



WHAT'S ON NEWSLETTER

Term 4 Weeks 6 and 7 (Monday 17 November – Sunday 30 November)

IMPORTANT NEWS

School Engagement Survey - Have your say!

The new School Engagement Survey has been launched. The purpose of the new survey is to understand and respond to changing sentiments within our school community, support the development of long-term strategies and school improvement plans as well as meet reporting obligations.

Your feedback will be valuable to help us understand how to better support your child and improve our school. The new survey has been developed with the support of JWS Research. It will take around 10-15 minutes to complete, and your responses will be kept completely confidential and only reported at an aggregate level.

The survey will be sent to families via Compass by the Catholic Education Strategy team. If you have any issues accessing the survey link, please contact the Catholic Education Office through Strategy.Survey@cg.catholic.edu.au.

Outstanding School Fees

Term 4 fees and any outstanding fees from previous terms were due last Friday 7 November 2025.

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.

Payment options 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 our Finance Manager, Jodi Wrenford 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.

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.

Planning for 2026 is already well underway

If any students and families are planning to leave our College community at the end of this year, we kindly ask that you notify your daughters House Coordinator and Pastoral Care teacher as soon as possible. Providing timely notice helps us manage enrolments and avoids families having fees applied unnecessarily and, enables us to offer places to young women hoping to join our community.

Rodney's Pialligo Christmas Markets – Merici College support

Merici College is excited to support the Rodney's Pialligo Christmas Markets with Marist College on Thursday 20 November. The night includes drinks on arrival, delicious canapes, a range of wonderful market stalls and music performances from the community and our Merici students. A portion of proceeds from the event will go directly to Merici College to support our sustainability efforts, in recognition of the 10th anniversary of Pope Francis' *Laudato Si*.

Part of the evening includes a raffle, in which we are seeking support from families to donate prizes. If you own a business or may be able to contribute to the prizes, please email Alyssa Markmann, Acting Head of Mission and Community at Alyssa.markmann@merici.act.edu.au. You can register for the event here: <https://rodneys-markets-at-dusk-2025.eventbrite.com.au>.

WHOLE SCHOOL NEWS

Showcase 2025 (Saturday 22 November)

An invitation is extended to all our Merici family and friends to attend our Creative and Performing Arts Showcase to be held on Saturday 22 November at 2:00pm to 4:00pm in the Auditorium.

Our students are looking very forward to showcasing their outstanding work of visual art works and performance pieces.

Exhibition Opening Refreshments: 1.30pm-2pm, Auditorium Foyer

Showcase Exhibition and Performances: 2pm-4pm, Auditorium

To assist with catering, please rsvp your attendance prior to Monday 17 November here, <https://events.humanitix.com/copy-of-showcase-2025>

MERICI COLLEGE SHOWCASE 2025

Saturday 22 November 2025

Exhibition Opening
Refreshments 1.30pm-2pm, Auditorium Foyer
Showcase
Exhibition and Performances 2pm-4pm, Auditorium
RSVP for Exhibition Opening: <https://events.humanitix.com/copy-of-showcase-2025>



RSVP by Monday 17 November



Dance | Photography | Visual Arts | Media | Design & Graphics | Music Drama | Textiles

PARENT IN PARTNERSHIPS SchoolTV NEWS



SPECIAL REPORT: New Social Media Regulations: What you need to know



From 10 December 2025 new laws will prevent many social media platforms from allowing Australians under 16 to create or keep an account. These changes aim to protect young people from online risks such as excessive screen time and exposure to harmful content. To help families prepare, the eSafety Commissioner has created an 8-step Get-Ready Guide and Personal Action Plan. The guide helps young people plan how to stay connected, save important content, and explore safe, age appropriate ways to engage online. We encourage parents to visit the

eSafety Hub to read the guide together with their child and download the Personal Action Plan.

Working through the plan as a family can help support a smooth and positive transition when the new restrictions begin. [Social media age restrictions hub](#) | [eSafety Commissioner](#).

For more information, please visit https://merici.act.schooltv.me/wellbeing_news/special-report-new-social-media-regulations-what-you-need-know

A reminder to parents to access SchoolTV, please click here, <https://merici.act.schooltv.me/>.

COUNSELLORS CORNER

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 24 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.

Additionally, all counselling cases for 2025 will be closed on the 11 December (a reminder this is also our last day of seeing students). As the new year approaches, please be aware that any request for counselling in 2026 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 2025 or previous years.

The referral process remains the same, referrals can be made by speaking with your child'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. For additional information regarding school counselling, please see: [Counsellor's Corner – Merici College](#)

Additionally, be aware that the school counsellors will be out of office over the summer break from 19 December 2025 and returning on 2 February 2026.

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!

All the best,

Chelsea & Xian, Merici School Counsellors

YEARS 7, 8 and 9 NEWS

Merici Year 7 Parents End of Year Get-together (Friday 5 December)

Let's get together to celebrate the conclusion of our girl's first year of high school. A great opportunity to meet other parents and connect the dots with new friends.

