Key Dates

Friday 18 November
Year 10 Adventure Day
Year 11 Exams Conclude
ACC Inclusive Sports Bowling

Monday 21 November
Year 6 Orientation Day
Year 10 Exams Commence

Tuesday 22 November
Prefect Leadership Conference
Commences

Thursday 24 November
Prefect Leadership Conference
Concludes

Friday 25 November
Year 11 Final Day
Year 10 Exams Conclude

Monday 28 November
Year 9 Exams Commence

Wednesday 30 November
Year 9 Exams Conclude
Grandparents Mass

Thursday 1 December
Year 9 Peer Mentor Training

Friday 2 December
Advent Liturgy
End of Term 4

Principal’s Report

Two members of the College Executive are leaving this year to take on leadership roles in other Catholic schools. Ms Speranza will take up a Dean position at Santa Maria College and Mrs Hughes will take on the role of a Deputy Principal at Lumen Christi College. A more detailed outline of their contributions will feature in the College Annual but I did want to acknowledge their work the newsletter and wish them well for the future.

Ms Rosa Speranza – Deputy Principal Faith & Mission
Ms Speranza has been at Mercedes for ten years first as Mission Leader and then in the role of Deputy Principal. Ms Speranza also shaped pedagogy and curriculum in Religious Education and was a key staff member for student leaders.

During her time at the College Ms Speranza has initiated many programmes and events that have been of benefit to students and staff. Poverty Immersion, Seeds of Justice, Street Soccer Endorsed Programmes for Service, Covey Programme, Leadership and Tours, New Norcia Year 12 Retreat, Food Rescue in the CBD, House Liturgies and International Women’s Day Breakfast. She has also supported College Tours, the Camino de Merced, and the Mini and Young Mercies Programme.

Mrs Sabrina Hughes – Director of Research & Innovation
Mrs Hughes has been at Mercedes for twenty years. She has had many roles including Year 12 Co-ordinator, Careers Co-ordinator, Head of Learning Support, her current role of Director of Research & Innovation and Acting Deputy roles relieving when a member of the Executive was on leave.

Many innovations have occurred as a result of Mrs Hughes’ work including research that led to the Student Representative Council being redesigned, the introduction of the Confucius Classroom, researching educating gifted and talented students that resulted in the Accelerated Learning Programme (ALP) and its restructure as Academic Challenge and Extension (ACE) in 2017. Mrs Hughes has also made a major contribution to strategic planning at the College evaluating Climate Survey Data and structuring the Future Plan and School

Insight from Catherine McAuley:
“If we love God, we will undoubtedly love our neighbour also; they are as cause and effect.”

Andrea Hosking, Kerrie Fraser, Gabby Loo (Class of 2013 and Denise Fitzgerald at the College Art Expo
Improvement Plan documentation. The Functional Literacy Intervention Programme (FLIP) was also researched and initiated by Mrs Hughes. She has been a mentor to many students at the College.

2016 Art Exhibition
On Thursday, 10 November the College’s Art Exhibition opened. The talent of the students is inspiring and throughout this week many students and staff have continued to admire the work. Gabriella Loo (Class of 2013) judged the pieces and gave the students feedback. Gabriella is currently studying a Bachelor of Design with a Fine Arts Major at UWA. Purchasing the artwork to contribute to the Cambodia Immersion was an initiative this year and very popular within the College community.

Year 11 students have been busy with examinations over the last two weeks. I wish our Year 10 students all the best for their examinations next week.

Best Wishes

Mrs Kerrie Fraser, Principal

---

DOM’s End of Year Dinner
Thursday, 24 November / 6.30pm / Grosvenor Hotel
Bookings are available via TryBooking.

