



WHAT'S ON NEWSLETTER

Term 3 Week 6 and 7 (Monday 24 August – Sunday 6 September)

IMPORTANT NEWS

Catholic Archdiocese of Canberra and Goulburn Education Ltd (CACGEL)

Catholic Archdiocese of Canberra and Goulburn Education Ltd (CACGEL) is proud of our strong school communities and is committed to continuing to improve the experience of our students and families.

Parents and guardians are invited to complete our annual School Engagement Survey. Your feedback will help us understand what is working well and where improvements can be made to better support our students, families and school communities.

The survey will only take about 10 minutes. .

Students in Years 4 to 12 will also be invited to complete an age-appropriate survey during school time and school staff will also be invited to take part. Your feedback helps us understand what's working well and where we can improve.

Open until 31 August 2026. All responses are confidential. <https://jwsr.questionpro.com.au/2026-CACGEL-Parents-Survey>

School Fees

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

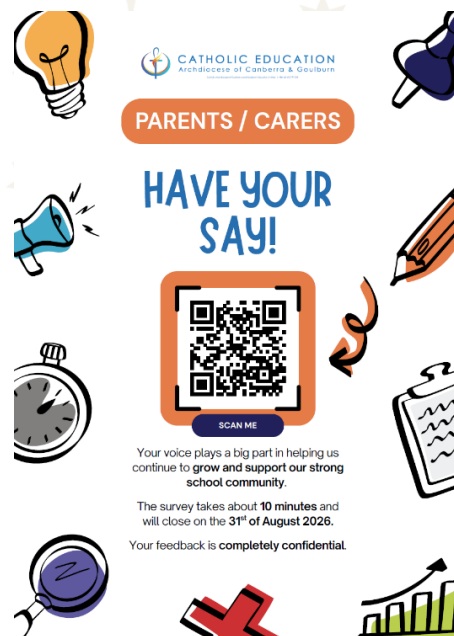
This is a reminder that Term 3 fees and any other outstanding fees from previous terms were due for payment last Friday 14th August 26. Fees must be paid in full by the due date, not the end of the term, unless you are paying your fees via a regular direct debit (BPoint or BPAY), have an approved payment 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.



WHOLE SCHOOL NEWS

What to do if your class is 'flexed'

If you have been advised by Mr Pargeter that your class has been 'flexed', this means it has been combined with another senior class in the TLC and will be supervised by one teacher. Your regular teacher will have set work, and you are required to stay in the TLC for the duration of that period to complete the set work. The supervising teacher is there to assist and is also the person you need to see if you have to leave the TLC for any reason, the same as if you were in your normal classroom. Importantly, your class has not been cancelled, nor has it become optional. Attendance for flexed classes is recorded and contributes to the 90% attendance requirement. Please be considerate of the staff in the TLC and any junior classes who are sharing the space for scheduled reading lessons. As always, the TLC remains a quiet working space.

Seiwa House Week (Monday 31 August – Friday 4 September)

Seiwa House Week will be held on Monday 31 August to Friday 4 September and celebrates its House origin, The Sisters of the Good Samaritan, as well as our links to Seiwa in Japan.

- Students in Seiwa are encouraged to wear blue accessories such as hair ribbons during the week.
- Good Samaritan House Liturgy: Thursday House Assembly
- Thursday: Year 12 Seiwa lunch in Restaurant
- Friday - Fundraising Noodle Lunch \$2 for a cup of noodles - Good Sams charity
- The famous Japanese Cat, Maneki Neko will be a focus for our activities this week.

PARENT IN PARTNERSHIPS SchoolTV NEWS

CyberSafety Series



Many of today's parents grew up in a world devoid of technologies and often have little knowledge on how best to assist and guide their children. In today's digital world, 90 percent of a child's socialisation occurs online. As the range of social media platforms grows, so too does the opportunity for bullying and stalking. Often parents have no idea their child is a victim and kids are unlikely to report it for fear of losing access to their technology, which to them, is the equivalent of "social death".

