



WHAT'S ON NEWSLETTER

Term 1 Weeks 2 and 3 (7 February-20 February)

WHOLE SCHOOL ACTIVITIES

Welcome from the Principal

Please follow the link <https://merici.news/news/principals-welcome-letter-2022> to find Mrs Masters' Principal Welcome Letter and important information on the Return to School plan.

Uniform expectations: Wear our uniform 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.

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 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.

For further information, please contact Kate Durham, Deputy Principal Welfare (kate.durham@merici.act.edu.au).

Communication and Use of Mobile Phones:

This year, in line with most schools and best practice, we are making some important changes to the access and use of mobile phones during the school day. We understand that mobile phones and technology are now a key part of modern life. Most students own a mobile phone with access to the internet and for safety reasons students will carry a mobile phone to contact home after or before school. However, mobile phones can and often do lead to several problems in school such as bullying, filming, disruption to lessons and inappropriate usage of the internet and social media leading to potential safeguarding issues.

Here at the Merici, we strongly encourage our students to develop socially and emotionally. This development is just as important as any academic progress or grades. Improving social skills and emotional development can best be done by talking to each other, interacting and developing real connections at break and lunchtime, as opposed to using their mobile phones.

For these reasons our new process for the use of mobile phones on the school site, during school hours is as follows:

(Year 7-10)

During the school day, during lesson time, students must not, under any circumstances, use mobile phones to make calls, send text messages, access the internet, access social media sites, take photos or use other applications.

Students can access their phones to check messages and respond briefly via text message during morning tea and lunch while at their locker. Students are not to use their phones in any other part of the school grounds during morning tea and lunch.

During class time, must store their Mobile phones in a secure locker **(Years 7-10)** or switched off **(Years 11-12)** unless given specific permission from their teacher, or if approval has been given by the College, for example to manage medical conditions.

Any student in Year 7-10 seen using their mobile phone during school hours, including break and lunchtimes, will have their phone confiscated. This will come into effect from Week 4, to allow Students to become familiar with the new changes.

Parents are asked to contact Student Services if there is a need to get a message to your daughter during the school day. Please do not message or call your daughters directly during the school day. If it is urgent and/or an emergency, we ask that you call reception on 6243 4100, they will find a trusted adult that will deliver the message to your daughter and support her. If your daughter is not feeling well, she is to find her PC or House Coordinator. Parents will be contacted by the college if necessary.

For further information, please contact Kate Durham, Deputy Principal Welfare (kate.durham@merici.act.edu.au).

Carparking - Pickup & Drop Off

We would like some support from parents with maintaining safety when dropping off and picking up students. There are three main areas where we would like parents to **stop** using; the main bus bay along Wise Street at the front of the school, the staff carpark (cnr Ipima and Wise Streets – only staff parking) and the senior car park. Can we please request that the main car-park next to the oval is the designated area to drop and collect.

Tullov House Day (Monday 21 February)

Tullov House will celebrate their 'House Day' on Monday 17 February. This is an opportunity to acknowledge, observe and explore the Brigidine Order on which Tullov House is founded. The Feast of St Brigid is commemorated on 1 February annually and is very important to the formation of the Brigidine Sisters.

Students will be required to attend normal classes during the day and will be involved in Tullov House activities during morning PC and PC Long lesson. Tullov students are encouraged to wear green accessories on the day and will celebrate together with Tullov cupcakes in period 4.

Guidelines for Tullov House Day dress

To ensure the Tullov House Day is as successful as possible, students are required to follow the dress guidelines below.

- Wear green accessories with your full school uniform (green ribbon, green socks).
- Please bring your full PE uniform for PE classes.

We are looking forward to a very successful Tullow House Day and appreciate your support of this special celebration. If you have any questions or require any further information, please contact either your daughter's PC Teacher or Emma Kennedy emma.kennedy@merici.act.edu.au.

Opening School Mass (Wednesday 16 February 11.40am)

Students and staff will attend the College Opening School Mass on Tuesday 16 February. The format of the Mass has not yet been finalised. Further information will be released in the near future. Unfortunately, we are unable to invite our parent community this year because of COVID and our inability to ensure safe distancing for all adult guests.

