



MC Link - Term 4, Week 4

7 November 2025

Principal's Address

Student Use of Mobile Phones

Purchases at the canteen

In line with the Department of Education's policy for all public schools, mobile phones are not permitted at school for primary students and must be 'off and away all day' for secondary students.

Overall, our students are responsible and respectful in their use of mobile phones on the school site. However, inconsistency exists with some secondary students using their mobile phone to purchase food items at the **canteen**.

With online ordering now available, from 2026, this practice will no longer be permitted. Students will instead be able to:

- Pre-order their lunch online through **Compass**, or
- Pay directly at the canteen using **cash or card**.

Students who currently use their mobile phone to make purchase may wish to use the school holidays to ensure they have a physical card to access bank accounts, if they wish to make point of sale purchases at the canteen. From 2026, use of a mobile phone at the canteen will be a breach of the school's mobile phone policy and as a result may lose their good standing.

Internet access

Some secondary students are using their mobile phone to connect BYOD devices to the internet whilst on school site. As this activity bypasses the security settings on the Department of Education network, students may be exposed to activities that compromise online safety. Furthermore, this breaches the school expectations and can lead to loss of good standing. I encourage parents/families to speak to their children about responsible mobile phone use on school site and reinforce the 'off and away all day' expectation across all public schools.

Social Media Age Restrictions

From 10 December 2025, many social media platforms won't be allowed to let children under the age of 16 create or keep a social media account. This supports parents to establish and maintain strategies to support their children safe use of online devices.

The changes aim to protect children from design features in social media platforms that:

- encourage them to spend too much time on screens – for example, by prompting them with streams of notifications and alerts, and pressuring them to view disappearing content
- increase the likelihood of exposure to negative, upsetting or manipulative content served up in their feeds by algorithms.
- increase exposure to harmful conduct such as cyberbullying, being asked for nudes and being sent pornography or violent material.

These features have been linked to harms to health and wellbeing, including increased stress levels, and reduced sleep and concentration. Surprisingly, *50% of our Year 3–6 students* told us, in a survey conducted early this year, they *use a device after going to bed* on school nights.

The legislation supports online safety and wellbeing and supports parents to prepare their children for the risks and pressures of social media when they turn 16. It's breathing space to build digital, social and emotional skills, and to understand the importance of reaching out for help if things go wrong.

Parents can find useful information about the legislation using the link below.

[Social media age restrictions and your family | eSafety Commissioner](#)



School Review

Last week, Kate Wilson, Director, School Review, and Leanne Prior, principal of Mount Barker Community College, conducted an onsite public school review. They spoke with students, staff, and community members.

The outcome of a school review is determined by the timeframe for the next return visit. Typically, schools receive a three-year return. Those requiring additional support may receive a one-year return, while schools demonstrating exceptional performance may receive a five-year return.

I am very pleased to share that Merredin College has received a **three-year return** following our school review validation visit. This is a strong and positive outcome, providing our school with the space to continue with the improvement journey.

The reviewers acknowledged the progress made across the college and confirmed that our improvement directions are relevant and well aligned with our future goals. Importantly, they expressed confidence that we understand the work ahead and are on track to make continued progress.

Thank you to our staff, students, and community for your support. I know how important education is to the Merredin community. Changing school culture is much like turning a large ship, it is slow but steady work. Together, we are moving forward with purpose.

The full report will be shared with the school community I will share the full report with the school community once it is available.



Congratulations, Growden House – Secondary Champions 2024–25!

Through hard work, teamwork, and determination across academics, sports, and community events, Growden students have shown outstanding spirit and commitment. Congratulations to every member of Growden House for this incredible achievement!

A huge well done as well to all the students for their enthusiasm and participation throughout the year to earn points for their houses!!

Mrs Kylie Cattaway

Principal

General Information

SWIMMING LESSONS - PP-Year 2 and Year 7's

Monday, 10 November to Friday, 21 November

Students will need to bring a towel, sunscreen, rashi shirts and a change of underclothes too on these days.



Upcoming Events



Our school Calendar is accessible through the [Compass App](#)

Primary News

2026 YEAR 7 ORIENTATION DAYS

Ms Carson and Mrs Postans have been working closely to provide lots of opportunity for our Year 6 students to familiarise themselves and ask questions about secondary school.

