



WHAT'S ON NEWSLETTER

Term 3 Week 10 and Term 4 Week 1 (Monday 21 September – Sunday 18 October)

IMPORTANT NEWS

Update on Relocation of Uniform Shop

The new Uniform Shop in Dickson will now open on Monday 12 October.

Further to our recent communication regarding the relocation of the Merici College Uniform Shop to new premises in Dickson, we have experienced some unforeseen delays with tradespeople, which has unfortunately impacted the shop's opening date. The new Uniform Shop in Dickson will now open on Monday 12 October.

To assist families with uniform requirements, particularly as we transition to the summer uniform, the Uniform Shop on campus will be open for four additional sessions next week:

- Tuesday 22 September: 2.30pm–5.30pm
- Wednesday 23 September: 8.00am–11.00am
- Thursday 24 September: 2.30pm–5.30pm
- Friday 25 September: 8.00am–11.00am

No appointments are required.

We apologise for the inconvenience caused by the delay and thank you for your patience and understanding as we work towards opening our new Uniform Shop in Dickson.

Lost Property



Term 3 Lost Property is fast accumulating with food containers, clothing, drink bottles, shoes, and unnamed uniforms.

Please collect all lost items and return them home before Wednesday 23 September.

Items left over passed this date will be donated to Good Will. Emails have been sent to students who need to collect named items.

WHOLE SCHOOL NEWS

Commissioning Ceremony 2027 School Leaders (Monday 21 September)

On Monday 21 September, the College will be commissioning our 2027 Captains in their leadership roles. The ceremony will take place at 12:00pm with parents of 2027 Captains invited to attend. The ceremony will be livestreamed and can be accessed here: <https://go.merici.college/go/livestream>

Term 3 End of Term

Term 3 will conclude on Friday 25 September. We hope all our students and staff have a restful term break.

Commencement of Term 4 for Students (Tuesday 13 October)

Term 4 commences on Tuesday 13 October for students as Monday 12 October is a designated Catholic Education Staff Professional Development Day.

Uniform Expectations: Wear our uniform with pride!

As we enter into the final Term for the year, please be aware that summer uniform is required to be worn.

Our Merici uniform is highly recognisable in the Canberra community and a symbol of our collective identity. Our smart blazers and navy uniform are highly regarded by members of the Canberra community, and they know a Merici Student when they see one. Every Merici Student is an ambassador for our College and there is an expectation that uniforms will be worn in a responsible and respectful manner, to the highest standard of presentation.

Please familiarise yourselves with the uniform guidelines and support the College in its efforts to ensure the uniform is worn with pride and respect, <https://www.merici.act.edu.au/resources/uniforms/>. We will be working closely with students and families to follow up on any uniform concerns to reinforce our belief that the uniform helps create a sense of belonging and contributes to our strong school spirit.

What is Unacceptable Uniform

- Merici College Sports Hoodies – permitted only for co-curricular sports activities
- Boots or sneaker-style shoes (e.g., Nike Force or other sports brands)
- Excessive makeup or nail polish in non-natural colours (e.g., bright pink, black)
- Non-Merici school bags (e.g., black Nike backpacks, handbags, oversized tote bags, handbags)
- Non-Merici branded puffer jackets (e.g., black or blue in colour)
- Non-natural hair colours (e.g., pink, green, blue, bright red)
- Elastic bands or hair ties used to alter the fit of dresses
- Skirt length shorter than one palm width above the crease at the back of the knee
- No Visible black or white long-sleeve shirts worn under the school blouse.

For full details, please refer to the updated **Uniform Policy** available on the College website [here](#) and in the student planner.

Parent-Student-Teacher Interviews (Monday 12 October and Wednesday 14 October)

Parent-Student-Teacher interviews will be held in Term 4 online via Microsoft Teams on Monday 12 October (2pm-6pm) and face-to-face in the College Auditorium and C1/C2 on Wednesday 14 October (4:00pm-6:00pm). Each interview has an allocated 6-minute 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 **26S2 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/ amended after 9:00am on Friday 9 October.
- 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.

DARE TO DREAM 2027 Logo Design Competition

Each year, our College theme is brought to life through a logo designed by one of our own students. This is your chance to put your creative voice behind a message that will represent our whole community.

The Scripture: *"For I know the plans I have for you, declares the Lord, plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future." Jeremiah 29:11*

Before you ever dared to dream for yourself, God was already dreaming for you. Jeremiah reminds us that our hopes and futures are held in something greater than ourselves. Your design should carry that spirit.

