



WHAT'S ON NEWSLETTER

Term 3 Weeks 6 and 7 (Monday 25 August – Sunday 7 September)

IMPORTANT NEWS

School Fees

Thank you to those families who are up to date with their school fees.

This is a reminder that Term 3 fees and any other outstanding fees were due for payment last Friday 15th August. Fees must be paid in full by the due date, not the end of the term, unless you are paying your fees via a regular direct debit (BPoint or BPAY), have an approved payment plan in place or have contacted the finance office to request an extension on the due date.

Payment options available are:

- BPAY payments can be made by using the BPay Biller details on your statement.
- Direct Debit payment arrangements can be set up using the new BPoint system. Please contact the Finance Office if you would like information on how to set this up.
- Credit Card and Debit Card payments can be made through Compass or by phone, please call the College on 6243 4108.
- Cash and EFTPOS payments can be made by visiting the College.

If you are experiencing difficulty in making payments, it is essential that you contact the College at fees.office@merici.act.edu.au or 6243 4108 to discuss payment options and/or our concession process. We cannot stress enough how important it is for you to make contact with the College if you need assistance with your fees.

If you have not been receiving your fee or monthly statements via email, please let us know so that we can check your email address.

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

Assessment Calendars Semester 2 2025

Please see the links below to find your daughter's assessment calendar for Semester 2. Students should use these calendars for planning out the due dates for all of their tasks. Tasks are identified by subject, task type and teacher. It is important to identify which subjects your daughter is studying as not all scheduled tasks will apply to her.

These tasks should be reflected in your daughters Unit Outlines for each subject, which are available on their course SEQTA page.

If you have any questions, please contact your daughter's teacher or the Studies Coordinator of the subject. Year group calendars can be found using the links below:

- [Year 7 Assessment Calendar S2 2025](#)
- [Year 8 Assessment Calendar S2 2025](#)
- [Year 9 Assessment Calendar S2 2025](#)
- [Year 10 Assessment Calendar S2 2025](#)
- [Year 11 BSSS Assessment Calendar S2 2025](#)
- [Year 11 IB Diploma Assessment Calendar S2 2025](#)
- [Year 12 BSSS Assessment Calendar S2 2025](#)
- [Year 12 IB Diploma Assessment Calendar S2 2025](#)

AERO Filming

We are delighted to welcome the [Australian Education Research Organisation \(AERO\)](#), Australia's national evidence institute to our school on Wednesday 3 September. AERO has asked our school to assist with the development of video examples of effective teaching practice to help guide other teachers. This is a welcome acknowledgement that our teaching practice is aligned with the evidence of what works for student learning. AERO will be attending with videographers to capture some of our teachers and classes in action, and to interview the teachers about teaching and learning. The teachers and students being filmed on the day have already been informed and provided with consent forms to participate. We look forward to seeing the finished videos when they are released and are glad that we can contribute to this important work supporting effective teaching practice in schools.

You can see videos that AERO has already developed on their [website](#).

Languages News

The Languages Department is delighted to announce that we will be welcoming our Italian visitors in Week 7, on Friday 29th August. We are very excited to host a group of 27 students and 3 teachers from Italy, who will be joining our classes, participating in cultural exchange activities, and exploring our local area.

This visit presents a valuable opportunity for our students to practise their language skills, deepen their understanding of Italian culture, and foster meaningful international friendships.

I wish to extend my sincere gratitude to the families who have generously offered to open their homes and host our visitors. Such enriching experiences would not be possible without your kindness and hospitality.

We look forward to a week filled with learning, connection, and shared cultural experiences.

Creative and Performing Arts

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 7, 8 and 9 NEWS

ACT Health Year 7 Survey

ACT Health have contacted us and requested we participate in a survey that focuses on the transition of Year 7 students to high school. The Health Department asks several schools to complete this survey as representative of a cross-section of schools in the ACT. Please click [here](#) to find a letter from ACT Health with a QR code. If you consent for your child to take the survey, it can be accessed using this code. The survey is voluntary; however, we would encourage as many students as possible to complete the survey to add to the rich data ACT Health is endeavouring to collect in relation to young people, and Year 7 students in particular.

Year 9 Urban Challenge 2025:

In Term 4, Year 9 will have the opportunity to participate in the Urban Challenge program. The Urban Challenge consists of an innovative and adventurous program designed to engage students in the urban landscape of Sydney and its surroundings. Students will operate in small teams of approximately 15, each taking on the responsibility of a specific role within the group. Teams are required to complete a series of challenges and activities, embarking on an unfolding adventure that takes them through Sydney. Students are given the freedom to make their own decisions. This includes being responsible for navigating their way around, buying and cooking food, solving clues and managing a team budget.

The Year 9 Urban Challenge will take place over three days in Term Four – Wednesday 29 October to Friday 31 October 2025 and is a compulsory activity. Fees for the camp will appear in Term 4 fee statements.

