



WHAT'S ON NEWSLETTER

Term 4 Weeks 2 and 3 (Monday 20 October – Sunday 2 November)

IMPORTANT NEWS

Planning for 2026 is already well underway.

If any students and families are planning to leave our college community at the end of this year, we kindly ask that you notify your daughters House Coordinator and Pastoral Care teacher as soon as possible. Providing timely notice helps us manage enrolments and avoids families having fees applied unnecessarily and, enables us to offer places to young women hoping to join our community.

We sincerely appreciate your support and understanding as we prepare for the year ahead.

NSW School Student Travel Information for Parents and Students

School Travel Passes: Applications are now open for 2026 School Student Transport Scheme (SSTS) travel.

Students in the Opal network applying for an Opal card (including a Term Bus Pass) for the first time will receive their School Opal card at their nominated postal address from mid-January 2026.

Students who require a School Opal card or travel pass but have not yet applied need to apply for a new card or update their existing card as soon as possible. Students who receive a notification that their School Opal card is expiring need to re-submit their details.

If a student has lost their School Opal card, they will need to apply for a replacement card. **Note:** a new card will not be issued if an existing School Opal card is updated online – you must submit a replacement application if a School Opal card is lost.

In the Opal network, students should travel with a Child/Youth Opal card until they receive their valid School Opal card. If outside Greater Sydney, parents should contact their local bus operator to discuss their travel needs.

Students living in rural and regional areas will receive their travel pass from their nominated transport operator. It may be issued via their school or be sent directly to them at home. **Note:** some rural and regional operators do not issue travel passes. Students/parents should confirm with their nominated operator if they do not receive a pass.

Terms of Use: Students using School Opal cards must tap on and tap off in line with the Opal terms of use. This includes travel within the approved times between 6.30am and 7.00pm from Monday to Friday on school days only. Students must use their Child/Youth Opal card for any travel outside these times.

All students are required to comply with the Student code of conduct. The code of conduct aims to ensure the safety and well-being of school children and other passengers. It is important that parents ensure their child is aware of this, as failure to comply with the code of conduct can result in a suspension from travel.

WHOLE SCHOOL NEWS

Parents in Partnership Series: Paul Dillon presentation: Teens, Parties, Alcohol and Vapes: What do parents need to know? (Tuesday 21 October)

We are looking very forward to welcoming Paul Dillon on Tuesday 21 October to deliver important wellbeing presentations to our Year 10 and Year 11 students on a range of topics covering alcohol and drugs.

In addition to the student sessions, you are invited to attend a special parent workshop on *Teens, parties, alcohol and vapes: What do parents need to know?*

Date: Tuesday 21 October 2025

Time: 6:00pm – 7:30pm. To be held in the Merici College Auditorium.

Paul Dillon is a leading expert in drug education and has a unique investment in the wellbeing of young people. Founder of Drug and Alcohol Research and Training Australia (DARTA) and a former school teacher, Paul continues to conduct drug information sessions and workshops for school students across Australia and internationally.

Paul has been working in the area of drug education for almost 30 years. His best-selling book for parents, *Teenagers, Alcohol and Drugs* was released in 2009. With a broad knowledge across a range of content areas, Paul is a key social commentator, regularly appearing in the media including being interviewed on programs such as *Sunrise*, *Today* and *The Project*.

To register your attendance, please follow this link:

<https://events.humanitix.com/parents-in-partnership-series-3-teens-parties-alcohol-and-vapes-what-do-parents-need-to-know>

COUNSELLORS CORNER

As we approach the end of the school year, we want to inform parents, carers, and students about important updates regarding school counselling for Term 4.

To ensure that we can effectively wrap up existing support and action external referrals for students currently engaged in counselling, we will not be taking any new referrals as of **Week 7 (i.e., from 24 November)**.

After this point, any new referrals will be directed back to the student's House Coordinator for further guidance and support. We will continue to liaise with the pastoral care team regarding any urgent matters for students during this period; however, please be aware that we will be unable to commence 1:1 school counselling sessions with new students after this cut-off date.

If you hold concerns for your child's wellbeing and would like to discuss school counselling, please speak to your House Coordinator to arrange a referral before this cut-off date. You can find more information about what school counselling here: [Counsellor's corner](#).

The referral process remains the same, referrals can be made by speaking with your child's PC teacher, House Co-ordinator or by emailing us at counsellors@merici.act.edu.au. Students under 14 years old will require parent/guardian consent to participate in school counselling.

