



# WHAT'S ON NEWSLETTER

Term 1 Weeks 6 and 7 (Monday 9 March – Sunday 22 March)

## IMPORTANT NEWS

### School Photo Catchup Day (Friday 13 March)

School Photo Catch Day will be held on Friday 13 March for students who were absent on Monday 2 March.

Please ensure that your daughter is dressed in full summer uniform. The following blazer requirements are in place:

1. Junior dress – does not require blazer to be worn
2. Junior white shirt and blue shorts – blazer to be worn
3. Senior students – blazer to be worn.

Please visit <https://www.merici.act.edu.au/my-merici/resources/uniforms> to find all uniform requirements.

A reminder that:

- Students may wear a maximum of two pairs of small sleeper/studs in the lobe of the ear only. No other items or piercings are permitted and students will be asked to remove these.

Please order your photos **prior** to Photo day here, <https://store.theschoolphotographer.com.au/>. Please enter the First Code **JWWK8ZT5** where required on the portal to proceed to the ordering page. Alternatively, you can access the online ordering portal by scanning the QR code displayed in the attached flyer.

The School Photographer.  
**School Photo Time!**

Head to our website to view the available packages and to place your order

Merici College  
VISIT OUR WEBSITE & ENTER THIS CODE  
**JWWK8ZT5**  
[www.theschoolphotographer.com.au](http://www.theschoolphotographer.com.au)

## WHOLE SCHOOL

### CLAIM THE DATE: COUNCIL OPEN FORUM & MEET AND GREET (Tuesday 24 March 5pm)

Our community is invited to attend the Community Council's Open Forum Meeting on Tuesday, 24 March 2026 at 5:00pm, followed by a Meet and Greet.

This Forum is an opportunity for parents, carers, and students to gain insight into the leadership portfolios of our Staff Leadership Team. You will also be able to get a glimpse of our Annual Improvement Plan 2026 and key programs that support our students in 2026.

If you would like to attend our Meet and Greet refreshments afterwards, please rsvp here: <https://events.humanitix.com/community-council-open-forum-meet-and-greet>.

We look forward to seeing you there!

## PARENT IN PARTNERSHIPS SchoolTV NEWS

### SCHOOLTV – RESILIENCE

Resilience is important for a child's mental health. It is their ability to bounce back from failure, challenges, adversity and stress. It's not something that kids have or don't have but a skill that kids develop over time as they grow. Building resilience not only helps a child deal with current difficulties, but it also helps develop a resilient mindset that will help them deal with challenges later in life. All children are capable of working through challenges and coping with stress, but they require guidance and support from a charismatic adult role model.



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

## COUNSELLORS CORNER

Seasons for Growth - Learning to live with change and loss.  
Expressions of Interest - Term 2



We are inviting Expressions of Interest from parents and carers of students in **Years 7-8** to participate in our *Seasons for Growth* program, commencing in Term 2.

**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:



*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 the Term 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

### School Counselling Referrals 2026

A very warm welcome back to all students and families - we hope everyone had a restful break and is looking forward to a positive and engaging year ahead in 2026.

For new students and families, we have two dedicated College Counsellors at Merici – Xian and Chelsea. School counselling at Merici is a **short-term support service** designed to assist students experiencing socioemotional challenges that may be impacting their wellbeing, learning, or engagement at school. More information about school counselling is available via the [Counsellor's Corner](#).

School counselling is not a drop-in service, and all students require a referral before sessions can be scheduled. If there are concerns about a student's wellbeing, we encourage students and families to first connect with their **PC teacher and/or House Coordinator**, who can help determine the next steps. If further support is needed, a referral can then be submitted via the following link:

<https://forms.office.com/r/ER9DpqM3Ww>

Please note that students **under 14 years of age require parent/guardian consent** to access school counselling. As we begin a new school year, **all students will need a new referral**, even if they accessed counselling support in 2025 or in previous years.

## YEARS 7, 8 and 9 NEWS

### Year 7 Camp (Wednesday 18 March – Friday 20 March)

Year 7 students will be attending a camp in Week 7 of this Term at The AGH Camps. The details are as follows:

**Date:** Wednesday 18 March to Friday 20 March.

**Venue:** AGH Camps

**Depart:** 8.00am for 8.30am departure. Students are to meet in the AUD when they arrive at the College.

**Return:** Approximately 3.00 pm

The Year 7 Camp is an excellent opportunity for students to develop relationships with their peers and enjoy diverse experiences outside of the formal school setting. It is expected that all students will attend the Camp. Students will be involved in various activities at the Camp for which all equipment will be provided. The cost of the Camp is included in Term One school fees and covers all expenses including activities, accommodation, meals, and transport.

