



# ACADEMIC CARE

## WHAT MERICI OFFERS

Welcome back everyone to the start of our second term of teaching and learning. I hope you have had a chance to re-energise over the holidays, spending quality time with family and friends. I always enjoy this time of the year because of the distinct seasonal changes we are fortunate to receive in this part of our world, and thankfully we had some glorious sunny days to enjoy, which I took advantage of by indulging in some 'me' time at the coast. During this time, I also spent some peaceful time, taking my violin out to prepare for a performance with the Canberra Bach Ensemble (CBE). It was a pleasure to share the stage with one of Merici's co-curricular piano teachers, Jaki Koll who sang in the CBE Choir! I've also taken advantage of this period to engage in some professional reading to become an Assessor through the Australian Institute for Teaching and School Leadership (AITSL).

So, why am I sharing this all with you?

Being an active and informed member of our community can enrich the lives of so many people and can make our world a better place. By taking calculated risks that challenge our thinking and allow us to explore our creative side, I believe, can bring greater richness to the way we think, interact, and appreciate with the world around us. Seeking opportunities around me that help me learn and grow academically, personally, and spiritually helps me find purpose in life so that I can help others in return, especially our young women at Merici. I hope my approach to living life to the fullest and daring to dream inspires our young people too.

Some of the readings I came across last week in my training referred back to our nation's educational commitment to improving educational outcomes for every child ([Alice Springs, Mparntwe Education Declaration, 2019](#)). In fact, the research compellingly tells us that teachers have the ability to transform the lives of young people, and that quality teachers can inspire and nurture the personal and academic development and unique abilities of *every* child. At Merici, our staff strive to promote equity and excellence in our pedagogical approach so that *every* girl can become a confident and creative individual, willing to play an active and informed member of the community and to be a successful lifelong learner. Merici teachers, including all members of the Senior Leadership Team are highly committed to the Catalyst Training program as this helps us keep abreast with evidence-based teaching practices that have a high impact on student outcomes and ensure full participation of *every* child. As we engage and are committed to ongoing learning as educators, we hope to make a difference to the lives of all our Merici girls.

I truly believe in the value of being a lifelong learner, and not being afraid to take on challenges, knowing too, that if we encounter 'failure' there is support around us to keep us going through tough times.

At Merici, we encourage our students to build a **partnership** with each **classroom teacher and the Pastoral Care Teacher** as this is often a very important pathway to building **ongoing and effective teaching and learning experiences** between the **home and school environment**. If students require further support, students are encouraged to reach out to the respective **Studies Coordinator for academic needs** or the **House Coordinator for wellbeing** matters. Our Pastoral Care Program provides guidance to help students develop a well-structured home study routine. The Merici Assessment Planner is a great tool that students have been provided with to help them plan out all their important summative assessment deadlines. Please contact either the House Coordinators or me if you would like another copy of this A3 planner.

On this final note, I thought to share with you a compilation of some of the **academic care programs** Merici offers to support your daughter, in addition to the teaching and learning that occurs daily in our classrooms. The list below is only a guide to what we currently offer and may change from time to time. This is in addition to the enormous array of other co-curricular activities and programs on offer. My final message is this; I strongly encourage *every* student to make the most of the opportunities offered by Merici College. We are all so fortunate to be part of this beautiful inclusive community. Why not try something new, this term, or commit to some fresh learning goals as we launch into Term 2!

Wishing you all a fabulous Term 2.

Mrs Bianca Porcheddu

Academic Studies Coordinator)

## WHAT SUPPORT DOES MERICI OFFER TO STUDENTS

### LIBRARY- Information Centre

#### Drop -in Service

The iC offers a “drop-in” service for students to seek help with research, referencing and guidance with assignments. They are in the best position to provide advice on finding the right book for you to enjoy a good read.

When: Before school, lunch and after school. Senior students may access the iC during their study periods as well.

Contact: Mrs Blakey (Teacher Librarian) or any of the Library Assistants, [ann.blakey@merici.act.edu.au](mailto:ann.blakey@merici.act.edu.au).

