



WHAT'S ON NEWSLETTER

Term 3 Weeks 4 and 5 (2 August-15 August)

IMPORTANT NOTICES

COVID-19

We wish to reassure our community that we have plans in place should we ever have to respond to Government regulations. Please stay safe, follow good hygiene and reminder to stay home if you are sick.

Assessment Calendars Semester 2

Please follow the link to assessment calendars for Semester 2 for all Year groups:
<https://www.merici.act.edu.au/my-merici/calendars-and-key-academic-dates>.

Wearing our uniform correctly and with pride

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.

Of particular concern at the moment is the length of girls' skirts and the wearing of non-uniform hoodies. As per the uniform guidelines (refer to the Student Planner), these garments should be worn at knee length or below the knee. The school jumper and the blazer are the approved outermost garment. In addition, Year 12 Students are permitted to wear their Merici College Jersey which is to be worn over the College shirt only. We understand that during the colder winter weather, students may wish to wear a non-uniform jacket to and from school. They must however, remove it once they have arrived at school and it should remain in their locker throughout the day.

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/my-merici/resources/uniforms>.

We will be working closely with students and families next week 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.

Family Contact Details

It would be greatly appreciated if any changes to family contact details and addresses can be communicated to the College as soon as they occur. Please email any changes to Lauren Frankham at reception@merici.act.edu.au.

Attendance Notification

Our preferred method of communication for absence is email or SMS reply. A telephone call is no longer sufficient as all attendance is required to be stored digitally.

Please contact **Student Services in the first instance** if your daughter is absent by email to attendance@merici.act.edu.au or reply to the SMS notification sent to you should your daughter be marked absent in P.C. If you do not use these electronic forms, a note explaining your daughter's absence is required on your daughter's return to school.

Extended absences should be addressed to Kate Durham, Head of Junior School at kate.durham@merici.act.edu.au or Damien Nemeth, Head of Senior School at damien.nemeth@merici.act.edu.au, please copy Student Services (attendance@merici.act.edu.au) in the email. Please do not hesitate to copy Pastoral Care teachers or House Coordinators into email correspondence and any other information you wish to share about your child.

Absentee reports are periodically emailed to families to help ensure our record keeping is accurate and up to date.

WHOLE SCHOOL ACTIVITIES

Academic Awards Ceremonies (Monday 2 August)

Semester 1 2021 Academic Awards Ceremonies will be held on Monday August 2. There will be two ceremonies, with Balgo, Brescia and Ningil Houses presented in Ceremony 1 beginning at 9.55am. Ceremony 2 for Penola, Seiwa and Tullow Houses will begin at 11:10am. All students will be receiving their awards in the Auditorium. Award winners and their families will be notified via email if they will be receiving an award.

For those parents and guests who are unable to attend, we will be using a livestream via our Merici Youtube Channel: <https://merici.college/go/livestream>.

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. Merici College will be adhering to COVID safe protocols, so all guests will be required to check in with the QR code on the doors.

Please RSVP your attendance by Friday 30 July to Ros Parisi ros.parisi@merici.act.edu.au. RSVP's are compulsory under our COVID safe protocols.

Bridge Night Restaurant (Wednesday 4 August 6.00pm)

The Bridge Restaurant will be open on Wednesday 4 August for dinner from 6.00pm. Please telephone mobile 0458704947 or email bridge@merici.act.edu.au for all bookings.

Penola House Day (Monday 9 August)

Penola House will celebrate its House Day on Monday 9 August. Students in Penola House will be encouraged to wear white, black and pink ribbons on the day. Penola shall be gathering together in prayer during the long PC lesson, followed by games and, of course, a celebratory cake.

Moderation Day #2 (Thursday 12 August)

Please note that Year 7-10 students will have a Pupil Free Day on Thursday 12 August. Year 11 and Year 12 students are required to attend an AST Practice.

YEAR 7, 8 AND 9 NEWS

Years 8-10 Electives for 2022

Across weeks 4-5, Years 7-9 students will attend an electives session with Mrs Taylor and specialist teachers to understand the elective choices for 2022. Teachers will explain the courses on offer and have a chance to ask questions of the teachers who teach the courses. Students will then be sent a Web Preferences email to choose their electives and reserve subjects for 2022. We encourage parents to speak with their daughters around their subject choices.