#### Dietary requirements and food for the trip

All meals and delicious snacks will be provided. Students are asked to bring morning tea for the first day. Students will need to have access to these in a day pack. Please detail any dietary requirements when completing permission via Compass.

#### Cabin Allocation and Activities Groups

Students will stay in cabin style accommodation. Each student will share cabin and activity groups with students from their own PC and House group. The aim is to make every student feel comfortable and to have the opportunity to make new friends. Students will be participating in various activities including, bush hike, low ropes, high ropes, orienteering, team building challenges and initiatives. Merici teachers and qualified instructors will supervise all activities.

*An external organisation involved in an event (AGH Camps) may request you or your child to sign a document as a condition of participation. Such documents contain provisions (such as waiver, release or indemnity provisions) that may remove or limit rights which your child or you have relating to personal injury, damage or loss of any kind suffered, whether arising from negligence or otherwise. Whether you sign is a matter for your decision.*

#### Equipment/Packing List

A detailed packing list will be sent out to families closer to the date of departure and will also be available on SEQTA.

### Electronic Devices

It is recommended that students do not take electronic devices such as phones. If there is a need to contact your child or a member of staff, please contact (02) Students will also be permitted to use this phone to contact parents should the need arise.

### Medication

If your daughter requires medication to be dispensed whilst on Camp, please complete and return the relevant forms by **6 March 2026**.

Should your child require medication to be administered during camp (including Panadol and Nurofen), please package this in a sealed plastic bag and on the morning of camp and given to your Daughter's House Coordinator.

Epipens and Asthma sprays may be held by the student, but please provide the First Aid Officer with any extra instructions for usage. The bag should be clearly labelled with the student's name and dosage requirements. Please ensure that you have returned the appropriate medication consent forms prior to your child's departure for camp. In an anticipation of increased pollen levels, it is also recommended that if your daughter suffers from hay fever that they bring antihistamine medication.

To confirm your daughter's attendance at Camp, please give permission via Compass and complete the required dietary and medical information no later the **Monday 2 March 2026**.

We anticipate that the Year 7 Camp will be a positive and memorable experience for each student in the year group. Normal College conduct will be expected, and the AGH safety rules will also apply. Parents will be contacted and asked to collect their daughters if any serious misbehaviour occurs.

### NAPLAN 2026

High School students in Year 7 and Year 9 across the ACT and around the country will soon participate in NAPLAN. The literacy and numeracy data gathered from this program can be used to inform school and system teaching and learning programs and assists teachers to better determine support students' needs.

The testing dates at Merici are **from Wednesday 11<sup>th</sup> March to Monday 16<sup>th</sup> March**, with Tuesday 17<sup>th</sup> March being used as a catch-up day for students who miss tests due to absence.

All NAPLAN tests will be completed in the school auditorium according to the following timetable:

		Wed 11th March	Thu 12th March	Fri 13th March	Mon 16th March	Tue 17th March
Year 7	Period 1	Writing 42 mins	Reading 65 mins	Conventions of language 42 mins	Numeracy 65 mins	Catch ups as required
	Period 2					
	Classes affected	Science or IH	IH or PE	Language or IH	Maths, IH or Science	
Year 9	Period 3	Writing 42 mins	Reading 65 mins	Conventions of language 42 mins	Numeracy 65 mins	Catch ups as required
	Period 4					
	Classes affected	Maths or English	Science or PE	Languages, Science or English	RE or English (PC)	

## Preparation

Students will install the specialised NAPLAN lockdown browser onto their laptops in class on Monday 2<sup>nd</sup> March. They will also have access to a familiarisation test during this time. Please ensure your child has their laptop with them on this day. If the settings on your daughter's laptop require parent approval for downloads, please ensure the browser is downloaded at home as soon as possible so that the program can be checked in Pastoral Care before the first testing day – all instructions will be available on SEQTA.