YEAR 7, 8 AND 9 NEWS

Year 7 Aspiring to Achieve Parent Workshops (Tuesday 8 February 5.30pm-7pm)

A special presentation to support a successful start to High School at Merici for Year 7 parents will be held via live stream on Tuesday 8 February commencing at 5.30pm. The evening will commence with s Principal's Welcome at 5.30pm, followed by three key sessions on Pastoral Care Support, IT Support and Planning for Academic Success. The live stream link is here: <https://merici.college/go/livestream>

At the conclusion of this presentation, parents will have the opportunity to join their daughter's House Coordinator and House Captains online for an information session. Microsoft Teams Meeting links can be found below for each House. Please click on the relevant link to join the meetings.

Click here:

[Balgo House Meeting Link](#)
[Brescia House Meeting Link](#)
[Ningil House Meeting Link](#)
[Penola House Meeting Link](#)
[Seiwa House Meeting Link](#)
[Tullow House Meeting Link](#)

Students are welcome but are not required to attend.

Please click [here](#) to find the program flyer.

Year 7 and 8 Immunisations (Year 8: Thursday 10 February and Year 7: Friday 11 February)

Immunisations will be held on 10 Feb and 11 Feb for Year 7 & 8 students. Students have been given an information card that needs to be returned by prior to the day. Students will be called down in class groups. For more information from ACT Health please follow the link below. <https://www.health.act.gov.au/services-and-programs/immunisation/adolescents>.

Year 7: Human Papillomavirus Dose 1

Year 8: Human Papillomavirus Dose 2 & Diphtheria Tetanus Pertussis Dose 1

It is not compulsory for students to receive their vaccinations in the school setting. If your daughter would be more comfortable having this vaccination via your GP we encourage you to arrange this yourselves. Unfortunately, ACT Health does not offer a catch up day for students who are absent during the school based immunisations.

Year 7 Camp (Monday 7 March – Friday 11 March)

Unfortunately, due to COVID-19 restrictions, we have postponed the Year 7 Camp until Term 4. We see the camp as a important part of our transition program and still believe that there are many benefits to students from participating in the camp. In the interim, we are planning a community day for our Year 7s with the focus of team building, relationships and connections to our Merici community and ethos. More details to come.

YEAR 10, 11 and 12 NEWS

Commissioning of School Leaders (Tuesday 16 February)

We ask that our Student Leadership Team are available on Tuesday 16 February for their Commissioning Ceremony. More details about the time and location of the ceremony will be advised. Unfortunately parents are unable to attend this ceremony but the event will be live streamed and can be viewed at <https://merici.college/go/livestream>.

Year 11 Conference, Thursday 18 February–Friday 19 February

Unfortunately, due to the current COVID situation we are not in a position to progress with the Year 11 Conference in the planned format that consisted of an overnight stay off-site on 24-25 February.

We will adjust the format to hold the conference at school on the same days as planned, including an extended afternoon. More information will be provided about the specifics of the conference to Year 11 closer to the event. The removal of travel and an overnight stay will mean a significant adjustment to the cost of this event which will be reflected in the school account for each Year 11 student.

Book Your Virtual School Visit Now: Anu Extension Program Year 11 2022

Do you have Year 11 2022 students who would benefit from being part of the ANU Extension Program?

ANU Extension provides an enhanced learning experience for Year 11 and 12 students in schools and colleges around the Canberra region. Students have the opportunity to extend and deepen their knowledge and skills in a subject area of interest to them, studying alongside other highly motivated students who share a common interest. They can study sciences, engineering, computing, mathematics, commerce and Asian studies at ANU while still in high school. The program gives students access to the university's state of the art resources and facilities, and in particular ANU academics, many of whom are leaders in their field of study.

Applications close on 13 February 2022. If you would like to squeeze in a virtual school visit before then the ANU Extension team would be happy to speak to your Year 11 2022 students about this unique opportunity. As well as providing background information about the program, we will outline the application and selection test processes, answer any questions and showcase videos made by our 2021 Year 12 students about their ANU Extension experience.

Further information about the program and available courses for 2022 can also be found on the ANU Extension website. <https://extension.anu.edu.au/>

Applications for ANU Extension courses close strictly 13th February 2022. Applications can be submitted on the website homepage. [Submit an online application](#). Selection Tests are being held online February 21-25 in the evenings.

For more information and to book your school visit please contact us at anu.extension@anu.edu.au.

IB NEWS

International Baccalaureate

All students in Years 7 to 10 are in the IB Middle Years Programme (MYP). The Diploma Programme is an option for students in Years 11 and 12. Both programmes have at the heart of them the IB Learner Profile. These are a set of 10-character attributes that the IB promote as supporting them in the goal of developing internationally-minded young people.



