



WHAT'S ON NEWSLETTER

Term 4 Weeks 8 and 9 (Monday 1 December – Friday 12 December)

IMPORTANT NEWS

Principal's Christmas Letter to the Community

Please click [here](#) to find the Principal's end of year letter to families.

2026 School Term Dates

Term 1 Start: Monday 2 February (<i>Years 7, 11, 12, new students</i>) Tuesday 3 February (<i>Years 8, 9 and 10</i>) Finish: Thursday 2 April (<i>Friday 3 April Pupil Free Day, Staff PD</i>)	Term 2 Start: Tuesday 21 April Finish: Thursday 2 July (<i>Friday 3 July Pupil Free Day, Staff PD</i>)
Term 3 Start: Tuesday 21 July Finish: Friday 25 September	Term 4 Start: Tuesday 13 October Finish: Friday 11 December (<i>Years 7, 8 and 9</i>) Thursday 19 November (<i>conclusion of exams - Year 11 and 12</i>), Thursday 26 November (<i>Year 10</i>)

WHOLE SCHOOL NEWS

St Vincent de Paul Christmas Appeal

Over the last couple of weeks we have asked students to bring in items for hampers that will be delivered to families in need during the Christmas period. Each Pastoral Care Class will create a food hamper, resulting in 42 hampers ready to send to St Vincent de Paul. If you have not yet contributed to the hamper, we kindly ask that you bring in a food item by the end of Week 7. If you have any questions, please contact Miss Markmann.

Things to bring:

- Long-life milk
- Oats
- Spreads (vegemite, peanut butter, etc)
- Cake mix
- Rice
- Tinned tuna
- Two-minute noodles
- Soup cans
- Bag/s (for items)
- Cereal boxes (family size)



Years 7-9 and 11 Academic Awards (Friday 12 December)

Students who have earned academic awards for Semester 2 will be presented with their awards on Friday 12 December in P1 and P2. Students and parents will be notified via email in the coming week if they are to receive an award. Year 11 students are asked to attend the event to receive their award in full school uniform. Details for the event will be included in the email to parents so that you can attend in person at school. The event will also be livestreamed for those parents unable to attend and can be viewed here, <https://youtube.com/@mericicollege>. Students may leave with parents after the ceremony if they wish. Parents are asked to sign their child out please.

Please RSVP your attendance to ros.parisi@merici.act.edu.au before Wednesday 10 December.

Last Day of Term 4 Afternoon Activities (Friday 12 December)

Following the Academic Awards in P1 and P2, students will be participating in the traditional Lip Sync battles Periods 3 and 4 for all students, including returning senior students. Students participating can change out of uniform.

Students can leave the College at lunch time but only if a parent is coming to physically collect and sign them out at Students Services. Students remaining at school after lunch will watch a movie together in the Auditorium.

Semester 2 Reports: Years 7-11 (Friday 12 December)

Semester 2 reports will be released to families on the last day of school – Friday 12 December. These reports will reflect learning and assessment from Semester 2. Reports will be released in SEQTA Learn (for students) and SEQTA Engage (for parents). Any questions about your daughter's report needs to be addressed with her subject teacher.

What does your child's semester report mean?

As we approach the end of Semester 2 and the release of semester reports, we wanted to take this opportunity to outline some important information about assessment and reporting in the MYP here at Merici College.

At the end of each semester, academic reports are issued for each subject studied during the semester. academic reports at Merici College typically look like this:

Semester Two - Academic Report, 2021

Student: _____ I.D. Number: _____
 Class: _____ Teacher: _____
 Course: **English Fast Pace 9** Report Date: _____
 Unit: **Compelling voices**

Academic Achievement: **A** MYP Grade: **7**

Australian Curriculum Grade (A-E)

Total MYP Criteria Result 29/32

MYP Grade (1-7)

Total MYP criteria result (out of 32) is calculated from the **criterion totals** (each out of 8).

MYP Assessment Criterion	Result /8
Criterion A: Analysing	7
Criterion B: Organising	7
Criterion C: Producing Texts	8
Criterion D: Using Language	7

Criterion totals (out of 8) based on overall teacher judgement for each criteria, based on evidence.

