



Melrose High School Message Stick



"A community of learners building on a tradition of excellence"

Issue 4: 1 April 2021

FROM THE SENIOR EXECUTIVE

Term One, 2021 has kicked off to a terrific start. We would like to thank teachers, parents, carers, and school staff for making this term such a positive and engaging start to the year. We acknowledge all of the hard work parents and carers undergo to get kids to school each day, including extracting them from bed, helping with assignments and homework and to ensure students come safe and prepared for learning.

SCHOOL BOARD NEWS

The School Board Election has been completed and we welcome the following to our school board:

Richard Perry - Parent Representative
Amanda Walsh – Parent Representative
Alexander Gillespie – Student Representative
Alison Carson – Staff Representative

In welcoming new members, we also say farewell the following members:

Fiona Looney - Parent Representative
Helen Taylor – Parent representative
Emma Looney – Student representative
Mark Baldwin – Staff representative

We thank the outgoing board members for their contributions to the school community.

LOGO RE-IMAGINED

A part of our celebration planning for the 50th anniversary in 2020 was to focus on the reimagining of our school logo. There are a couple of versions of the origins of our school logo, the motto on it, its origins and the cultural integrity of the logo raises questions. Developing a contemporary badge for the school for the next 50 years was a project we commenced work on through initial consultations in 2019. For a number of reasons, the logo and expression of the schools' values need to be revised and re-imagined. Students will come home to discuss with families the proposal to alter the logo and will formally give feedback through a survey in phase 1. Students will then apply to join Focus Groups with members of the newly formed Melrose Community and Friends group to work on design selection. Our community will also be surveyed very soon on the proposal.

PARENT ENGAGEMENT NIGHT – THURSDAY 10 JUNE 2021, 5.00-7.00PM

Thank you to the families who attended our Term One, 2021 session on Social Media. The presenter, Nicole Agius shared lots of resources to support families to have conversations with their child(ren) about how to be safe on social media, how to respond appropriately to messages and where to seek help, when needed.

The Term Two, 2021 session is on **Skills for the Future** - what skills attributes, passions etc. is our community looking for in future employees/members/students? We are yet to confirm all presenters, but at present the following people will be joining us on Thursday 10 June 2021, 5.00-7.00pm to share their thoughts and answer questions:

Kirsty Spence, Talent Sourcing, ActewAGL
Maurice Walker, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Elected Body
Keith Cantlie, Director of Cantlie Recruitment, Canberra Business Chamber
Pro-Vice-Chancellor, Education, Professor Royston Gustavson, ANU.

Look out for updates as other presenters confirm their attendance.

HOW CAN YOU HELP?

Melrose is working to improve the opportunities for our community to add value to our students' lives and education. To enable closer connections, we would like to invite parents/carers to participate in some of the education opportunities we have for our students.

For parent/carers to work with our students they require a Working with Vulnerable People Card (WWVP). This registration is free for volunteer purposes, can be initiated online and then completed at an Access Canberra Service Centre (Belconnen, Gungahlin, Tuggeranong or Woden). WWVP commenced on 8 November 2012. It aims to reduce the risk of harm or neglect to vulnerable people in the ACT.

The WWVP Act requires those who work or volunteer with vulnerable people to have a background check and be registered. The premise of background checking is that the past behaviour of an individual can provide an indication of the possible future behaviour of that individual. Examples or patterns of abusive or inappropriate behaviour can sometimes be evident in information available for assessment, which includes an individual's criminal record.

The ACT Government considers that the creation of a checking system with appropriate safeguards for people who work with, or who want to work with vulnerable people is consistent with section 28 of the Human Rights Act 2004. (www.accesscanberra.act.gov.au) The online process can be accessed here: [Working with vulnerable people \(WWVP\) registration](#).