For the next two weeks, we will be focusing on the attribute of 'caring' as we welcome new students and their families into our community as well as new staff. Watch out for our next 'What's On' to see how we have shown this attribute. Have a discussion at home about what this attribute looks like for you in your homes and families.

This is a great clip about empathy and sympathy from Brené Brown to get the conversation started: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=1Ewgu369Jw>



Caring

Show empathy, compassion and respect towards the needs and feelings of others. You have a personal commitment to service, and act to make a positive difference to the lives of others and to the environment.



Event	Date	Audience	Information
IB MYP Awards	3 March Period 6 Online	Year 11 Students (for Year 10 MYP 2021)	We will have an awards ceremony to acknowledge the achievements of the 2021 Year 10 Cohort. This includes certificates for: Personal Project Certificate of Distinction, Certificate of Merit and Service as Action.

			This will be live streamed for families. Y11 students will attend in person. The ceremony will be recorded for families who are unable to attend at the scheduled time online.
MYP Assessment and Reporting at Merici Workshop	23 February 6:00pm-7:15pm Online	Year 7 families (students and parents) and any families new to Merici.	This will be an interactive online workshop online to provide some information about how students are assessed in the Middle Years Programme at Merici and how our rubrics and feedback are used to make. A link to join this meeting will be sent out to families via email next week. This will be recorded for families unable to attend.
Project Proposal Due Date	Wednesday Term 1 Week 3 16 February 2022	Year 10 Students	This is an informal check in with Year 10 to see how they are progressing with their project. Details about this have been provided in the Personal Project Workshop.

Personal Project Information

For Year 10 students, the culmination of the MYP journey is their Personal Project. As the new MYP Facilitator for 2022, I am very excited to be on this unique journey with Year 10 students as they pursue something they are passionate about and continue to develop lifelong skills.

Students have started the idea generating and goal setting processes in Term 4, 2021 and will hit the ground running early in Term 1 to build on this progress. Students have had Workshop Session 3 in Week 1, in which they had a refresher on goal setting, keeping a Process Journal and the research phase. They have been allocated their Personal Project Supervisors, a member of teaching staff, who will be their cheerleader and will support their Personal Project journey. In week 2 students work on their Project Proposal and arrange a formal meeting to discuss this with their Personal Project Supervisor. Their Project Proposal is due on Wednesday 16th March (week 3) in SEQTA.

Every Tuesday B Lunch there will be a drop-in session for Year 10 students to attend in the MYP Hub. Year 10 students are strongly encouraged to come along if they have specific questions about their Project. Students and families can always seek advice from their Supervisor or from the MYP Facilitator (clare.freeman@merici.act.edu.au).



Welcome to the graduating cohort of 2023 and families. As you embark on this two-year programme, we would like to take this opportunity to inform you of some upcoming dates.

Event	Date	Audience	Information
Extended Essay and Creativity, Activity and Service Information	15 March 6:00pm-7:00pm	IB Diploma Current Y11 Students and Families	Please join us online for an information session about the Extended Essay (EE) and Creativity, Activity and Service (CAS). A link to join this meeting will be sent out nearer the event to families.
Stress Better Workshop #1	28 February Lunchtime in the IB Hub	DP Students	This is the first in a series of workshops to assist DP students with managing stress.

We are a team to support you, so if you have any questions, please contact us. Subject teachers are best placed to respond to specific content and course questions (please see the list of staff below), and if you have some general questions please contact me Natalie.fairfax@merici.act.edu.au.

Subject	Teacher	Email
English Literature	Renee Taylor	renee.taylor@merici.act.edu.au
Italian	Joseph Mickleburgh	joseph.mickleburgh@merici.act.edu.au
French	Fabrice Boone	fabrice.boone@merici.act.edu.au
Spanish Ab Initio	Site-based Coordinator Natalie Fairfax	natalie.fairfax@merici.act.edu.au
French Ab Initio		
World Religions	Andrew Blakey	andrew.blakey@merici.act.edu.au
Biology	Ravpreet Dhillon	ravpreet.dhillon@merici.act.edu.au
Chemistry	Kathryn White	kathryn.white@merici.act.edu.au
Mathematics (AA + AI)	Ed Mickleburgh	ed.mickleburgh@merici.act.edu.au
History	Stephen Powell	stephen.powell@merici.act.edu.au
Psychology	Jodie Muldoon	jodie.muldoon@merici.act.edu.au
Theory of Knowledge	Stephen Powell	Stephen.powell@merici.act.edu.au
Creativity, Activity, Service	Stephanie Spiller	Stephanie.spiller@merici.act.edu.au
Extended Essay	Natalie Fairfax	Natalie.fairfax@merici.act.edu.au

