WHAT'S ON NEWSLETTER

Term 4 Weeks 6 and 7 (Monday 16 November – Sunday 29 November)

IMPORTANT NEWS

CATHOLIC
ARCHDIOCESE OF CANBERRA & GOULBURN
EDUCATION
LIMITED

PART 3 OF 5

Understanding Our Approach to Bullying Behaviour

WHAT COUNTS AS BULLYING BEHAVIOUR?

So far, we've explained why our approach is changing and what families can expect. A shared understanding of bullying behaviour is another important part of a consistent response.

Bullying behaviour generally involves an ongoing or repeated pattern and a misuse of power that makes it difficult for the student experiencing it to stop what is happening. It can occur in person or online.

A disagreement between students, or a single harmful action, may need a different response. All harmful behaviour deserves a response, whether or not it meets the definition of bullying.

Families do not need to decide which category applies before contacting the school. Please tell us what has happened so we can understand the concern and support the students involved. If you have a concern, please contact Mrs Kate Durham, Assistant Principal Wellbeing. Kate will listen to your concerns and ensure the matter is directed to the appropriate staff member for support and follow-up.

Next time, we'll look at the language we use when discussing bullying behaviour.



Peer Conflict
(EQUAL POWER)

DEFINITION
Disagreement or dispute between students of equal power.

KEY CHARACTERISTICS
- Both students contribute to the situation
- Generally occasional and situational
- Equal power – no imbalance
- Can be resolved with support and problem-solving



Harmful Behaviour
(ONE-WAY BEHAVIOUR)

DEFINITION
Student behaviour that is unwanted, hurtful or inappropriate towards another person or group that does not meet the definition of bullying behaviour.

KEY CHARACTERISTICS
- One-way behaviour
- Intent may be to hurt, embarrass or exclude
- Not repeated or part of a pattern of misuse of power
- Causes harm or distress



Bullying Behaviour
(REPEATED MISUSE OF POWER)

DEFINITION
Bullying behaviour is typically:
- ongoing and deliberate
- a misuse of power in relationships
- repeated covert/overt verbal, physical and/or social
- online and/or offline
- individual or group-based
- intended to cause physical, social and/or psychological harm
- difficult for the target to stop it from happening to them
- a violation of the right to dignity, safety, and education.

Compass

Compass will help strengthen the partnership between home and school by providing timely access to important information and communications.

The platform has been designed to simplify many everyday processes and provide a more streamlined experience for families. Please click here to find our first of our How to Guides that looks at logging on, and some of the various features of Compass.

What we need you to do now is to ensure you can log in to Compass, to ensure the transition for next year is smooth. On Tuesday 10 November, all parents and carers who are yet to login to compass received an email with their login details. Please use the attached information document and your login details. If you are not able to login please email Karen Chow (karen.chow@merici.act.edu.au) for assistance.

We encourage you to keep reading our Compass updates as we prepare for launch.

Term 4 2026 School Fees

Term 4 fees and any outstanding fees from previous terms were due last Friday 6th November 2026.

We have a number of families who have outstanding fees and with the end of the school year fast approaching we would appreciate if you could please arrange to have these paid as soon as possible.

Payment options are:

- BPAY payments can be made by using the BPay Biller details on your statement.
- 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 paying your fees via a direct debit or payment plan it is expected that all fees are paid in full by 30th November each year.

If you are experiencing difficulty in making payments, it is essential that you contact our Finance Manager, Jodi Wrenford 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.

Thank you to those families who have already paid.

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/.

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 Ausland 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



Puberty and Relationships

Puberty is a significant stage in a young person's life, bringing physical, emotional and social changes that can feel both exciting and uncertain. As children develop a stronger sense of identity and begin to explore relationships, they need clear information, reassurance and trusted adults they can turn to. These conversations need to start early, before puberty begins, so children have a foundation for understanding the changes ahead.

Read full article here: https://merici.act.schooltv.me/wellbeing_news/special-report-puberty-relationships-au.

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

Counsellors Corner

To ensure that we can effectively wrap up existing support and action external referrals for students currently engaged in counselling, we will not be taking any new referrals as of **Week 7 (i.e., from 23 November)**. After this point, any new referrals will be directed back to the student's House Coordinator for further guidance and support. We will continue to liaise with the pastoral care team regarding any urgent matters for students during this period; however, please be aware that we will be unable to commence 1:1 school counselling sessions with new students after this cut-off date.

Additionally, all counselling cases for 2026 will be closed on Friday 11 December (a reminder this is also our last day of seeing students). As the new year approaches, please be aware that any request for counselling in 2027 will be considered a new referral, as a new year can often bring new challenges, stressors, and concerns. This includes students who have previously accessed counselling in 2026 or previous years.

