



WHAT'S ON AT MERICI #BuildingFutures

Term 1 Weeks (Monday 23 March - Sunday 5 April)

WHOLE SCHOOL ACTIVITIES

COVID-19 Update for the Principal

We find ourselves in changing times right now. As promised, we will be keeping you up to date and informed. This morning I received notification from Catholic Education that all schools comply with the following directions as a precautionary approach to minimise the risk of further spread of COVID-19:

- Postpone or cancel all school excursions, retreats or camps as soon as practicable from Monday 16 March until further notice.
- Postpone or cancel all school events that involve large gatherings such as assemblies, fetes, parent/teacher nights, open days/nights, sport carnivals, community assemblies and liturgies.
- Please find below a list of all excursions and events that have been cancelled for the remainder of this term.

Note that we are yet to receive information from Sporting groups, so please monitor this with your local clubs. Co-curricular activities such as Concert Band, Jazz Band, Choir and sport training are also being cancelled, depending on the activity. Your daughter will be notified through the daily notices.

Date	Event Cancelled
16 March	Year 10 RE Excursion
17 March	Basketball ACT Carnival
18 March	Year 12 UAC Parent Information Evening
20 March	Kids Lit Quiz Excursion
21 March	Duke of Edinburgh Camp
23 March	Senior Textiles & Design Drawing Incursion with other Colleges
23 March	Full School Assembly
24 March	Girls in Mathematics Day Enrichment Program
24 March	Netball ACT Carnival
25 March	Orienteering PE Excursion
26 March	Community BBQ
27 March	Relics of St Therese of Lisieux Visit to Merici with other Colleges
30 March	Senior Biology Excursion
31 March	NASA Case Space School Information Evening
31 March	Parent/Student/Teacher interviews
2 April	AFL ACT Carnival
2 April	Parent/Student/Teacher interviews
3 April	Touch Football ACT Carnival
3 April	After school House Working Bees for Athletics

MERICI COLLEGE

Wise St
Braddon
ACT 2612

GPO Box 154
Canberra
ACT 2601

Telephone (02) 6243 4100
Facsimile (02) 6243 4199

principal@merici.act.edu.au
www.merici.act.edu.au

4 April	Talk and Tour
6 April	IB Personal Projects Information Evening
7 April	Athletics Carnival
8 April	Year 9 History/Geography Field Trip
8 April	Swimming ACT Carnival
9 April	Full School Easter Liturgy

As mentioned last week, we are preparing for remote learning or e-learning, should and if the closure of schools eventuates. Until then, we are not in a position to provide any one to one service. Your daughter (if you choose to keep her home) should have access to Moodle and is aware of when her assessments are due, so she can follow what is required.

Could I please re-iterate that if your daughter is feeling unwell and exhibits cold or flu like symptoms, that you seek appropriate medical care and keep your child at home until they have recovered. *Loretta Wholley, Principal*

School Fees Due

A friendly reminder that full payment of Term 1 school fees is due by Friday 20 March 2020, except for families with a Direct Debit arrangement in place. Please do not hesitate to contact the Fee Liaison Officer, Jodi Wrenford should you need to discuss your school fee.

Parent Online Advice Newsletter

The *Perimeter Guardian Parent Advice Online Safety* information newsletter focuses on technology issues that concern parents. Please follow the link <http://merici.college/go/marchparentonline> to find the latest newsletter covering YOLO, which is an app that allows users to ask each other anonymous questions through their Snapchat accounts, and Wink which gives users the ability to add new Snapchat friends, using the 'tinder-esque' motion of swiping left and right.

YEARS 7, 8 AND 9 NEWS

NAPLAN Practice

NAPLAN assesses literacy and numeracy – important skills that each child needs to succeed in school and life. The NAPLAN tests are designed to help us make sure students are on track with their literacy and numeracy development. Students in Years 3, 5, 7 and 9 participate in NAPLAN tests for reading, writing, conventions of language (spelling, grammar and punctuation) and numeracy.

Between Tuesday 24 and Friday 27 March our school will participate in NAPLAN Practice, which are designed to give students, teachers and systems an opportunity to practice administering and participating in the online testing environment. The practice consist of a Writing Test for Years 5, 7, & 9, and an Omnibus Test (a combination of reading, conventions of language and numeracy) for Years 3, 5, 7 & 9. As this is intended to practice participation, the questions are not equivalent to NAPLAN testing in May, and no results are available from the Practice.

To see the types of interactive features of NAPLAN Online, visit [the public demonstration site](#). If you have any questions about NAPLAN Online, please contact your child's teacher.

For more info:

- [How to support your child during NAPLAN](#)
- [Watch a video that explains NAPLAN Online](#)
- [Subscribe to ACARA's monthly parent newsletter, Parent Update](#)

YEARS 10, 11 AND 12 NEWS

Refunds for Cancelled Interfaith Excursion

Finance will be issuing refunds to all families that have paid \$25 for the Interfaith Excursion that was to be held on Monday 16 March 2020. The only form of refund will be via EFT transfer into a nominated bank account. Unfortunately we are unable to refund back onto a credit card or give out cash. We will be in touch very shortly via email requesting your bank account details.

