



WHAT'S ON NEWSLETTER

Term 4 Weeks 2 and 3 (Monday 19 October – Sunday 1 November)

IMPORTANT NEWS

Why Is Our Approach Changing?

This is the first in a series explaining how our schools are preparing for new anti-bullying requirements in Term 1, 2027.

Every student deserves to feel safe and included at school. A national review found that students and families can have different experiences of how schools recognise and respond to bullying behaviour. The national and NSW anti-bullying frameworks aim to make school responses clearer and more consistent.

Catholic Archdiocese of Canberra and Goulburn Education Limited (CACGEL) is strengthening its approach across our schools. CACGEL will publish the Anti-Bullying Policy at the beginning of 2027, while each school will set out its procedures in an Anti-Bullying Statement of Practice.

Families who would like more detail can read the [NSW Anti-Bullying Framework](#).

In the next article, we'll explain what families can expect to see change.

Notification of Leaving Students

If your daughter will be leaving Merici College at the end of the year, please ensure you notify her House Coordinator and Pastoral Care teacher as soon as possible. Providing early notification assists the College with planning and enables us to offer places at Merici College to students currently on our waitlist.

Please note that at least two weeks' notice is required to avoid incurring additional fees.

Uniform Shop

The new Uniform Shop in Dickson is now open for business at Unit 2, 16 Woolley Street (opposite Vinnies Dickson).

Shop operating hours:

- Tuesday: 7:00am - 12:30pm
- Wednesday & Thursday: 9:00am - 2:00pm
- Friday: 1:00pm - 6:00pm
- Saturday: 9:00am - 2:00pm

For more information on uniform requirements, please visit <https://www.merici.act.edu.au/resources/uniforms/>.



Last Call for Term 3 Lost Property

We have exhausted all avenues of returning lost property remaining from Term 3. Please note that unnamed and unclaimed items (image below) will be donated on Friday 23 October.



WHOLE SCHOOL NEWS

Auslan Learning Club



The SRC is excited to announce that, in partnership with the Inclusive Education Department, we will be running Merici College's first- ever Auslan Learning Club.

Ever wanted to learn sign language?

Wanted to become a more inclusive communicator?

And have fun?

The Auslan Learning Club is for you!

When: Friday lunchtimes

Starting on the Friday 16 October 2026

Where: Room 201 (CRLC)

Looking forward to seeing you all there!

PARENT IN PARTNERSHIPS SchoolTV NEWS

Importance of Connection



Connection is vital to the wellbeing and development of children and young people. Strong relationships with family, friends, school and the wider community help build belonging, self-esteem and resilience. As young people grow more independent, these connections can change, with online relationships also playing an increasing role. By creating opportunities for meaningful connection, modelling healthy relationships and ensuring young people have trusted adults in their lives, parents and caregivers can help them feel valued, supported. Full report [here](https://merici.act.schooltv.me/).

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

YEAR 7, 8 AND 9 NEWS

NAPLAN Results Years 7 and 9

Please be advised that your daughter's NAPLAN results are now available through SEQTA. Parents can access these results alongside their daughter's Progressive Achievement Test (PAT) data, providing a more comprehensive picture of her academic progress and achievement over time.

By viewing both NAPLAN and PAT results together, families can gain valuable insights into areas of strength and opportunities for further growth. We encourage you to review the information and discuss your daughter's progress with her as part of supporting her ongoing learning journey.

If you have any questions about your daughters' results, we encourage you to reach out to our Literacy Coordinator, Rebecca Scollen at Rebecca.scollen@merici.act.edu.au

Year 8 Catch the Wave Retreat (Tuesday 20 October)

On Tuesday, 20 October 20, our Year 8 students are set to embark on the Catch the Wave Retreat here at Merici College.

This initiative is part of the Catholic Schools Youth Ministry International (CSYMI) program, aligning with Archbishop Christopher's vision for the renewed engagement of youth in our archdiocese. The first phase, Catch the Wave, offers a unique one-day retreat, designed to deliver the message of youth ministry engagingly, meeting students where they are. It's a day filled with exciting activities, encouraging students to explore their faith with enthusiasm.

Every Year 8 Religious Education class will be participating in this retreat on October 20. Following the retreat, Year 8 students will have the chance to express their interest in continuing with the CSYMA program in 2027. This program includes an introduction to our Youth Ministry course during Religious Education class time.

Recess and lunch will align with the regular Merici schedule, and students are advised to bring their own food as per normal.

Please note that the Year 8 Catch the Wave Retreat on October 20 is an integral part of the Merici College Retreat Program, and attendance is compulsory.

Dress code is full PE Uniform

Should you have any inquiries, feel free to reach out to Veronica Harrold-Carter (veronica.harrold-carter@merici.act.edu.au).

Year 9 History Excursion to Australian War Memorial (Tuesday 20 October)

As part of our Year 9 History unit, students will be attending an excursion to the Australian War Memorial (AWM). This visit will provide students with the opportunity to enhance their understanding of Australia's wartime experiences and to engage with historical artefacts and memorials that support their study of Year 9 History. They will engage in the Australians and the First World War educational program.