The referral process remains the same, referrals can be made by speaking with your child's PC teacher, House Co-ordinator or by emailing us at counsellors@merici.act.edu.au. Students under 14 years old will require parent/guardian consent to participate in school counselling. For additional information regarding school counselling, please see: Counsellor's Corner – Merici College

Additionally, be aware that the school counsellors will be out of office over the summer break from 21 December 2026 and returning on 1 February 2027.

Additional support avenues over the school holidays:
It is natural to feel overwhelmed or anxious during the holidays. If you notice that you are struggling, make sure that you reach out to friends and family so that they can support you. In addition, we would encourage you reach out to the following services for professional support:

- Kids Helpline (24/7): 1800 55 1800 or WebChat (About WebChat Counselling | Kids Helpline)
- Lifeline (24/7): 13 11 14 (call) or 0477 13 11 14 (text)
- Beyond Blue (24/7): 1300 22 4636 or Webchat (Beyond Blue Webchat Support Service - Beyond Blue)
- MindMap mental health portal for young people - https://www.mindmap.act.gov.au/
- Access Mental Health Line ACT (24/7): 1800 629 354
- NSW Mental Health Line (24/7): 1800 011 511

All the best, *Chelsea & Xian, Merici School Counsellors*

YEAR 10, 11 AND 12 NEWS

Year 10 Christian Service-Learning Week (Monday 16 November – Friday 20 November)

Christian Service-Learning Week for Year 10 students embodies the Merici College values of service, aligning with both our Gospel-Centred Learning Outcomes and the MYP Service as Action outcomes. We are pleased to continue the Christian Service-Learning Programme (CSLP) this year, keeping alive the Merici tradition of a meaningful Service Week for all Year 10 students.

Christian Service Week will commence on Monday 16 November. Throughout the week, students will undertake volunteer work with agencies across the Canberra region.

At Merici College, our community is grounded in the Christian ideals of St Angela Merici. Our commitment to service, particularly to those in need, reflects our dedication to a just and compassionate society. During Service Week, Year 10 students have a unique opportunity to live out these ideals directly. Each student selects an agency where she will complete a minimum of 25 hours, focused on direct interaction with people in need. The experience helps our students grow as servant leaders, building empathy and understanding of their wider community.

Year 10 Academic Awards Ceremony (Thursday 26 November)

It is with great pleasure that we invite our Year 10 parents and carers to attend the 2026 Advent Mass and Year 10 Awards Ceremony on Thursday 26 November 2026. The Advent Mass will commence at 9.15am and parents are most welcome to attend. The Awards Ceremony will follow at approximately 11.15am. We ask that parents and guests are seated by 11.00am. The ceremony will be held in the Merici College Auditorium, Wise Street, Braddon, ACT.

Year 10 students are required to come dressed in full school uniform. This will be the last day of Term 4 for the Year 10 students and they will leave at the conclusion of the Awards ceremony.

The ceremony will be livestreamed and can be accessed here: https://go.merici.college/go/livestream.

We are looking very forward to celebrating this very special occasion with you.

BSSS Exams Thursday 12 November - Thursday 19 November

Semester 2 exams for BSSS Students will be held between Thursday, 12 November and Thursday, 19 November. The exams will be held in the College Auditorium, except for students with alternate assessment provisions in their Personal Plans.

Students will be emailed individual exam timetables, which will list the date, time, and location of each exam. Students are expected to attend all exams. They are not required to be at school outside of their exams, and no BSSS classes will run during this week. Please note that there has been an update to our College exam processes, and BSSS students are now required to wear full school uniform during exam week.

Importantly, as a formal assessment period, your daughter will need to email Mrs Stephanie Spiller, Senior Studies Coordinator (stephanie.spiller@merici.act.edu.au) if they are unwell on the day of any scheduled exam. They will need a medical certificate to cover the absence and have the exam rescheduled, if possible. Select pharmacies can provide these, as it is often difficult to get a GP appointment on short notice. A Statutory Declaration can be used if it is not possible to secure a medical certificate.

The last official day of term for Year 11 BSSS students is Checking Day, Monday, 23 November. Attendance is compulsory, and the day will run on an adjusted timetable to ensure students can confirm individual assessment results with all teachers.

Exam protocol reminders for Year 10 and BSSS students

- Students sitting exams in the Auditorium or C1/C2 need to be assembled in the New Quad 15 minutes before the scheduled start time of their exam.
- Students must arrive with any specified equipment or resources, e.g., flagged novel, calculator, dictionary (AST)
- Students are not permitted to bring bags, mobile phones, or smartwatches into the exam rooms.
- Students arriving within 15 minutes of the scheduled start time may sit the paper; however, no extra time will be given.
- Students who arrive more than 15 minutes after the scheduled start time of the exam will need to provide supporting documentation to have their exam rescheduled.
- Students must be in full school uniform during the exam block

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).

