

30th May 2018



Dear Parents/Guardians of Year 10 Students,

I am writing regarding some specific Year 10 information relating to the end of the semester and the transition towards Year 11 in 2019.

Transitions Forum (2 – 6 July 2018)

The Transitions Forum is an important week for Year 10 students. During the forum your daughters will consider how to make decisions, reflect on what is important in life, hear about different career options, learn about the job market, prepare for senior study and much, much more. It is a fascinating week that enables them to better reflect on the road ahead for Years 11 and 12.

Students are not expected to wear uniform during this week, but can wear neat/smart casual attire. Jeans are OK, but not tracksuit-pants or leggings. The days have been specifically organised into different areas.

- Monday: a full day presentation, 'Day of Hope' with Glenn Gerreyn from the Hopefull Institute, Sydney. He concentrates on goals and motivation and, in the past, he has had our students on the edge of their seats with his inspirational words.
- Tuesday: Students choose one institutions that they would like to visit and they spend half a day exploring them. They can choose between the Australian Catholic University, Magistrates Court, Australian National University, Academy of Interactive Entertainment, Canberra Institute of Technology (Reid campus) and the Hyatt Hotel. In the other half of the day students will be listening to presentations by Studies Coordinators about subjects offered in Senior School, information about how the ACT Senior System works, Pathways information post-schooling, and leadership.
- Wednesday: Students will attend three 'Experts on Tap' sessions, delivered by parents of Merici and ex-students who will provide their own insights into their pathways. In the afternoon, senior students will provide a question and answer session followed by presentations on extra-curricular activities and course pre-requisites at university
- Thursday: All day at the University of Canberra to get a feel for the campus and what's on offer.
- Friday: The final day of the Year 10 Transitions forum is dedicated to the Year 10 Reflection Day, which will be run by Ms Amy Connellan.

Year 11, 2019 interviews and subject selections

As part the transition into Year 11 2019, Kerry McDonnell (Careers Coordinator) and I would like to meet with all students and their parents to discuss subjects, packages and pathways, while also providing an opportunity to answer questions that you may have.

These meetings are essential for all students who have submitted an intention of returning form. However, for those uncertain, we are more than happy to meet with you also and encourage you to do so.

Subject selections and interview time bookings will be done through online processes. Parents will be sent login details for PTO, our online portal for setting interview times. Login details for students to do subject selections will be sent in the coming weeks.

We would like students to make initial decisions about subjects for 2019, but this is by no means locked in and there will be plenty of time to make changes. Information about subjects can be found in our [Senior Handbook](https://www.merici.act.edu.au/my-merici/resources/school-handbooks) (<https://www.merici.act.edu.au/my-merici/resources/school-handbooks>) The interview step in

the online process allows for the selection of a time for a 15-minute meeting. Interview times will be available during the following times:

- Monday 2nd July between 9:30am and 5:30pm
- Tuesday 3rd July between 4:00pm and 5:30pm
- Wednesday 4th July between 4:00pm and 6:30pm
- Friday 6th July between 9:30pm and 5:30pm
- Monday 9th July between 4:00pm and 8.00pm
- Tuesday 10th July between 4.00pm and 8.00pm

Year 10 Exams

There will be formal tests in English and Maths on 18 June. These exams are a good way of preparing students for future assessment, but we would also like to keep these results in context. Exams form only a part of the assessment for each of the subjects concerned and not the entire grade. We would like students to prepare well and try their best, but also understand that it represents just part of their learning.

Schedule for exams:

- 9:00am: English
- 1:20pm: Maths

All exams will be 90 minutes in length plus 10 minutes of reading time. **Students will be expected to wear uniform as normal.**

Students eligible for special consideration and provisions for exams will receive an email from Dr Cleary. If students and their families have not received an email by 13 June and they are concerned about eligibility for special consideration, please contact Dr Cleary (ann.cleary@merici.act.edu.au)

Year 11, 2019 Intention Forms

The 2019, Year 11 Intention forms are due back to us during the Transitions Forum. These forms were included in the Senior Information Packs handed out at the Year 11 Information evening. If you have misplaced this form please email me and I can arrange for a replacement. If you are still uncertain as to whether your daughter will return to Merici in 2019, please tick **Yes** and then book a Year 11 interview (as discussed above). We are more than happy to discuss queries or concerns that you may have either during this interview or at another arranged time.

Regards,

Greg Baines
Head of Senior School
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