- When: Tuesday 20 October 2026
- Time: Depart Merici 12:30pm; Depart AWM 2:45pm to return to Merici College.

Students will attend Period 4 until 12:10pm to have an early lunch and then make their way to the Old Quad to meet their History teacher for a 12:30pm departure. Please note: Purchasing from the Canteen at this time will not be possible.

Dress: Full Merici College summer uniform (PE Uniform is not permitted and students wearing incorrect school uniform will be required to remain at school).

Transport: Students will catch a bus from the College to the AWM. We will be using one external bus and the two Merici buses.

What to bring: Students will have time to eat lunch prior to departure, so no food is required. They will not need any materials or resources for the excursion.

Phone contact on the day: 0408 482 480. Please remind your daughter that appropriate behaviour is always expected, as she is a representative of the College.

Year 9 Urban Challenge

As part of the Year 9 Urban Challenge program, Year 9 students will be attending Sydney for three days – Wednesday 28th to Friday 30 October.

- Depart: 7.00am - Students are to assemble in the Auditorium
- Return: 6.00pm

Please note:

- Students are to be at school no later than 6.45am for a 7.00am departure.
- A comfort stop will be taken at Sutton Forest on the journey to and from Sydney. At this time, students will be able to eat a packed morning snack that they will need to bring from home on the trip to Sydney. There will not be an opportunity to access fast food restaurants.
- Students should be picked up from the Auditorium

Urban Challenge have created a private page for our College on their website where information can be found about the program. During the program, the private page will allow parents/carers the opportunity to watch the progress of the teams and assist to help your daughter's team earn extra points. Using the login details listed below, parents/carers can access challenges, read the team's daily blogs and view photos and videos from each day. This portal will open closer to the program and will stay open long after it has finished so that students and parents can download images from the program.

Thank you to the families who have completed the Urban Challenge compulsory personal and medical fields in the online forms. For those that have yet to do so, please access the private page at the link below and complete as soon as possible. Once the online program form has been completed you will receive a summary of these details. Please save these summaries for your records.

Go to www.theurbanchallenge.com.au. Click on 'Log in' and log in with:

- Username: meriurban
- Password: meri2026

Administration of Medication:

If your daughter requires medication to be dispensed whilst on the Urban Challenge, please complete and return the relevant forms found here: <https://www.merici.act.edu.au/important-document/urban-challenge-medication-authorisation/>.

For all medication to be administered during camp (including Panadol and Nurofen), please package this in a sealed plastic bag and on the morning of camp and given to your daughter's group supervising teacher.

Epipens and Asthma sprays may be held by the student, but please provide the First Aid Officer with any extra instructions for usage. The bag should be clearly labelled with the student's name and dosage requirements.

An equipment list is available on the Urban Challenge website and can be found here:

<https://www.merici.act.edu.au/important-document/urban-challenge-equipment-list/>. It is recommended that students do not take mobile devices such as phones or iPods to the Urban Challenge. Should students take such devices, restrictions will be placed on their use during the program. The College will not be responsible for the loss or damage to such items.

Comprehensive risk management is a key component of the Urban Challenge program. A detailed Risk Management Plan has been developed and is regularly reviewed to identify, assess, and mitigate potential risks. The program engages accredited activity providers, implements established safety procedures, and maintains contingency plans to respond effectively to unforeseen circumstances. Activities and travel routes have been carefully planned and adapted to minimise exposure to high-risk, crowded, or congested areas, ensuring alignment with relevant state requirements.

We anticipate that the Year 9 Urban Challenge will be a positive and memorable experience for each student. Normal College conduct will be expected. **Parents will be contacted and asked to collect their daughter if any serious misbehavior occurs.**

If you have any queries regarding your daughter's participation in the Urban Challenge, please don't hesitate to contact your daughter's House Coordinator or Mr Rohan Langford.

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
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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. House Coordinators will be organising table seating. Bookings close: Monday 9 November

Collection of BSSS Year 12 Certificates (Wednesday 16 November)

Official BSSS Year 12 Certificates and results can be collected from Reception between 10 am and 12 pm on Wednesday, 16 December.

If students are unable to come in for collection, they can authorise a parent or sibling to collect on their behalf by emailing Mrs Taylor from their school account with the following details:

- Name of the person collecting
- Relationship of the person to you

Please note that the school is required to provide the BSSS with these records to justify the provision of the certificate to a third party.

Alternatively, students can pick up their certificates in person from Wednesday, 27 January, 2027.

