



WHAT'S ON NEWSLETTER

Term 1 Weeks 8 and 9 (Monday 23 March – Sunday 5 April)

IMPORTANT NEWS

School Fees

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

This is a reminder that Term 1 fees and any other outstanding fees from previous terms were due for payment last Friday 13th March 26. 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.

Uniform Shop Holiday Trading Days over the holiday period

Winter uniform items are now available to purchase online or from the uniform shop on Wednesdays 3-5pm and Thursdays 8-11am during school terms.

Please follow the link to find more information on uniform requirements. [Uniforms – Merici College](#)

The shop will be open the following dates in the April school holidays for bookings using the link provided below.

- Wednesday 8 April 9am-2pm
- Thursday 9 April 9am-2pm

Booking link: <https://outlook.office.com/book/UniformShop@merici.onmicrosoft.com/?ismsaljsauthenabed>

For any further enquiries, please contact the shop shop@merici.act.edu.au.

Communication and Use of Mobile Phones Statement of Practice

Please follow the link, <https://www.merici.act.edu.au/school-policies/communication-and-use-of-mobile-phones-statement-of-practice/> to find the College's statement of practice for student use of mobile phones while at school.

OYC Refurbishment Project Update

The College is in the final stages of the tendering process for Stage 0 Part B of 'pre-master plan', capital works project – refurbishing the red-brick Scout Hall on Limestone Avenue known as the O'Donnell Youth Centre (OYC).

Whilst it is old, the building is structurally sound and has prominence on Limestone Avenue as part of Merici College site.

The scope of works for the refurbishments includes a new uniform shop and storage, a renovated open plan combined teaching and learning space for dance and PE classes. There will also be a deck, serviced by a kitchenette and covered outdoor learning area that connects to the multi-purpose sports courts. Storage rooms will be built so that PE equipment is more easily accessed from the oval. The design intention is to bring the Sports precinct of Merici College to the fore.

There will be improvements to the senior carpark which will be shared with customers of the uniform shop, as well as extensive landscaping elements.

Little by way of inconvenience or disruption to College operations is anticipated and all matters of safety during the build will be carefully monitored.

This project is in addition to three lots of recently completed modular classrooms, toilets and changeroom blocks, and associated landscaping and infrastructure. In addition, semi-outdoors locker shelters are planned for the Old Quadrangle – which will relocate approximately one third of the College's total number of lockers in order to ease congestion in corridors.

The time frame for completion of this project will be by end of Term 3. Funding for this project is from College's own resources and actual Project Cost will be advertised at a later date i.e. after the successful tenderer is announced which is expected to be before end of this term. It will likely bring to over \$5.5m spent on upgrades to site and facilities over the last 3 years for major maintenance and minor capital works projects. It paves the way to commence in earnest the College Master Plan with the design of a new Creative and Performing Arts Centre for 2027.

WHOLE SCHOOL

Parent-Student-Teacher Interviews - Online Bookings Open - Monday 30 March 8am

Parent-Student-Teacher interviews will be held in Term 2 **online via Microsoft Teams on Monday 20 April (2pm-6pm)** and in **the College Auditorium and C1/C2 on Wednesday 22 April (4:00pm-6:00pm)**. Each interview has an allocated 6 minutes timeslot. If you need to speak to a teacher on a more in-depth basis, please contact the teacher directly.

This is a mutually beneficial opportunity for parents to discuss their daughter's progress with the classroom teacher. Including your daughter in the interview helps promote independent learning.

If your daughter's teacher is requesting an interview with you, in regard to either Achievement or Application, you will receive an email indicating this. Please note: a teacher may request an interview both to commend a student's performance as well as discuss any concerns about progress. If teachers do not request an interview with you, you are still encouraged to make appointments with any teacher to discuss your daughter's progress.

Compass – Parent Student Teacher Conference Booking Instructions

You will be using the function of **Parent Student Teacher Conference** in Compass for these interviews. This will allow you to book the interview times that suit you from any internet-connected computer or from your smartphone. If you wish to book appointments from your mobile, you will need to download the free **Compass School Manager** app from either the apple app store or the google play store.