Teens are often unaware that their words, and or photos, can sometimes find their way to an unexpected audience with undesirable consequences. The key is not to fear technology, but to embrace it. In this series, parents can learn how to keep their children safe from online predators. Read full report [here](#).

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

YEAR 7, 8 AND 9 NEWS

Year 7 Reflection Day

On Monday 24 August, our Year 7 students will come together for a special day of reflection, connection and community in the College Auditorium.

This year's theme is *communitas*, a concept that speaks to the bonds formed when a group shares an experience together. For our Year 7 girls, still finding their feet in secondary school, this is a rich and timely idea. Through talks and small group activities, students will be invited to look beyond their immediate friendship circles and discover what it means to belong to something larger than a timetable. The day provides our Year 7 girls with the opportunity to come together, to pause and reflect on what's important and build bonds that will continue to shape their time at Merici. Students are asked to wear full PE uniform and to bring their own morning tea. Lunch will be provided. We look forward to a wonderful day for our Year 7 cohort.

Year 7 Immunisations

Year 7 immunisations will be held on Wednesday 11 November and Thursday 12 November. Please note that consent forms will be distributed to Year 7 students next week and are required to be returned by **FRIDAY 4 SEPTEMBER (Week 7)**.

For any parents/guardians that have enquiries, please contact the Child & Adolescent Immunisation Team
Phone: 02 5124 1585

Website:

<https://www.canberrahealthservices.act.gov.au/services-and-clinics/services/high-school-immunisation-program>

YEAR 10, 11 AND 12 NEWS

Senior Studies Reminders

What to do when you are absent on the day of a scheduled assessment

1. Parent notification to Student Services as per the usual process
2. If possible, the student should email the teacher and let them know.
3. A medical certificate is required if you miss a scheduled assessment - please send this through to Student Services and Mrs Spiller as soon as possible. If you cannot book an appointment with your GP, a Pharmacy certificate is acceptable for school-based assessment.
4. Complete the [formal application for an extension](#) to book your catch-up assessment.

Please note that if you do not provide a medical certificate, the missed assessment will not be rescheduled and will be treated as a non-attempt.

AST First Sitting (Tuesday 25 August and Wednesday 26 August)

Year 12 students will be sitting the AST on Tuesday 25 August and Wednesday 26. All students are required to wear full school uniform. Breakfast will be provided to students on Tuesday from 7.45am and Wednesday from 8am in the canteen.

Year 10 Social (Friday 18 September)

We are very excited about the Year 10 Social to be held on Friday 18 September at Merici College Auditorium from 5:00pm to 8:00pm. 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.



The following vaccines will be offered FREE as part of the ACT High School Immunisation Program during Terms 3 and 4.

- ✓ Human Papillomavirus (HPV)
- ✓ Diphtheria, Tetanus and Pertussis (whooping cough)(dTpa)

Please keep an eye out for consent cards being sent home with students during the beginning of Term 3 and due back to school on Friday Week 7, Term 3.

- Consent cards are available at your school OR download one from our website.
- Sign and complete the card.
- Return it to your school ASAP.

Acknowledgement of Country
Canberra Health Services acknowledges the Traditional Owners of the ACT and recognises any other people or families with connection to the land of the ACT and region. We acknowledge and respect their continuing culture and contribution to the life of this region.

If your child misses these vaccines at school, and you have returned a consent card indicating your wishes to have your child vaccinated, you will receive a letter in the post on how to catch up.

The dTpa vaccine will be available FREE from your GP or participating pharmacy up until your child's 20th birthday.

The HPV vaccine will be available FREE from your GP or participating pharmacy up until your child's 20th birthday.



Scan for more information or visit qrs.ly/k2htdist or call 02 5124 1585

Accessibility
Call 02 5124 0000
Interpreter
Call 131 450
canberrahealthservices.act.gov.au/accessibility
1314 1154 | Australian Capital Territory
Canberra July 2020

Tickets are \$65 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-mzfqlb6q> by Monday 14 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.

