



ISSUE #6  
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# MC link

Merredin College Weekly Community Update



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## COVID19 AT MERREDIN COLLEGE

Due to staff and students adhering to the strict guidelines of mask wearing, sanitising, social distancing and cleaning regimes it is pleasing to report that so far we have had NO positive cases caused from a close contact at school. It is great to see everyone working together to keep our school community as safe as possible.

Thanks to parents/carers for continuing to ensure your child arrives to school with their own masks. Please remember that if your child is showing symptoms then you should complete a RAT test as soon as possible.

Attached is a recent publication from the Department of Education regarding close contacts and attendance for your information. Please do not hesitate to contact the school should you have any queries if your child does become unwell or is a close contact.

## NAPLAN EXEMPTIONS AND WITHDRAWALS

Year 3, 5, 7 and 9 students will be undertaking NAPLAN Online in Term 2 between the 10-20 May. NAPLAN tests the sorts of skills that are essential for every child to progress through school and life, such as reading, writing, spelling, grammar and numeracy. It is important to remember that NAPLAN is not about passing or failing, but about assessing learning progress. At the classroom level it is an important tool used by teachers to measure student progress.

Students with significant intellectual disability and/or those with significant co-existing conditions which severely limit their capacity to participate in the tests may be exempted from sitting the tests.

Students who have been attending school in Australia for less than a year before the tests may also be eligible for exemption. Exemptions should be discussed with your child's classroom teacher.

Parents or carers may withdraw their child from the tests to address issues such as religious beliefs and philosophical objections to testing. It is recommended that withdrawal be considered in consultation with your child's teacher.

All requests for exemption from testing or withdrawal from testing must be received by the school by Friday, 29 April. Exemption and Withdrawal Forms can be collected from primary administration or through Student Services.

## WORK AT HOME SOFTWARE

The Department of Education has made Microsoft Office 365 available to students so they can study from home. Instructions for installation have been made accessible through your child's Connect account or on our Website via the link below.

You will need:

- To be an eligible registered student valid Department e-mail address (@education.wa.edu.au or @student.education.wa.edu.au)

and

- An internet connection with sufficient download allowance for over 1Gb per installation.

Link: <https://merredincollege.wa.edu.au/wp-content/uploads/2022/03/DepartmentWorkAtHomeSoftware-MicrosoftOffice365InstallationGuide.pdf>

## NOTICE OF P&C GENERAL MEETING

The meeting will be held on:

**MONDAY, 21 March 2022 @ 3:15pm in the Primary Undercover Area**

<https://merredincollege.wa.edu.au/wp-content/uploads/2022/03/PC-Agenda-21st-Mar-2022.pdf>

## PROGRESS REPORTS—SECONDARY

Term 1 Progress Reports have been emailed today and unfortunately with COVID restrictions in place Parent/Teacher Interviews will not be held this term. Please take time to have a look at the progress of your child and where the teacher has shown concern please make contact with the school to arrange for the teacher to contact you regarding these reports.

## IMPORTANT DATES:

### Term 1

21 Mar	P&C Meeting
22 Mar	Year 5 CoRE Excursion
24 Mar	School Board Meeting (5.30pm)
31 Mar	Combined University Presentation Y 11/12
1 April	Country Week Big Day Out (P5)
5 April	Glass of Class Luncheon (Primary)
7 April	Primary Assembly 9am (Online)
8 April	Last day of Term 1
21 Mar	P&C Meeting

### Term 2

25 April	ANZAC Day
26 April	Term 2 commences for staff & students
4-6 May	Year 11 Outdoor Ed Excursion
16 May	P&C Meeting
19 May	Primary Assembly
	School Board Meeting
20 May	Secondary Assembly
24 May	Year 7/8 CoRE Field Trip

## COMBINED UNIVERSITY VISIT

Year 11 and 12 students will be having a session with Western Australian universities on Friday 25 March 2022 advising on what each university has to offer. There will also be a session on the following Tuesday for any interested parents of Year 10-12 students to gain information and ask representatives from the universities any questions they may have. The details are below to access this great opportunity of having all the universities at the same time

Details of the event are as follows:

Activity	Year 10 – 12 Parent Information Evening and Live Q&A
Date	Tuesday, 29 March 2022
Time	5.30-6.30pm (can log into the session from 5.20pm)
Microsoft Teams Link	Microsoft Teams meeting Join on your computer or mobile app <a href="#">Click here to join the meeting</a> <a href="#">Learn More</a>   <a href="#">Meeting options</a>

## YEAR 11/12 WORKPLACE LEARNING (27 JUNE—1 JULY)

Year 11 and 12 students not attending Countryweek in Week 10 of Term 2 who would like to attend work place learning are required to submit completed applications by the last day of the term (Friday, 8 April). Year 11 VET/General students will also be required to attend a 3 week block of Workplace Learning in Term 4 between 24 October- 11 November. It could be a good idea to discuss with your child a place of employment during this time.

## SIGNING OUT - SECONDARY

When signing out a student throughout the day we request that you send your child with a note and/or make arrangements with them to meet you at Student Services to sign out. It is preferable for staff teaching and students learning that the PA announcements are kept to a minimum during class time.

## VOLLEYBALL ACADEMY NEWS

The Merredin College Volleyball Academy has begun preparations for its intake of future stars. During Physical Education lessons, Year 7 students went through a try-out period to have the opportunity to become a member of the program. Congratulations to the twenty-six Year 7 students who have been placed on the shortlist and undergo further tryouts after school until the two teams have been decided for 2022.

Year 8 and 9 teams are also allowing new players the chance to join the program via after-school tryouts. Good luck to all those who are striving to succeed and working to achieve their goals.

The tryout sessions have commenced this week and will be weekly until the end of the term.

Times are as follows:

Group	Day	Time	Dates
Year 7 Boys	Mondays	3-4pm	14 March - 4 April
Year 7 Girls	Mondays	4-5pm	14 March - 4 April
Year 8 Boys	Wednesdays	3.40-4.50pm	16 March - 6 April
Year 8 Girls	Wednesdays	2.30-3.40pm	16 March - 6 April
Year 9 Boys	Fridays	7.15-8.30am	18 March - 8 April
Year 9 Girls	Wednesdays	7.15-8.30am	16 March - 6 April

## FINE ARTS SOCIETY COLOURING COMPETITION

The Merredin Fine Arts Society, will still be running the colouring/drawing competition which is normally a part of the Merredin Show. Pages can be collected from the Primary office and entries need to be dropped off at the CRC, Primary Office or Student Services by Thursday, 31 March 2022. Entries will be on display in the Fine Arts Gallery and winners will be announced on Saturday, 2 April 2022.

## FAREWELL MISS T !!

It is with a heavy heart and great sadness that we say goodbye to Terri Te Kani (more commonly known as Miss T) next Friday, 25 March.

Terri has been with Merredin College for 5 years and has become a Mrs Fix It in all areas of the school. She has been an invaluable member of the Student Services team and the wider school and town community. We wish Miss T and her daughter Mahara all the best in their future endeavours and hope to see you back in Merredin for a visit soon!



# Asymptomatic close contact protocols

## Very high caseload settings

**Students in school or early childcare, who have been identified as a close contact but are asymptomatic:**



Can attend school, before school care and after school care



Can travel between home and school with family – avoid public transport unless no alternative available



Can attend school-based sporting, cultural training or school events at their school



Must isolate at all other times until 7 days has passed.

**If students become unwell, they should stay at home and get tested.**

**These settings do not apply to students who are household close contacts – in this case, students will need to isolate for seven days and follow the regular close contact protocols.**