LANGUAGE NEWS

Canberra Academy of Languages (CAL) Registration Evening

The CAL Registration Evening for 2022 will be held from 6 pm on Thursday 3 February. At this session, enrolments will be finalised, provide information on program plans and assessment arrangements, and outline how to find current information online about programs throughout the year. This event will be held online for COVID safety reasons.

The CAL schedule for the year can be viewed via the [Events page on CAL website](#). Prospective participants for the registration evening are asked to RSVP info@cal.act.edu.au to initiate a possible enrolment process and receive the link for the online meeting. For those interested, there is information on CAL's programs, via links to the current CAL flier and other information for prospective participants.

In 2022, programs will be delivered in six languages – French, German, Japanese, Korean, Spanish and Tamil. CAL classes will commence in Week 2 of Term 1 (Wednesday 9 February and Thursday 10 February), so that Colleges can refer students where needed. Scheduling details are available from the section of the [Programs page on CAL website](#).

DEFENCE NEWS

Our first Defence Catch ups for the year are a great way to reconnect with your DSM, and to meet any new Defence Students in your year. We've all been the new person, it's nice to meet and support our new Merici girls. For our new students it's a very relaxed and welcoming way to meet other students who have been in the same situation as you're currently in, I try to organise weekly catch ups for each year group, so if you can't make this week, check your emails and daily notices for the next one. You are always welcome to come by my office to say hello or email if you need anything specific. I really hope to see you all soon! *Ms Friend, DSM*

- Defence Students Year 7 Meet and Greet. Thursday 3 February at lunchtime. Meet in Room 222, outside the DSM office and walk outside together for lunch. Bring your own lunch, snacks will be available.
- Defence Students Year 8 Monday 7 February at lunchtime. Meet in Room 222, outside the DSM office and walk outside together for lunch. Bring your own lunch, snacks will be available.
- Defence Students Year 9 Tuesday 8 February at lunchtime. Meet in Room 222, outside the DSM office and walk outside together for lunch. Bring your own lunch, snacks will be available.
- Defence Students Year 11 Tuesday 8 February at recess. Meet in Room 222, outside the DSM office and if time permits we'll head outside to eat, snacks will be available.
- Defence Students Year 10 Wednesday 9 February at lunchtime. Meet in Room 222, outside the DSM office and walk outside together for lunch. Bring your own lunch, snacks will be available.
- Defence Students Year 12 Wednesday 9 February at recess. Meet in Room 222, outside the DSM Office and if time permits we'll head outside to eat, snacks will be available.

CAREERS NEWS

Please visit <https://www.mericicareers.com/> to find the latest Careers newsletter and information.

SPORT NEWS

Swimming and Athletics Carnivals

Unfortunately due to current COVID restrictions, the annual Swimming and Athletic Carnivals will be held at a later date.

Merici College Sports Update

It would be wonderful to see as many girls as possible committing to at least one Co-curricular Sport at the College. For more information about Sport at Merici College please email susan.anderson@merici.act.edu.au.

Merici College Netball

Registrations will be out shortly! It is not too late to be a part of our inclusive netball community. Everyone can play. No experience is necessary. Grading day will be advertised soon. Keep your eye out.

Merici College Winter Basketball

Registrations for Winter Basketball will be out shortly. Students and parents will be emailed information on how to register. The competition starts in Term 2 and games can vary from Friday through to Sunday depending on the division entered. Training times will depend on the availability of the coaches, students and facilities.



iC NEWS

The Information Centre (iC) is open Monday – Thursday 8:30am–5:00pm, Friday 8:30pm–4:00pm.

Students are welcome to stay after school, borrow books, study, or use the resources available.

Library Lover's Day is the 14 February where we celebrate all things library, such as reading, literacy, authors, illustrators, and the most important thing... the readers and those who use this facility. We are encouraging our students to come into the iC to see the display and share their favourite quote on "love" from a book or poetry.



We look forward to getting to know your daughters throughout the year, whether it be to help with researching and referencing, to find a great book, discuss an author, pull apart a character and story, participate in book club, join the chess club, play board games, or to complete a jigsaw puzzle.