- Guests: Parents only
- Where: Ainslie Football Club
- When: Friday 5th December
- Time: 7pm
- Purchase your own drinks and food
- Booking name: Merici Year 7



MERICI YEAR 7 PARENTS END OF YEAR GET-TOGETHER

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- Booking name: Merici Year 7

RSVP required to confirm numbers by Wednesday 26th November

christiebibo@gmail.com

RSVP required to confirm numbers by Wednesday 26th November to Christie Bibo, P&F Committee Member at email christiebibo@gmail.com.

Community Day Years 7-9 (Thursday 11 December)

As a part of the end of year alternate program students will attend Dickson Pool for the day on Thursday 11 December.

Normal school hours will apply for all students on the day, commencing with Pastoral Care Class and roll call at 8.45am and dismissal at 3:07pm. Students will travel by chartered bus to Dickson, where they will spend the day. Buses will pick up students for return travel to the College at approximately 2.30pm. All students must return to school at the end of the day.

Students are encouraged to bring their own food and drink. However, the College will be running a BBQ and a canteen will be operating on the day where students can purchase items. Please note that Dickson Pool is now a cash-free venue; therefore, students must pay for food and drinks from the canteen by debit/credit card.

Students may wear casual sun smart clothing and school event appropriate swimwear. Students must bring a hat, sunscreen, a T-shirt which covers their shoulders, swimmers and a towel. Qualified lifeguards will be on duty throughout the day. There is no cost to students for the day.

This is a normal school day; therefore, attendance is expected. Please note that normal school behavioural expectations will apply on the day. It is recommended that students do not bring mobile phones or any other mobile/electronic devices to the pool, the College will not be responsible for the loss or damage to such items.

Parental permission for this event is required via Compass by Monday 8 December 2025.

If you have any questions regarding your daughter's involvement in this event, please don't hesitate to contact their PC Teacher or House Coordinator.

YEARS 10, 11 and 12 NEWS

Year 11 and 12 BSSS Exams (Friday 14 November – Friday 21 November)

Year 11 and 12 BSSS students will sit their end of Semester Exams between Friday 14 November and Friday 21 November in the College Auditorium. Students have been emailed their individual timetables and are encouraged to identify any clashes early. Students are expected to attend all exams.

Year 11 and 12 students should wear comfortable clothes for the duration of the exam block and are not required to be at school outside of their exams. No BSSS classes will run during the exam period. If students are unable to attend exams, **medical certificates are required to cover any absences to avoid academic penalties.**

The last day of school attendance for Year 11 BSSS students is **Monday 24 November**. Information regarding final days and end of year events for Year 12 will be communicated via House coordinators and the pastoral team.

Year 10 Service Week (Monday 17 November – Friday 21 November)

Christian Service Learning Week for Year 10 students embodies the Merici College values of service aligning with both Gospel Centered Learning Outcomes and the MYP Service and Action Learning Outcomes.

We are excited to continue our Christian Service-Learning Program this year, continuing the Merici tradition of facilitating a meaningful Christian Service Week for all Year 10 students. The program will take place from Monday 17 November to Friday 21 November. Throughout the week, students will engage in volunteer work across various agencies in the Canberra region

Following the service week, Year 10 students will participate in a Reflection Morning on Monday 24 November during Periods 1-2. This dedicated time will allow students to reflect on their Christian Service-Learning experiences, share insights, as well as prepare for the Year 10 Awards Ceremony and Year 7-10 Advent Mass.

If your daughter becomes ill and cannot fulfil her service hours, you are required to contact both the agency and the College. Please contact Alyssa Markmann, Acting Head of Mission and Community on email Alyssa.markmann@merici.act.edu.au for further information.

Year 10 Awards Ceremony and Advent Mass (Thursday 27 November)

Year 10 parents and carers are invited to attend the 2025 Advent Mass and Year 10 Awards Ceremony on Thursday 27 November 2025. The Advent Mass will commence at 9.30am and the Awards Ceremony will follow at approximately 11.30am. We ask that parents and guests are seated by 11.15am. The ceremony will be held in the Merici College Auditorium, Wise Street, Braddon, ACT.

Year 10 students are required to come dressed in full school uniform. This will be the last day of Term 4 for the Year 10 students and they will leave at the conclusion of the Awards ceremony.

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 Final Whole School Assembly – 11:00am
- 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 (bookings closed) to be held at the Canberra Rex Hotel, 150 Northbourne Avenue, Braddon)

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 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: Closed
 House Coordinators will be organising table seating.

IB NEWS



Key Dates

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

| Event | Date | Information |
|-----------|----------------|--|
| Exam Week | 14-20 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. |

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 of Friday Barnes (a series donated to the library) 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 (including under beds and desks), 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 email iC staff at library@merici.act.edu.au for further assistance.

iC staff

HPE NEWS

Road Ready Pre-Learner Licence Training

Merici College will be offering the Road Ready Pre-Learner Licence Training Course to eligible students on November 28th and December 1st. There is no cost for this course, and it will be facilitated by the HPE faculty.

