



WHAT'S ON NEWSLETTER

Term 3 Week 4 and 5 (Monday 10 August – Sunday 23 August)

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>

Assessment Calendars Semester 2 2026

Please see the links below to find your daughter's assessment calendar for Semester 2. Students should use these calendars for planning out the due dates for all of their tasks. Tasks are identified by subject, task type and teacher. It is important to identify which subjects your daughter is studying as not all scheduled tasks will apply to her. These tasks should be reflected in your daughters Unit Outlines for each subject, which are available on their course SEQTA page.

If you have any questions, please contact your daughter's teacher or the Studies Coordinator of the subject. Year group calendars can be found using the links below:

[Year 7 Semester 2 2026 Assessment Calendar](#)

[Year 8 Semester 2 2026 Assessment Calendar](#)

[Year 9 Semester 2 2026 Assessment Calendar](#)

[Year 10 Semester 2 2026 Assessment Calendar](#)

[Year 11 Semester 2 2026 BSSS Assessment Calendar](#)

[Year 12 Semester 2 2026 BSSS Assessment Calendar](#)

[Year11 IBDP Semester 2 Assessment Calendar](#)

[Year12 IBDP Semester 2 Assessment Calendar](#)

The calendars can also be accessed via our website, <https://www.merici.act.edu.au/my-merici/calendar/>.



CATHOLIC EDUCATION
Archdiocese of Canberra & Goulburn

PARENTS / CARERS



HAVE YOUR
SAY!



Your voice plays a big part in helping us
continue to grow and support our strong
school community.

The survey takes about 10 minutes and
will close on the 31st of August 2026.

Your feedback is completely confidential.



WHOLE SCHOOL NEWS

Moderation Day #2 (Thursday 13 August)

Please note that Year 7-10 students will have a Pupil Free Day on Thursday 13 August. Year 11 and Year 12 students are required to attend an AST Practice (Tertiary students only) from 9:00am to 12:00pm. Year 11 and 12 BSSS Accredited students do not need to attend. Information will be communicated to IB DP students regarding their attendance at school on this day.

Feast of the Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary Mass (Friday 14 August)

As 15 August falls on a Saturday this year, Merici College will mark the Solemnity of the Assumption on the preceding Friday, 14th August.

All members of our school community, parishioners, families, friends and neighbours are warmly invited to join our students and staff for Mass.

Date: Friday 14 August 2026

Time: 8.00 am

Location: Merici College Chapel

Presider: Fr Renoir

Together we will honour Mary's assumption, body and soul, into heavenly glory. Please note this Mass does not replace the obligation to attend Mass on Sunday 16 August; rather, it offers our wider community a further opportunity to celebrate this important feast alongside our students and staff.

Academic Awards Semester 1 (Monday 17 August)

The Academic Awards Ceremony will take place on Monday 17 August, 10:00am – 10.40am (Session 1), 11:00am-12:00pm (Session 2). This event will also be livestreamed via <https://merici.college/go/livestream>.

Please note that students receiving awards or scholarships will be notified through Pastoral Care groups and correspondence will be emailed home to parents. We are unable to indicate the award your daughter is receiving until the time of the ceremony.

Car parking for the event is available in the car park next to the oval and the student car park off Henty Street. Parents need to follow parking signage on Wise Street, Henty Street and Helemon Street. Parents are urged NOT to park on nature strips, school crossing zones or in a dangerous position (i.e. too close to intersections) as parking inspectors may be out and about and parking infringements will be issued for any vehicle that does not comply with the above. Parking may be difficult for the second ceremony at 11:00am, as parents attending the first session will still be at school on your arrival.

Visitors will be directed to enter the Auditorium via the two doors accessible from Wise Street and be seated for the commencement of the ceremony.

Please RSVP your attendance by Friday 8 August to Ros Parisi on email ros.parisi@merici.act.edu.au. RSVPs are compulsory for us to have enough seats for the whole community and guests.

