



2 February 2021

Dear Parents, Carers and Students,

Welcome all to the commencement of the 2021 school year. I hope that you had a wonderful summer, full of rest, rejuvenation, family time and, possibly, adventure. I also trust that all are ready for:

- a fresh beginning,
- to be open to new experiences, and
- are looking to continue your journey to human growth and fullness of being in 2021.

I would like to take this opportunity of welcoming our new Year 7s and students who have joined the Merici community in Years 8 through to Year 12. This year our College theme is *Dare to Dream*.

The warmth of the welcome I am receiving as I join the Merici community certainly reinforces the uniqueness of this College. I feel deeply blessed and privileged to have begun my role as Principal.

Celebrating our 2020 Achievements

Year 12 students received their Year 12 ACT Senior Secondary Certificate. 83 students received their Year 12 ACT Senior Secondary Certificate. 60 students completed a Tertiary Package and received an ATAR. 23 students completed Accredited Packages, which included Vocational qualifications. Our median ATAR was 72.55 and our average ATAR was 74.95.

Seven (12%) students received an ATAR of 90 or higher. Twenty three (38%) students received an ATAR of 80 or higher. 75% of students who sat for the AST and completed a T Package received an ATAR of 65+.

Over 70% of our students applied for either an Early Offer/Early Achiever's Offer/ Spirit of Excellence Scheme or a School's Recommendation.

In this cohort of 83 students, we had over 90% of students receive a Vocational Qualification and this was well above all other Colleges in the ACT.

We encourage all students to keep in touch and let us know where their future journey of learning and adventure may take them. A destination survey will be sent out after main round offers are made; we look forward to their response. Please register to be a member of our Alumni by sending an email to Ros Parisi at ros.parisi@merici.act.edu.au.

Staffing

We welcome the following new staff to our community:

Damian Borgia: Seiwa, Legal Studies, Integrated Humanities, Religious Education

Holly Bray: Ningil, Art, Religious Education

Kate Calley: Brescia: Integrated Maths & Science, Maths, Earth Science

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Kate Durham: Seiwa, Head of Junior School, Physical Education, Exercise Science
Blake Jarvis : Seiwa, Physical Education, Sport & Recreation
Rocio Lovett: Ningil, Maths, French, Spanish
Anna Masters: Penola, Principal, Religious Education
Candice Bush: Counsellor

Current Staff - Changes

Laura Pearce: Creative and Performing Arts Coordinator
Jackie Males: Health and Physical Education Coordinator Term 1
Oliver Barlow: Returning from leave

Annual Improvement Plan 2021

As part of the 2019-2021 Strategic Plan, the Improvement Plan focuses solely on the goals and tasks allocated and/or created for 2021. This plan will ensure a continued commitment to providing a positive and nurturing learning environment that supports our school's mission and vision for the future. During 2021 planning for 2022 and beyond will need to commence and preparation for Registration in 2022 will need to be a priority.

STRONG FAITH - Aspiration: To Build A Strong and Positive Catholic Identity, Where Faith Is Nurtured and All Are Empowered to Serve Others.

Action 1.4.2: Investigate opportunities for an ongoing, reciprocal partnership with an indigenous community to enable an immersion program.

Action 1.5.1: Provide training opportunities to staff to enable attainment of Staff Religious Education Accreditation. (Timing December 2021).

Action 1.7.1: Implement father/daughter and mother/daughter reflection opportunities to nurture relationships and strengthen engagement in faith formation.

Action 1.8.2: Further integrate the Christian Service Learning Program within RE and across IB CAS and personal projects.

POWERFUL LEARNING - Aspiration: An Educational Environment That Inspires Life-Long Learning, Enabling Everyone to Achieve Individual Excellence.

Action 2.1.2: Formalise a Teacher Professional Development Program that includes MYP and DP curriculum requirements for design and delivery, Approaches for Teaching and Learning (ATL).

Action 2.5.1: Develop a self-assessment framework to support student reflections on their learning style and abilities.

Action 2.5.2: Train and trial the use of a new Learning Management System that allows for formative and summative feedback.

Action 2.6.1: Over three years (commencing 2021) all teachers will have the opportunity to participate in the Catalyst / High Impact Teach Practice Program

Action 2.7.1: Consolidate NCCD plan and process timeline and model

Action 2.7.2: Update and Implement a community-based Indigenous Reconciliation Action Plan.

THRIVING COMMUNITY - Aspiration: A Connected Community That Cultivates Compassionate Relationships, Wellbeing and The Whole Person.

Action 3.1.2: Re-establish a Staff Wellbeing Committee.

Action 3.2.1: Seek feedback from Year 7 and other new students on opportunities to improve student induction and orientation.

Action 3.2.2: Review student data reporting systems, ensuring clear behavioural and medical information is available and communicated to teachers.

Action 3.3.1: Develop opportunities for parental volunteers and systems to support transparency of voluntary activities and to advertise other community engagement activities

SUSTAINABLE FUTURE - Aspiration: Ethical Practices Ensure Shared Responsibility For The Stewardship Of All Resources.

Action 4.1.1: Develop a comprehensive communications strategy and plan that includes a social media strategy, consideration of other media promotions (eg. Radio) and engages the College community in positive messaging to both internal and external stakeholders.

Action 4.2.1: Continue facility upgrade program, including refurbishment of general learning classrooms and Food Technology class. Planning to commence for reception area, chapel, art rooms, fitness centre and quadrangles for future years.

Action 4.2.2: Identify a Building Management System that meets the College's needs.

Action 4.3.1: Investigate and assess alternative revenue streams for the College including developing venue hire to ensure effective utilisation of facilities/grounds and maximise return on capital investment.

Please click [here](#) to find the full 2021 Improvement Plan.

Communication

I would like to take the opportunity to remind parents to only message or call your daughter during recess and lunch. Recess is 10.41am-11.01am and Lunch is 12.44pm-1.24pm. All students can access their phones at this time. Please do not message or call during class time. If it is urgent and/or an emergency, we ask that you call reception on 6243 4100, they will find a trusted adult that will deliver the message to your daughter and support her. If your daughter contacts you during the school day and is not feeling well, please encourage her to find her PC or House Coordinator.

If contacting a staff member, I ask that you please be patient. Most of our teaching staff are full time and therefore cannot access their emails or the phone message system. They will contact you within a 48-hour period.

Please read the Merici College Expectations, Uniform and Positive Peer Relations policy and the Digital Community agreement found in your daughter's student planner for more details.

Updates to the calendar events, news and photos can be found on <https://merici.news>. You are also invited to follow our Facebook, Instagram or Twitter accounts.

I look forward to seeing you all at upcoming school events such as our Information Evenings, International Women's Day event and the Community BBQ.

With kind regards



Anna Masters
Principal