All meals and snacks are supplied during the trip including a variety of options and team meal challenges that cater for any dietary needs. Students will travel by coach to Sydney where on arrival they will be issued with an Opal Card enabling them access to public transport – ferry, bus, train and light rail for the duration of the trip. Accommodation will be provided in YHA youth hostels and other city group accommodation with room sizes varying from 4 to 6 occupants. Students will be required to carry all their own equipment for the duration of the

camp and their accommodation will be in a different location on each of the two evenings.

Urban Challenge has created a private page for our College on their website where information can be found about the program. Registering your daughter's personal and medical details for the Urban Challenge is also a section. Please use the information below to log in and fill out the required details. To confirm your daughter's attendance, this online document must be completed by **Friday 22 August 2025 along with consent via COMPASS.**

To access the Merici College – private page on the Urban Challenge website and complete the personal and medical details:

Go to www.theurbanchallenge.com.au. Click on 'Log in' and log in with:

- Username: meriurban
- Password: meri2025

Information about the program will appear here.

Please then complete the compulsory personal and medical fields.

Once the online program form has been completed you will receive a summary of these details. Please save these summaries for your records.

An equipment list is available on the Urban Challenge website and attached for your information. It is recommended that students do not take mobile devices such as phones or iPods to the Urban Challenge. Should students take such devices, restrictions will be placed on their use during the program. The College will not be responsible for the loss or damage to such items.

If you have any queries regarding your daughter's participation in the Urban Challenge, please don't hesitate to contact your daughter's House Coordinator or Rohan Langford Head of Student Wellbeing (rohan.langford@merici.act.edu.au).

Year 9 Ascent Training

Merici College is proud to offer an opportunity to Year 9 students which will be run by Ascent Training services. Any students in Year 9 are eligible to attend, it is NOT age specific or state dependant. 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 and general maintenance.
- 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, on the following dates;

September 24

October 15

October 16

There are only 24 slots available each day. Please check compass for dates, availability and costs.

Students will be transported by bus to and from the venue. Please note this day is optional and students not attending will continue with their regular classes.

If there are any questions, please email kylie.olsthorn@merici.act.edu.au

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 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-vhgvydxu> 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, Forrester). 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

Key Dates

Year 12 Practice Exams: 25 August - 5 September

Year 12 DP students have a full run through of their exam papers to help them focus their revision and get practice at a sustained exam period. The exam schedule has been sent to students. During this time students will not attend regular lessons, and only have to attend school for their exam sessions relevant to them. Pamoja courses will not have their mock exams during this time as these will have been conducted already through Pamoja.

Students may wear casual dress for this exam period. Wednesday 3 September and Friday 5 September will be used for catch up tests in case of illness or misadventure.

Families will receive a copy of specific feedback about areas of strength and improvement in all papers they sit.



iC NEWS

Book Week is always the favourite week of the year in the library world. This year has been no exception. We need to thank and congratulate the Book Week committee who have worked so hard to prepare so many wonderful activities for the school community. It began with the Cake Decorating Competition. The talent and creativity within our student body is outstanding. Staff all dreamed of an adventure to Hawaii on Tuesday. A trivia quiz at lunchtime, saw us stretch our literature knowledge. With Pastoral Care classes embracing the healthy competition of book themed quizzes. This year we included a new competition, a Lego build. Thank you to those who have supported the activities through the week. All winners will be announced through SEQTA during Week 6.



Friday 22nd is the Dress Up Parade at lunch, students are invited to come to school dressed up as their favourite **recognisable** book character or matching the theme: *Book an Adventure*. Normal free dress rules apply. Not in character? Full school uniform is required.

With assessments coming in, we remind you to seek help early and plan your research. The iC staff are available through the day and until 4pm for assistance.

Yours in all thing's books,

iC Staff

SUSTAINABILITY 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-H22iqrbsxQo1O>

OTHER NEWS

Attention: 1975 Daramalan College and Catholic Girls High School Alumni

We are excited to announce that the Class of 1975's 50th Reunion will be held from 6.30pm till late on Saturday 18 October 2025 at the Ainslie Football Club.

This will be a ticketed event in a private function room with food, a bar, a tea/coffee station, restrooms, and AV equipment. The ticket price will cover the room hire, food and tea/coffee station. The food will be a selection of canapés and platters. Buy your own drinks.

Tickets: <https://events.humanitix.com/daramalan-college-class-of-1975-reunion>

Please click on the 'Get Tickets' button to book your ticket(s) before Monday 6 October 2025. Partners are welcome to join. Cost is \$60pp which includes private room hire, set up and canapés.

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

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



pp 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

The image shows a man sitting at a desk, looking at a laptop screen, with a rainbow arc above him. The background is a blurred office setting.