PARENT IN PARTNERSHIPS SchoolTV NEWS

Anxiety and Young People



Anxiety is a natural and expected part of growing up. It helps young people navigate new experiences, challenges, and transitions. However, for many children and adolescents today, anxiety can become intense, persistent and disruptive. Factors such as academic pressures, social expectations, family dynamics and the constant presence of digital media can all contribute to heightened stress and worry. Read more [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 (Friday 14 August)

Our Year 7 students will spend Friday on their Reflection Day, an important and compulsory part of school life at Merici. Students will step away from the regular timetable for a day of prayer, connection and reflection, and are required to wear full PE uniform for the day. A number of senior students will support the day in leadership roles, continuing Merici's strong tradition of peer mentorship across year groups.

We look forward to welcoming our wider community to the Chapel at 8:00am on Friday 14 August for the Feast of the Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary Mass and we keep our Year 7 students in our prayers as they take this important step in their formation journey.

Lunch (Sausage sizzle) will be provided on the day. Students will provide their morning tea. Students will be asked to go to the PC class in the morning to have their names marked off, and then they will proceed to the Auditorium for the remainder of the school day.

YEAR 10, 11 AND 12 NEWS

Compulsory AST Trials for Tertiary students Years 11 and 12 (Thursday 13 August 9:00am-12:00pm)

Moderation day will be held for Year 7-10 students and Year 11/12 BSSS Students on Thursday 13 August. Year 11 and Year 12 Tertiary students are required to attend an AST Practice from 9:00am to 12:00pm. Year 11 and 12 BSSS Accredited students do not need to attend. Information will be communicated to IB DP students regarding their attendance at school on this day.

Please note that: AST for Year 12 will be held on 25-26 August.

Year 12 IB DP students are not required to attend school and are encouraged to prepare for their upcoming Mocks.

Year 11 IB DP students will be accompanying Mrs Chase and Mrs Nitsche to CGGS to attend a CORE day. Full uniform is required.

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.

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.

CREATIVE AND PERFORMING ARTS NEWS

Waitress The Broadway Musical Excursion (Wednesday 12 August)

We are pleased to offer an exciting excursion opportunity for our Year 9 to 12 Drama students to attend *Waitress The Broadway Musical* at the Lyric Theatre, Sydney on at 1pm on Wednesday 12 August 2026.

Students will be transported from the College to Lyric Theatre (Sydney) via bus. They will need to arrive at school at 7:00 AM for a 7:15 AM departure. The group will depart Sydney at approximately 3:30 PM with a stop at Sutton Forest to and from Sydney for a toilet break and the chance to purchase breakfast and dinner. The group anticipate returning to the College around 8:30pm.

Please ensure that your daughter arrives at the college in time for a 7:15 am sharp departure, as the group will be leaving promptly and cannot wait for late arrivals. Additionally, we kindly ask that you arrange for your daughter's pickup upon our return between 8:00 and 8:30 pm, out of respect for the teachers who have accompanied the students on this excursion. Thank you for your cooperation.

Students are encouraged to pack snacks and water, as well as bring spending money for main meals, theatre refreshments and merchandise if they wish. They are required to wear their full college uniform.

Please access Compass to find more information. For further information, please do not hesitate to contact Ms Bettison at kate.bettison@merici.act.edu.au or on 6243 4136 before the excursion or the front office on the day of the excursion via [\(02\) 6243 4100](tel:0262434100)

IB NEWS



Middle Years Programme

Year 10 Personal Project

The final report for the Year 10 Personal Project was due Wednesday 5 August. This is the culminating project in the MYP, allowing students to demonstrate their development as IB learners. It has been fantastic to

see so many great projects being submitted and we would like to congratulate Year 10 students for completing this long-term project.

A gentle reminder to those students who have not yet submitted to please do so as soon as possible. Mrs Barry will be contacting students and families regarding late submissions.



Diploma Programme

Moderation Day IB DP Student Requirements (Thursday 13 August)

Year 12 IB DP students are not required to attend school and are encouraged to prepare for their upcoming Mocks.

Year 11 IB DP students will be accompanying Mrs Chase and Mrs Nitsche to CGGS to attend a CORE day. Full uniform is required.

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!

MASTERS CLASS
Merici; After; School; Tutoring; Enrichment; Review and Study

Who? All Students are welcome
Where? In the TLC
When? 4pm

WEEK 3
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

WEEK 4
STUDY LIKE A PRO!
HABITS THAT WORK (AND SOME THAT DON'T!)