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

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).

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

Collection of BSSS Year 12 Certificates (Wednesday 16 December)

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.

Year 12 2027 Last First Day Breakfast (Tuesday 2 February 2027)

After 5 long years, the time has finally come. Students in Year 11 this year are officially invited to the 2027 Year 12 Last First Day!

- Date: Tuesday 2 February 2027
- Time: Arrival at Merici from 7:30 am
- Location: Merici College Oval & Indigenous Garden
- Dress Code: School Uniform and Blue Hair Ribbons (+ pigtails)
- *Please wear blue ribbon in honour of our 2027 College theme, Dare to Dream.*

The canteen will provide breakfast, but feel free to bring your own snacks to share (including nostalgic childhood favourites).

Please RSVP to Mrs Parisi (ros.parisi@merici.act.edu.au) by Friday 11 December to confirm your attendance while also letting her know if you have any special dietary requirements.

Additionally, please send some baby photos to Mrs Parisi before the start of Term 1 (Tuesday 2 February).

MISSION AND COMMUNITY

The Side by Side Ride is Back

Last year, Merici staff and students rode, ran and walked alongside the young people of REACH Siem Reap. This year we are inviting our families to join us as sponsors or participants. The campaign is being coordinated by IB students Annie, Isabelle and Scarlett.

What is Side by Side?

Young people from the REACH Riders Club train for three months, then cycle 200 kilometres over two days. For many, it is their first big adventure and a real boost to their confidence and sense of purpose. Supporters around the world take on their own 200 kilometres over two weeks. The money raised sponsors youth onto the ride and supports REACH's work with more than 140 families.



Why REACH?

REACH is one of our service-learning partners in Cambodia. Through education, nutrition, healthcare and youth leadership programs, REACH helps young people break the cycle of poverty.

Two student immersion groups and one staff group from Merici have now spent time at REACH. On this year's visits, we met the young people our community sponsored onto last year's ride. They told us what the ride meant to them and to their families, and how proud they were to finish it. For our students and staff, it was unforgettable and showed us that the support we give here in Canberra reaches real people we now know by name.

Our Goal

We aim to sponsor three young people. Each $790 sponsors one rider, so our target is $2,370.

How You Can Help

- Scan the QR code on the poster to make a tax-deductible donation. REACH Siem Reap is a Deductible Gift Recipient, and all donations over $2 receive an Australian tax receipt.
- Take on the challenge with your daughters: complete 200 kilometres over two weeks by walking, running, swimming or cycling. You don't need a bike.

To find out more about REACH and its work, visit www.reachsiemreap.org.

Thank you for walking side by side with us.



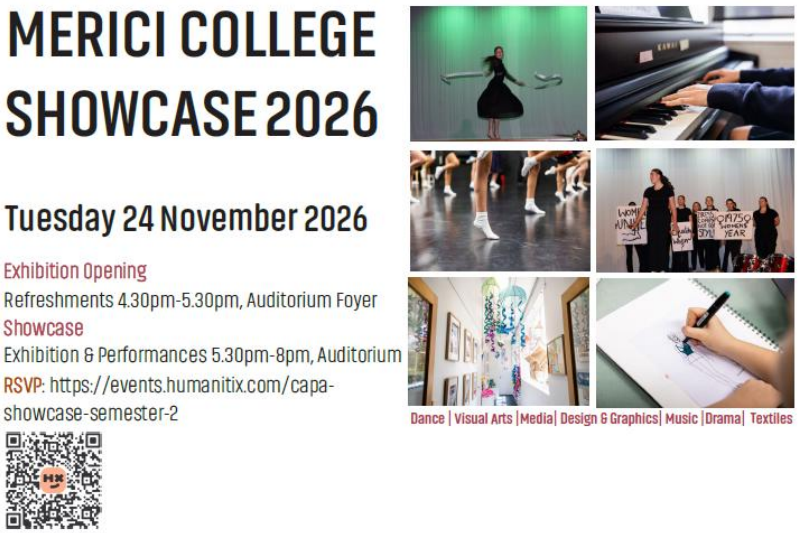
REACH Side by Side Program Launch (Monday 16 November) and Fundraising Walk and Sausage Sizzle (Tuesday 17 November)

All invited to come along to the CRLC on Monday 16 November at lunchtime for our REACH Side by Side Program Launch. Join us on Tuesday 17 November as well, meet up in the indigenous garden for a fundraising Sausage Sizzle lunch (cash and EFTPOS available) to raise much needed funds. We will also be holding a walk on the oval.