Presentation Evening Photos
Photos are now available online to view and purchase. To access the gallery, go to www.photohendriksgalleries.com, click on the Mercedes College logo and enter the password: luxe45

---

Farewell to Ms Rosa Speranza and Mrs Sabrina Hughes
Pastoral Care News

Year 7/8 Community
Year 8 - Mrs Alicia Sharpe
The Year 8 Reflection Days took place on Monday 14 and Tuesday 15 November at the Trigg Surf Lifesaving Club. It was a reflective experience that focused on the value of Compassion. Over the two days the girls rotated through various activities such as beach games, sand sculptures, mindful Mercy meditation, sand jars and a charter for compassion, where they were able to take time to reflect, share their own personal experiences, be creative and engage in personal prayer. The students also had the opportunity to hear from some wonderful guest speakers who spoke about Compassion and how they give back to others in the wider community. On the second day, the students and staff were fortunate enough to have Fr Brennan say the end of year Liturgy in a beautiful setting. A big thank you to all the staff and parent helpers who helped make it a wonderful two days for the Year 8 students.

Mercedes College partners with Mercy Care, a leading Catholic not-for-profit in WA. On the first Reflection Day, the Year 8 students heard from two staff members from MercyCare who spoke about their Back to School Packages for children in care. Currently, they have 70 children in foster care and family group homes, who they would like to provide a bag full of goodies, including: pencil case (marker pens, crayons, pencils etc.), lunch box, drink bottle and school bag at the commencement of the 2017 school year. The girls were strongly encouraged to make a donation that can contribute towards one of these packages. To give you an idea of where the money goes, here is a simple guide:
- $15 Small Pack (lunch box, drink bottle)
- $25 Medium Pack (pencil case, lunch box, drink bottle)
- $50 Large Pack (school bag, pencil case, lunch box, drink bottle)
Letters with more information have been sent home with the students.

Year 9/10 Community
Year 9 - Mrs Bernadette Dell
As we move towards the end of a busy year, we celebrated a beautiful Mass together. All the girls displayed a pleasing level of reverence and enthusiasm in our Mass. I was especially grateful to the readers and our singers who organised an uplifting hymn for us to share.

As we approach the final weeks of Year 9, some girls will be able to reflect on year of growth in every sphere of their lives at Mercedes. The final assessments and coming exams will be further opportunities to show that academic learning is being consolidated and skills enhanced. Good study habits and work routines that are established now will be of great benefit in the future.

A large number of girls have put themselves forward for leadership roles in our year group. We have just had a closely contested election for Student Council Representatives and some of the applicants for Peer Mentor have received the good news that they were selected. What was heartening for me, as the Year 9 Coordinator, was the responses from teachers when we asked for further information on the girls who submitted applications to be Peer Mentors. It is clear that a significant number of our girls are displaying very positive and caring behaviour in their classes and co-curricular activities.

For every student who is feeling happy at her selection, there were others who were disappointed but handling this is part of learning how to cope with difficulties in life. Fortunately, there are many other opportunities available to Year 10s including guiding peers and younger students in special interest activities, such as Media groups or specific sporting teams, as well as formal roles such as House Leaders for various inter-house events. As the coming year progresses, every girl will have an opportunity to show that she is a mature young woman with the capacity to lead peers and younger students.

Year 10 - Mrs Sherrin Adams
I have been very impressed with the recent fundraising activities undertaken by the Year 10 students. It is fantastic to witness the girls putting other before themselves in the many ways they have raised money for several charities.

With exams fast approaching our Adventure Day at Burswood on Friday, is the perfect opportunity for fun together, exercise, fresh air and relaxation. I hope that the activities organized by Adventure Works are stimulating; whilst facilitating both teamwork and leadership within the group.

All parents and students are reminded that healthy food, plenty of sleep and a ‘rest’ from social media are needed during exam
week. If any student is absent parents and girls must follow correct procedures as per the Assessment Policy (Refer to the College Diary).

I look forward to a happy last few weeks of term- with a minimum of distractions – exam week is a time for calmness and study, so that everyone can perform at her best.