Some of the opportunities that Melrose would like to invite parents/carers to participate in include:

- Homework Support Group - Monday and Wednesday 3:10 – 4:10pm.
- Literacy Support Program
- Numeracy Support Program
- Big Picture Mentoring
- Year 10 Flexible Learning Individualised Pathways (FLIP) – work placements, seminar series and workshops
- Seminar Series & Workshops – professionals sharing their expertise with students i.e. presentations and/or workshops on; coding, programming, photography, construction, sport etc.
- Work Experience (WEX) placements
- Learning Through Internship (LTI) placements for Big Picture students
- Friends of Melrose events
- Discussion groups – small groups of parent/carers to provide feedback

SCHOOL INFORMATION NIGHT

Next term sees the start of preparations for School Information Night and the transition of Year 6 cluster primary school community for 2022 and for Year 10 to their respective college communities also for 2022. School Information Night is Thursday 6 May 2021, 6:00-8.00pm.

We are also commencing preparations for Year 10 to transition to college and most families have now completed Year 10 Transition Interviews. We encourage you to contact the school to arrange an appointment as soon as possible. School Information Night for all colleges are below for Year 10 parents:

- Canberra College: Tuesday 4 May, further details TBC. Please visit: <http://www.canberrac.act.edu.au>
- Erindale College: Tuesday 18 May 4:30-7:30pm
- Lake Tuggeranong College: Thursday 20 May, 6:00-7:30pm
- Narrabundah College: Thursday 6 May, 3 session, bookings essential. Please visit: www.narrabundahc.act.edu.au

We wish all our families a safe holiday and look forward to the students returning rested and excited to start another term on Monday 19 April 2021.



Simon Vaughan
Principal

simon.vaughan@ed.act.edu.au



Shannon Carnovale
Deputy Principal

shannon.carnovale@ed.act.edu.au



Ryan Kay
Deputy Principal

ryan.kay@ed.act.edu.au

MESSAGE FROM THE SCHOOL BOARD

The School Board is looking at ways to increase the opportunities for parents to contribute to the high school. We welcome all parents/carers to email the School Board Melrose.Board@ed.act.edu.au with your ideas, and to let us know if you would like to actively help us map this improvement pathway.

I took time off work for the March for Women on Monday 15 March on the lawns in front of our parliament house. I watched and listened as Lisa Wilkinson surprised us by introducing Brittany, who spoke without political bias, and for a better community. She had the most eloquent speech, clearly driving for a better, safer community for women in this country. It was a moving moment for me, a Canberra community member, father of four boys. It's something I want too – gender roles more balanced, a better environment for my boys to grow and have freedom, good relationships, and respect for others. It was all completely aligned with my desire for a country where we don't harm one partner per week, where our young people are not so much at risk of hurting themselves, and where education is given more time and money, and where enterprise and philanthropy are encouraged, and employers act in partnership with their workforce – in good and bad times. There is no political agenda, just strong desire for a better culture and community. Let's do our part as

parents of teenagers and younger children, who need our encouragement, who have a right to be excited about their potential, and the opportunities to achieve them. They follow our positive leadership and a good awareness of history.

Stuart McKellar
Board Chair

INCLUSIVE EDUCATION

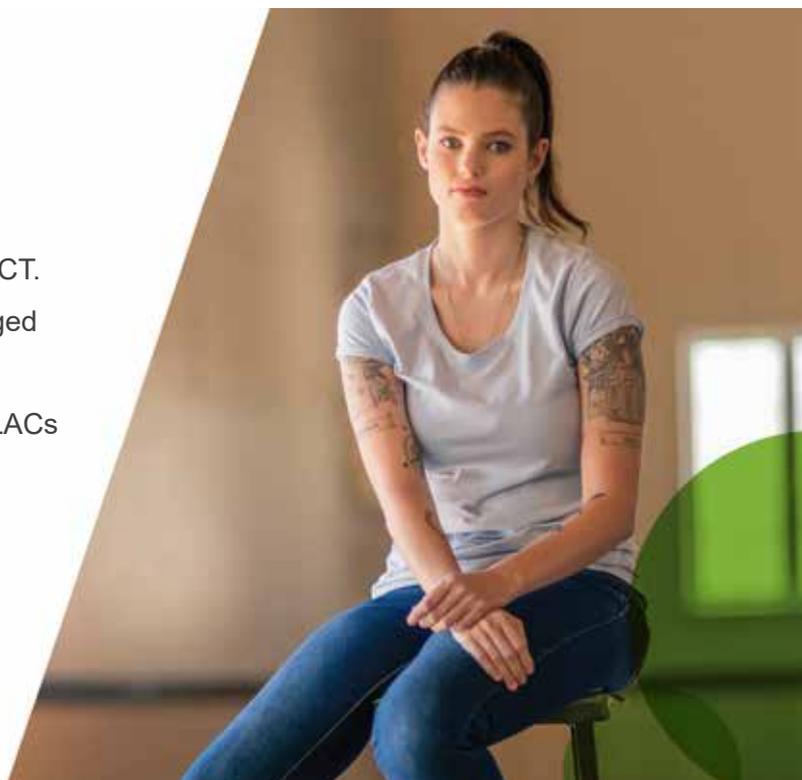
Welcome to the conclusion of Term 1. It has been a busy time settling students into school while meeting their individual needs so they can be successful. Recently I attended a network meeting of the Disability Education coordinators. The network meetings are an opportunity to connect, share current inclusive practice in our schools, and to build skills and knowledge in inclusive education through guest presenters and other professional learning offerings. Our guest speakers were from EACH and Feros Care who are community providers for the NDIS. The National Disability Insurance Scheme is a new way of providing disability support and takes a lifetime approach, investing in people with disability early to improve their outcomes later in life. More information can be found at <https://www.feroscare.com.au/> and <https://www.each.com.au/>. I have also included an information pamphlet with this newsletter. The contacts at the school for Inclusive Education are myself, and Ryan Kay, the Deputy Principal for Student Engagement.

