

WHAT'S ON NEWSLETTER

Term 1 Weeks 4 and 5 (Monday 20 February – Sunday 5 March)

IMPORTANT INFORMATION

Semester 1 2023 Assessment Calendars

Please see the links below to find your daughter's assessment calendar for Semester 1. Students should use these calendars for planning out the due dates for all of their tasks. Tasks are identified by subject, task type and teacher. It is important to identify which subjects your daughter is studying as not all scheduled tasks will apply to her.

These tasks should be reflected in your daughters Unit Outlines for each subject, which are available on their course SEQTA page.

If you have any questions, please contact your daughter's teacher or the Studies Coordinator of the subject. Year group calendars can be found using the links below:

[Year 7 Assessment Calendar Semester 1 2023](#)

[Year 8 Assessment Calendar Semester 1 2023](#)

[Year 9 Assessment Calendar Semester 1 2023](#)

[Year 10 Assessment Calendar Semester 1 2023](#)

[Year 11 Assessment Calendar Semester 1 2023](#)

[Year 12 Assessment Calendar Semester 1 2023](#)

Calendars can also be found on our website [here](#).

Meet our Coordinators

Over the next few weeks, we will be introducing you to our new Coordinators.

Veronica Harrold-Carter, Head of Mission and Community



Veronica comes to Merici College with over 35 years of teaching experience having worked across a variety of Catholic Schools in both NSW and the ACT. She also spent some time working in the NSW TAFE System.

Veronica is married with three adult children who all benefited from an education in Catholic Schools.

She completed her initial teacher training with the ACU and gained her MEd at the University of New England.

Veronica has extensive experience in the classroom as a teacher of Religious Education, English and Humanities. She has held a number of leadership roles in Wellbeing and Curriculum and Religious Education.

In 2009 Veronica completed a teaching exchange in Kingston Ontario. Here she had an opportunity to experience education in another system as well as a year of quality family time and travel. She still maintains many connections to the Kingston Community.

Veronica has also volunteered her time to teach English to Peruvian Teachers of English, a programme that ran under the auspices of the Peruvian Ministry for Education, an experience she would love to repeat someday.

Veronica is passionate about the development young people believing that every one is worthy of achieving their full potential as compassionate and empathetic young people committed to a life of service, a philosophy with grounds her in her daily practice.

You will see Veronica around the College accompanied by her cavoodle , Milo who is a trained as therapy dog and loves a cuddle.

Welcome Veronica!

Nicole Commins, Literacy Coordinator



Nicole began her own journey in education in the Catholic system in the small rural town of Leeton, NSW. She knew from an early age that her vocation was teaching, and hence after she graduated Year 12 she studied a double degree at the University of Sydney of Bachelor of Education (Secondary: Humanities and Social Sciences) and Bachelor of Arts, majoring in English, History and English as an Additional Language or Dialect. Nicole has spent her career in schools in rural NSW and internationally in the United Kingdom and Malaysia. She has experience teaching in various curriculums and has served as Senior Pastoral Coordinator in her previous role. Nicole has been a staff educator with regards to educational frameworks such as Visible Learning and Harvard's Visible Thinking Routines, and was granted the opportunity to speak at the Corwin Visible Learning Conference in 2022.

Nicole is passionate about ensuring all students are equipped to decode and participate in their ever-changing world as critical, kind and curious learners. She is excited to share with staff and students a love of reading, literacy and learning. Crucial to Nicole's pedagogy is a grounding in explicit teaching and use of the principles of the Science of Learning and the Science of Reading, coupled with a fierce valuing of the whole child's wellbeing and the importance of relationships.

Outside of the teaching world, Nicole is an ardent traveller who has travelled to 51 countries, and has an immense love for reading, eating food from different cultures and spending quality time with family and friends (one reason for her return back to Australia).

Kylie Olsthoorn, Health and Physical Education Coordinator



Kylie has over 18 years' experience having worked in 5 different countries as a Health and Physical Education teacher, Dean, Curriculum leader, and Athletic director. Born in New Zealand, growing up near Wellington she developed a passion for sport at a young age. Kylie represented her region at multiple different sports. Growing up in a small town she gave back to the community once entering high school and enjoyed coaching younger children, and naturally, her journey into education began. She studied Sport and Exercise Science in Hamilton NZ, before completing her teaching qualification in Christchurch. Kylie's early career kept her in NZ whilst developing her craft and educational philosophy. She then ventured

overseas to Saudi Arabia and taught girls at a British school, before moving to India. In India, Kylie took on an Activities and Athletic Director role for an American school, in which she became an integral part of the leadership team. Throughout her adventures she continually strives to stay at the top of her field as a life-long learner and completed a Masters in Sports Coaching through Griffith University. She is a risk-taker and spent a few years prior to covid at a school in Bulgaria, again on the leadership team but also teaching K-10 Physical Education.