You and your daughter can become familiar with NAPLAN Online tests by visiting the public demonstration site, [NAPLAN - Public Demonstration Site](#). The purpose of the site is to familiarise students with the type of items they will see on NAPLAN Online and related functionalities, such as the built-in calculator. This level of familiarisation is worthwhile to help students understand and be comfortable with the format of the test. There is no need to 'revise' for NAPLAN.

## During the testing period

**Students must bring a charged laptop and headphones (plug in versions are recommended) for each of the sessions. We also suggest they bring a reading book in case they finish early.** Classes continue as normal outside the testing sessions.

NAPLAN Online allows for tailored testing. This means that a student is presented with sets of questions based on their performance during the test. This model provides students with the opportunity to better demonstrate their range of literacy and numeracy skills and it is more engaging for students. Further information explaining tailored testing can be found at [NAP Tailored tests](#). Students on personalised plans will receive appropriate special provisions.

## Privacy

The Education Directorate collects, holds, uses and discloses personal information to carry out its functions. Personal information about students and parents/carers will be used as part of NAPLAN Online testing and readiness tests. The use of this information is required for students to participate in NAPLAN testing, provide reports to parents and schools and to undertake research and compile statistics using anonymised data. More detail on how we handle your information is available in the Education Directorate Privacy Policy available at [Privacy - ACT Education](#)

As part of undertaking NAPLAN Online, the Education Directorate works closely with the Australian Curriculum, Assessment and Reporting Authority (ACARA) and Education Services Australia (ESA). ESA operates the NAPLAN Online platform which will contain personal information. ACARA will collect anonymised information about each student who takes the test online from the Education Directorate.

Further information on how ACARA and ESA protect privacy is available through the ACARA privacy infographic [Privacy - ACARA](#) and ESA Privacy Policy [Privacy - ESA](#).

## Further information

Further information for parents and carers, including details around how the program is administered, can be found on the [NAP Website](#).

**If you have any questions or wish to discuss withdrawing your child from NAPLAN, please contact Rebecca Scollen on [Rebecca.scollen@merici.act.edu.au](mailto:Rebecca.scollen@merici.act.edu.au) so that you can be provided with the withdrawal form.** Please note that your child will not be allowed to work on assessments if she is withdrawn. She will be provided some basic literacy workbooks to complete whilst the cohort is completing NAPLAN.

## YEARS 10, 11 AND 12 NEWS

### Year 10 Geography Excursion (Thursday 12 March)

As part of the Year 10 Australian Curriculum Geography syllabus, we are required to do fieldwork. To do this, Year 10 Geography students will attend Warilla Beach - Shellharbour, NSW to conduct fieldwork focused on the coastal environment, and the interaction of humans with it.

This field trip is scheduled for Thursday 12 March 2026. The intention is to leave the College at 7.00am and to return to school between 5.30-6.00pm the same day.

We will travel by chartered coach. Students are required to wear correct Merici College PE uniform on the day, as physical activity such as walking, digging, and measuring will be undertaken as part of the fieldwork. Students should also bring an appropriate change of clothing in the event of inclement weather.

More information and the permission note can be accessed through COMPASS.

## IB NEWS



### Key Dates

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

Event	Date	Information
CAS / Extended Essay Informatio n Session	18 March  6:00- 7:00pm	For Y11 students and parents. This session will cover the DP requirements for two parts of the 'Core', Extended Essay and CAS.  The session will be held in the Bridge Restaurant.

This is a list of some key dates for IB Year 12 students.

Event	Date	Information
World Religion IA due	16 March	World Religion IA Final submission due
Italian IA	1 April	Final IA Italian Due
Exam information session	1 April  6.00 – 7.00pm	For Y12 students and parents. This online session will outline the requirements of IB Diploma formal exams  Formal invitation to be sent out nearer the time.

Italian Final IB Exams	4-6 May	Italian Students will sit their official IB exams. 4/5 Study day 5/5 Paper 1 and Paper 2 RE 2pm - 4.30pm 6/5 Paper 2 LI 10am - 12pm
World Religion Final IB Exams	11-13 May	All Y12 DP students to sit their official IB exams. 11/5 Study day 12/5 Paper 1 2pm - 4pm 13/5 Paper 2 10am - 12pm



## Assessment and Reporting Workshop

Thank you to the families who attended our MYP Assessment and Reporting workshop. Please click [here](#) to find the evenings presentation.