Academic News - Mrs Liana Strutt, Deputy Principal - Academic Services

Year 9 and 10 Exam Timetables

These are now scheduled. To view the Year 9 Exam Timetable, click here and to view the Year 10 Exam Timetable, click here.

Learning Technology for 2017 Academic Year

This year we collated responses from our school community as to preferred devices to support learning. Given the range of responses the College Executive has endorsed a delay in any changes until 2018. We anticipate there will be changes in technology across the next year for further consideration. To give parents visibility over the changes starting 2018 the most likely outcome and guidance will be students, Years 10 -12, will be asked to bring either a Macbook or iPad Pro from 2018 onwards as per their preference. Students from Year 7-9 will bring an iPad Pro. The required learning technology device for 2017 and links to the specific software (apps) is described below. Specific details about the devices will be provided through 2017.

Required Device for 2017

For 2017 Year 7 students will require an iPad Pro 128Gb 9.7-inch (wifi) as their essential learning technology – the 32Gb model may suffice but students will need to regularly move content to cloud storage. We highly recommend inclusion of a stylus and keyboard case for students in Year 7 also.

For 2017 students entering Years 8-12, the minimum specification for remains the iPad Air 2 64Gb and the minimum recommended new device is the iPad Pro 32Gb Wifi. You can identify which model iPad your daughter currently uses via this link here: https://support.apple.com/en-au/HT201471 Parents wishing to purchase newer devices may choose to purchase the iPad Pro as part of the Office Max booklist or separately to their preference.

Required eBooks, Apps and iBooks for 2017:

The College website will shortly display the links to the online OfficeMax booklist plus the required Apps and iBooks. Most eBooks required for 2017 will be accessed via the OfficeMax eBook app. Please also refer to the College website which lists the required apps and iBooks for each year level. Please access this list and advise your daughter ensure all apps are installed and ready to be used: http://www.mercedes.wa.edu.au/index.php/student-life-a-learning/student-information-and-services/booklists-ipad-apps-and-digital-texts. For 2017 all students can install the Microsoft Office suite on up to 5 devices at home with their Office 365 College email address to a value of $119 per annum. More information will be provided via the FAQs on the College website.

Thank you for your ongoing support of the College’s “Always Learning Anywhere Initiative” to help ensure that the College maintains its level of academic excellence and provides the very best learning environment for our young women as they move into a future that increasingly relies on the latest technological knowledge and digital literacy.

English – Mrs Kathleen O'Toole, HOLA Year 9 English

Students in Year 9 English had the recent privilege of enjoying a visit from local author, Julia Lawninson, who came to discuss their studied text Bye Beautiful. Julia shared many wonderful insights about her motivation for writing and about her latest work. The girls were very attentive and asked some very telling questions which clearly indicated excellent engagement with the text and its issues. It is anticipated that students will make good use of this information in their upcoming examination essays.

Social Sciences – Mr Tim Poga, HoLA

Remembrance Day and The Spirit of Anzac Centenary Experience

Last week saw the 98th commemoration of Remembrance Day. Whilst not as high profile as Anzac Day, it was good to see many students and staff supporting the spirit of the day through the wearing of poppies and taking a minutes silence at 11am. We would also like to commend those students who took note of the poppy wreath in the Memorial Garden and to those who participated in the activity organized by Ms Dorrington in the Library. As mentioned in a previous newsletter, we encourage parents to go online and book free tickets to go and see coming to the he Spirit of Anzac Centenary Experience at the Perth Convention & Exhibition Centre from 29 Nov - 11 Dec 2016. It showcases experiences of Australians in World War I. For more information go to: http://www.spiritofanzac.gov.au/

Languages – Mrs Angela Velletri, HoLA

Alliance Française Examination 2016 - Marie-Noëlle Vieira, Senior Teacher of French

On 4 November a prize giving ceremony was held at the Alliance Française to recognize the top 6 students in their category and reward them for their achievement. I am pleased to announce that Isabella Brun claimed the second prize. We warmly congratulate Isabella on her excellent results and dedication and wish her continued success in her French studies. Félicitations Isabella!