- Creative approaches to memorising information
- Transfer of knowledge and how to ensure the info sticks
- Habits as opposed to the cram session
- How to de-stress and not become overwhelmed
- Overcoming procrastination (tips and tricks for success)

WEEK 5
REFERENCING AND RESEARCH

- Varying sources
- Making the most of Oliver Learnpaths
- Accessing resources and working out which ones are best for the task
- Creating a dynamic list
- Curating a bibliography
- Quoting for impact

Book Fair (Monday 10 August – Friday 14 August)

Our Book Fair will be held from Monday 10 August until Friday 14 August with our students of Senior Business Administration and Volunteering are working together to support this event.

A local bookstore, Book Cow in Kingston, will be bringing book stock to the school and students will be selling books in the lead up to the official Book Week.

Book sales will occur out of the TLC.

Sales will be before school 8:00am to 8:45am, during lunchtimes and after school 3:30pm to 5:00pm, except for Thursday 13 August which is Moderation Day (Pupil Free Day).

Book Week (Monday 17 August – Friday 21 August)

Book Week is Week 5 for Merici College (to ensure our seniors can enjoy without it interfering with AST).

The theme: *Symphony of Stories*.

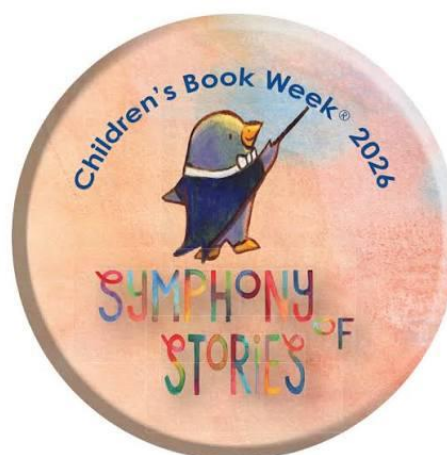
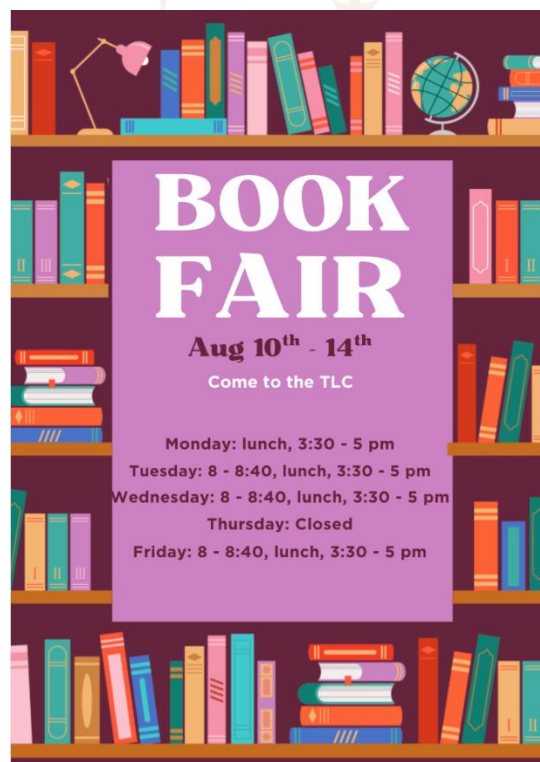
Here is our program of events for the week:

1. Monday 17 August we will have a cake decorating competition. A completed cake can be brought in from home to be judged by voting with the school community.
2. Tuesday is Trivia in the TLC at lunchtime.
3. Wednesday will be a Quiz during morning PC.
4. Thursday, we have Cosy Cafe with some poetry, or short story reading.
5. Friday 21 August will be our Dress up Parade. Normal school rules apply, it must be a recognisable character, students may come to school in their costume and wear all day. For those not participating in the Dress Up Parade, full school uniform is to be worn.

It will be a fun week of celebrations about books, reading and community. Please reach out to Mrs Blakey for any further information.

Cross-Age Tutoring

Cross age Tutoring is available from students in Years 11 and 12 for students in the junior years. Senior students are paired with junior students according to academic interests and needs. Students may meet before school, at lunch time or after school. Please click [here](#) to find the Cross-age Tutoring Information and Application Form for Parents to find more information and the application form for parents to complete. Please email MJ Logan, TLC Coordinator (mj.logan@merici.act.edu.au) for further information.