Happy reading
iC Staff

CO-CURRICULAR NEWS

Co-Curricular Activities Expo (Thursday 17 February 12:45pm)

Merici offers a wide range of sporting, cultural, community service, creative and outdoor activities for students. All students are encouraged to become involved in these activities. A program of social and pastoral events is also provided to strengthen the community and house spirit within the college.

An Activities Expo will be held on Thursday 17 February at lunch time in the Auditorium. The Expo provides students with the opportunity to investigate and enrol in any of the activities. Activity facilitators will be present to answer any questions that students may have. Please follow the link <https://www.merici.act.edu.au/building-futures/cocurriculars> to find a list of current co-curricular activities.

Merici College Volleyball

Welcome to Merici Volleyball Semester 1 2021! Students interested in representing Merici College in co-curricular Volleyball, are asked to please click [here](#) to find attached all registration information and Code of Conduct documentation.

The competition is organised by Volleyball ACT and is played at Lyneham Hockey Centre on Tuesday nights. Games last season were played on the half hour from 4:30pm until 9:30pm (games for younger teams are usually completed by 7:30pm). The website for Volleyball ACT is available at www.volleyballact.com.au.

We believe the season commences Tuesday 16 March and continues until June 22. Please note that we believe games will not be held during the school holidays.

We ask that before completing forms and committing your daughter to volleyball that you are aware of what this commitment entails. Teams will train at least one morning per week, some one afternoon a week for up to 2 hours and during one lunch time. It is an important part of developing teamwork, commitment and awareness of responsibility and parents need to reinforce this. As well as playing on Tuesday evenings, all teams except division C juniors will have duty – this is done roughly 7 times a season.

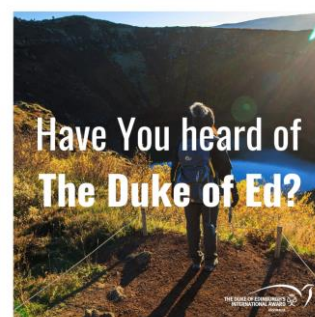
In order for teams to be registered, each team will require a minimum of eight players, a coach and manager. Please note that teams will change from last year.

Please do not hesitate to contact Andrew Blakey on email andrew.blakey@merici.act.edu.au or telephone 6243 4156 if you have any concerns or questions.

The Duke of Edinburgh's International Award

Duke of Ed is a global framework for non-formal education, which challenges young people to dream big, celebrate their achievements and make a difference in their world. Through developing transferable skills, increasing their fitness levels, cultivating a sense of adventure and volunteering in their community, the Award helps young people to find their purpose, passion and place in the world to become #WORLDREADY.

For information regarding the Award at Merici, which is offered to students in Year 9-12, please email jackie.males@merici.act.edu.au.



Co-curricular Music Program

At Merici College, students have the opportunity to participate in private instrumental lessons to learn a musical instrument or sing with one of our vocal tutors, during school hours on campus. Individual tutors rates may vary, but average around \$40-45 per half hour lessons. Lesson times are rotated to allow for flexibility with school timetabling.

We also offer a wide variety of instrumental and vocal opportunities which include:

- String Ensemble
- Vocal Group
- Merici Band
- Guitar Group

Merici College offers instrument hire at a cost of \$150 per year.

Through the Music Co-Curricular Program students can perform at a number of events throughout the year. These may include; the Australian National Eisteddfod, Floriade, Open Day, Creative and Performing Arts Showcase, Merici College Masses, Grandparents Day, and much more.

Students are invited to join a co-curricular group at our Activities Expo to be held in Term 1 on Thursday 17 February. Enrolment in private lessons or hiring an instrument can be made by emailing the Music Department. For further information please visit <https://www.merici.act.edu.au/building-futures/cocurricular/music-program>.

OTHER NEWS

Athletes Foot School Rewards Program

Our local 'go to' school shoe store_The Athlete's Foot_Canberra, Woden and Tuggeranong would like to extend a massive thank you to all families who shopped with them over the December/January period. Furthermore, they would like to remind us about our involvement in their School Rewards Program, that is, for every pair of school shoes one of our students purchases from their store, we receive \$5 back from them! This program runs year round, so be sure to always let them know your school when shopping with them so they can link us to your families membership and continue being apart of their generous program!

UPCOMING EVENTS (Weeks 4 and 5)

Upcoming events will be advised