ATL skills

Approaches to Learning in this Unit

In this unit the student	Exceeds Expectations	Meets Expectations	Needs Improvement	Not
Self-Management Organisation				
Is engaged and focused on learning		✓		
Self-Management Organisation				
Completes short and long-term tasks		✓		
Self-Management Organisation				
Meets deadlines		✓		
Self-Management Organisation				
Comes prepared for learning		✓		
Self-Management Organisation				
Arrives promptly to class		✓		
Self-Management Organisation				
Demonstrates perseverance		✓		
Communication Interactive Skills				
Follows instructions		✓		
Social Collaborative Skills				
Works collaboratively		✓		

Each semester, subject teachers use their professional judgement to determine the **criterion totals** (out of 8) for each MYP criterion (A, B, C and D), based on evidence of student achievement across multiple summative assessment tasks. These four **criterion totals** are added together to calculate the **Total MYP Criteria Result** (out of 32). Results in Semester 2 reports represent students' level of achievement across the entire academic year.

The following grade boundaries are then used to determine the **MYP grade** (1-7) and **Australian Curriculum Grade** (A-E) awarded at the end of the semester, based on the **Total MYP Criteria Result** (out of 32):

Boundary	MYP Grade
28-32	7
23-27	6
19-23	5
15-18	4
10-14	3
6-9	2
1-5	1

Boundary	Australian Curriculum Grade
28-32	A
20-27	B
12-19	C
5-11	D
1-4	E

Subject teachers also report on students' demonstration of a set of **Approaches to Learning (ATL) skills** (self-management, communication, and social skills). These are rated as *exceeding expectations*, *meeting expectations*, or *needing improvement*, providing an opportunity for students to reflect on their strengths and areas for improvement as a learner within and across their academic subjects.

In addition to their academic reports, students also receive a Pastoral Care report, which contains an **overall comment** from their Pastoral Care teacher(s) and reports on their demonstration of a different set of **ATL skills** (self-management and social skills).

When reports are issued, it is a good opportunity to talk with your daughter about their progress in each subject, recognising growth and effort and talking about goals and strategies for next year.

PARENT IN PARTNERSHIPS SchoolTV NEWS



SPECIAL REPORT: Embracing Change & New Beginnings



Periods of change are an inevitable part of growing up. Whether it's the start of a new school year, moving between year levels, or stepping beyond the school gates for the final time, each transition presents both opportunities and challenges. These moments often require young people to use and strengthen the skills needed to manage uncertainty, adjust to new environments and build resilience. While some may embrace change with enthusiasm, others can find it unsettling. Read more [here](https://merici.act.schooltv.me/).

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

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.

IB NEWS



2025 Personal Project exhibition

Some projects from the 2025 Personal Project were shared with the Merici College community at the Creative and Performing Arts and Design and Technology exhibition on the weekend. Congratulations to the students who exhibited their products. We also have an online expo where you can see the amazing breadth of interest and talent from the 2025 project! Check it out here: <https://www.instagram.com/mericippexpo/>

2026 Personal Project Parent and Family Information Session

We will be hosting an online information session for Year 9 students and their families to learn more about the Personal Project in 2026. The information session will begin at 5.30 pm on Tuesday 2 December and you can access the meeting via this link for [here](#).

The session will be recorded and shared for those who can't make it.

2026 Personal Project – Year 9 Introduction Day

On Wednesday 10 December, students in Year 9 will experience a variety of workshops and information sessions to prepare them for the Personal Project next year.

iC NEWS

Thank you to everyone for the support of the Information Centre (iC) during 2025, encouraging your children to use the digital resources, to pick up a book off the shelves for research, and to browse the shelves to find a book to read just for fun.

Just in time for the holidays we have two great displays; "New Release" resources that have recently been purchased and a "Holiday Reading" display. For those students returning in 2026, we encourage you to come in to collect your holiday reading, students can borrow up to ten items. Over the holidays there is also [Sora](#) (our e-book library) that can be accessed on your own device.

Drawing to the end of the year we ask that all overdue resources be returned. Now is the time to return all textbooks. Please have your daughter check under beds, desks and bags. We have begun to send emails home, chasing textbooks still outstanding and your support is appreciated.

The library will continue to close at 4pm on 8th – 11th December and will not be open at all on Friday 12th December, the last day of the school year.

We wish everyone a safe and happy holiday!

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.



*Wishing all our students, parents and
community members a very happy and safe
Christmas and New Year Season.*