Students who are planning on gaining their L plates in ACT are required to complete and pass this course. ACT students are eligible for L plates at 15years and 9month. 1. Once completed the Pre-Learner License Training Course is valid for 1 year.

Students who live in NSW are also able to do the course, but there is no need for them to sit the test, as NSW rules are different.

This course is still valuable for NSW students as it is about road rules in general.

The ACT Government has developed this Pre-Learner License Training Course (PLLC) for people who wish to apply for a learner license (L-Plates). The Pre-Learner License Training Course educates new drivers about safe driving practices and ACT road rules. A person must successfully complete the course to be issued with an ACT learner license.

Merici College will run this Road Ready Course on Friday 28th November and Monday 1st December from 8.55am – 3pm. Students will attend PC on both days, then meet in the designated areas. Students must complete both days and pass the test.

Please click on the link below to register your interest by registering and completing the consent form on compass for the Road Ready course 2025. Registrations close Friday 14th November. Details regarding any pre-course work will be sent out to all registered participants in due course.

If you would like to start practicing for the test now, please follow the link below:

<https://safeplatestesting.act.gov.au/c/spt?a=apps&ap=mobikt&m=about>

Please do not hesitate to contact Ms Kylie Olsthoorn, email kylie.olsthoorn@merici.act.edu.au for further information.

OTHER NEWS

Play Footy Ainslie Football Club

Where you're learning the basics, looking for a more competitive game – Ainslie has a footy option for everyone! The club has teams for anyone aged 4-17 years to come play, make friends and have lots of fun. Registrations for 2026 are open.

Register before January 31 to get the EARLYBIRD special by scanning the QR code in the flyer.

The season will start in May but training will start in April.

For more information, please email juniors@ainsliefootball.com.au.

NICA - The National Interscholastic Cycling Association



NICA
NATIONAL INTERSCHOLASTIC CYCLING ASSOCIATION AUSTRALIA

Youth mountain bike teams for youth in school years 6 - 12.

NICA is the world's largest youth mountain bike organisation, and we are reinventing youth sports with fun, inclusive, and equitable youth development programs. We use bikes to build confidence, leadership and community and create athletes for life. **No sidelines. No selections. Everyone rides!**

MTB TEAMS • TEEN TRAIL CREW • GRIT (GIRLS RIDING TOGETHER) ...and more!

School and community-based teams are led by qualified coaches who love riding, are passionate about youth development and live NICA's core values: **Fun, Inclusivity, Equity, Respect & Community**. 75% of NICA coaches are parents, and you don't need to be an expert rider. We provide the tools, training and support needed to start a team and become an inspiring coach.

Join us at the Stromlo NICA Coach Summit and learn how you can help bring this incredible program to life in your community. 50% off with code: **NICASUMMIT#2**

nicaausmtb.org.au



A great opportunity for students in Years 6–12 to get involved with NICA - The National Interscholastic Cycling Association, the world's largest youth mountain biking organisation.

NICA are reinventing youth sports with fun, inclusive and equitable youth development and programs.

For more information, please visit <https://nicaausmtb.org.au/>.



PLAY FOOTY AT AINSLIE!

Whether you're learning the basics, looking for a more competitive game – Ainslie has a footy option for everyone!

IS FOOTY FOR ME?
Our goal at Ainslie is to provide opportunities for all to play footy. We have teams for anyone aged 4 - 17 to come play, make friends, and have fun lots of fun!

Not sure? Come along to one of our summer events to give footy a go and see what Ainslie is all about!

WHEN WILL IT START?
The season will start in May, but training will start April - don't miss out!

HOW DO I REGISTER?
Registrations for 2026 are open NOW!
Register before January 31 to get our EARLYBIRD special.

WHAT TEAMS CAN I JOIN?
Mixed: U6, U9, U10, U11, U12, U13, U14
Girls: U6, U9, U10, U12, U14, U16
Boys: U15, U17

We also offer training for boys and girls aged 6 - 7 through our Auskick program!

REGISTER & FIND OUT MORE BY SCANNING THE QR CODE



 [JUNIORS@AINSLIEFOOTBALL.COM.AU](mailto:juniors@ainsliefootball.com.au)
 0455 455 063  [AINSLIEFOOTBALL.COM.AU](https://ainsliefootball.com.au)

Belconnen Youth Band

Are you a musician aged 9+ looking for a friendly, fun and welcoming band to join? Then come along to Belconnen Youth Band! (formerly known as Young Music Society Concert Band)

Who: Woodwind, brass & percussionists

When: Saturdays 9-10:30am during term time

Where: IMP at UC High School, Kaleen

Cost: \$200 per term

How to enrol: Call, email or just turn up!

E: recruitment@infullswing.org.au

Ph: 0414292546

W: <https://infullswing.org.au/>