Full instructions are provided to you after log in. Please note the following points:

- When you log on and click on **Parent Student Teacher Conference**, please choose **26S1 Parent Teacher Interview**.
- Click on **My Bookings** and **Show me How to Book** for instructions. Every parent/guardian can make a booking using one as a family booking or both if you want individual bookings.
- You will only see timeslots that are available at the time you are using the system. As timeslots are booked for your allocated teachers, those timeslots are no longer displayed as available.
- Please leave 6 minutes between appointments to allow for time to move between online rooms.
- When you have made your booking, please print a record of it. You can also log in and change your booking at a later date.
- Please note that bookings cannot be made after 8:00am **on Monday 20 April**.
- If there are no timeslots available for an interview, please use the option requesting the teacher to contact you or contact them directly.
- If you encounter any problems using Parent Student Teacher Conference, please email karen.chow@merici.act.edu.au .

Council Open Forum and 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>.

Kids' Lit Quiz Canberra Heat (Wednesday 1 April)

Merici College is hosting the Kids' Lit Quiz Canberra Heat on Wednesday 1 April. This is a fun book trivia competition. Open to students in Years 7 and 8 featuring questions about books, authors, fables, nursery rhymes modern and classic literature. If your daughter is interested in competing in a team of 4, please contact Mrs Blakey on ann.blakey@merici.act.edu.au.



Term 1 ends (Thursday 1 April)

Term 2 begins (Tuesday 21 April)

Students return to school on Tuesday 21 April for the commencement of Term 2.

PARENT IN PARTNERSHIPS SchoolTV NEWS

SPECIAL REPORT: Responding to Peer Pressure

Peer pressure is a normal and inevitable part of growing up. From early childhood through adolescence, young people are constantly influenced by the attitudes, behaviours and expectations of those around them. As friendships become increasingly important, peers can play a powerful role in shaping how children and teenagers think, feel and act.



In today's digitally connected world, peer pressure extends far beyond the classroom or playground. Social media, messaging apps and online communities mean young people are exposed to constant comparison, instant feedback and unspoken expectations about how they should look, behave and perform. While some peer influence can be positive and motivating, it can also place significant pressure on young people to conform, take risks or prioritise acceptance over their own values and wellbeing.

Understanding how peer pressure works, both offline and online, allows parents, caregivers and educators to better support young people as they develop confidence, resilience and decision-making skills. When families and schools work together to build strong connections, open communication and shared language around peer influence, young people are better equipped to resist negative pressure and embrace positive influences that support their growth and wellbeing. Full report [here](#).

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

Xian & Chelsea, Merici School Counsellors

IB NEWS



How does assessment work in the MYP?

Many students are either working towards, or have already completed, their first assessment task for the semester, so we wanted to take this opportunity to outline some important information about assessment and reporting in the MYP at Merici College.

Each MYP subject group has **4 criteria** that students are assessed on (A, B, C, D), while the Personal Project (Year 10) and Interdisciplinary Units have 3 criteria. These assessment criteria were shared in the previous What's On (Term 1 Weeks 6 and 7).

Each criterion has **multiple strands** (i, ii, iii, iv, v) and **descriptions** associated with them, and these becomes more demanding as students progress from **MYP Year 3** (Year 7 & 8) to **MYP Year 5** (Year 9 & 10).

All criteria have **four bands** (levels 1-2, 3-4, 5-6 and 7-8), along with level 0 (work that is not described in levels 1-2), with each criterion **marked out of 8**. These form the basis of assessment task **rubrics**. All criteria are of **equal value** in assessing and reporting student achievement.

Here is an extract from a Science rubric, showing criterion A, strand i, and the various descriptors across the four bands:

Objective A: Knowing and understanding

i

IB.MYP.SCI.A.3 Science (Year 3)

International Baccalaureate MYP (Objectives)

Objective A: Knowing and understanding

The student: i. describes scientific knowledge ii. applies scientific knowledge and understanding to solve problems set in familiar and unfamiliar situations iii. analyses information to make scientifically supported judgments.