CREATIVE AND PERFORMING ARTS NEWS

Showcase Semester 2 (Tuesday 24 November)

An invitation is extended to all our Merici family and friends to attend our Creative and Performing Arts Showcase to be held on Tuesday 24 November in the Auditorium.



Our students are looking very forward to showcasing their outstanding work of visual art works and performance pieces.

Exhibition Opening Refreshments: 4.30pm-5.30pm Auditorium Foyer
Showcase Exhibition and Performances: 5.30pm-8pm Auditorium
RSVP by Thursday 19 November at https://events.humanitix.com/capa-showcase-semester-2

TLC NEWS

The TLC staff make a point of creating appealing displays about the events or tasks going on around the school. For Remembrance Day, there is a display in the foyer cabinets outside the TLC. Inside the library we have a display of New Books and horror books for Halloween. Encourage your daughter to browse the latest displays.

As we near the end of the term, the biggest task is going to be chasing textbooks and overdue library resources. This is especially true for the seniors and Year 10 students as they finish up very soon. Over the coming weeks students will be emailed a list of the textbooks they have out in their name. We are seeking your help and support to check all areas of the home (including under beds and desks), school bags and lockers to locate and return all school resources. Students can check their account by logging into Oliver through SEQTA, the drop down on their name, shows their current loans.

Any problems please be contact the TLC team via email: library@merici.act.edu.au.

Yours in research,

TLC Staff

OTHER NEWS

Holy Eucharist Parish, North Canberra Inaugural Mass (Saturday 21 November)

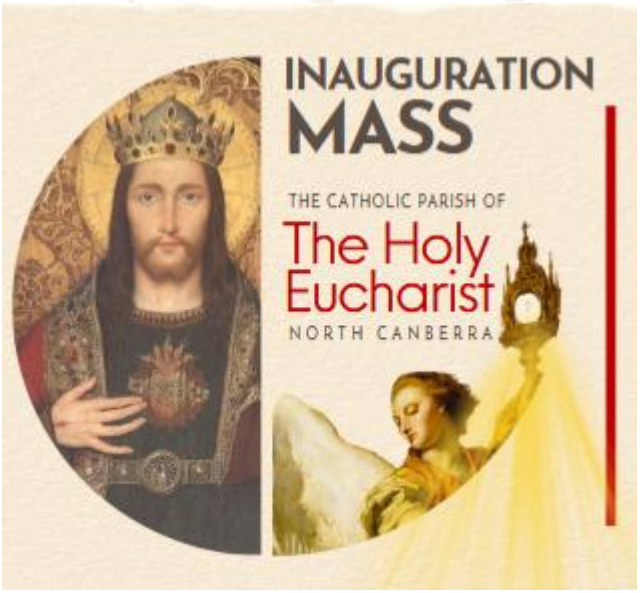
On Saturday 21 November, Merici will host a very special Mass. It's the celebration of the new Holy Eucharist Parish, which brings together the inner north parishes of St Thomas More (Campbell), St Joseph's (O'Connor), St Brigid's (Dickson), St Patrick's (Braddon) and Holy Rosary (Watson).

Date: Saturday 21 November

Time: Adoration: 5:00 pm, Parish Mass: 6:00 pm

Venue: Merici College Auditorium, Wise Street Braddon

All welcome to attend.



Holy Spirit Catholic Church, Gungahlin Children's Weekend Parish Class Sacramental Program for 2027

If you are interested in your child receiving Reconciliation (Year 4 and above), Holy Communion (Year 4 and above) Confirmation (Year 6 and above) and your child does not attend one of the three Parish Primary Schools (in the correct Year level), then please register your expression of interest by completing the form ASAP and by 15 January 2027. The form can be found here:

https://forms.cloud.microsoft/r/rirWYkkWya.

For more details please contact:
gungahlin.sacraments@cg.org.au
www.holyspiritgungahlin.org.au





Are you ready to put wings on your dreams? 🪡

Ever dreamed of becoming a pilot? The Royal Aero Club of NSW is inviting aspiring young aviators to its 2027 Flying Training Camp at Camden Airport, 9-17 January!

Experience the thrill of learning to fly with experienced instructors, develop new skills, explore aviation career pathways and make lasting friendships with like-minded students. No previous flying experience is necessary!

Find out more and apply at https://camp.royalaero.com.au/

Ainslie Football Club AFL Events & Clinics

As we prepare for the 2027 footy season, please learn more about how to play footy at Ainslie in 2027 in the flyers below.