### LANGUAGES

#### Language Buddies

Language Buddies are matched up by the Languages Coordinator with an older student supporting the language learning of a younger student. Students are encouraged to attend these sessions to work through homework activities, revise together and practice their speaking skills. Students also connect with someone outside their year group, which helps form lasting friendships.

When: Lunchtimes Monday, Wednesday, Thursday

Where: Penola Flex space

Contact: Clare Freeman (Studies Coordinator – Language Acquisition), [clare.freeman@merici.act.edu.au](mailto:clare.freeman@merici.act.edu.au)

### ENGLISH

#### English Tutoring

English Tutoring is available to all students and is expertly staffed by our English staff: Mr Luke Nott, Mrs Jaime McDevitt, Ms Nicole Cabello and Mrs Nicola McLennan.

When: Every Monday

Where: Room 201

Contact: Mr Luke Nott (Studies Coordinator, Language and Literature), [luke.nott@merici.act.edu.au](mailto:luke.nott@merici.act.edu.au)

### MATHEMATICS

#### Maths Tutoring

Maths Tutoring is available for all students and expertly run by our Maths Teachers

When: Every Tuesday and Friday at lunchtime

Where: Room 228

Contact: Dr. Ed Mickleburgh (Studies Coordinator, Mathematics), [ed.mickleburgh@merici.act.edu.au](mailto:ed.mickleburgh@merici.act.edu.au)

### Maths Enrichment

This session involves solving slightly off-curriculum math-related problems. If you enjoy solving problems and puzzles through board games, this session is for you!

When: Fridays 3.20pm-4.30pm

Where: Penola Flex

Contact: Dr. Ed Mickleburgh (Studies Coordinator, Mathematics), [ed.mickleburgh@merici.act.edu.au](mailto:ed.mickleburgh@merici.act.edu.au)

### **SCIENCE**

#### Science Tutoring

Tutoring sessions are offered by Science teachers to help students unpack the learning covered in class or for assignment help.

When: Every Wednesdays at lunchtime

Where: Room 207

Contact: Ms Joanne Aboud (Studies Coordinator, Science), [joanne.aboud@merici.act.edu.au](mailto:joanne.aboud@merici.act.edu.au)

### **CREATIVE AND PERFORMING ARTS**

CAPA provides access to the art room during our assessment tasks/periods for all art students on a rotating schedule. These are supervised sessions with full access to any materials required. This is a great opportunity for our art students to have additional time and support to complete practical tasks. Additionally, the Senior Art Space is available to our Senior Art students who can use this space during their study periods so they are able to continue to work on their task.

When /Where: This information is posted to SEQTA for both parents and students with details of room and roster.

Contact: Mrs April Croft (Teacher - Art Department), [april.croft@merici.act.edu.au](mailto:april.croft@merici.act.edu.au)

### **CROSS-AGE TUTORING**

Students in Years 7-10 are invited to register to receive tutoring from another student, or Senior Students can also register to become a Tutee for younger students and gain Service/Angel Hours.

This is a popular program where times are negotiated on a needs basis. Registrations are made via email.

Contact: Jo Drummond (Teacher), [jo.drummond@merici.act.edu.au](mailto:jo.drummond@merici.act.edu.au)

### **AST (Senior Students, BSSS T Package only)**

AST Practise sessions are highly valuable for Year 11 and Year 12 students preparing for the AST Exams.

When: Tuesday 8:00am to Pastoral Care, and repeat session on Wednesdays 3:30 to 4:30pm

Where: Room 28.

Contact: Mr Gerard Ryan (Teacher), [Gerard.ryan@merici.act.edu.au](mailto:Gerard.ryan@merici.act.edu.au).

### **Career Pathways**

Do you need support and direction in applying for a part time job, university course or other vocational training? VET Studies Coordinator can help point you in the right direction.

Contact: Ms Kerry McDonnell (Studies Coordinator, VET), [kerry.mcdonnell@merici.act.edu.au](mailto:kerry.mcdonnell@merici.act.edu.au)