Most recently, Kylie has been in Wellington NZ working at a large Girls' school and spending quality time with her family. She has now moved to Canberra with her son, and enjoying being closer to her sister, niece and nephew.

Kylie is a dynamic woman who strives to be better, whether it be in the classroom, as an administrator or in her personal life. She is known for her ideas, challenges and for achieving her goals. She believes it is her duty as a teacher and mentor to be a role model and to guide students' character to enable them to lead a full happy, healthy life. Throughout her career she strives to meet the needs of individuals and groups of students. She finds ways to honour students' choice and create programs that are inclusive of all, whilst keeping it relevant to the changing needs of the student population.

She is excited to be here at Merici in the year of *communitas* and is enjoying the unique culture of the school.

Dropoff Carparks

Please note that morning student drop-off is to occur in the Wise Street carpark (at oval). We have received concern from staff that drop off in the Limestone Avenue carpark is impeding entry with cars exiting at the same time, causing near-vehicle collisions.

SchoolTV

School Transitions

Whether it is starting school for the first time, moving up to a higher grade or embarking on a journey through secondary school, there is no doubt that any school transition is a very exciting time for children and parents. It means your children are growing up!

However, transitioning is an ongoing process. It can continue long after students have entered their new environment and may encounter difficulties at a number of different stages. These stressors may appear as anxiety and frustration and result in negative or disruptive behaviours. Such behaviours can become problematic making the transitioning process even more difficult for children and parents.

In this edition of SchoolTV, parents will learn practical strategies to assist your child during the transition process and reduce stress and anxiety levels.

We hope you take time to reflect on the information offered in this edition of SchoolTV and we always welcome your feedback. If you have any concerns about your child, please contact the school for further information or seek medical or professional help.

Here is the link to the School Transitions edition of SchoolTV:

<https://merici.act.schooltv.me/newsletter/school-transitions>



COUNSELLORS' CORNER

It's been a busy start to the school year and we hope that all students are starting to settle in to their new routines and schedules. As we begin to embark on our academic journey together, we thought that it would be a good time to remind students and their families of some good study habits to set themselves up well to achieve their goals.

One of the common themes that we see in counselling, is a lack of motivation or a lack of drive for schoolwork or study. As your teenager grows older and gains more independence, it can be tempting to pull back in many ways – but its important to stay involved in their life to provide them with the motivation they might sometimes be missing. Sometimes it can be hard to know where to start. simple things like showing an interest in what they learn at school and excitement about their strengths and achievements. It might be helping them break down their assessment task into chunks or allocating specific 'study time' in your daily routine to help them stay on track.

Click [here](#) to read the full article.

WHOLE SCHOOL ACTIVITIES

Help raise funds for Türkiye and Syria - this Friday 17 February

As many people would know, Türkiye and Syria have been struck by a devastating 7.8 magnitude earthquake. Thousands of deaths have been reported in Türkiye and Syria and the death toll is increasing by the hour. Freezing winter weather is only adding to the devastation, as the thousands left injured, trapped or homeless are stuck in bitter cold and rain.

Merici College will be having a uniform free day (with a suggestion of wearing red items of clothing or accessories in solidarity with the country's national colours).

This will be on Friday of this week (17 February) those participating must bring a gold coin donation - to contribute to a larger donation that will be made on behalf of the school community. The donations will be going to the Caritas Australia Turkey Syria Crisis Appeal. **Without a donation, students will be expected to be in full and correct school uniform.**

To ensure that this day is as successful as possible, students are required to follow the dress guidelines below.

- All College rules about make-up and jewellery apply on this day.
- Please bring your PE uniform for PE classes.
- Shoulders must be covered and no shoe-string tops, bare midriffs or revealing necklines.
- Skirts and/or shorts should be mid-length or longer: no 'short-shorts' or 'mini skirts'.
- No pyjamas or onesies.
- No 'skins' or tights to be worn instead of trousers or jeans.
- No inappropriate slogans or symbols on clothing or accessories.
- Shoes should be full enclosed and appropriate for activities completed in science laboratories and food and technology lessons.
- Do not wear any of the following shoe types: ugg boots, thongs or high-heeled shoes.