Objective A: Knowledge and understanding A-i Describe scientific knowledge	8-7 describe scientific knowledge related to space science and exploration	6-5 outline scientific knowledge related to space science and exploration	4-3 state scientific knowledge related to space science and exploration	2-1 recall scientific knowledge related to space science and exploration	0 the student does not reach a standard as outlined in the achievement descriptors

✓ MYP assessment is...	✗ MYP assessment is NOT...
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Best-fit and evidence-based (i.e., based on the most accurate demonstration of student performance) • Based on professional teacher judgement • Holistic, rigorous and varied (opportunity to achieve at highest level, across a variety of assessment strategies) • Criterion-related (based on common standards for evaluating student achievement holistically) • Focused on positive achievement (i.e., no "negative marking") 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Calculated using averages or split into decimals, e.g., 4.5 • Summative only (formative assessment is important too) • Norm-referenced (i.e., it does not compare students to each other – there is no ranking or expected distributions) • Criterion-referenced (i.e., it does not require students to master all strands of specific criteria at lower achievement levels before they can be considered to have achieved the next level)

Reminder: Personal Project registration details (Year 10)

When Year 10 students are registered for the Personal Project, details such as their nationality and language must be recorded. To ensure this information is accurate, please email jodie.muldoon@merici.act.edu.au if any of the following apply:

- The student's first nationality is not Australian (please identify their first nationality)
- The student's first language is not English (please identify their first language)
- The student has a second nationality and/or second language (please identify).



Key Dates

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

Event	Date	Information
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.
Draft EE	24 April	Full draft of the Extended Essay due

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

MISSION AND COMMUNITY NEWS

Sacramental Program | Inner North Catholic Community

Families are advised that the School of Religion at Watson Parish will recommence on Friday, 13 March, from 6:00 pm – 6:45 pm.

This program supports children who are preparing to receive the Sacraments through the Inner North Catholic Community, which includes the parishes of Blackfriars, St Thomas More, St Joseph's, St Brigid's and St Patrick's.

Families wishing to enrol their child are asked to contact the parish office to confirm attendance.

Please note that First Communion will be celebrated on Holy Thursday.

For further information or to register, please contact:

Cerisse Gomez

Parish Officer – Inner North Catholic Community

innernorth@cg.org.au

0412 128 038 | 0416 823 447

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)?

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 with any submissions by Wednesday, 1 April 2026.

LANGUAGES NEWS

Upcoming Study Tours

We have been monitoring the situation in the Middle East and in constant contact with our tour operators. Upon advice from CE, a more realistic alternative is to **postpone** the trips until September (**Term 3 holidays**). This is still to be negotiated with the tour operators, given that Qatar Airways and Emirates are offering re-booking or refunds.

We will keep you posted as soon as we have detailed information (*new cost, dates, conditions*) and come up with a new plan, which will require your approval.

While we understand this news might be disappointing, we would like to reiterate that the safety and well-being of our group are most important. The group has done extremely well in terms of preparation, and we hope and believe there will be a new opportunity for us.

CO-CURRICULAR NEWS

Chess Club

The Interschool Girls Chess Tournament held on Friday 27 March at Merici College. If students are interested in a friendly game (or 5) of chess, please contact Mrs Blakey on ann.blakey@merici.act.edu.au to receive a Compass permission form.

OTHER NEWS

12&U Girls Australian Football State Team Selections

The selection trials for the 12&U Girls Australian Football State Team are now open for registration.

Trial #1

Time: Mon 23 March, 5:15 - 6:45PM

Location: Mackillop Oval - Ellerston Avenue, Isabella Plains ACT 2905

Trial #2

Time: Mon 30 March, 5:15 - 6:45PM

Location: Mackillop Oval - Ellerston Avenue, Isabella Plains ACT 2905

Register here - <https://www.schoolsportact.org.au/events/344993>

ACT BSSS Supervisor Recruitment

The ACT Board of Senior Secondary Studies (BSSS) with ACT Scaling Test (AST) are seeking supervisor recruits.