Your Design: Create a simple, original logo for Dare to Dream 2027. Take inspiration from the scripture above and think about what "daring to dream" means to you personally.

Colour: Merici Blue only (Pantone 3005 / RGB 0, 140, 209) on a white background. Your logo should work in one colour. Do not use gradients, shadows or additional colours.

Keep it simple: The strongest logos communicate a single, clear idea. Think bold shapes, meaningful symbols and words used sparingly. The 2027 year must appear somewhere in your design.

Format: Submit your design as a high-resolution image file (PNG, JPEG or PDF). Hand-drawn designs that have been scanned or photographed clearly are also welcome.

Your Reflection: Along with your design, include a written reflection of approximately 100 words explaining:

- What your design represents and the choices you made
- How it connects to the scripture and the message of Dare to Dream
- What dreaming boldly means to you

Your reflection is important as it helps the judging panel understand the thinking behind your design, not just what it looks like.

How to Enter: Submissions open: 29 August 2026, closing date: 25 September 2026

Upload to: [\[MS FORM LINK HERE\]](#)

Please include your name, year group and PC class with your submission.

Judging: Entries will be assessed on how well the design communicates the theme, its visual clarity and simplicity, the quality of the written reflection and the connection between the two. The winning logo will be used across Merici College throughout 2027, including on merchandise, events and digital communications.

Questions? Contact Mrs Harrold-Carter, Head of Mission and Community



PARENT IN PARTNERSHIPS SchoolTV NEWS

Healthy Study Habits



In today's world, where distractions are abundant and the pressure to excel is high, guiding children to develop healthy study habits is more important than ever. As students aspire to achieve academic success, the cornerstone of that achievement lies not just in their intelligence or drive, but in the study habits they cultivate.

It's essential for students to recognise that good study habits aren't merely about

spending extra hours hitting the books. It's more about quality over quantity and having a more balanced approach. Emphasising the value of a routine is essential. Consistent study times establish a sense of structure and discipline, turning studying into a natural part of their daily routine rather than a burdensome task.

Additionally, how students approach their study sessions is equally important. Taking regular breaks is a crucial part of this process in maintaining focus and preventing burnout. Read more [here](#).

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

YEAR 10, 11 AND 12 NEWS

Senior Studies Reminders

BSSS Students: 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, you need to email your 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.

BSSS Students: What to do when you know in advance that you will miss a scheduled in-class assessment

1. Leave needs to be approved in advance. Parent notification to Student Services, outlining the dates, reason for leave, and documentary evidence. Please note, leave can only be approved for the reasons outlined in the [Merici College Attendance Processes](#).

Please note, there is no need to apply for leave if you already have approval for an ongoing arrangement, e.g., a school event, excursion or tour, ASBA, CIT External Study, UC Connect.

2. Complete the [formal application for an extension](#). Please note that you may be required to complete some assessment tasks early.

Reminder: BSSS Attendance Processes

BSSS students are reminded that the BSSS mandates a minimum of 90% attendance for a unit to be awarded. Absences can only be approved if the College attendance processes are followed. Key reminders are listed below, and further information can be found on the College [website](#).

- All absences need to be explained within 5 days of returning to school
- All absences of 3 consecutive days or more require supporting documentation
- A medical certificate must be supplied if a student misses a scheduled assessment task
- If students leave the College without signing out, part-day absences cannot be retrospectively explained and will remain unapproved.

Key dates for BSSS Students in Term 4

- Thursday 12 - Thursday 19 November: Semester Two exam block
- Monday 23 November: BSSS Checking Day. Attendance is compulsory for all BSSS students.
- Tuesday 24 November: last day of attendance for Year 11 students
- Wednesday 25 November: Final House Assemblies
- Wednesday 16 December: Senior Secondary Certificate collection from Merici Reception

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.

IB NEWS



IB DP Key Dates

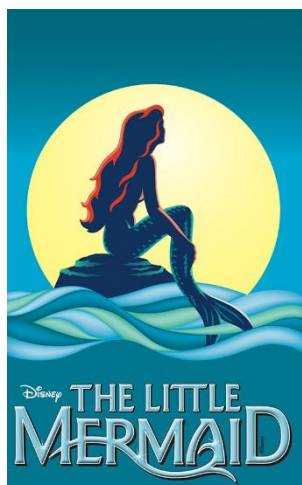
This is a list of some key dates for IB Year 11 students.