CAREERS NEWS

To find the latest Careers newsletter and information, please visit <https://www.mericicareers.com/>

SPORT NEWS

Winter Basketball

Don't forget to register your interest for basketball. We are still taking registrations for Winter Basketball but happy for players to hold off on their BACT payments. We will only process the Merici College payments once we know Basketball is re-commencing. We still need a few extra players for the Year 7/8 team. Please refer to the information letter for more details, <http://merici.college/go/1i>.

Merici College registration link - <https://forms.gle/uarLBKzJE8sYYFMF7>.

Co-Curricular Sport

Merici College has directed all Merici sporting teams and clubs to cease games, training and other related activities for the rest of Term 1.

Interschool Sport

All ACT and Interschool Sporting activities that were scheduled for Term 1 have been cancelled.

CHRISTIAN SERVICE LEARNING PROGRAM (CSLP)

Christian Service Learning Program - Update

Due to Australian Government advice regarding Covid-19, the College has been advised that some volunteering opportunities in the broader community have been cancelled (eg. Menslink Big Night Out, Caritas Kitchen). Students who currently volunteer in the broader community (eg. Vinnies Stores) are instructed to follow Australian Government advice and regulations regarding the participation in such volunteering. These events are not supervised or organised by Merici College.

Any school-based service opportunities will also adhere to directives as set out by the Catholic Education Office. Parents, carers, students and staff will be advised of any future service opportunities. At this stage, the Year 7 Lenten Program is continuing (see below for updated specific advice) however, future planning for Year 9 visits to Goodwin House, Ainslie is postponed until further notice.

If you have any questions regarding the Christian Service Learning Program at Merici College, please contact Amy Connellan, Head of Mission and Community
amy.connellan@merici.act.edu.au

Year 7 Lenten Program

Year 7 students are currently participating in their Christian Service Program called the Lenten Project during the period of Lent. Students have been instructed to commit to volunteering for 10 hours serving people in need and learn from the experience about the gift of caring for others. In line with the latest Australian Government advice regarding Covid-19, we do encourage Year 7 students to complete any hours within their homes, as opposed to the community.

Students are reminded to gradually complete their journals over the period of Lent; registering the hours in service and reflecting on the experience through responding to various questions. The hardcopy journal needs to be submitted to their relevant Religious Education teachers by Tuesday 28 April (Week 1, Term 2). If students have misplaced their journal they need to contact their Religious Education teacher.

Please contact Ms Amy Connellan, Head of Mission and Community,
amy.connellan@merici.act.edu.au if you have any questions.

Service opportunity - Cancelled

The Menslink Big Night Out scheduled for Friday 27 March has been cancelled due to Australian Government advice regarding Covid-19. Menslink would like to thank the senior students who had planned to volunteer at this event.

SOCIAL JUSTICE

Project Compassion - supporting Caritas

"Millions of Australians come together in solidarity with the world's poor to help end poverty, promote justice and uphold dignity". (Caritas Australia, 2020).

Merici College is once again supporting Caritas Australia's Project Compassion Lenten fundraising and awareness-raising appeal. Starting on Ash Wednesday, students have been asked to donate their spare change to their Pastoral class Project Compassion collection box. Each Wednesday afternoon for six weeks (Weeks 6-10), House tallies are being recorded. College Cup points will be awarded after the final collection on Wednesday 8 April. The overall aim is for Merici College to support Caritas Australia's initiatives.

Students are also viewing the weekly Project Compassion feature stories in RE lessons which raise awareness about the issues faced and highlight how Caritas Australia is supporting vulnerable people to develop their strengths and create change in their own communities.

Further information regarding Project Compassion can be found at: <https://www.caritas.org.au/>.

iC NEWS

Merici College has a number of databases and resources that are available from home 24/7. These are all located on our [Moodle system/site home](#). One such database, Sora by Overdrive is a digital library of eBooks and audio-books for students of all year levels, as well as adults. The collection includes fiction, as well as non-fiction titles related to the Australian curriculum topics. The current collection includes over 10,000 eBooks and audiobooks, including 'Read-a-long' books.

The collection is available 24/7 from any device. It can be accessed through [Merici Moodle](#) or by downloading the Sora app onto your IOS or Android device. Books can also be read off line on a laptop accessing Sora through soraapp.com.

1. Download the Sora app (free from the App store)
2. Search for a school: ACEN Member Collection
3. Choose our school from the drop-down menu: Merici College
4. It will redirect you back to the Merici Login
5. You can then borrow three items at any one time



We have been showing this collection, ClickView and Oliver to the students during their English WIDE reading lessons. Encourage them to explore the resources, and if they are having trouble accessing the service to come and see us or send me an email: ann.blakey@merici.act.edu.au

Happy reading!
iC staff

OTHER NEWS

Majura Football Club Registrations

Registrations are now open at Majura Football Club for the 2020 winter season. Visit www.majurafc.org.au for more information and to register.

UPCOMING EVENTS (Term 1 Week 10 and Term 2 Week 1)

All school events for Term 1 Week 10 have been postponed. Term 2 Week 1 events listed in the school calendar will be confirmed in the coming weeks.