The Chinese Proficiency Competition – Jia Teo, Chinese Teacher

Sarah Crawley participated at the Confucius Institute Chinese Speaking Competition in May this year. Sarah felt that this opportunity has given her a new perspective on spoken Chinese, particularly improving her understanding of material covered in class. She came 5th and is keen to take part in the competition again next year. Well done Sarah and we wish
you continued success in your Chinese studies!

**Library News – Ms Joanna Kagi, HoLA**

The Library has been busy with early birds at 7.30am through to 4.30pm when the afternoon crowd settles in. With the Year 12 ATAR exams drawing to a close, the Year 11s have made good use of the facilities for their final exams for the year. The Year 9 and 10s are now getting into “Exam Mode”. The 7s and 8s enjoy the recreational facilities of the Library after all their hard work is done.

**e-Platform One has arrived! Join today to assess popular e-Books**

Our e-Platform collection has been increased due to our joining a consortium of other school library’s e-Platform Collection. This has dramatically increased our collection. So we now have over 1,000 popular B-books for you to read and borrow 24/7/365 – our e-collection is available for you to access and download so you can read on the bus, on holidays and in your free time. All students have the App on their iPad. So make sure you register today.

---

**Mrs Julie Lamb, Enrolments Officer**

**Students not returning in 2017**

If your daughter in Years 7-11 is NOT returning to Mercedes College next year, please notify Mrs Julie Lamb immediately by telephone on 9323 1340 or email jlamb@mercedes.wa.edu.au. A withdrawal letter addressed to the Principal is required stating the reason for withdrawal, exact date of intended withdrawal, and the name of the school/educational institution at which your daughter is enrolled. Please note that one term’s notice of withdrawal is required to avoid penalty charges. Receipt of this information will assist the College with future planning for 2017.

**Enrolment Interviews for Year 7 2019**

Interviews are being conducted in Terms 1 and 2, 2017 for sisters of current and past Mercedes students. If you have forgotten to enrol your younger daughter, please contact Mrs Julie Lamb on 9323 1340 or email jlamb@mercedes.wa.edu.au.

**Art Exhibition—Mrs Andrea Hosking, Art Co-Ordinator**

Last Thursday night saw the opening of the Art Exhibition. Thank you to all the families, friends and students that attended. It was a very successful night and an opportunity to showcase the hard work, dedication, practical and analytical skills of our Visual Arts and Design students from Years 7 to 12. The exhibition included artworks in a range of media and art forms and, the senior students’ work in particular, highlighted the use of art and design work to communicate complex messages beyond the aesthetic.

This year many of the works were based on a theme of Mercy as inspired by the 170th Anniversary of Mercedes and the Holy Year of Mercy. Inspired by an idea by Meghan Humphries in Year 11, artworks were put up for sale to raise money for projects supported by the Cambodia Immersion. This was an idea that came late in the planning of the exhibition but the opportunity to come together and raise funds for the people of Cambodia was too good to post-pone. The concept of ‘Art for Cambodia’ further enriched the Mercy focus with a tangible example of Mercedes Mercy at work. We sincerely thank those who purchased student art, cards and badges and we are especially grateful for the parents who purchased their own daughter’s work back for a donation to the cause. We raised over $2000 in three days.

A fantastic effort and again we thank our students, parents and friends. Staff and students participating in the Cambodia Immersion will be working with charities including Sr Denise Coghlan at the Jesuit Reflection Service and the Trailblazers Foundation. These organisations use donations to build housing for shelter, toilets for better hygiene, wells for clean drinking water and to buy water filters, mosquito nets, school desks and bicycles for schools. Your donations will go a long way and are much appreciated.

Thank you to our judge, Gabby Loo (Class of 2013) and congratulations to our exhibition prize winners.