YEARS 7, 8 and 9 NEWS

Year 8 Catch the Wave Retreat (Tuesday 21 October)

On Tuesday October 21, 2025, our Year 8 students are set to embark on the Catch the Wave Retreat here at Merici College. This initiative is part of the Catholic Schools Youth Ministry International (CSYMI) program, aligning with Archbishop Christopher's vision for the renewed engagement of youth in our archdiocese. The first phase, Catch the Wave, offers a unique one-day retreat, designed to deliver the message of youth ministry in an engaging way, meeting students where they are. It's a day filled with exciting activities, encouraging students to explore their faith with enthusiasm.

Every Year 8 Religious Education class will be participating in this retreat on October 21. Following the retreat, Year 8 students will have the chance to express their interest in continuing with the CSYMA program in 2024. This program includes an introduction to our Youth Ministry course during Religious Education class time.

Recess and Lunch will align with the regular Merici Schedule, and students are advised to bring their own food as per normal.

Please note that the Year 8 Catch the Wave Retreat on October 21 is an integral part of the Merici College Retreat Program, and attendance is compulsory. Students are required to wear their sports uniform on the day.

Should you have any inquiries, feel free to reach out to Alyssa Markmann (alyssa.markmann@merici.act.edu.au) or Andrew Blakey (andrew.blakey@merici.act.edu.au).

Year 9 Urban Challenge (Wednesday 29 October – Friday 31 October)

Year 9 students will be participating in the Urban Challenge in and around Sydney from Wednesday 29th to Friday 31st October. The following is some key information:

Depart: Wednesday 29 October at 7.00am -Students are to be in the Auditorium no later than 6.45am.

Return: Friday 31 October at approximately 6.00pm. We will post to social media in the event of running late.

Please note:

- ALL families need to complete the Urban Challenge documentation, especially if your child has specific dietary needs. Without this information it is extremely difficult to ensure their needs will be met by the external caterers Urban Challenge uses to feed the students.
- Students have been asked by Urban Challenge to leave their phones and own money at home.
- Students need only take a backpack. They must carry everything they bring.
- A packing list can be found [here](#).
- A comfort stop will be taken at Sutton Forest on the journey to and from Sydney. At this time, students will be able to eat a packed morning snack that they will need to bring from home on the trip to Sydney. There will not be an opportunity to access fast food restaurants.
- Please do not park in the bus bays at the front of the College on the Friday evening so that students can safely alight from the coaches.

Urban Challenge have created a private page for our College on their website where information can be found about the program. During the program, the private page will allow parents/carers the opportunity to watch the progress of the teams and assist to help your daughter's team earn extra points. Using the login details listed below, parents/carers can access challenges, read the team's daily blogs and view photos and videos from each

day. This portal will open closer to the program and will stay open long after it has finished so that students and parents can download images from the program:

Go to www.theurbanchallenge.com.au. Click on 'Log in' and log in with:

- Username: meriurban
- Password: meri2025

Administration of Medication: If your daughter requires medication whilst on the Urban Challenge, please complete and return the relevant forms (found [here](#)).

Please pack all medication (including Nurofen and Panadol) in a sealed plastic bag. When the student arrives at school on Wednesday 29 October, they can hand over any medication to their supervising teacher.

Epi-pens and Asthma sprays may be held by the student, but please provide the First Aid Officer with any extra instructions for usage. The bag should be clearly labelled with the student's name and dosage requirements.

An equipment list is available on the Urban Challenge website and can be found [here](#). It is recommended that students do not take mobile devices such as phones or iPods to the Urban Challenge. Should students take such devices, restrictions will be placed on their use during the program. The College will not be responsible for the loss or damage to such items.

The safety and wellbeing of students and staff is our highest priority. The Urban Challenge uses accredited providers for activities and has emergency procedures and contingencies set in place. In addition, Urban Challenge staff liaise closely with Merici staff during the challenge to ensure the safety and care of all students involved.

