



WHAT'S ON NEWSLETTER

Term 4 Weeks 8 and 9 (30 November – 11 December 2020)

WHOLE SCHOOL ACTIVITIES

Appointment of New Principal

We are pleased to announce that following a panel selection process, Anna Masters has been appointed as Principal, Merici Catholic College, Braddon from the start of the 2021 school year.

Anna joins the Archdiocese of Canberra and Goulburn with over 33 years' experience as an educator in various roles including Principal of Sacre Coeur, Glen Iris, Lead, Professional Growth and Culture at Sydney Catholic Schools, Acting Deputy and Director of Learning, Teaching and Innovation (Early Learning to Year 12) of Kambala School, Sydney, Acting Head of Teaching and Learning, Acting Deputy Principal, Head of Teaching and Learning and English Co-ordinator of Ravenswood School for Girls, Sydney, Assistant Co-ordinator of English of St Joseph's College, Sydney, Head of English and Drama of Kincoppal-Rose Bay, School of the Sacred Heart, Sydney, Head of Connewarre House and Co-ordinator of English Middle School English, Geelong Grammar School, Geelong and English and History Teacher of Cranbrook School, Sydney. Anna holds the tertiary qualifications of Master of Educational Leadership, Master of Arts (Honours), Diploma of Education and a Bachelor of Arts (Honours).

We congratulate Anna on her appointment and look forward to welcoming her to our Merici family next year.

Official International Baccalaureate (IB) Stamp of Approval – MYP Authorisation

We are pleased to announce our formal authorisation as an IB Middle Years Programme (MYP) school. We have been preparing and trialling the MYP for the last 2 years and have received the final 'stamp' of approval that we meet IB international standards.

This means we are the only non-government school in Canberra authorised to offer both the MYP and Diploma Programme (DP), providing an IB continuation of programmes.

The College was given 14 commendations in the report, which is a credit to the hard work of the staff and the community support. Please click [here](#) to find the commendations and recommendations. This included reference to our strong Languages Department, the strength of the pedagogical leadership and the service learning at the College.

In 2021 we will see the programme extend to include Year 10, which is when students complete their Personal Project.

The IB MYP is great preparation for the Diploma Programme, and indeed any study at a senior level. The authorisation of this programme is a welcomed addition to our diverse offerings here at Merici.

"The MYP prepares students for the DP by reflecting the depth, breadth and balance that is characteristic of all IB programmes.

As they move through educational systems and schools structures, students benefit from the consistent educational aims, clear pathways for progression through academic disciplines, and shared approaches to teaching of the MYP, DP and CP." (IBO, 2020)

Term Dates for 2021

Please note the school dates for 2020 below:

Term 1	Monday 1 February – First day for Years 7, 11, 12 and new students Tuesday 2 February – Years 8, 9 and 10 End – Thursday 1 April
Term 2	Tuesday 19 April – start Friday 25 June – end
Term 3	Monday 12 July – start Friday 17 September – end
Term 4	Monday 5 October – start Friday 10 December – end for students Thursday 16 December – end for staff

Canteen Closure (Friday 11 December)

Please be aware that the canteen will be closed on the last day of Term 4, Friday 13 December.

iC Closed After School (Friday 11 December)

The iC will be closed after school on the last day of term, Friday 11 December.

Semester 2 Reports: Years 7-11 (Friday 11 December)

Semester 2 reports will be emailed home on Friday 11 December, Week 9. Parents who wish to discuss anything with teachers can make contact during Week 10 (Mon – Wed; staff week). Please contact the College on Monday 14 December if you have not received your daughter's report.

Uniform Shop Extended Hours

The Merici College Uniform Shop will be opening some additional days prior to the end of the year and also in January. You will need to make an appointment as indicated below, unless otherwise stated.

- Saturday 28 November 9am-1pm
- Saturday 5 December 9am-1pm
- Tuesday 15 December 11am – 3pm
- Wednesday 27 January 9am-1pm (No appointments needed on this day)
- Thursday 28 January 9am-1pm
- Friday 29 January 9am-1pm

You will notice at the top of the booking page there are dates to click on. Keep clicking until the day comes up that you wish to book.

