes.

Year 10 Social (Friday 19 September)

We are very excited about the Year 10 Social to be held on Friday 19 September at Merici College Auditorium from 5:00pm to 8:30pm. The dress code is 'a little bit glamorous'. The occasion is not a Formal and there is no requirement for formal dress. We encourage students to avoid expensive trappings and to forgo expensive beauty and hair treatments. The aim of the night is to have a fun evening with friends. Please click [here](#) to find the invitation.

Tickets are \$55 per person and covers canapes and beverages, decorations, a photo booth and entertainment.

Tickets can be purchased online here: <https://events.humanitix.com/year-10-social-vhgydxu> by FRIDAY 12 SEPTEMBER.



Please note that this event is for Year 10 Merici College students only. When completing the online booking, please indicate any special dietary requirements your daughter may have. Bookings close on Friday 12 September.

Friday 19 September will be a normal school day for students. They are permitted to sign out at lunch time to go home and get ready, if they wish. Please note that attendance in the morning is compulsory. Students who do not attend school in the morning are unable to attend the Social.

Entry to the Social will be via the Auditorium foyer. Students will be admitted from 5:00pm and the doors will be closed at 5:30pm. All other entrances to the school will be locked for the duration of the event. Parents are expected to collect their daughters promptly at 8:30pm from the Auditorium foyer. No early departures are permitted unless they have been pre-arranged with parents and your daughter's House Coordinator. The College does not endorse after parties or activities which may be organised by students or others.

A secure bag area will be provided but no responsibility can be taken for lost valuables. Photos will be taken throughout the night and a link will be sent to your daughter so that she can access these.

We anticipate that the Social will be a positive and memorable experience for each student in the year group and we look forward to celebrating with you all. If you have any questions about arrangements for the Social, please speak to your House Coordinator.

Year 12 Graduation Day - Tuesday 25 November

Please click [here](#) to find the program of events for our Year 12 Graduation Day.

- **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 are invited to attend the Mass at St Christopher's Cathedral, Cnr. 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 student and parents only, to be held at the Canberra Rex Hotel, 150 Northbourne Avenue, Braddon)

Graduation Dinner and Awards Ceremony - Ticketing

Please note that the cost of dinner for two parents and one Year 12 student has been covered by the school, so no payment is required. For families with twins in Year 12, two student tickets have been allocated.

Please confirm your attendance here, <https://events.humanitix.com/year-12-graduation-dinner-confirmation>. Please indicate special dietary requirements on the online booking form. **RSVP required by Monday 3 November.**

Additional Ticket – Ticket purchase required

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-extra-ticket>.

The cost of the ticket is \$80 per person (3 course meal, includes non-alcoholic beverages only). Bookings close Monday 3 November. Cost: \$80pp (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 28 November

The Year 12 Formal will be held on **Friday 28 November** at the National Museum of Australia in the Gandel Atrium. Students and parents are encouraged to attend this event (student partners welcome to attend). Please click [here](#) to find the invitation.

The cost of the ticket is \$190 per person and includes a three-course meal, non-alcoholic beverages. Music entertainment, 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/year-12-formal-2025-tickets>

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: Monday 10 November

House Coordinators will be organising table seating.

We look forward to celebrating the graduation of your daughter with you.

HEAD OF MISSION AND COMMUNITY

Years 9 – 11 Students: Expression of Interest: Australian Catholic Youth Festival (ACYF) – Melbourne 2025

The Catholic Education Archdiocese of Canberra and Goulburn (CECG) is seeking expressions of interest from students who would like to participate in the upcoming Australian Catholic Youth Festival (ACYF), which will be held in Melbourne from Sunday 30 November to Tuesday 2 December.

This national gathering of Catholic young people is a vibrant and formative event. It will bring together youth aged 16 to 18 and post-school leavers up to age 25 for a celebration of faith, community, and encounter. The Catholic Archdiocese of Melbourne is hosting it at the Melbourne Convention and Exhibition Centre (MCEC). Archbishop Christopher Prowse, Chair of the Australian Catholic Bishops Conference (ACBC) Commission for Evangelisation, is strongly encouraging school participation in this important event. CECG hopes that each school will be represented by a small group of students accompanied by staff members.

The approximate cost per student is \$1800, which includes transport, accommodation, and registration for the three-day festival. While some funding support may be available through Catholic Education, this will depend on the final numbers of participants and staff and will be communicated once expressions of interest have been received.

For more information, please visit the ACYF website:

👉 <https://acyf.org.au/>

If your daughter is interested in attending, please email your Expression of Interest to Mrs Harrold-Carter as soon as possible. At this stage, no financial commitment is required – this is simply to help gauge interest and begin preliminary planning.