Please support this most worthwhile cause.

Ash Wednesday (Wednesday 22 February)

Ash Wednesday is the first day of the season of Lent. The distribution of Ashes will occur for staff in the Chapel at 8:00am and in-House Assemblies. All students will receive ashes in House meetings during PC.

Moderation Day #1 (Tuesday 28 February)

Please note that Year 7-10 students will have a Pupil Free Day on Tuesday 28 February. Year 11 and Year 12 students are required to attend an AST Practice (Tertiary students only). Year 11 and 12 Accredited students do not need to attend. Year 11 IB Diploma students are required to attend school from 9:00am to 11:00am for an additional Theory of Knowledge lesson. Year 12 IB Diploma students are required to attend school at 8:45am to 3:05pm for their mock exams for World Religions. All Diploma students may wear non-uniform.

Bridge Restaurant (Wednesday 1 March 12.30pm)

The Bridge Restaurant will be open on Wednesday 1 March from 12:30pm. Please email bridge@merici.act.edu.au for all bookings. Visit www.bridge.restaurant for more information and sitting times.

Annual Community BBQ (Thursday 16 March 5:30pm-7:30pm)

An invitation is extended to all families to attend the Merici College Annual Community BBQ on Thursday 16 March from 5:30pm-7:30pm in the New Quad. The BBQ is a great opportunity for our whole community to gather, parents to meet PC Teachers and for us to welcome new families to the College. Our six individual Houses will be very vibrant in their presence with House Coordinators, House Captains and Vice Captains coming along to meet and greet new families and reconnect with our current families. Members of our P&F Committee are also looking very forward to meeting you and welcoming our new families to the community.

Please note that for catering purposes, RSVPs are essential for this event before Wednesday 8 March. Food and drinks will be provided. Unfortunately no late RSVPs will be accepted. Please follow the link <https://www.trybooking.com/CGCTM> to let us know if you are available to join us.



YEARS 7, 8, 9 NEWS

Year 7 Camp

Year 7 students will be attending a camp in Week 6 of Term 1 at The Tallong Outdoor Education Centre NSW. The details are as follows:

Balgo, Brescia and Penola Houses: 6 – 8 March 2023

Ningil, Seiwa and Tullow Houses: 8 – 10 March 2023

The Year 7 Camp is an excellent opportunity for students to develop relationships with their peers and enjoy diverse experiences outside of the formal school setting. It is expected that all students will attend the Camp. Students will be involved in various activities at the Camp for which all equipment will be provided.

For full information and permission note, please click [here](#).

Please click [here](#) to find the application for the administration of medicine.

Please click [here](#) to find the packing list.

YEARS 10, 11 AND 12 NEWS

Year 11 Conference (Wednesday 22 February – Friday 24 February)