If you miss out on an appointment time, Wednesday 27 January is available to come without an appointment and we are still open on Tuesdays 8-11am and Thursdays 2-5pm until the end of Week 9. No appointment necessary on these days.

Please see the link below for access to booking times for the uniform shop. You can now book and manage appointments using our booking page.

<https://outlook.office365.com/owa/calendar/MericiCollege1@merici.onmicrosoft.com/bookings/>

Online Advice Newsletter

The Perimeter Guardian Parent Advice Online Safety information newsletter focuses on technology issues that may concern parents. Please follow the link <http://merici.college/go/nov-parent-online> to find the latest newsletter covering *Among Us* which is an online game, and updated features on Snapchat adding the ability for anyone to have a public profile.

YEAR 7, 8 AND 9 NEWS

Year 9 Urban Challenge - Parent Information Meeting 2 December (5.30pm)

As you are aware, this Year's Urban Challenge was postponed and we will now go ahead Monday to Wednesday 8-10 February (Week 2) next year. This will mean all organisation will have to be completed this year. There will be a Zoom parent meeting with Paul Colagiuri, the manager of The Urban Challenge on December 2 at 5.30pm. This will be a perfect opportunity to field all your questions. Paul has spent a lot of time creating a COVID safe program and it looks great. A link will be sent closer to the date.

Please follow the link <https://tinyurl.com/y5wqtxhb> to find parent information which has a link to login and register your daughters. Also included is the equipment list which can be found here, <https://tinyurl.com/yx8hhqrp>. This must be done by December 11 to allow TUC (the Urban Challenge) time to book hotels and activities. As you can imagine we must pay for the rooms we book and it is important that you all do this by this date. Please contact virginia.mcleod@merici.act.edu.au if you have any enquiries.

Year 7-9 Christmas Celebrations and Disco – Friday 11 December

Students will be participating in end of year celebration on Friday 11 December with extended PC, movie screening, Lip Sync Battles and a disco in the afternoon. It is a casual clothes day with a Christmas theme. Parents and students are reminded of the following guidelines for casual clothes day:

- All College rules about make-up, jewellery and facial piercings apply on this day.
- 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.
- Do not wear any of the following shoe types: ugg boots, thongs or high-heeled shoes.

YEAR 10, 11 and 12 NEWS

Key End of Year Academic Dates for BSSS Seniors

Please click [here](#) to find key end of year/semester academic dates for senior students. This outlines when Year 12 results will be published both internally and externally. Please ensure you read this document to best support your daughter at the end of the year as this can be a stressful time. An important date to note is the last day of classes for all BSSS seniors, Monday 23 November. BSSS students are then on summer holidays after this date. The Year 12 Graduation and Formal will follow this in the first week of December.

Year 12 Graduation Mass and Awards Ceremony (Tuesday 1 December)

Year 12 parents and carers are to attend the Year 12 Graduation Mass and Awards Ceremony at 6.00pm-8.30pm on Tuesday 1 December 2020. The ceremony will be held in the Merici College Auditorium. Please note that due to COVID-19 regulations, only two family guests per student applies. Guests are required to arrive at 5.30pm to avoid congestion in the foyer. Bookings online at <https://www.trybooking.com/BMWJK>. Bookings close Friday 27 November 5pm. The event will be live streamed: <https://merici.college/go/livestream>.

Year 10 Excursion to Big Splash (Wednesday 2 December)

To celebrate the end of the school year, Year 10 are being offered the opportunity to participate in a fun day of water activities at Big Splash in Macquarie.

Transport: The girls will be transported to and from the pool via the Merici school bus and additional buses. We will leave the College at 9:15am and leave Big Splash at 2:15pm in order to make it back in time for buses home. However, should you request that your daughter travel directly to and from the venue for any reason, it is imperative that a signed note explaining the request be produced and submitted to Mr Damien Nemeth by Friday 27 November.

Food: BYO lunch and snacks. There is a canteen open and available on the day to purchase food and snacks.