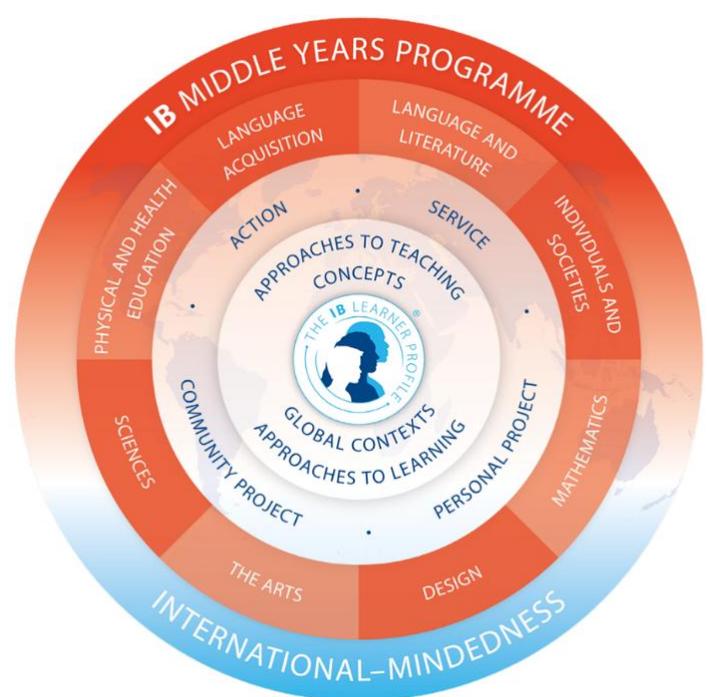
## MYP Subject Groups and Assessment Criteria

The third ring of the MYP programme model (below) describes the MYP's broad and balanced curriculum across **eight subject groups**.

In many cases, discrete or integrated **disciplines** may be delivered and assessed within a subject group, for example:

- history or geography within the individuals and societies subject group
- biology, chemistry or physics within the sciences subject group.

The subject groups are connected through **global contexts** and **key concepts**. These help pave the way for formal and informal **interdisciplinary learning** opportunities.



Schools must regularly report student progress towards the MYP objectives using the prescribed subject-group assessment criteria:

Subject group	A	B	C	D
Language and literature	Analysing	Organizing	Producing text	Using language
Language acquisition	Listening	Reading	Speaking	Writing
Individuals and societies	Knowing and understanding	Investigating	Communicating	Thinking critically
Sciences	Knowing and understanding	Inquiring and designing	Processing and evaluating	Reflecting on the impacts of science
Mathematics	Knowing and understanding	Investigating patterns	Communicating	Applying mathematics in real-world contexts
Arts	Investigating	Developing	Creating/performing	Evaluating
Physical and health education	Knowing and understanding	Planning for performance	Applying and performing	Reflecting and improving performance
Design	Inquiring and analysing	Developing ideas	Creating the solution	Evaluating
Community project	Investigating	Planning	Taking action	Reflecting
Personal project (Year 10)	Planning	Applying skills	Reflecting	
Interdisciplinary	Evaluating	Synthesizing	Reflecting	

**MYP objectives** are described in terms of what students should **know, understand and be able to do** at the end of the programme. Each objective is aligned with its corresponding assessment criterion (e.g., objective A is aligned with criterion A) and is elaborated by several **strands** (aspects/indicators of the learning expectation).

Unit outlines indicate which criteria/objectives and strands are assessed in each summative assessment task:

Summative Assessment Tasks				
No.	Description of Task	MYP Criteria Assessed (A/B/C/D)	Strands (i, ii, iii, iv)	Due Date
1	Reading and Writing	B	i, ii, iii	SAL Tue 24 March
		D	i, ii, iii, iv	LOV Fri 27 March
2	Listening	A	i, ii, iii	SAL Tue 19 May LOV Fri 22 May
3	Speaking	C	i, ii, iii, iv	SAL/LOV 2 Jun

In addition, students should have received their first **summative assessment cover sheet** for most of their subjects this semester. In addition to key details and task instructions, these cover sheets will include **task-specific clarifications** (generally in the form of assessment rubrics) which provide clear expectations for each objective/strand in the context of the task. It is important that students read rubrics carefully to ensure they know what is expected of them and how they will be assessed.