Event	Date	Information
Assessment	21 September	Italian Draft IO
	13 October	Global Politics - Paper 3
	14 October	Physics - Topic Test
	16 October	Chemistry - Paper 1 English Language and Literature - IO outlines

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

Event	Date	Information
End of classes	16 October	Final day of IB DP classes
Final Exam Period	26 October – 14 November	The final exam period for the official IB DP exams is. Exams will be held in M5 and M6

CREATIVE AND PERFORMING ARTS NEWS



We're making a splash in 2027!

Merici College is thrilled to announce that our 2027 School Musical will be Disney's *The Little Mermaid*! 🎨 🎭 🎵

Get ready to dive under the sea and join Ariel, Sebastian, Flounder, and friends on an unforgettable adventure filled with music, magic, and fun!

🎤 Audition information will be emailed to students and we encourage all students to get involved. Whether you love singing, dancing, acting, or want to be part of the incredible team behind the scenes, there's a place for everyone in this amazing production.

Don't miss the chance to be part of the magic and create memories that will last a lifetime! 💙

LANGUAGES NEWS

Spain Study Tour 2026

On Thursday 24 September, 15 students from Years 10 to 12 will embark on a language and culture journey, our destination is Spain. For 17 days, students will travel to Barcelona, Madrid and Salamanca. Students travelling are required to meet in the auditorium at 8:00am on 24 September with your luggage and important documentation/medication.

We wish our students and teachers a safe and enjoyable journey. Buen viaje!

France Study tour 2026

A group of excited students are heading off to France on Saturday 19 September to explore this wonderful country and immerse themselves in the language and culture. We wish these students and the accompanying staff, Mr Battaglia, Ms Dwyer and Ms Harold-Carter: Bon Voyage!

SUSAINABILITY NEWS

Merici receives Five-Star Sustainability Certification

Merici College has achieved Five-Star Accreditation in the Sustainable Schools Program (SSP), the highest level of recognition available through the SSP online program. Merici is the first school in the ACT to achieve this result.

This outstanding achievement reflects Merici College's long-term commitment to sustainability and demonstrates that environmental stewardship is embedded across school operations, curriculum, student leadership and community engagement. Through sustained action, the college has achieved certification across all five SSP modules: core, biodiversity, energy, waste and water.



Since joining SSP, Merici College has delivered significant environmental outcomes, including reducing electricity use by around 330,000 kWh, improving recycling performance, reducing water use and increasing biodiversity through the Biodiversity Restoration Project.

The College has also shown exceptional leadership by sharing its knowledge with other schools, supporting sustainability initiatives across sectors, and empowering students to lead meaningful environmental action. In particular, the Sustainability Action at Merici (SAM) team and the establishment of the Interschool Sustainability Captaincy Network demonstrate the strength of student leadership and the positive impact Merici students are having across the ACT school community.

Five-Star Accreditation is awarded to schools that have fully embedded sustainability in everything they do. Merici College has not only met this standard but has become a leading example of sustainable practice and leadership in education.

OTHER NEWS

Headspace Free Boxing for Mental Health Workshop

Headspace is running a free boxing for mental health workshop for youth aged 15-25. The workshop will be held on Thursday 1st October, 11am-12.15pm at UBX Belconnen. This workshop is free for young people aged 15-25 – no boxing or fitness experience required!

Registration is essential. Register by scanning the QR code or calling Headspace Canberra on (02) 6113 5700.

Darts ACT Junior Events Weekend

The Darts ACT Junior Capital Classic for both Boys and Girls divisions. As the marquee junior event on the calendar, it is a genuine milestone for any young player in the territory and the perfect way to close out the weekend.

With over \$2,000 in prize money, awards and spot prizes across the weekend, the standard of play will be high. The championships are open to all juniors, and no Darts Australia membership is required to compete. Player averages recorded across the weekend also count towards ACT representative team selection (representative selection is open to Darts ACT members only).

Event details

- Eligibility: Open to players under 18 years of age as at 31 December
- Entry fee: \$10.00
- Venue: Murrumbateman Country Inn, Murrumbateman NSW
- Dress code: enclosed shoes, long pants, collared shirt
- Registrations close: 21 September 2026

The weekend includes:

- Saturday 26 September – Brindabella Youth Cup
- Sunday 27 September – Capital Classic
- Youth and Girls divisions
- Open to junior players under 18
- No Darts Australia membership required to compete
- Over \$3,500 in prizes, awards and spot prizes



Nominations close Monday 21 September 2026. Visit <https://www.dartsact.com.au/events/363365> for more information

Join Active Cricket Coaching for an unforgettable ACT Spring Holiday Cricket Camp experience!