Expectations: Students are expected to wear their school PE uniform, including shorts, t-shirt, hat and runners. Students will need to bring sunscreen and a hat and re-apply sunscreen regularly throughout the day. There are shaded areas at the pool. Students are reminded that appropriate behaviour is expected at all times as they are representatives of the College.

Swim test: There will be a swim test conducted at the beginning of the day prior to the girls going on any of the slides or in the pools. This will be conducted by qualified staff at Big Splash. The girls will be issued with a wrist band signifying their level of swimming ability – proficient, non-proficient, non-swimmer. This will then determine the areas of the pool they are permitted to access.

Year 10 Awards Ceremony and Advent Mass (Thursday 3 December)

Year 10 parents and carers are invited to attend the 2020 Advent Mass and Year 10 Awards Ceremony on Thursday 3 December 2020 to be held in the Merici College Auditorium. The Mass will commence at 9.30am and the Year 10 Awards Ceremony will follow at 11.00am.

Please note due to COVID-19 regulations, only two family guests per student applies. Online bookings at <https://www.trybooking.com/BMYMT>. Bookings close 1 December 5pm. The event will be live streamed: <https://merici.college/go/livestream>.

Year 12 Form (Friday 4 December)

The formal will be held at the National Museum of Australia on Friday 4 December at 6pm onwards . Please note that there are NO arrivals permitted – no public crowds allowed
The cost is \$150 per person for a 3-course meal and soft drinks.

RSVP and payment due **this Friday 27 November** to Damien Nemeth, Head of Senior School at Damien.nemeth@merici.act.edu.au.

Please note the following requirements:

- All details must be provided via RSVP, including name, contact details and dietary requirements .
- Students and partners must bring photo ID to venue on the night.
- Dancing is permitted.
- Group photography is permitted.
- Student who arrive intoxicated or under the influence will be sent home.
- At the conclusion of the formal, parents not in attendance, are required to wait in their cars to pick up their daughter, rather than assemble near the doorway.

Please contact Damien Nemeth for any further information.

IB NEWS

MYP Personal Project

In Week 8 this term, the Year 9s will have an opportunity to meet with their Personal Project Supervisor and brainstorm and discuss potential ideas for their Year 10 Personal Project. If Year 9s have not done so already they can join the Personal Project google classroom (code: vghwlgp) to access the Merici College Personal Project website and the presentation for the introductory workshop delivered at the end of Term 3.

CAREERS NEWS

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

DEFENCE NEWS

Operation Dinnertime Teen Cooking Program

An opportunity for Defence Teens in Terms 1 and 2 next year. This event is a Defence funded initiative where students cook meals once a week over an 8-week period. They learn about nutrition and connect with other Defence students along the way. This specific program is for high school students, but Nutrition Australia also have school holiday programs for younger children. Please follow the link <http://merici.college/go/teen-cook-program> to find more information.

MISSION AND COMMUNITY

St Vincent de Paul Christmas Appeal

Our annual St Vincent de Paul Christmas appeal is currently on! We all know that 2020 has not been the best year for a lot of people in our community so let's see if we can put some smiles on faces at Christmas time!

In 2020, Merici College is asking our students and families to support the Vinnie's Christmas appeal by doing the following:

- Buying presents for kids - especially kids aged 6-12 - please see the lists above for suggestions. These can be left unwrapped under the tree in student services
- Donating cash in Pastoral Care groups - groups can then use the money to buy gift cards or donate it to Vinnies for them to support families in need. Just think - if every student donated \$5 we would raise \$3500 - imagine how much good could be done with that!

Please be generous and support our community!



iC NEWS

Thank you to everyone for the support of the Information Centre, encouraging your children to use the digital resources, to pick up a book off the shelves for research, and to browse the shelves to find a book to read just for fun.

Just in time for the holidays we have two great displays; "New Books" resources that have recently been purchased and a "Holiday Reading" display. For those students returning in 2021, we encourage you to come in to collect your holiday reading, students can borrow up to ten items. Over the holidays there is also Overdrive/Sora (our e-book library) that can be accessed on your own device.