## MISSION AND COMMUNITY NEWS

### Gift of Life Walk (Tuesday 17 March 7.15am)

On Tuesday, 17 March, Merici College students and staff will participate in our DonateLife Walk (<https://www.giftoflife.asn.au/>). The purpose of the walk is to promote increased organ and tissue donation awareness. One donor can transform the lives of up to 10 people and significantly improve the lives of many more (see attached flyer). Thousands of Canberrans are expected to take part in their own walks, either individually or as a team, to show their support for this cause. Please refer to the Gift of Life Inc. website for further details (<https://donatelife.gov.au/>).

The walk will take place on the Merici College Oval from 7:15 am – 8:30 am, students are encouraged to walk up to 5km. REGISTRATION IS ESSENTIAL for our walkers to enjoy a cooked breakfast at no cost after the walk. REGISTRATION IS ESSENTIAL for students to receive a free 'Gift of Life' t-shirt or hat. Students who have participated in previous years are encouraged to wear t-shirts and hats that they have already received.

Registered students will be permitted to wear Gift of Life or DonateLife Walk t-shirts and hats for the school day with their sports uniform shorts/tracksuit pants on Tuesday, 17 March. Please do not wear non-uniform items such as track pants and shorts (only school uniform allowed). If students wear the incorrect school uniform, they will NOT be allowed to participate in the walk.

Parents are required to complete the permission note on Compass to register before Friday 14 March.

On the day of the event, don't forget to sign in at one of our registration tables on the oval and collect your registration wristband, as well as confirm your Christian Service Hours allocation.

The DonateLife Walk is a good opportunity to discuss your thoughts on tissue and organ donation with your family and friends and to register your donation decision on the Australian Organ Donor Register at [www.medicare.gov.au](http://www.medicare.gov.au) or [www.donorregister.gov.au](http://www.donorregister.gov.au) (donations cannot go ahead without the consent of family).

### REACH Community Meet and Greet (Tuesday 17 March)

Parents, students and members of our wider community are invited to attend a special Meet and Greet afternoon with REACH, Siem Reap. We are delighted to host Emily Williams and Sokly Tep, who will share insights into REACH's work and our growing partnership.

The event will be held on Tuesday 17 March at 5pm in the College restaurant for refreshments. The presentation will commence at 5.45pm-7.00pm in the College Chapel. Light refreshments will be served.

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

Booking required for catering and seating.

Please click here, <https://events.humanitix.com/reach-community-meet-and-greet> to confirm your attendance.



## HPE NEWS

### Athletics Carnival (Tuesday 31 March)

The Merici Annual Athletics Carnival is an opportunity for all members of the school community to gather and celebrate the talents of Merici students. It is also an opportunity to promote the health and fitness of the students as well as develop pride and passion for their House. All students are expected to attend the carnival as this is a compulsory community event which falls on a school day. Parents will be asked to explain their child's absence in writing in a note to their PC teacher.

The carnival will be held at the AIS. It has a canteen that sells a variety of food and drink. However, it is highly recommended that your child brings a packed lunch, as lines will be long. In line with the normal school policy, students are not permitted to bring/have fast food or take away meals delivered to the venue.

Dress: Students are expected to wear appropriate clothing such as shorts, T-shirt, hat and runners, and sports gear. House colours should be worn, and students are encouraged to dress in the theme for their assigned House. Students are encouraged to bring sunscreen and a hat. Some shade will be provided in the stands. Please dress appropriately for the weather.

Spectator attendance: All parents and carers are very welcome and encouraged to attend the carnival. There will be a designated viewing area and visitors will be required to sign in at the main gate. Students wishing to see their family members will be able to go and see them. Spectators are not permitted to enter any house areas.

Transport: Chartered buses will be provided to transport students to and from the venue. The buses will depart Merici at 9.15am and return at approximately 2.30pm. It is expected that all students will travel to and from the venue by bus from Merici College.

Those students who wish to run in the 1500m event will need to be dropped to the AIS by 8.45am, and they will return to Merici by bus with the rest of the students at the end of the day.

## TLC NEWS

### News from the TLC

The MASTERS Program (Merici After School Tutoring Enrichment Review and Study) has taken off! We are in the process of employing some new tutors to attend after school to assist students with their academic needs. Mrs Logan is also available to assist all students who attend.