Year 7 Marist-Merici Respectful Relationships Day (3 August/10 August)

Year 7 students have an exciting opportunity to be involved in a Year 7 Marist-Merici Respectful Relationships Day (3 August 2021 or 10 August 2021). Students will be advised which day they will be attending based on classes (for least disruption to teaching and learning for the Year 7 classes still running at school). This is a compulsory school day and attendance is expected.

Due to the changing nature of the COVID-19 situation, the school will make an informed decision based on advice from Catholic Education closer to the excursion date, if required. All details regarding the day can be found [here](#). Please return completed permission notes to Kate Durham (kate.durham@merici.act.edu.au), Head of Junior School.

YEAR 10, 11 AND 12 NEWS

Year 11 and 12 Scholarships for 2022

Scholarship winners for Year 11 and 12 2022 will be announced at the Awards Ceremonies held on Monday August 2. Scholarship winners and their families will be notified via email to attend the ceremony.

Canberra Academy of Languages

The Canberra Academy of Languages provides courses for Year 11-12 students and early access students to study their chosen languages, where these courses are not available through their schools or other providers.

As advised to principals, we will hold an information evening on Thursday 16 September 2021 from 6pm to 7pm about our senior secondary programs in Languages for 2022. At this session, we will provide information about CAL programs in French, German, Japanese, Spanish, Tamil and possibly other additional languages for 2022.

The event will take place, COVID safety permitting, at Ainslie School, 33 Donaldson Street, Braddon. If COVID safety requires alternative arrangements, we will set up a teleconference link and advise registered participants. To register, interested participants should email info@cal.act.edu.au. Details are on the News and Events pages on CAL website.

CAREERS NEWS

Please follow <http://merici.college/go/careers-newsletter> to find the latest careers newsletter and information.

INTERNATIONAL BACCALAUREATE NEWS



Key IB DP Dates – Year 12

Please find below the key IB dates (does not include Merici set assessment):

Date	Event
11 th Aug	Chinese Final IA Oral
12 th Aug	Moderation Day (Students to study at home)
16 th Aug – 20 th	Practice Exams

MYP Personal Project



The Year 10 students submitted their Personal Project Report last week and should be congratulated on all their efforts! This term students had their third and final formal meeting with their supervisor to discuss feedback on their draft and to ensure they submit all the necessary elements which included their academic honesty form, report, bibliography, appendices and evidence of their product/outcome. During this journey

students have learnt a great deal about themselves as IB learners and they will look back on this aspect of their schooling with great pride.

Later this term Year 10s will have an opportunity to introduce the Personal Project to the Year 9s and I'm sure they will have plenty of helpful advice to bestow.

In Term 4, parents, guardians and students will be invited to attend a Personal Project Exhibition. The Year 10s will be able to show and discuss their final product/outcome and what they learned in the process. More details coming soon.

LANGUAGES NEWS

LA FÊTE NATIONALE (Bastille Day) - Friday, 6th August

Although the official day has already passed (14th July), it hasn't stopped us from bringing a bit of French culture to Merici and celebrating this holiday through a variety of activities in Week 4.

During the week:

French themed weekday quiz:

- New themed quiz each day with 3 questions
- The link for each quiz will be sent out just before PC each morning to be completed in PC time
- The winner is the PC that has gotten the most correct answers

WINNING PC WILL RECEIVE A FRENCH PASTRY BREAKFAST IN WEEK 5!

On the day (Friday 6th August):

All day:

- The Canteen will serve French food
- You can wear Tricolore (blue, white and red) accessories

Lunch time:

- Pétanque (lawn bowls) will be taught by Monsieur Boone on the oval
- Escargot game (similar to hopscotch) will be set up in the indigenous garden with Bonbon prizes
- Dance Troupe will perform the Can Can
- French music will be played in the New Quad

Please click [here](#) for more information or contact Féy Etherington (Arts and Culture Captain) and Miss Freeman (Acting Languages Coordinator)

MATHEMATICS NEWS

Mathematics Tutoring

Maths tutoring is continuing this term on Wednesday mornings 8.00am-8.40am. There is also an opportunity for our seniors to undertake AST Practice on Mondays 8.00am-8.40am. Both sessions are held in the Pentony Centre.

SPORT NEWS

#HAVE A GO- Wear Green and Gold accessories to support our Olympic team.