- Year 7 2D: Miranda Skinner
- Year 7 3D: Ella Simpson
- Year 8 Art: Rosie Battalis
- Year 9 Visual Arts: Savannah Regan
- Year 9 Design: Shannon Engelbrecht
- Year 10 Visual Arts: Georgia Clarke
- Year 10 Design: Sarah Crowley
Year 11 Visual Arts 2D  Nina O’Rourke
Year 11 Visual Arts 3D  Adelina Holl
Year 11 Design  Charlotte Kennedy
Year 12 Visual Arts  Annabel Haizer
Year 12 Design  Ania Malek
Most Outstanding Artwork  Mia Robinson
People’s Choice Award  Isabella Rossaro (Visual Arts piece)

We weren’t too far off our goal to raise enough to build a house. We are holding on to that goal for next year!

Middle School Badminton Year 10 – Mr Greg Smith, HoLA
The following students were selected in the Year 10 Badminton team that represented the College in the Badminton WA Schools Tournament, at Kingsway International Sports Stadium on Friday 4 November: Stellah Anderson, Grace Armstrong, Jacinta Bray, Sarah Crowley, Phoebe Holmes, Grace Kay, Jessica McKay, Sophie Mitchell, Maddie O’Brien, Hannah O’Toole, Ella Phelan, Jasmine Serra, Isabella Skinner and Elyse Wilson.

The tournament was played in five separate groupings and involved a round-robin doubles competition, with each game played to 21 points. The results from the round-robin were used to establish a ranking for each pair amongst the 25 pairs playing in the competition. All the pairs played very well and finished in the top 13, and therefore, qualified to play in the elimination tournament. The elimination tournament involved playing the best of three games to 21 points, with the winners of each round progressing to the next round. After the first round, three teams were successful and moved into the quarter finals. After the quarter finals, partners Jessica McKay and Sophie Mitchell, and Jacinta Bray and Isabella Skinner won and, therefore, played in the semi-finals. Both pairs played extremely well in their semi-final but they were unable to record a win and finished third and fourth overall.

New Coding Club – Mr Peter Mee
Tuesday 15 November saw the inaugural launch of the Mercedes Coding Club – a trial based on the Coder Dojo concept. The importance of coding knowledge for the future is becoming more and more apparent, with the “Hour of Code” initiative launched a few years ago (https://hourofcode.com/au) and more recently an addition to the Australian Curriculum in the area of Digital Technologies – emphasising the teaching of coding at school. Nine students came along to this opening session after school in the library and tried their hand at coding. Students explored programming a robot, programming with Scratch (https://scratch.mit.edu/), working with the Hopscotch app, or trying their hand at Swift (the Mac computing language used for programming iOS apps). At the end of the session, students participated in “Show me the code” … where they are invited to demonstrate what their programming does.
Many thanks to the staff who assisted in making this experience possible for the students (Mr Reid, Ms Dorrington, Ms Kagi and Mr Loh) and to the enthusiastic students who took part. The afternoon was a great success and will hopefully serve as a model for a future Coding Club in 2017.

Rotary Four-Way Test Competition – Mrs Bernadette Dell

Three Year 10 students, Hannah Skinner, Jade Mascarenhas and Eliza Toohey, represented Mercedes at the prestigious Rotary Public Speaking Competition. Each of the girls selected a topic about which they are concerned and then applied the Rotary Club’s ‘Four-Way Test’ to the situation and their suggested solution. The competitors received accolades for their research, reasoning and presentation as they presented their views about the treatment of asylum seekers, Australia’s ‘drink culture’ and the need to create a more inclusive and welcoming society in our country.

The adjudicators took an unprecedented length of time in making their choice because, as many of the Rotary Club members pointed out, the standard was exceptionally high this year. All three girls deserve to be commended on their efforts and Jade, who was declared the heat winner, is a very worthy representative of the Perth Rotary Club and Mercedes College. Jade will now compete at a district level, hoping to gain a place in the State Semi-Finals and we wish her every success.