The ACT BSSS employs over 130 invigilators each year to supervise the AST and is seeking your assistance in advertising this opportunity in support of our annual recruitment campaign.

The ACT Scaling Test dates for 2026 are 25 and 26 August.

Please email BSSSenquiries@act.gov.au for further information.

Canberra Raquet Club Holiday Camp

Looking for screen-free fun?

Kids aged 7-14 can jump into the fast-growing sports of padel and pickleball!

Running April 7-10 and April 13-17 (9am-3pm), our camps feature high-energy drills and opportunities to make new friends! Half-day options start at just \$65. Spots fill fast—book now at www.racquetclub.com.au.

ACU Canberra – Veritas Lecture

The ACU has organised a lecture presented by Professor Darius von Guttner: Just and Holy War: From Augustine to the Twenty-First Century.

All are invited to attend the Veritas Lecture on Wednesday 22 April at ACU Canberra.

For more information and to register visit www.acu.edu.au/about-acu/events.

Epilepsy ACT and Canberra Tradies Club Make March Purple community event

The Tradies is proud to be partnering with Epilepsy ACT to host a Make March Purple community event on Sunday, 29 March 2026 from 11am-2pm at *Poppyfield Commons* (formerly the Dickson Garden Centre).

All community members are invited to attend this family-friendly event, which aims to raise awareness and support for people living with epilepsy. The day will include face painting, giant games, freshly made kids' pizzas, a community walk, a special reading of *Marvellous Miles* by local author Sarah Watts, and the Purple Muck Challenge.



ACT BOARD OF SENIOR SECONDARY STUDIES (BSSS)

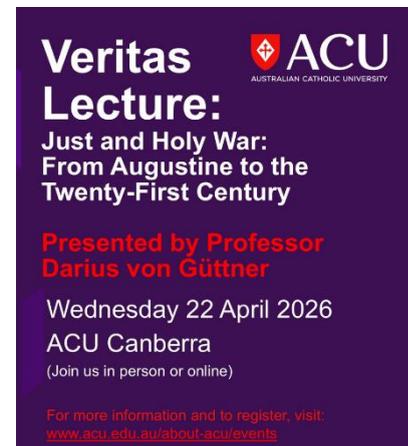
EXAM SUPERVISORS NEEDED
JOIN THE TEAM FOR THE **2026 ACT SCALING TEST**

- BSSS TEST FOR ATAR ELIGIBILITY
- CASUAL PAID WORK
- 12 HRS OVER 15 DAYS
- TARGETED TRAINING
- EXAM DATES - 25 & 26 AUGUST 2026

• ARE YOU RELIABLE?
• DO YOU HAVE AN EYE FOR DETAIL?
• HAVE A CURRENT HWVP CARD (OR WILLING TO APPLY)?

POSITIONS ACROSS ACT SECONDARY SCHOOLS
EXPRESS INTEREST NOW!
WE BEGIN OFFICIAL RECRUITING IN APRIL

BSSSenquiries@act.gov.au
62057181



Veritas Lecture:
Just and Holy War: From Augustine to the Twenty-First Century

Presented by Professor Darius von Guttner

Wednesday 22 April 2026
ACU Canberra
(Join us in person or online)

For more information and to register, visit:
www.acu.edu.au/about-acu/events



MAKE MARCH PURPLE FOR EPILEPSY

A COMMUNITY EVENT FOR FAMILIES

IN SUPPORT OF EPILEPSY ACT

SUNDAY 29 MARCH | 11am - 2pm
Poppyfield Commons (the Old Dickson Garden Centre Site)

Freshly made kids' pizzas | Popcorn, Fairy-Floss, Slushies | Special Book Reading by Author Sarah Watts | Face Painting | Giant Games | Community Walk | Purple Muck Challenge

EVENT DETAILS: Together, we're creating understanding, inclusion and support for children and families living with epilepsy.
We'd love to see you there!

The Tradies | A PLACE TO BELONG | epilepsy ACT