Year 6 students will be involved in formal Year 7 Orientation days on *Thursday, 4 December and Friday 5 December 2025*. This is when students joining Merredin College in Year 7 will also attend.

A parent information session has been scheduled for **Tuesday 18 November from 5.30-6.30pm** in the Library, there will also be a school tour at 5pm.

KINDY ORIENTATION - For students enrolling in Kindergarten for 2026

Upcoming sessions:

Friday 21 November & Friday 5 December

Enrolment forms must be handed in to receive an invitation.

YEAR 6 ASSEMBLY

Well done to the Year 6 class for hosting the recent Primary Assembly. It was a wonderful journey through your year as a Year 6 students. We had so much fun, thank you for sharing this with us.

[Primary Assembly - Term 4, Week 4](#)

Secondary News

YEAR 10 TO 11 TRANSITION DAYS - THURSDAY 27 NOVEMBER & FRIDAY 28 NOVEMBER 2025

The Year 10 to 11 Transition Days will take place on Thursday 27 and Friday 28 November. These two days have been designed to help students prepare for their move into senior secondary schooling by engaging in sessions that outline WACE requirements, explore subject expectations, and build an understanding of the pathways chosen by students in both ATAR, VET and General courses. The program will also include opportunities for students to meet teachers, experience aspects of their 2026 courses, and participate in activities designed to strengthen readiness for Year 11.

Students who will be concluding their studies with our school at the end of 2025 will not take part in the transition program; instead, they will continue with their regular learning on a modified timetable for the duration of these two days.

YEAR 11 END OF YEAR ARRANGEMENTS

Weeks 4 & 5 - Friday, 7 November - Friday, 14 November

- Year 11 ATAR Examinations
- Year 11 ATAR students on study leave.

Weeks 5 & 6 - Monday, 10 November - Friday, 21 November

- All VET/General pathway students are on Workplace Learning.
- Students not attending ADWPL are required to be at school.
- ATAR students attend to go through examination results.

Week 6 - Friday, 21 November

- Last day of school for Year 11 ATAR students

Latest News and Events



1 - Year 12 Awards Presentation Evening

Merredin College P&C

P&C UNIFORM SHOP

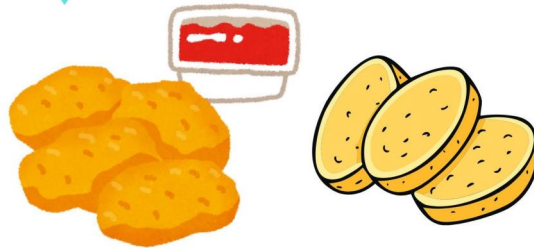
The uniform shop has a new email address: merredincollegeuniforms@gmail.com

Uniform Shop Hours:

- Mondays - 8.30-9.15am
- Wednesdays - 1.30-2.45pm

Thursday
Special

13th
november



**Chicken Nuggets &
Hot Wheels**

\$6

Please order by Wednesday 12th November

Merredin College
P&C UNIFORM SHOP
Special Opening Hours

Tuesday, 18 November	Year 7 Parent Night 4-5pm
Friday, 5 December	Year 7 Transition 2-4pm
Monday, 15 December	Shop Closed
Tuesday, 16 December	2.30pm-3.30pm
Wednesday, 17 December	1.30pm-2.45pm
Thursday, 18 December	1.30pm-3.30pm
Friday, 19 December	10am-12pm
Monday, 5 January	4pm-6pm
Tuesday, 6 January	10am-12pm
Thursday, 15 January	4pm-6pm
Thursday, 22 January	4pm-6pm
Friday, 23 January	10am-12pm
Monday, 2 February	8.30am-10am
Tuesday, 3 February	8.30am-9.30am
Wednesday, 4 February	8.30am-9.30am & 1.30pm-2.45pm
Thursday, 5 February	8.30am-9.30am
Friday, 6 February	8.30am-9.30am

Thursday, 18 December - Festive Night Out
13 Bates St (Old IGA Variety Store)
5pm to 8pm
Changing facilities & Eftpos available

Ph:0400 412 549 / E:merredincollegeuniforms@gmail.com

Contact Information

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