IB NEWS



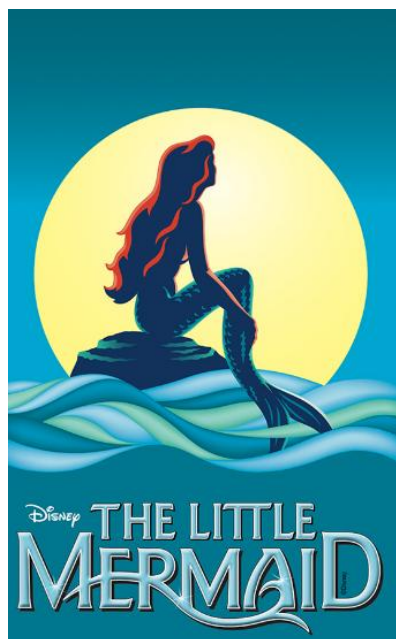
IB DP Key Dates

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! 💙

Come Alive Festival (Thursday 12 November)

Year 9 and 10 Drama students will perform at Come Alive Festival this year on Thursday 12 November at 7:00pm at ACTHUB in Kingston.

To purchase tickets, please visit <https://acthub.littleboxoffice.com/events/174601>.

Please note that seating is very limited this year and early bookings are encouraged.



CO-CURRICULAR NEWS

Expression of Interest Merici Netball Committee 2027

Merici Netball is looking to fill several vacant roles on its Netball Committee. We are looking for people to take on this role as we gear up for the 2027 season.

Please complete the EOI form here, <https://www.merici.act.edu.au/important-document/eoi-merici-netball-committee-2027/> to advise your interest.

OTHER NEWS

First Solo Exhibition - Weaving Nature by Lily Coleman (Merici Class of 2017)

Now Showing



featured artwork by Lily Hart Coleman

Weaving Nature
Lily Hart Coleman
"Li' Art by Jingo"

23 September -
03 November, 2026

Meet the Artist
Sat 03 October, 2026
2:30-4pm
drinks and nibbles

Visit us today!
50 Weedon Cl, Belconnen ACT, 2617
www.hugframing.com

HUG
framing + gallery

Lily Coleman (Merici College Class of 2017) is a contemporary artist based in Canberra who channels her personal experiences, heritage, and love for nature into her creative brand, "Li' Art by Jingo." Growing up on Ngunnawal and Ngambri Country, Lily developed a deep connection to her surroundings, which continues to inspire her creative journey today. As a proud Bundjalung woman, her Indigenous heritage forms a foundational element of her identity and gently informs the spirit of her work, celebrating the local landscape and the community that sustain it.

Lily's primary medium is acrylic paint, using its versatility to bring her artistic visions to life on canvas. Rather than using bright or overly vibrant colors, she selects a grounded palette that is deeply sympathetic to the natural environment. Her artistic style is also shaped by her family. Her father, a Bundjalung man, passed down a love for creating art, while her mother's influence instilled a lifelong appreciation for art that possessed a distinctly botanical flavor. Lily blends these family influences to create a painting style that is entirely her own.

Members of the Merici community are invited to view Lily's first solo exhibition, 'Weaving Nature.' The exhibition runs from 23 September to 3 November, 50 Weedon Close, Belconnen. Please visit artbyjingo.com.au to learn more about Lily and her work.

Women for Women Disco

You are invited to join us for a special evening of connection, celebration and giving as we come together to support three important causes: Breast Cancer Support, Seif Ples Domestic Violence Centre (Solomon Islands), and MacKillop House.

This women-only event so invite your friends for an opportunity to gather, hear inspiring stories, enjoy great company and dance the night away, all while making a meaningful difference.

[Marist College Canberra Online Community](#)

Friday 20 November 2026

6.00pm – 9.00pm

Marist College Canberra

- Guests are welcome to BYO drinks and nibbles.
- Dress code: Sequins, sneakers and dancing attire encouraged!
- Tickets: \$40 per person



Rodney's Christmas Markets at Dusk (Thursday 19 November)



Rodney's Christmas Markets at Dusk - food, wine & stalls, supporting The Marist Association, Education in the Solomon Islands!

Celebrate the festive season at Rodney's Plants Plus as the gardens are transformed into a magical twilight marketplace. Enjoy a glass of champagne on arrival, as you browse unique market stalls and discover exclusive shopping opportunities.

The evening will feature food and wine tastings, a raffle with fantastic prizes, entertainment, and a thank-you gift bag to take home. It's the perfect way to kick off the holidays with friends, family, or colleagues. Also joining the event will be Melissa King from *Better Homes and Gardens*, who will lead a free masterclass on indoor plants.

All tickets are just \$20, with proceeds going to The Marist Association Canberra and Merici College in support of education in the Solomon Islands. A wonderful initiative focused on strengthening educational partnerships, sharing resources and exploring new approaches to teaching and learning.

Event Details:

- Date: Thursday 19 November
 - Time: From 6.00 PM
 - Location: Rodney's Plants Plus
 - Tickets: \$20 (includes champagne on arrival, gift bag, and entertainment)
- <https://www.eventbrite.com.au/e/rodneys-vip-christmas-markets-at-dusk-tickets-2002266586259>

Tickets are limited. Don't miss out - come for the shopping, stay for the atmosphere, and leave knowing you've supported a great cause.