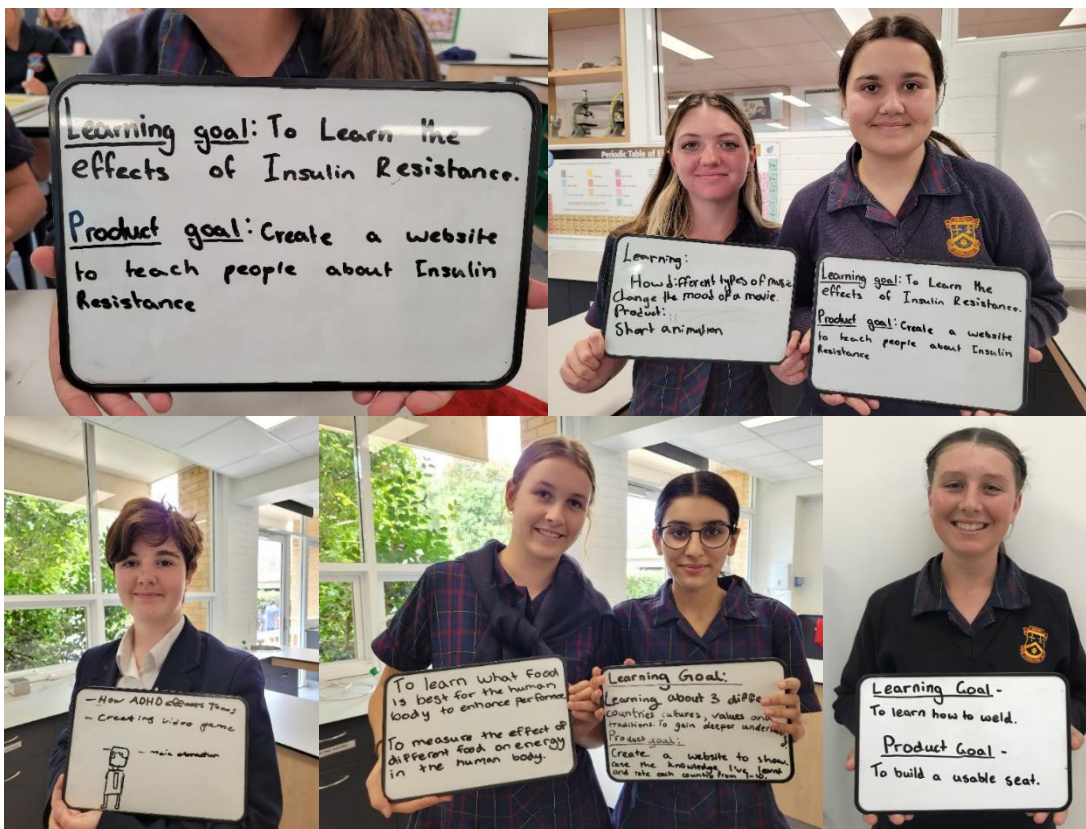
The Year 11 Conference is coming next week for three days from **Wednesday 22 February to Friday 24 February**, to support our new senior students transition into Year 11.

Held at the beautiful grounds of the Greenhills Centre in Stromlo, the Conference is designed to create enthusiasm and energy around the learning and development experience over the next 2 years for our Year 11 students, and to ensure they understand all Senior Secondary Studies requirements. It is also an opportunity for our Year 11 students to understand and reflect upon the responsibilities they have to themselves, their family and the College whilst they are with us for the next 2 years.

IB NEWS



In their final year of the IB Middle Years Programme, Year 10 students complete a personal project. Each project has 2 goals; a learning goal (what students will learn from the project) and a product goal (something that they will create). Inspiration for the personal project can come from any number of places, including favourite hobbies or sports, subjects at school, career aspirations, or a community need. This year, the learning and product goals are as diverse as our students. Some of the students have shared their goals below.



Event	Date	Information
MYP Assessment Workshop	23 February 6 :00pm - 7:15pm	This workshop is aimed at families with daughters in Year 7-10 who are new to the College . Parents are invited to attend with their daughters to gain some understanding into the way student work is assessed and how rubrics are used. Click here to find the invitation previously sent to families.
MYP Awards Ceremony	10 March Period 6	MYP Year 10 2022 (current Y11 students) Award Ceremony. Please click here to find the invitation. This event will also be live streamed and recorded for your convenience.
MYP Revision Skills Workshop Year 7 families	30 March 6 :00pm	A workshop for students and their parents to learn effective techniques to revise for tests and exam at high school. This will be an interactive workshop with practical strategies provided. Please click here to find the invitation for parents to attend this workshop.



Key Dates

This is a list of some key dates for IB Year 11 students.

Event	Date	Information
CAS / Extended Essay Information Session	14 March 6:00-7:00pm	For Y11 students and parents. This session will outcome the DP requirements for two parts of the 'Core'. Formal invitation to be sent out nearer the time.

This is a list of some key dates for IB Year 12 students.

Event	Date	Information
Italian Mock Exams	23 Feb	Italian students to attend school to complete Practice Exams for Italian. Students do not need to wear school uniform for this day and will not attend classes.
World Religions Mock Exams	28 Feb	All DP Y12 students are to attend school on Moderation Day to sit a full run through of exam papers for practice. Any additional time available once exams are complete will be spent on working on the Extended Essay. Students to bring own lunch, but morning tea to be provided. Students do not need to wear school uniform for this day and will not attend classes.