CO-CURRICULAR NEWS

Summer Oztag 2026/2027

Merici College is embarking on Oztag once again after a successful season for 2025/2026. Merici College will be looking to enter teams for students in Years 7-11 into the Wednesday night competition at Kaleen for juniors and into the Tuesday night competition at Holt for seniors (u17s and 18s). If you are keen to play, please ensure that the registration on Compass is completed before August 24 as we will be finalising teams from this date.

Any questions, please let Mr Joseph Mickleburgh (joseph.mickleburgh@merici.act.edu.au) know.

Merici College Rowing Season 2026/27 Information Session August 9

Capital Lakes Rowing Club (CLRC) is a local community rowing club based at Grevillea Park in Barton with an emphasis on junior development. CLRC has offered specific rowing programs for junior rowers from both local schools and the broader community for the past 25 years and is pleased to offer the sport of rowing as an extra-curricular activity for Merici College students for the 2026-2027 season.

As part of this extra-curricular activity, Merici College students will have the opportunity to participate in:

- A Learn-to-Row holiday program
- Transition training
- Squad training
- Rowing regattas

If you were not at the previous Information Session on May 17, and are interested in the upcoming rowing season, you are encouraged to attend the information session on **Sunday, August 9**.

Any questions, please let Mr Joseph Mickleburgh (joseph.mickleburgh@merici.act.edu.au) know.

OTHER NEWS

ACU Canberra Open Day (Saturday 12 September 11:00am to 2:00pm)

ACU Canberra's Open Day is being held on Saturday 12 September from 11:00am to 2:00pm. It's a fantastic opportunity for students and their families to visit the campus, explore the range of courses, meet the lecturers and course coordinators, and find out more about on-campus accommodation options. Please visit <https://openday.acu.edu.au/> for more information and to register.



Canberra Community Disability Expo (Wednesday 19 August)

The [Disability Events Community](#) (DEC) have organised a Canberra Community Disability Expo to be held on Wednesday 19 August. The expo is a free, community-focused event that connects people living with physical and intellectual disabilities, along with their families and carers, with local services and support providers in one accessible location.

Attendees can explore a wide range of services, including allied health, mobility equipment, therapy, housing, support coordination and community organisations, while speaking directly with providers and learning about supports available in their area.

The event is welcoming, inclusive and designed to help people make valuable connections at their own pace. Plus, the first 200 attendees receive a complimentary coffee!

Event Details:

- When: Wednesday 19 August
- Time: 10am - 1pm
- Where: Ainslie Football & Social Club

Attendees can register for a free ticket here: <https://www.thedec.com.au/events/canberra-community-disability-expo-2>.

Council of Catholic School Parents (CCSP) 2026 Conference:

A conference for parents and carers of children in NSW Catholic schools

CCSP parent conferences are a chance for people to gather, eat, learn and connect. CCSP has invited keynote speakers and presenters to talk to parents and carers about the top topics that families face today. We'll also have stallholders with resources and information to share that will help you and your family.

Enjoy the chance to up your parenting skills, knowing you're not alone when it comes to parenting challenges, and step into a supported space to bravely parent your child or young person.

Listen to expert parenting presenters talk about consent and respectful relationships, cybersafety, building your child's resilience, managing anxiety, screens and brain development, and supporting your child's learning at home and at school.

It's a value-packed day of connection and collaboration where our expert presenters will support you to parent bravely in a modern world. For more information, please visit <https://www.ccsp.catholic.edu.au/2026-conference>.



CANBERRA COMMUNITY DISABILITY EXPO

Wednesday
19th August 2026
10 am - 1 pm

Ainslie Football Club
52 Wakefield Ave, Ainslie ACT

FREE coffee for the first 200 people thanks to Community Bee

SPONSORED BY



CCSP 2026 PARENT CONFERENCES

MORE SUPPORTING FAMILIES

WORKING TOGETHER IN A MODERN WORLD

A conference for parents and carers of children in NSW Catholic schools

Visit our website to find out more:
www.ccsp.catholic.edu.au



Aris Zinc Group National Science Week Competition

ARIS ZINC GROUP (AZG) is an Australian-owned professional services organisation with a history spanning more than two decades of delivering workforce, advisory, consulting, managed and professional services solutions to government and industry. This month, they are organising a National Science Week competition for students in Years 7 to 10. The competition encourages students to explore a real world problem and present a creative, science-based solution through formats such as a poster, short video, model, experiment or written proposal.

