

21 July 2022



Dear Parents and Carers

Welcome to Term 3 and COVID-19 Protocols

I would like to take this opportunity to welcome you and your daughters back to Term 3 at Merici College. On Monday 18 July, Principals in the Archdiocese attended a Teams meeting with Catholic Education, where COVID-19 protocols were outlined. Correspondence from Ross Fox, Director of Catholic Education, was emailed to families on Tuesday 19 July outlining protocols for school staff and students.


I am writing to you to outline the College's approach to prioritising safety and learning for students this term. Health advice suggests that positive cases of COVID-19 may well rise sharply over the next 10 weeks. In view of the challenges that this may pose, Merici College's approach will be as follows:

1. Staff and students are strongly encouraged to wear masks indoors but as yet this is not mandated. Students unable to wear a mask for medical reasons of course will not be expected to.
2. All other COVID-19 protocols around social distancing, cleaning and hand sanitising will continue to be followed.
3. Students who test positive to COVID-19, or who are identified as household or close contacts, should continue to follow ACT Health protocols. If your child tests positive to COVID-19, or is a household/close contact, please notify the College as soon as possible via the following email address: covid@merici.act.edu.au. Should you have any questions, you will receive a response to your email. Confidentiality will continue to be respected.
4. We have reviewed our calendar of events for Term 3 in an effort to minimise activities that will impose burdens beyond teaching on staff as the College is committed to prioritising the availability of teachers for learning. With this mind, please refer to a list of College events currently scheduled and status below.
5. Visitors to the College for meetings, professional learning etc. will be restricted where possible.
6. The aim of the College is to remain open and to run as smoothly as possible. Remote learning is not being considered at this stage.
7. Should ACT Health advise of further protocols, the College will adopt those protocols fully and advise you accordingly.

I would like to take this opportunity to acknowledge the commitment of teaching and support staff during last term. We have prioritised teaching, assessment reporting, carnivals, retreats and excursions, which led to a high level of participation that students have been denied for some time. I would also like to acknowledge the support of our parents and carers; your support of the teachers' industrial action and pupil free days has been greatly appreciated and has supported us as teachers to overcome challenges.

I look forward to our continued partnership this term in embracing any challenges that come our way so that our teaching and student learning continues as our highest priority.

Yours sincerely,



Anna Masters
Principal

TERM 3 MERICI COLLEGE CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Event	Status
ACT Health DonateLife Week Launch – Monday 25 July (invited guests only)	Confirmed
College Registration – Tuesday 26 July – Thursday 28 July (invited guests only)	Confirmed
Year 12 Retreat – Wednesday 27 July – Friday July	To be advised
Academic Awards – Monday 1 August	Students only, live-streamed for parents and guests
Grandparents Day – Tuesday 2 August	Postponed until Term 4
Bridge Restaurant – Wednesday 3 August	To be advised
St Vinnies Sleepout Year 10-12 students – Thursday 4 August	Sleepout cancelled, replaced with Hoodie, Oodie & PJs Day for all students and staff

Antigone Drama Production – Friday 5 August, Saturday 6 August	Confirmed
Pupil Free Day – Friday 5 August	Confirmed
Penola House Day – Monday 8 August	Confirmed
College Board Meeting – Tuesday 9 August	Online event
Angela’s Angels After School Activity – Thursday 11 August	To be advised
Can Line – Monday 15 August	Confirmed
The Feast of the Assumption Mass Monday 15 August	To be held at lunch time in the Chapel for students and staff
Act Girls Chess Competition – Tuesday 16 August	Cancelled
Year 8 Catch the Wave Retreat – Wednesday 17 August	Confirmed
Moderation Day #2 – Thursday 18 August	Confirmed
Year 9 Retreat – Wednesday 24 August	Postponed until Term 4
P&F Committee Meeting – Wednesday 24 August	Online event
Bridge Restaurant – Wednesday 24 August	To be advised
Father’s Day Liturgy and Dinner – Friday 2 September	Confirmed
Seiwa House Day – Monday 5 September	Confirmed
R U OK? Day – Thursday 8 September	Confirmed
Pupil Free Day – Friday 9 September	Confirmed

Bridge Benefit Dinner – Saturday 10 September	To be advised
College Board Meeting – Tuesday 13 September	Online event
Bridge Restaurant – Wednesday 14 September	To be advised
Year 7 2023 Orientation Evening – Thursday 15 September	To be advised
Year 10 High Tea – Friday 16 September	Confirmed
Balgo House Day – Monday 19 September	Confirmed
Term 3 ends	