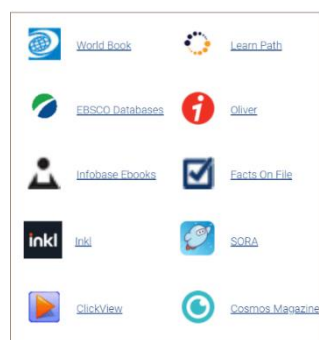
World Religion IA draft due	16 March	World Religion IA Final submission due
Italian IA	31 March	Final IA Italian Due
Italian Final IB Exams	9-10 May	Italian Students will sit their official IB exams.
World Religion Final IB Exams	15-16 May	All Y12 DP students to sit their official IB exams.

iC NEWS

The Co-curricular Activities Expo was on Thursday 16 February with some activities beginning this week. It is exciting to have many of our co-curricular activities run by seniors. Book Club began on Friday of Week 4, new members are always welcome. We meet in the Information Centre (iC) small group room at lunch. Thursday will be Digital Detox Day where students are encouraged to get off devices and play board games, cards, puzzles, or colouring in. We have a games cupboard in the iC and students are welcome to choose their game of choice or to bring one in from home. We also run a Chess Club, it runs weekly in the iC small group. See Mrs Blakey for details. Merici will be hosting the Secondary Girls Chess competition on the 30 March and anyone who knows the basics of Chess is welcome to play. More information will be in the Notices on SEQTA as the time gets closer.

The Kids' Lit Quiz Canberra Heat will be held at Merici on the 24 May. This is a fun competition for students who love reading. Students must be 13 years old on 1 June, so only open to Years 7 and 8. They work in a team of four to answer quiz questions about authors, books and all things literature. Encourage your daughter to register their interest in being part of a team, as a co-curricular activity with Mrs Blakey, email ann.blakey@merici.act.edu.au. We train each Tuesday recess in the iC.

During the upcoming weeks students will begin their assessments. It is not unusual for students to feel a little overwhelmed, not knowing how to start the task or where to find relevant and reliable information. The iC has a wealth of quality information that can be accessed through books and online. Encourage your daughter to visit the iC to browse the shelves and to access the iC services online through SEQTA for database access. The databases available include the catalogue *Oliver*, Facts on File, World Book, EBSCO Databases, ClickView and Inkl (the online newspaper subscription).



The iC staff are available before school, lunch and after school to assist individual students to find the best information to meet their research needs. For more information you can contact the iC staff at library@merici.act.edu.au.

Yours in all things library,
iC staff

HEALTH AND PHYSICAL EDUCATION

Swimming Carnival (Friday 3 March)

Our school community is looking very forward to participating in our annual Swimming Carnival which will be held on Friday 3 March. More information and permission notes and information on the day to follow.

CO-CURRICULAR

Music Program

Instrumental and Vocal Opportunities

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 tutor rates are \$41 per half hour lessons. Lesson times are rotated to allow for flexibility with school timetabling.



Instrumental Tutors

- Woodwind – flute, clarinet and saxophone
- Brass – trumpet, trombone, french horn and tuba
- Guitar and bass guitar
- Strings - violin, viola, cello and double bass
- Piano and keyboard
- Voice

Merici Music Groups

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

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

Instrument Hire

Musical instruments are available at Merici College and can be signed out to students at no charge for up to 12 months. There is a security deposit of \$150 which fully refunded upon return of the instrument.

Please click [here](#) to find the Music Tuition Policy.

Participation

Students are invited to join a co-curricular group at our Activities Expo held in Term 1 of each year. Enrolment in private lessons or hiring an instrument can be made by emailing the Music Department.

Performances

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.

Contact : Heather Lloyd, Music Department

Email: music.program@merici.act.edu.au. For further information, please click [here](#).

OTHER NEWS

Ainslie FC Open Day



GIANTS AT AINSLIE FC

Junior Training w Giants Players

Thu 23/02, Reid Oval, 6:00 - 7:00
Have a kick with AFL superstars followed by a meet and greet!
New players from 5 - 17 y/o welcome

Ainslie Junior Open Day

Sat 25/02, Alan Ray Oval, 10:00 - 1:00
Occurring alongside Giants intra-club match & Fan Day
Register for the 2023 footy season, get info, buy Ainslie merch, get a physio screening, and watch some great footy!

The Ainslie Football Club has some exciting events coming up with the Greater Western Sydney Giants, including a junior club training with AFL players and the Ainslie Junior Open Day, which will occur alongside a Giants intra-club match and Fan Day. For more information, please visit www.ainsliefootball.com.au.