Build confidence, elevate your skills, and challenge yourself in our daily centre wicket matches — all in a fun, supportive, team-based environment.

Whether you're new to the game or a seasoned player, there is something for everyone.

BOOK NOW: <https://events.humanitix.com/active-cricket-coaching-spring-holiday-camps>

Dates: 30 Sept - 2 Oct & 6 - 8 Oct

Time: 9:00am-3:00pm

Venue: Reid Oval, ACT

Who: Junior (5-8yrs), Youth (9-12yrs), Senior (13-16+yrs) — All players grouped by age & skill level - beginner, intermediate & advanced



What: For more detail, check out the [Player Information Pack](#) or view the *program outline* via the booking page.

For all enquiries, please contact Holly on +61 400 125 342 or info@activecricketcoaching.com. Learn more about our coaching programs via our [website](#).

Budding Entertainment School Holiday Program

Budding Entertainment is a Canberra-based theatre company, education provider, production house and talent agency. Their vision is to inspire a love of performance at any age, whether on stage or screen. The workshops are an excellent school holiday opportunity for students to build confidence, make friends and develop performing arts skills.

Please visit www.buddingentertainment.com for more information.

UNSW 2026 YoWIE Summit: Designing the Future of Young Women in Engineering

In 2026, UNSW Canberra's Young Women in Engineering (YoWIE) program celebrates 10 years of inspiring young women in Years 9–12 to explore STEM and engineering.

To mark this milestone, *current school students who have previously participated in YoWIE are invited to participate in a special one-day YoWIE Summit.*

Participants will:

- Explore emerging STEM and engineering opportunities shaping future careers.
- Connect with YoWIE alumnae from schools across Canberra and surrounding regions.
- Reflect on their YoWIE experience and provide feedback on what worked well and what could be improved.
- Help shape future YoWIE programs through facilitated workshops and design-thinking activities.

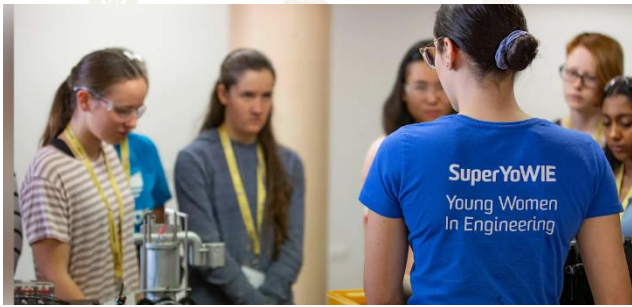
Enrolling Now: ACT School Holidays



Canberra Holiday Workshops include:

- Headshots, Agents & Craft (Tue 29 Sept)
- Ultimate Games Day (Mon 28 Sept)
- Musical Theatre (30 Sept - 1 Oct)





Date: Friday, 9 October 2026 (*school holiday break*)

Who: Current school-aged students who have previously participated in YoWIE

Cost: Free

Spaces: Space is limited to 36 participants and allocated on a first-in, best-dressed basis

Deadline: Friday, 2 October, unless filled earlier

HOW TO REGISTER: Fill out this Eventbrite form to register your interest [here](#).

If a space is available, you will be emailed a Microsoft Form that must be filled out and submitted by 5:00pm (AEST) Friday, 2 October. *Completion and submission of this form is ESSENTIAL to secure your spot!*

Questions or issues? Contact Jennifer Lane at yowie@unsw.edu.au.

ArtFullness Holiday Program



ArtFullness is an Australian social enterprise delivering programs that use mindfulness and creative and visual arts workshops to support mental wellbeing, prevent mental ill-health, and build social connection. Art is used as a safe, inclusive, nonverbal medium, allowing children to express complex emotions and ideas in ways that are developmentally appropriate and empowering.

The program is run every school holidays. Primary and High school students welcome. Location: Room 2, Ainslie Arts Centre

Each day blends approximately 50% indoor and 50% outdoor time, with art, mindfulness, sports, and performing arts woven together

Cost: Half-day - \$80 per child and full day - \$150 per child (GST excl).

For more information:

Tel: +61 404 401 999

Website: www.artfullness.space

Email: info@artfullness.space