Warm Regards

Eleanor McMillan
eleanor.mcmillan@ed.act.edu.au

FEROS CARE AND THE NDIS

- Feros Care is the NDIS Local Area Coordination (LAC) Partner in the ACT.
- LAC provides support for people aged between 7 – 65 years.
- Feros Care has employed over 30 LACs in ACT.
- our office is located in Phillip near Westfield Woden.



FOR YOUR INFORMATION

Calendar Updates

The most recent version of the Melrose Calendar can be found on the Website

http://www.melrosehs.act.edu.au/our_community/calendar

Contact details

The school relies on having the most up to date contact details for families to ensure we are able to communicate efficiently with you regarding the wellbeing of your child. If you have made any changes to your address, phone numbers and email address in recent months please contact the Front Office on 6142 0700 or email frontoffice@melrosehs.act.edu.au

Sick Bay

If students are unwell they must go to Sick Bay, with a note from their teacher. The Front Office staff will contact parents/carers if needed. The students are NOT to contact parents themselves and then go home. If your child contacts you asking if they can go home sick, ask them to get a note from their teacher to go to Sick Bay and the Front Office staff will then contact you. Thank you in advance for your support.

Student absences

If your student is absent, due to illness or leave, or needs to attend an appointment during the day, please either phone the Rolls Office on 6142 0703 and leave a message or email the Rolls Office at rollsoffice@melrosehs.act.edu.au. Please remember to include the student's full name, roll group and reason for absence (ie. sick, late or on leave) as well as your contact details.

Online Canteen ordering

Register now. Go to <http://www.flexischools.com.au>

Lunches can be ordered online up to 9:30 am on the day they are required.

Lockers

Lockers are available to students at a cost of \$30 per year. Students wanting to hire a locker will need to provide a lock with a shaft between 6-8mm. Key or combination locks are acceptable. Students need to bring their lock, payment and the spare key or the combination to the Finance Office before a locker will be allocated. Students can come to the Finance Office before school, at recess or the first half of lunch time.

FINANCE

In an attempt to ensure security around payment of monies to the school for camps, excursions, programs and voluntary contributions, we would like to encourage payments to be made via Quickweb, the secure online payment portal.

Below is an explanation of the payment options available.

1. Online payments are the preferred method of payment. Payments are made via the School Website to a secure Westpac Bank site, called "Quickweb" <http://www.melrosehs.act.edu.au/payment>
2. Instructions can be found on the Payments TAB simply complete the fields with as much detail as possible, including the Fee Code which will be advised on the notes requesting payments.
3. All payments can be made using Quickweb, using a debit or credit card. Westpac will provide you with a receipt which you can email to melrose.finance@ed.act.edu.au
4. Payments can still be made in person at the Front Office with cash, cheque, EFTPOS, or a deposit direct into the Melrose High School Bank account BSB 032777, Account - 001658. If paying by direct deposit an email to the school financial section would be appreciated at melrose.finance@ed.act.edu.au

For all payments, please ensure you include:

- Student Key ; Family Key ; Fee Code

For any enquiries regarding payments please contact the Finance Officer on 6142 0704.