Should you have any questions or wish to discuss further, please don't hesitate to contact Veronica Harrold-Carter on email veronica.harrold-carter@merici.act.edu.au/

IB NEWS



IB World Religions – Staff and Student Achievement

A huge congratulations to Andrew Blakey and his superstar team of Year 12 IB World Religions students who achieved fabulous results in their final exams

Global Politics Excursion

On the opening of the 48th Parliament of Australia, we attended Question Time in the House of Representatives. It was a significant occasion because, for the first time in Federal parliamentary history, more than 50% of parliamentarians in the House are women. The Hon. Catherine King, speaking on behalf of the Minister for Women, stated "...there are now more women in parliament and cabinet making decisions for women." The Minister reiterated this when she said "...having women in the room matters." Throughout our studies in Global Politics, we have learnt about the secondary role women often play in relation to government policy, provision of services and peacemaking. Conversely, women are often at the forefront as victims of sexual violence, conflict and poor wellbeing outcomes. The fact we are fortunate to live in a country where not only democracy flourishes, but one where women have equal representation, gives us great hope for the future.



*Lucy Jerga, Evelyn Scott and Georgia Ween
Year 12 IB Global Politics*

iC NEWS

Today, Thursday 7th August, we welcomed Katrina Nannestad to our school for a Year 7 Author Talk, once again inspiring our Year 7's to embrace reading and to never forget the importance of historical fiction. We had an overwhelming response to the Writers Workshop, so much so, that Katrina was able to run 2 sessions for our 59 students from Years 7-12. It is exciting to see so many aspiring writers who want to learn from a successful author.

The Book Week Committee have been involved in the CBCA Shadow Judging project. We have reviewed the Picture Book category of picture books and submitted our vote on our favourite, which was *These Long-Loved Things* by Josh Pyke. A story of memories, the importance of memories and how we keep them alive with our loved ones. Book Week is Week 5, the theme: *Book an Adventure*.



Monday 18th August we will have a cake decorating competition. A completed cake can be brought in from home to be judged by voting with the school community. Tuesday is Trivia in the iC. Wednesday the Lego Creation Competition, students can bring in their completed Lego creation on Wednesday 20th and will be voted by the school community. Thursday, we have a celebratory cake and Friday 22nd August will be our Dress up Parade. Normal school rules apply, it must be a recognisable character, students may come to school in their costume and wear it all day. For those not participating in the Dress UP Parade, full school uniform is to be worn.

It will be a fun week of celebrations about books, reading and community.

Yours in books!

iC Team

SUSTAINABILTY NEWS

Sustainability at Merici

In response to a request by the ACT government Sustainable Schools Program to present at a Staff Meeting with school staff from across the ACT to show how sustainable actions are implemented at Merici College, the SAM's made a short documentary with award winning local film maker Mia Channing. Filmed over two days, this documentary is a snapshot of the work that is done by SAM at Merici. Included are the book swap and litter audit. These activities are steps in the accreditation process, and only a small part of what happens at Merici to promote sustainable action.

View video here: <https://youtu.be/rCTISxYnf6A?si=jG-H22iqrbxsxQo1O>

OTHER NEWS

Come Celebrate 80 Years of CBCA!

Join the Fun!

Celebrate 80 years of the Children's Book Council of Australia and immerse yourself in the world of books and creativity. A day to remember for young readers, families, and book lovers alike!

Bookings are essential via

<https://www.trybooking.com/DCRCI>

Event Details

- When: Saturday, 23rd August 2025
- Time: 1:00 PM - 3:00 PM
- Where: Yhuuramulum – situated on the shores of Lake Burley Griffin, at 41 Alexandrina Drive Yarralumla.

Please click [here](#) to find more information.



Term 3 National Parent Carer online workshops

Please click here to find information on the upcoming Term 3 National Parent Carer online workshops.

- Tuesday 19 August 12:00-1:30pm – Session 1 – Diversity of Autism
- Tuesday 26 August 12:00-1:30pm – Session 2 – Sensory Processing
- Tuesday 3 September 12:00-1:30pm - Session 3 – Understanding Behaviour
- Tuesday 9 September 12:00-1:30pm – Session 4 – Working Together



positive
partnerships

**Autism online
workshop
sessions for
parents & carers
National**

Join us for an online workshop where you will have the opportunity to listen, share and learn with parents and carers who support young autistic people from across all states.

Free workshop



Note: Separate registrations for each session can be found on the Positive Partnerships homepage: [workshop registration](#).