Left to Right: Jade Mascarenhas, The Inclusive Education girls represented the College at ACC Inclusive Bowling Day on November 11. The day was full of fierce competition between La Salle College and resulted in some great friendships and memories. It was a great opportunity for some of our girls to show off their bowling skills with strikes and spares aplenty!

Wellbeing

National Psychology Week – What brings the most happiness to students at Mercedes?

Psychology has changed a lot since the days of using ink blots to examine personality and emotional disturbances. Today psychologists are not just looking at psychological disturbances, but actively involved in researching and promoting wellbeing for everyone. Last week we acknowledged Psychology Week at Mercedes with a student happiness survey, and by providing daily tips on wellbeing to our students. Topics included sleep, mindfulness, relationships and gratitude.

Did you know that according to our student wellbeing survey, the most commonly rated thing that brings happiness to the students of Mercedes is …. FRIENDS! Pets and Family came next, which highlights how important relationships are for our happiness and wellbeing.

If you would like an insight into your current wellbeing levels, check out this 5-min survey at: http://compassforlife.org.au/ The results are confidential to you, are based on the Positive Psychology model that we use at Mercedes, AND you can see how your wellbeing compares to the Australian average.
Year 8 Reflection Days took place on Monday 14 and Tuesday 15 November at City Beach Surf Life Saving Club. The weather was perfect on both days. Once again we would like to thank the parents who assisted with the Morning Tea and Lunch for both days, Jennifer Nicholas, Naomi Chapman Greenway, Susy Tann (Donnelly), Ann Bond, Wes Sutton/Watson, Gary Bush, Amelia Greaves and Lisa Del Casale.

MercyCare Illuminations Concert - A concert to shine a light on acts of mercy in our community. Sunday 20 November, 2.30pm, St Mary’s Cathedral. To purchase your ticket visit www.mercycare.com.au/illuminations or email illuminations@mercycare.com.au for more information.

Trinity College Tours - Visit the expanding campus and all the Trinity has to offer. To book please contact the Registrar via registrar@trinity.wa.edu.au or call 9323 8121.

VacSwim - Enrolments for December/January lessons are now open. It is important for every child to learn vital swimming and water safety skills. VacSwim offers affordable school holiday swimming lessons run by qualified instructors at a range of locations throughout the state. For further information and online enrolments visit education.wa.edu.au/swimming

Academic Task Force Year 7, 8, 9 & 10 Weekend HELP Classes – English, Maths Science classes on Saturday and Sunday. Experienced teachers work with students to build their skills and understanding in a small group environment. For more information, please contact learn@academictaskforce.com.au

Perth Maths Methods Tuition Centre - Powerful and intensive revision seminars to help you achieve your best in your Mathematics Methods examination. Whether preparing for your Year 11 exam or your Year 12 ATAR exam, find out more: www.perthmathsmethodstuitioncentre.com.au

Mood Meter Program: Building Emotional Intelligence - Join Michael Grose for our 3-week online parenting course. For more information visit http://www.parentingideasclub.com.au/

Aboriginal Catholic Ministry Perth - Celebrate the 30th Anniversary of St John Paul II’s visit to Australia and his address to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islanders, Sunday 27 November (Smoking Ceremony 4.45pm, Mass 5pm) at St Mary’s Cathedral.

WAAPA Summer School 2017 - This summer WAAPA is offering an exciting school holiday program for children and young people. The Summer School includes classes in drama, acting, screen acting, musical theatre, Shakespeare and theatre production. For information visit waapa.ecu.edu.au/summer-school or contact Gabrielle Metcalf at g.metcalf@ecu.edu.au or 9370 6775.

Notre Dame ATAR Express Workshops - This January school holidays, The University of Notre Dame invites new Year 11 and 12 students to attend ATAR preparation workshops in ATAR English, Human Biology, Chemistry, and Mathematics Methods, as well as study and writing skills. For more information, visit http://www.nd.edu.au/academic_support/outreach