We anticipate that the Year 9 Urban Challenge will be a positive and memorable experience for each student. Normal College conduct will be expected. **Parents will be contacted and asked to collect their daughter if any serious misbehavior occurs.**

If you have any queries regarding your daughter's participation in the Urban Challenge, please don't hesitate to contact your me on: rohan.langford@merici.act.edu.au

YEARS 10, 11 and 12 NEWS

Year 10 Exams (Wednesday 12 November and Thursday 13 November)

Year 10 will sit their Semester 2 exams on Wednesday 12 and Thursday 13 November. The exams will be held in the College Auditorium and students are required to wear full school uniform as they would for normal school days. The timings of the days will be as follows:

Wednesday 12 November:

Periods 1 and 2	English Exam
Recess	
Periods 3 and 4	Classes as per normal timetable
Lunch	
Periods 5 and 6	Maths Exam

Thursday 13 November:

Periods 1 and 2	Science Exam
Recess	
Periods 3 and 4	Classes as per normal timetable
Lunch	
Periods 5 and 6	Classes as per normal timetable

Year 10 students are required to attend school and complete the exams as scheduled. If a student is unwell on the day of an exam, they are required to provide a medical certificate to cover their absence. Students who miss an exam will be required to attend a catch up during the Year 11 and 12 exam block which may, in turn, impact individual Service Week arrangements.

Year 11 and 12 BSSS Exams (Friday 14 November – Friday 21 November)

Year 11 and 12 BSSS students will sit their end of Semester Exams between Friday 14 November and Friday 21 November in the College Auditorium. Students have been emailed their individual timetables and are encouraged to identify any clashes early. Students are expected to attend all exams. Year 11 and 12 students should wear comfortable clothes for the duration of the exam block and are not required to be at school outside of their exams. No BSSS classes will run during the exam period. If students are unable to attend exams, **medical certificates are required to cover any absences to avoid academic penalties.**

The last day of school attendance for Year 11 BSSS students is **Monday 24 November**. Information regarding final days and end of year events for Year 12 will be communicated via House coordinators and the pastoral team.

IB CAS Movie Night (Thursday 6 November 5:00pm-7:00pm)

The IB CAS Roundabout Movie Night is a student-led project that aims to bring together the Merici student community for a movie, popcorn, and pizza evening while supporting the local Canberra charity, Roundabout. Entry to the Movie Night will require the donation of new toiletry items, quality used clothing (children's sizes 8-16), quality used sporting equipment or quality used board games to support the work of Roundabout. The event will be held in the College Auditorium and supervised by Merici College staff.

The movie shown will be dependent on the outcome of a student poll, with the two options being:

- Despicable Me (PG)
- Shrek (PG)

For more information on these films, parents are encouraged to read the reviews on www.common sense media.org.

The evening will commence at 5:00pm and conclude at 7:00pm. **Parents are required to collect their daughters from the Auditorium.**

Students are encouraged to picnic in the Auditorium with their friends, bringing along pillows and picnic blankets. Pizza will be served from 5:00pm and a gluten-free option will be available.

Permission and participation to be advised through Compass.

Year 12 Graduation Day - Tuesday 25 November

Please click [here](#) to find the program of events for our Year 12 Graduation Day.

- **Year 12 Final House Farewells** – 9:30am (students only, to be held at the College)
- **Year 12 Graduation Mass** – 3:00pm (students and family members are invited to attend the Mass at St Christopher's Cathedral, Cnr. Canberra Avenue/Furneaux St, Forrest). No bookings are required for your attendance at the Mass.
- **Year 12 Graduation Dinner and Awards Ceremony**– 6:30pm (immediate family members only – see below) to be held at the Canberra Rex Hotel, 150 Northbourne Avenue, Braddon)

Graduation Dinner and Awards Ceremony - Ticketing

Please note that the **cost of dinner for two parents and one Year 12 student** has been covered by the school, so no payment is required. For families with twins in Year 12, two student tickets have been allocated.

Please **confirm your attendance** here, <https://events.humanitix.com/year-12-graduation-dinner-confirmation>.

Please indicate special dietary requirements on the online booking form. **RSVP required by Monday 3 November.**

Additional Ticket – Ticket purchase required

The maximum number of tickets per family is 4 people (immediate family members only, **no student partners, no younger siblings**). Should you like to purchase one more ticket for an immediate-family member, please purchase through our online booking portal, <https://events.humanitix.com/year-12-graduation-dinner-and-awards-ceremony-extra-ticket>.

The cost of the ticket is \$80 per person (3 course meal, includes non-alcoholic beverages only).

Bookings close Monday 3 November. Cost: \$80pp (3 course meal, includes non-alcoholic beverages only).

Please contact Ros Parisi on email ros.parisi@merici.act.edu.au if your family situation requires additional tickets.