Drawing to the end of the year we ask that all overdue resources be returned. Now is the time to return all textbooks. Please have your daughter check under beds, desks and bags. We have begun to send emails home, chasing textbooks still outstanding and your support is appreciated.

The iC will not be open after school on the last day of term, Friday 11th December. We wish everyone a safe and happy holiday!

iC Staff

SUSTAINABILITY NEWS

ACT NoWaste Competition

ACT NoWaste is inviting all students to submit designs for their waste and recycling collection trucks to inspire the community. The winning design will appear on the new ACT collection trucks. The winner will receive an i-Pad mini.

For more information:

<https://www.cityservices.act.gov.au/recyclopaedia/design-comp>



Entries and the completed entry form must be received by post or email to ACT NoWaste by 5pm on 6 December 2020.

CO-CURRICULAR NEWS

Guitar Lessons at Merici College

Shane Lewis is a highly qualified guitar and bass guitar teacher specialising in metal, rock, jazz and classical styles. His credentials include a prestigious Bachelor of Music Degree in Strings from the Sydney Conservatorium of Music, and an incredible 17 years' teaching experience. Shane has also had the honour of being invited to teach for the Institute of Music. He has extensive performance experience, having managed and played lead guitar in Sydney cover band Party Central as well as playing many classical guitar gigs.

Shane has a great love of teaching, and finds immense reward in inspiring his students to enjoy and love guitar. He is personally inspired by guitarists that can crossover styles like Rick Graham, John Petrucci, Jimi Hendrix and Steve Vai. Over the years Shane has developed successful and educational teaching programmes for both children and adults, and his considerable performing experience brings a unique perspective to his teaching.

Please contact ACTAM Administration at admin@actam.com.au, telephone 0419 308 918 for all enquiries.

OTHER NEWS

Amazing holiday space program for the Mars Generation

Merici is pleased to support a new online holiday learning course for middle school students – CASE Space Academy. This applied STEM course supports our school's STEM program and its learning outcomes are aligned with the Australian Curriculum. Actura's applied STEM program makes theory accessible and relatable to young students. This helps to solidify foundation skills, leading to greater self-confidence and interest in STEM learning.

Through the excitement of real space scenarios and fun activities this school holidays, *Mars Exploration* or *It's a Mars Life* will ignite your child's interest and enthusiasm for STEM while nurturing their curiosity and imagination.

- Learn about Mars, spaceflight and the Mars 2020 Mission
- Design your own Mars exploratory mission
- Apply STEM and 21st Century skills to solve real space challenges
- Opportunity to meet NASA experts in live webinars
- Live coaching by CASE certified course leaders

[Learn More](#)

CASE Space Academy is a comprehensive online space learning program specifically for middle-school students and exclusively supported by NASA experts.

Special Merici College introductory offer for *Mars Exploration* or *It's a Mars Life!* Merici College families and friends can receive \$50 off the usual course price. Register your child and use the promotional code at the check-out. Promotional code: **CSAMERACT**

CASE Space Academy
Multiple dates available in December and January
[Register here](#)



CodingPro December School Holidays Workshops for Kids' Coding & Robotics

Full-day workshops - Coding, robotics, 3d printing & design!
Duration: One full-day program will run for 5 hours a day.

Delivery of Programs: CodingPro Education provides school holiday workshops either onsite or online by qualified instructors. Students will be provided access to our own E-learning platforms, where they will have access to all our content, resource materials and activity sheets. For more information and program details, please follow the link <https://www.codingproeducation.com.au/>.

Summer Holiday Cricket Camps

The Team at Pro Performance Cricket are excited to announce our Summer Holiday Cricket Camps. They offer intensive individual and group skill development for players across all facets of the game.

With an excellent coach to player ratio, and a focus on a positive and fun environment it's a perfect opportunity for the kids to enhance and develop their games while having heaps of fun, making new friends and taking their game to a new level.

Pro Performance Summer Holiday Cricket Camps booking link:
<https://properformancecricket.com/act-cricket-camps/>.

**Wishing all our students,
parents and community
members a very happy and safe
Christmas and New Year Season.**