The theme is: Science in Action: Small Ideas, Big Impact

Prizes and participation certificates will be awarded to selected entries. Please visit <https://heyzine.com/flip-book/c14971037f.html> to find more information.



AUGUST EDITION 2026

NATIONAL SCIENCE WEEK

Science for a Better Future

Know a student in Years 7-10? Share this opportunity with them.

We are organizing the Science Competition for Years 7-10 while rewarding creativity, scientific thinking and clear communication.

Think Discover Innovate Impact

MORE WAYS TO TAKE PART

OPTION 1: SOLVE A REAL - WORLD PROBLEM

THEME: Science for a Better Future

THE CHALLENGE: Identify a problem in your school, community, or the world, and propose a science-based solution.

STUDENTS COULD SUBMIT

- Poster or infographic
- A short video (2-3 minutes)
- A model or prototype
- A written proposal (500-800 words)

EXAMPLE IDEAS

- Reducing plastic waste
- Improving biodiversity at school
- Water conservation
- Renewable energy ideas
- Food security
- Mental health and technology
- Space exploration

OPTION 2: MYTHBUSTERS

THEME: Can Science Prove It?

Students investigate a common myth or claim using scientific research or experiments.

EXAMPLE IDEAS

- Does sugar make you hyper?
- Which paper towel is most absorbent?
- Does music affect concentration?
- Which sunscreen works best?

OPTION 3: Future Scientist Challenge

THEME: The World in 2050

Students imagine a future scientific breakthrough.

EXAMPLE IDEAS

- Medicine
- AI in healthcare
- Sustainable cities
- Farming
- Oceans
- Space travel

OPTION 4: Design an Experiment

Students create and carry out an original investigation using the scientific method.

Assessment:

- Question
- Hypothesis
- Method
- Results
- Discussion
- Conclusion

OPTION 5: Science Communication Challenge

Students explain a difficult scientific concept in a way a Year 5 student could understand.

Possible topics:

- Black holes
- CRISPR
- Climate change
- Vaccines
- Quantum physics
- DNA

Formats:

- Video
- Comic
- Animation
- Storybook
- Podcast

JUDGING CRITERIA

Scientific Understanding	30
Creativity and originality	25
Evidence/research	20
Communication and presentation	15
Impact/practicality	10
TOTAL	100

PRIZE STRUCTURE

- Winner - \$250 voucher
- Runner-up - \$100 voucher
- CTO Choice Award - \$50 voucher (5) one for each category
- Participation certificates

Send us your project at hello@ariszincgroup.com.au

Operation Formal Wear 2026

[Operation Formal Wear](#) is a community program run by the Lake Tuggeranong Lions Club that provides free formal outfits and accessories to graduating students. Operation Formal Wear is happening again this year at two locations.

1. St John Paul II College, 1021 Gungahlin Nicholls on 20th September between 10am and 3pm.
2. Major shopping days will be held again at Lions Youth Haven, Kambah Pool Road, Kambah in Westwood Lodge and the dates are as follows:
 - Friday 9th October - by appointment only
 - Saturday 10th October - 10am - 4pm
 - Sunday 11th October - 10am - 3pm

Donations are flooding in so if anyone has any items that they would like to donate, there is a list of drop points that cover most of Canberra, Jerrabomberra and Googong and is located on the Operation Formal Wear Facebook Page.



OPERATION FORMAL WEAR 2026

SAVE THE DATE.

NORTH SIDE

Sunday 20th September, 2026 - 10am - 3pm

St John Paul II College,
1021 Gungahlin Drive, Nicholls

SOUTH SIDE

Friday 9th October, 2026 - appointment only
Saturday 10th October, 2026 - 10am - 4pm
Sunday 11th October, 2026 - 10am - 3pm

Westwood Lodge, Youth Haven
244 Kambah Pool Rd, Kambah

Find your Fit, Celebrate in Style.

@OPERATIONFORMALWEAR