Year 12 Formal - Friday 28 November

The Year 12 Formal will be held on **Friday 28 November** at the National Museum of Australia in the Gandel Atrium. Students and parents are encouraged to attend this event (student partners welcome to attend). Please click [here](#) to find the invitation.

The cost of the ticket is \$190 per person and includes a three-course meal, non-alcoholic beverages. Music entertainment, together with a photo booth and professional roving photography, will add to what will be a very special celebration.

Tickets can be purchased here: <https://events.humanitix.com/year-12-formal-2025-tickets>

Students will be required to present their ID for alcohol purchases.

Arrivals: 6pm-6.30pm

Professional Group Photo: 7pm-7.15pm

All students and guests will be required to be seated 7.30pm.

Bookings close: Monday 10 November

House Coordinators will be organising table seating.

We look forward to celebrating the graduation of your daughter with you.

IB NEWS



Completion of the Personal Project

Congratulations to all the students in Year 10 who have now completed and submitted their Personal Project. A wide range of student interests have been demonstrated in the Personal Projects, and we look forward to sharing them with you in Term 4.



Key Dates

This is a list of some key dates for IB Year 11 students.

Event	Date	Information
Pamoja end of year exams	14-15 October	Spanish and Chinese ab initio Paper 1 14 th Oct 9- 10am Paper 2 RE and Li 14 th Oct 10.30-12.30 Psychology Paper 1 15 th Oct 9:00-11.00 Paper 2 15 th Oct 12.00-1.00 Maths AA Paper 1 15 th Oct 9:00-10.45 Paper 2 15 th Oct 12.00-1.45

This is a list of some key dates for IB Year 12 students.

Event	Date	Information
End of classes	17 October	Final day of IB DP classes
Final Exam Period	27 October – 14 November	The final exam period for the official IB DP exams is. Exams will be held offsite at Mackillop House.

HPE NEWS

ACT Road Ready Driver Course

Over half of Year 9 students at Merici College have participated ACT Road Ready Driver Course, supported by Fifth Gear Motoring for a valuable program designed to prepare young learners for safe and responsible driving. The course includes three key modules: a practical driving lesson, a car mechanic safety session (covering skills such as changing a tire and checking oil), and a classroom component exploring topics such as peer influence and passenger behaviour, helping them make smart, safe decisions as they move from supervised to independent driving. This engaging and informative program aims to promote positive driving attitudes and contribute to a safer road environment for everyone.

If your student in Year 9 missed out, there is still a few open spots available for November 6th. Please register and pay via compass.

In the last few weeks of this term all Year 9 students have the opportunity to complete the mandatory ACT PreLearner Course before taking the Driver Knowledge Test. The test quizzes students on a random set of road rules and common road encounters. If students are intending to obtain an ACT learner licence, they must pass the Road Rules Knowledge Test in order for Access Canberra to issue them with their new learner licence. For more information click on this link [ACT Driver Knowledge Test \(DKT\) | Success At The #1 Road Ready Centre](#)

HEAD OF MISSION AND COMMUNITY NEWS

Merici College Teams Up for the REACH Side-by-Side Challenge!

In July 2024, a group of Merici College students had the life-changing opportunity to visit REACH Siem Reap in Cambodia. Continuing this valued partnership, Merici staff will return to REACH in December 2025, and once again, students will have the opportunity to visit in 2026.

REACH Siem Reap is an Australian-registered charity and Cambodian NGO dedicated to breaking the cycle of poverty in the village of Thlok Andoung through 11 integrated programs supporting over 140 families and nearly 300 children. The organisation focuses on education, health, and nutrition, empowering young people to become leaders and change-makers in their communities.

Our Merici girls witnessed first-hand the incredible impact REACH has — not only providing meals and schooling, but also building confidence, skills, and hope. Inspired by their experience, Merici College is proud to support REACH's exciting initiative — the Side-by-Side Challenge, a 200km cycling event that empowers Cambodian youth to dream big and ride towards a brighter future.

About the Challenge

At-risk youth in Cambodia often miss out on the simple joys of childhood — school trips, adventures, and new experiences. The Side-by-Side Challenge gives them the chance to reclaim those moments. Over two days, participants cycle 200km, gaining physical, mental, and emotional strength as they train and ride together.

Through sponsorship, each rider experiences growth, belonging, and empowerment.