Students have been encouraged to register their interest each week so we are able to assist them in providing support. The link for them to register is available in SEQTA in the daily notices as well as: [2026 MASTERS Booking Form – Fill out form](#)

This week we have also welcomed into the space, year 7 IHUM and year 8-10 English classes. Students have learned how to access Oliver and some of the services and opportunities we have available in the TLC.

A reminder that the TLC is a welcoming and student centred space where all students can access reading materials, research opportunities and resources to assist them with their studies. All students are encouraged to seek assistance from the staff in the TLC before school, at lunchtime and after school.

Did you know we are open from 8-5pm Monday-Thursday (8-4pm Friday)?

## SCIENCE NEWS

### Big Science Competition

The Big Science Competition is open to students in Years 7 to 10 globally. It's a 50-minute, mixed format online competition testing science knowledge, critical-thinking and problem-solving skills. Questions are set in real-life, contemporary contexts, making them relatable... and interesting!

Are you interested in trying the Big Science Competition this year? Sign up here: [Big Science Competition registration – Fill out form](#)

## DEFENCE NEWS

### ANZAC Day Assembly 2026 – Request for Photographs

The official theme for Anzac Day 2026 is “Women in Service”. This theme highlights the often overlooked roles women have played in supporting the Australian Defence Force (ADF) and in wartime efforts.

In keeping with this theme, we are inviting ADF Service Women or female ADF Service People from our Merici Defence families to share photographs that highlight their service and contributions made across wars, conflicts and peace operations. These images will form part of a special tribute at our ANZAC Day assembly.

Please email our Defence School Mentor, [kerry.kennealy@merici.act.edu.au](mailto:kerry.kennealy@merici.act.edu.au) with any submissions by Wednesday, 1 April 2026.

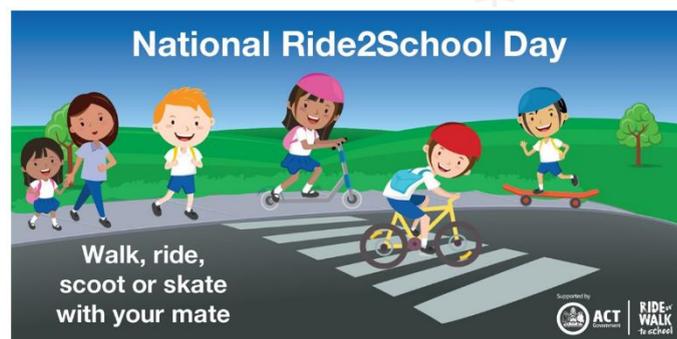
## SUSTAINABILITY NEWS

### National Ride2School Day (Friday 20 March)

National Ride2School Day, Australia's biggest celebration of active travel is on Friday 20 March 2026.

Join [National Ride2School Day](#) by riding, walking, skating, wheeling or scooting to school to embrace better health for you and your environment.

Bring your selfie to the canteen from 8:15am to be rewarded with a milo and cookie.



## CO-CURRICULAR NEWS

### Interschools Snow Sports Championships

The Interschools Snow Sports Championships excursion will be taking place this year at Perisher Ski Resort from Monday 20th - Friday 24th July. Merici College is once again entering a team of competitors, if your daughter is an **experienced** skier or snowboarder (intermediate or advanced), and is keen to participate, please attend the Snow Sports Information evening on **Tuesday 10th March at 5pm in Rooms C1 and C2**.

At the Snow Sports Information evening we plan to cover the following:

- the program structure: Learn about competition, costs, equipment requirements, accommodation and travel logistics.
- safety and expectations: Snow Sports comes with unique safety considerations. We will cover supervision (parent volunteers needed to manage teams), risk management, and student responsibilities.
- provide you with the opportunity to ask questions Whether it's about gear, ability levels, transport, or how the competition works, this is the perfect time to get answers.

It is an opportunity to connect with other families who are also considering joining the program.

We highly recommend that your daughter has a 2026 Epic Ski Pass which is the cheapest option for the 5 days of skiing.

You may also like to read the brochure found here, <https://www.merici.act.edu.au/important-document/snow-sports-information-flyer/>, for further details.

If you have any queries, please do not hesitate to contact the Snow Sports Coordinators on the following email addresses:

Diana Davis : [diana.davis@merici.act.edu.au](mailto:diana.davis@merici.act.edu.au)

Adrian Heim: [adrian.heim@merici.act.edu.au](mailto:adrian.heim@merici.act.edu.au)