LEGO

The Learning Achievement Program (LAP) team are looking to increase their stock of Lego® for use in developing social skills with our students. When students play with Lego®, they're more likely to interact with each other through collaborative play. The shared focus on building uses student's strengths and helps them practise communication and social skills while having fun. If you have any Lego® that you have finished with as a family, we would appreciate a donation to the school. Please drop off in the front office with a note and your name (so I can thank you).

Warm Regards
Eleanor McMillan

BOARD GAMES CLUB

Hello, my name is Eleanor McMillan, and I am running a board games club every Monday lunchtime in 137. I would like to ask that if anyone has board games they are no longer using if they would kindly donate them to the school. Please drop them into the front office with a note to say that they are a donation for the club.

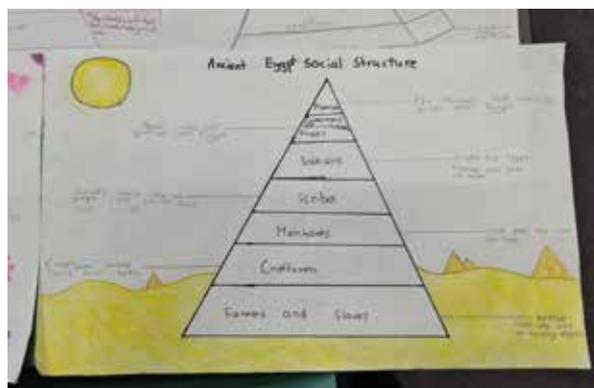
Thank you for your support.
Eleanor



HaSS News

Year 7

Throughout the term in HaSS, our fantastic Year 7 students have been stretching their historical muscles to learn all about the interesting Ancient Egyptians. To show off their increasing skills, they have created these detailed hierarchy pyramids to help explain the social structures of the period. Looks like we've got some skilled HaSS students for the year ahead!



Year 8

The incredible Year 8 students will soon be busy in HaSS! As part of their history unit on the Middle Ages they will be creating some insightful stalls all about the time period for our Medieval Fair next term, here we see some of our students shocked by our example stall about the horrors of the Black Plague, gross!



Year 9

Learning about politics might sound a little dull, but not for our students in Year 9 HaSS! Our hard-working Year 9 students have been creating their own political parties and running mock elections as they learn all about Australia's government and civic responsibilities. Who knows? we might have some future politicians on our hands!



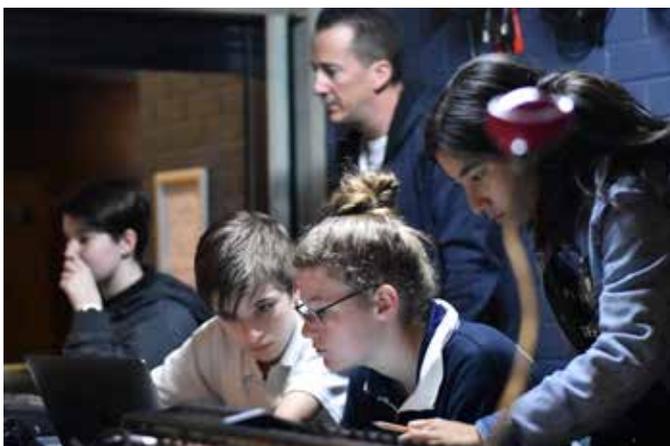
DANCE

ACE Dance have had a busy term. We have already had four professional dancers from our community come in to teach the class. Students have had the opportunity to explore emotion through dance with Charlie from Subsdance, they have been challenged with intricate hip hop technique with Leena from Fresh Funk, they have begun learning an indigenous contemporary routine for the upcoming showcase with Amy from Dream Danz and they worked on improving their contemporary technique with Jake from AusDance ACT. We can't wait to show you what we've been working on at Entertainment Night in Term 2.