For every \$750 raised, one youth is fully sponsored, receiving:

- 3 months of club training and professional cycling gear
- Overnight camping and meals
- Accident insurance, chaperones, and support vehicles
- A medal, certificate, and finish-line celebration

How Merici Can Get Involved

We're inviting students, families, staff, and friends to form teams and take on our own 200km Side-by-Side Challenge here in Canberra! Over two weeks, you can walk, run, cycle, row, or swim your kilometres and raise funds to sponsor Cambodian youth.

Each team will:

- ✓ Aim for a minimum of \$250 in fundraising
- ✓ Earn Angel Hours and Certificates of Achievement
- ✓ Contribute directly to REACH's life-changing programs

Join the Challenge!

Form Your Team: Gather friends, family, or classmates — teams can be any size.

Track Your Progress: Download the free STRAVA app to log your 200km.

Kick-Off Event:

- 📍 **Friday, 8 November – 4:00 PM, CRLC**
- 👂 Hear from REACH Founder Emily and her team
- 🍕 Enjoy a pizza dinner and lucky door prizes as we launch this exciting initiative together!
- 👉 Why It Matters

Together, we'll live out our Merici values and Catholic Social Teachings as we ride, walk, and move side-by-side with our Cambodian friends.



Register your team now!

📱 Scan the QR code to register your team. Select a team leader and give your team a name. Donations of \$2 or more are tax-deductible.

For more information about REACH Siem Reap and their inspiring programs, visit their Charity Overview Summary.

CREATIVE AND PERFORMING ARTS NEWS

Come Alive 25 – Merici Year 9 and 10 Drama

You are cordially invited to *Come Alive 25*, Australia's only schools festival of Museum Theatre to be held in the Joe Woodward Theatre at Daramalan College, Cowper Street, Dickson. The festival will be held 5-7 November at 7:00pm-8:30pm.

PROGRAM:

Wednesday, 5 November

St. Clare's College

Marist College

St. Francis Xavier College

Thursday, 6 November

Lake Tuggeranong College

Merici College

Alfred Deakin High School

Friday, 7 November

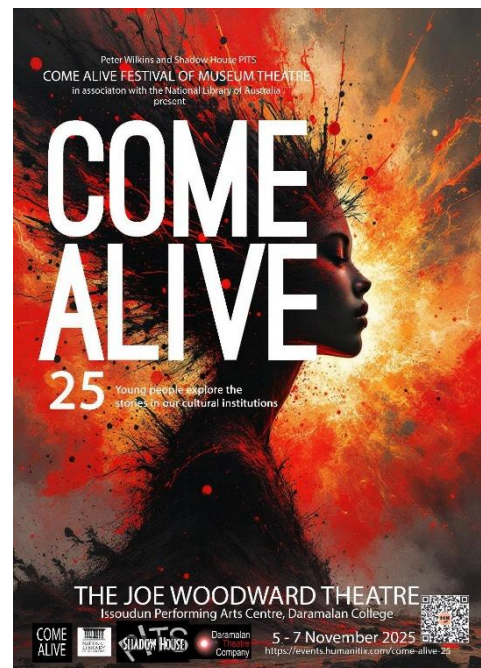
Daramalan College

Canberra Girls Grammar School

Campbell High School

Ulladulla High School

Tickets: <https://events.humanitix.com/come-alive-25>



*COME ALIVE 25 IS HOSTED BY THE National Library of Australia.
The theatre performances have been inspired by the collection of the National Library.*

SUSTAINABILITY NEWS

Sw(op) Shop (Friday 7 November)

It is sw(op) shop time! Textile waste has reached unprecedented levels around the world.



Australia is the largest consumer of fashion in the world, with over 3000,000 tonnes of textiles discarded each year.

Extend the life of your clothing by donating to the sw(op) shop. Sw(op) shop will be on Friday, 7 November at lunchtime.

Clean, re-usable items for the student cohort only please can be donated in Student Services from Week 2.

iC NEWS

We hope there has been plenty of holiday reading during the September/October break. We ask that all overdue books get returned or if not finished to be renewed. Occasionally items do go missing, rather than ignoring overdue emails, please ask your daughter to come and talk to us about the missing item.

The iC subscribes to two video online streaming services; ClickView and we have a new database *Informit*, this database has short snippets of current video content of relevant issues for the Australian Curriculum. Students will find current programs and resources relevant for both research or study needs and programs of interest to watch during down time. Please take some time to browse these resources with your child, these are both accessed via SEQTA/Welcome Page.