Friday 18 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 (Wednesday 25 November)

We are excited to announce the following details for the Year 12 Graduation Day to be held on Wednesday 25 November.

Please find below the program of events:

- 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 to be held 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 at the Canberra Rex Hotel, 150 Northbourne Avenue, Braddon (Cost covered by College for one Year 12 student and two parents – no additional tickets available)

Graduation Dinner and Awards Ceremony – Confirmation of Attendance

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. Due to limited seating space, no additional tickets are available to families.

Students are required to wear full school uniform (including their blazer) to all events listed above.

Please confirm your attendance here, **as well as your daughter**, <https://events.humanitix.com/year-12-graduation-day-2026> so that we are able to finalise catering numbers. Please indicate special dietary requirements. RSVP required by Monday 2 November.

Please contact Ros Parisi on email ros.parisi@merici.act.edu.au for any further information.

Year 12 Formal (Friday 27 November)

The Year 12 Formal will be held on **Friday 27 November** at the National Museum of Australia in the Gandel Atrium (invitation attached). Students and parents are encouraged to attend this event (partners welcome to attend).

The cost of the ticket is \$200 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-2026-2ej5vlnk>

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 9 November

House Coordinators will be organising table seating.

INCLUSIVE EDUCATION NEWS

At Merici College, we recognise that students have diverse learning needs and that some students benefit from specific supports to help them focus and engage in their learning. One such support is the use of fidget tools.

We have recently observed an increase in students bringing fidget toys to school that are becoming a distraction to both themselves and others. In some instances, items such as squishy toys have been thrown or used inappropriately in classrooms, which impacts the learning environment for both students and teachers.

The Inclusive Education Department acknowledges that fidget tools are an important accommodation for some students and can play a valuable role in supporting their concentration and self-regulation. Students who have this accommodation identified within their Personalised Plan will continue to be permitted to use a fidget tool at school. To minimise distractions, fidget tools should be discreet and no larger than the palm of a student's hand. This is an agreement that is made by both student, their parent and an Inclusive Education staff member. During parent meetings, we discuss the various types of fidgets that can support a student's learning and self-regulation. The Inclusive Education Hub has a wide selection of fidgets available for students to borrow and try, helping them identify the options that best meet their needs.

While many students use these tools responsibly, the increasing misuse of fidget toys has led the school to review their use. As a result, only students who have an approved accommodation for a fidget tool will be permitted to bring one to school.

Please also note that squishy-style fidget toys are not permitted in Science laboratories, Food Technology, or Textiles classrooms. If these items break, they can create safety hazards and damage equipment and materials in these specialist learning spaces.

If a student brings a squishy-style toy to school and uses it inappropriately, and it has not been approved as a support item, they will be asked to place it in their locker or it will be held at Student Services until the end of the school day.

We appreciate your support in helping us maintain a positive and safe learning environment for all students. If you have any questions regarding your child's accommodations, please do not hesitate to contact the Inclusive Education Department.

TLC NEWS

MASTERSclasses

Our MASTERSclasses have commenced this week in the TLC.

Who? All Students are welcome

Where? In the TLC

When? 4pm

This week: Getting Organised, "Start Strong, Stay Strong"

- Marking up a calendar
- Accessing SEQTA unit outlines
- Managing personal social and academic commitments
- Creating a study plan
- Establishing realistic personal expectations
- Making sense of the support and programs available to help you succeed

Our team is looking forward to seeing you there!

Book Week Thank You!

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. A trivia quiz at lunchtime, saw us stretch our literature knowledge. With Pastoral Care classes embracing the healthy competition of the teacher's favourite book quiz. Thank you to everyone who has gotten involved and supported the activities through the week. All winners will be announced through SEQTA throughout Week 6.

*A reminder: Friday 21 August 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: Symphony of Stories. Normal free dress rules apply. Not in character? Full school uniform is required.*

Overdrive or Sora

The use of Overdrive or Sora continues to be a popular platform for e-books. For those families who have not yet discovered the e-book collection they can follow the instructions below and try it out during the upcoming holidays.