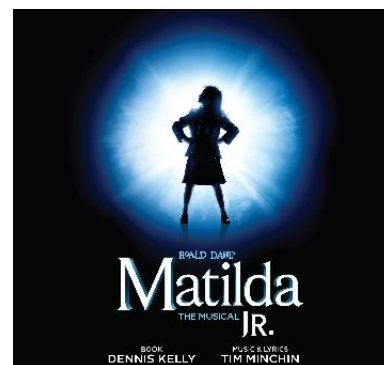
Friday July 30th is National Turn Australia Green and Gold Day! Merici College will be running our own 'Have A Go' day, where students will be able to 'have a go' at many different Olympic Sports! These will be run on both the courts and in the gym at lunchtime. Students are encouraged to wear the best green and gold accessories you can find! #HAVEAGO

CREATIVE AND PERFORMING ARTS NEWS

Merici College students proudly present a production of Roald Dahl's *Matilda the Musical JR.*

ALL SHOWS BOOKED OUT!

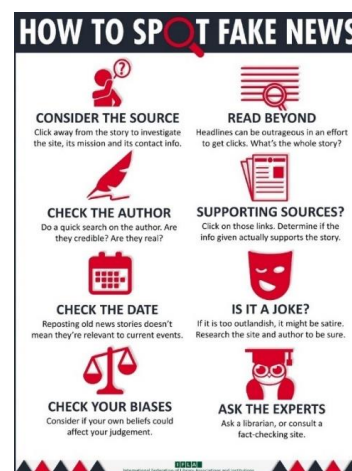
Doors open at 6.45pm for seating. Our Merici Candy Shop will be open from 6.15pm to purchase some delicious treats.



iC NEWS

The Book Week Committee are busy planning activities for Book Week in Week 7, *Old Worlds, New Worlds, Other Worlds*. Monday we will have a cake decorating competition. A completed cake can be brought in from home to be judged by lunchtime, Thursday 26th August will be our Dress up Parade, Tuesday, Wednesday, Friday, we will have quizzes, craft and scavenger hunts. There will be more details in the next newsletter.

During Year 8 Flex we looked at critical literacy. In the world of digital information, we assume that young people understand how to be responsible digital citizens and can decipher the truths. We have access to all manner of information, some fact, some biased or opinion, and others just plain untruths. Does your daughter know the difference, or how-to fact check?



There are a number of Fact Checking websites that help dispel the growing number of ambiguous facts out there. Some include: [FactCheck.org](https://factcheck.org), [ABC News – Fact Check](https://abcnews.com/factcheck/), or use of [Google Fact Check](https://www.google.com/factcheck/).

It is certainly a conversation worth having with your daughters; to encourage them to not believe everything they read through social media, to be critical thinkers in the information they read, and ensure the information they find is from a credible source.

iC Staff

MISSION AND COMMUNITY

Reflections Program

Our Reflections Program continues next term with our Mother-Daughter Evening. This is an exciting opportunity for mothers to spend some dedicated time with their daughters (and vice versa!) to explore their relationships through a faith-based retreat experience. In 2021, the focus is centred around the Ursuline charism (the charism – spirit, linked to Brescia House). Please find details below and rsvp to ros.parisi@merici.act.edu.au by Wednesday 11 August.

Mother – Daughter Evening, Monday 16 August

Time: 5.30pm-7.30pm

2021 focus: *The Heart of the St Angela Merici Rose* (Ursuline – St Angela Merici focus)

Includes: Light refreshments

Location: C1 & C2

OTHER NEWS

eSafety Commissioner Webinars

The eSafety Commissioner regularly runs free online webinars for parents to be able to understand and support young in their care. There are a number advertised to occur throughout the remainder of the year. Please follow the link below to identify if any could be useful for you, <https://www.esafety.gov.au/parents/webinars>.

Did you know Canberran households waste thousands of dollars every year by throwing away food that could have been eaten?



Sign up to the three-week [Food Waste Challenge](#) for a step-by-step recipe to reduce food waste in your household.

Plus, the first 1500 ACT residents that complete the challenge, including the final survey, will be eligible for a **\$30 IKEA voucher**.

act.gov.au/foodwaste

UPCOMING EVENTS (Term 3 Weeks 6 and 7)

Mother/Daughter Reflection Evening (Monday 16 August)

Bridge Night Restaurant (Wednesday 18 August)

International Chess Day Competition hosted at Merici College (Thursday 19 August)

Talk and Tour for prospective families (Saturday 21 August 9.30am-11.00am)

Book Week (Monday 23 August – Friday 27 August)

Year 10 High Tea (Friday 27 August)