Yours in research,
iC Staff

OTHER NEWS

1975 Daramalan College and Catholic Girls High School Alumni

50th Reunion - Class of 1975. Tickets are now available for the reunion of students from Catholic Girls High School Braddon and Daramalan College, who finished Year 12 in 1975 (including those from that group who finished before Year 12): <https://events.humanitix.com/daramalan-college-class-of-1975-reunion>

The main ticketed event is on Saturday evening, 18th October, with several activities planned over the weekend. For further information, please use one of the event channels:

Facebook: Daramalan College Alumni group; Merici College Alumni group; or Dara - Braddon 1975 group
email: CGHS.Dara1975@gmail.com. Ticket sales close on 6 October.

Royal Aero Club of New South Wales

Curious about a career in aviation? The Royal Aero Club's Try and Fly Weekend offers you a chance to experience flying firsthand. Picture yourself in the cockpit, learn from experienced instructors, and take the first step to becoming a student pilot while exploring the exciting world of aviation. ✈️☀️

To learn more and sign up visit <https://royalaero.com.au/try-and-fly-weekend/>

Girls on Track – Empower Program

Are you ready to go behind the scenes of a Supercars event?

Coates Supercars Volunteers and Motorsport Australia's FIA Girls on Track - Empower program are teaming up to deliver an exclusive opportunity for women to experience the action from inside of the 2025 Boost Mobile Gold Coast 500.

The FIA Girls on Track - Empower program is an initiative aimed at providing real-world experiences to young women aged 18-22 years old who are curious about a career in motorsport and want to explore the dynamic world of race and event officiating.

This immersive behind-the-scenes experience is available to those who are completely new to motorsport or already have a budding interest, with participants rotating through a variety of roles across the three-day event.

Program Details:

Dates: Friday 24 October - Sunday 26 October 2025

Location: Gold Coast 500, Surfers Paradise Street Circuit

Cost: Free

To be eligible for the Empower program, applicants must:

- Be a woman aged 18-22 years old (please note that you will be officiating with both men and women)
- Have not officiated at a Supercars event in the past
- Comfortable working in a fast-paced event environment
- Obtain a Motorsport Australia Officials Licence (support provided)
- Able to commit to all three days of the program and a pre-event online meeting the Friday before the event

Application Process:

- Complete the [Girls on Track - Empower Program application form](#) including your resume and cover letter.
- Obtain a [Motorsport Australia Officials Licence](#) and complete the General Officials Training Module.
- Applications close at 11:59pm AEST on Sunday, 21 September 2025

For more information, visit our FAQ page or email girlsontrack@motorsport.org.au.



Soma Women's Wellbeing

Soma Women's Wellbeing is a new interdisciplinary wellbeing clinic in Dickson with a focus on embodied health. In Term 4, we will be running a short series of teen and tween yoga classes on Wednesdays at 5pm for teens (4pm for girls/girl identifying 10-12 year olds).

Research has shown that yoga improves both mental and physical wellbeing; building resilience, reducing stress, developing strength, balance and flexibility, improving academic performance, enhancing sleep quality, and supporting emotional regulation.

Most teens aren't comfortable in going to adult classes, with good reason, but in classes that are fun and tailored especially for this age group, the benefits are well-documented.

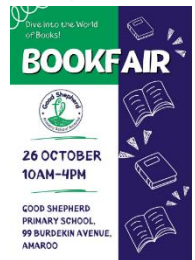
For more info, please visit [Soma Womens Wellbeing |](#)

Good Shepherd Primary School Book Fair

Mark your calendars for Sunday 26 October, and get ready to dive into the world of stories, knowledge and imagination at the school Book Fair.

Time: 10:00am-4:00pm

Location: Good Shepherd Primary School, 99 Burdekin Avenue Amaroo



Free Live Parent Webinar: Helping Your Child Manage Their Time

Elevate Education will be hosting a free webinar for our parents on time management on October 29th.

Elevate works with our students, delivering high-impact workshops on study skills, motivation, wellbeing, and exam preparation. By tuning into their webinar series, you'll learn how you can help support your child at home by reinforcing the skills they're learning at school.

Sign up for the session below to learn how you can help your child to stay focused and prioritise revision when it matters most.



Date: Wednesday 29th October 6:30-7:30pm (AEDT)

Here's what Elevate will be covering on the night:

- ✓ Aligning expectations on homework with your child
- ✓ Helping your child balance their schoolwork and social life
- ✓ Setting up a weekly planner tool with your child

[Click here to register for free](#)