The collection contains novels, non-fiction, audiobooks, magazines, graphic novels and is available 24/7 from any device. It can be accessed through the [MeriC SEQTA](#) home or by downloading the Sora app onto your IOS or Android device. Books can also be read offline on a laptop accessing Sora through soraapp.com. Fonts can also be changed to suit your needs, such as Dyslexie font.



1. Download the Sora app (free from the App store)
2. Search for a school (type in): ACEN Member Collection
3. Choose our school from the drop-down menu: Merici College
4. It will redirect you back to the Merici Login
5. You can then borrow three items at any one time



SCIENCE NEWS

Big Science Competition Results

Congratulations to the following students for their achievement in the Big Science Competition

High distinction

Angelique Fittler-Van Tilburg

Distinction

Harriet Bell

Credit

Therese Brooker

Mia Billups

Credit

Ruby Oxman-Knipe

Lola Cummins

Cynthia Chan

Charlotte McGinty

Josie Schieb

Gianna Boroczky

CO-CURRICULAR NEWS

Sports Awards 2026

It's that time of the year again where students should be thinking about the Merici Sports Awards. Please take a look at the document [here](#) and if there are any 2026 points allocations that you think the school would not be aware of, please let Mr Mickleburgh and Ms Olsthoorn know as soon as possible with sufficient supporting evidence.

OTHER NEWS

The Tradies Step Up Together for Cerebral Palsy

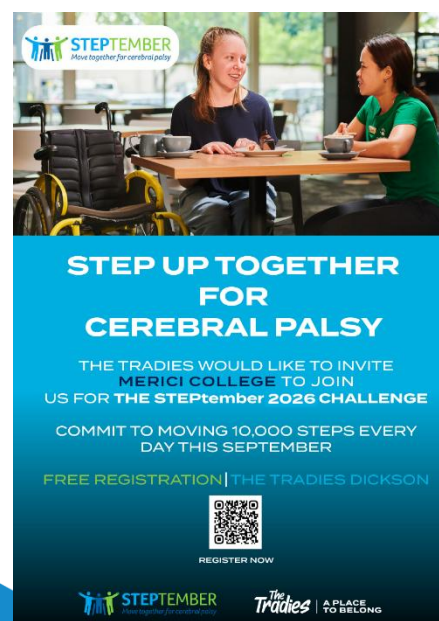
You are invited to participate in STEPtember 2026 and help make a positive difference in our community.

A dedicated STEPtember page has been created where members and supporters can come together, get moving and raise funds for people living with cerebral palsy.

You can take part individually or rally your team to join the challenge. Every step, donation and share will help build momentum and support this important cause.

To join The Tradies' STEPtember page, please use the link below and select your organisation from the drop-down list when prompted:

<https://www.steptember.org.au/join-thetradiesgroup>



Pro Performance Cricket Holiday Camps

Pro Performance Cricket Holiday Camps are back this September–October school holidays. The camps are a great opportunity for players to get some quality coaching, work on their skills, play plenty of cricket and prepare for the season ahead.

Camp 1: 28 September–2 October

Camp 2: 6 October–9 October

Please scan the QR code in the flyer for more information.



HOLIDAY CAMPS

CAMP 1: 28TH SEPT – 2ND OCT **DEAKIN MINT OVAL**
CAMP 2: 6TH OCT – 9TH OCT

PHILOSOPHY

We are passionate about helping each and every player achieve their goals and reach their potential through expert coaching in a fun, challenging, positive and professional environment. Through the game of cricket we ultimately aim to help our players learn, grow and develop into becoming better people.



OUTLINE

Designed for cricketers of all ages and stages from 5-12. Players will experience up to 3 days of high quality coaching and T20 Games with specialist coaches in batting, bowling, fielding and WK focusing on the specific requirements of each player.

Players will be exposed to a variety of match scenarios and drills that aim to improve confidence, self belief, concentration, team work and leadership skills all while having a ball with their friends.

Pro performance player report with feedback provided to each player at the completion of the Camp.







SCAN TO BOOK YOUR TICKET