ACE DRAMA & BACKSTAGE PRODUCTION

The ACE Drama and Backstage Production classes have had a busy but fun end to the term. The two classes have come together to collaborate on a task which has seen them form production teams to rise to the challenge of producing and performing a play of 5 short scenes in only two weeks, including learning lines and programming all their lighting and sound effects. It has been great to see the two classes working together so productively on a very challenging collaboration project!



YEAR 7 HEALTHY COOKING CLASS

Year 7 Healthy Cooking class completed their planning and production of Healthy Breakfast in Week 8. They completed their production and plating within the allocated time with time available for them to sit down and enjoy their creation.



CELEBRATING STUDENT SUCCESS IN MATHS

A few weeks ago, 4 students competed in the Australian Computational and Linguistic Olympiad. The contest challenges students to develop their own strategies to solve problems involving fascinating real languages. This is the first time that a team from Melrose High School has entered this prestigious contest. The results have been tallied and the Melrose Team is the top Government School to have entered in the ACT. Huge congratulations to Rachel Lau, Amelia Bostle, Lea Colak and Layla Baker-Gabb on this amazing achievement!



ENGLISH NEWS

Year 7 and Year 9 English students have completed their Moderation task for this semester. This task required students to write a persuasive essay in class over two lessons to an unseen prompt. This is great preparation for NAPLAN later in the year. Well done to Year 7 and 9 students!

Many Year 10 classes have been exploring the topic 'Digital Footprints' this semester. This unit allowed students to explore the impacts of social media, how fake news thrives, and how to be a critical thinker. Students also watched 'The Social Dilemma' which raised interesting ideas regarding mental health, political polarisation, privacy, and the subtle exploitation of digital companies.

EDUCATION PERFECT LANGUAGES CHAMPIONSHIPS 2021

The results are in for the 2021 Education Perfect Languages Championships, and I am proud to say that we absolutely smashed our results from previous years.

We're 6th in the world, 3rd in Australia, and 2nd in the ACT.

Individual student participation was at an all-time high. Certificates will be issued next term, but until then, an extra warm congratulations to the following students who made it to the Elite category:

Alexander Gillespie, Thisari Waleboda, Amelia Bostle, Rachel Lau, Aslesha Bhattarai, Frederick Van Konkelenberg, Jackson Smith.

Félicitations!

Selamat!

gong xi!

Omedetou gozaimasu!

Congratulations!



NEWS IN SCIENCE

Year 7 students have been learning various techniques of separation.

Students have been enjoying doing hands on practical work, applying their newly learnt skills to separate a mixture of sand, salt, and iron filings.



Year 8 students investigated how physical principles of energy conservation can be visualised through an experiment that includes energy changes of a bouncing ball.

Year 9 have studied how internal systems respond to changes in their environment. In particular, the students investigated how plants respond to different stimuli.

Year 10 students had a busy and exciting term completing their genetic unit for this term. They learnt about genetics inheritances and the theory of evolution. They experimented with the extraction of DNA using strawberries. They also conducted class surveys to find out dominant phenotype characteristics present in the class.



The Year 10 Science ACE is learning about law of conservation of mass. Each student had to design their own investigation, conduct the experiment, test, and verify the law of conservation.



SCHOOL SPORT AT MELROSE

School sport at Melrose has certainly got off to a busy start in 2021. We have had a total of 18 teams represent Melrose, sending teams to Touch Football, Softball, Beach Volleyball, Rugby League 9s, Basketball and have 10 students going to the Combined Regions Swimming Carnival this week. This equates to approximately 150 students participating in school sport just this term!

Melrose got off to a great start with the Southside Touch Carnival in week 5. Both junior and senior girls' teams won the grand final with all 4 of our teams progressing through to the ACT finals day. Thank you to Mr Seary, Mrs Harriott, Ms Lewis, and Mr Cumming for organising the teams.



In week 6 we had 2 teams participate in the ACT Boys' Softball Carnival. The junior boys were undefeated during their round games, but unfortunately lost the grand final in a close encounter. The senior boys faced tough competition, finishing fourth overall. They demonstrated exceptional sportsmanship throughout the day and should be proud of their efforts. Jack Izzard in Year 8 also received the 'Golden Cap' award which was voted by coaches and players from other teams. Thank you to Ms McAlister and Miss Dunn for taking these teams out.



The Alan Tongue Cup Rugby League 9s competition was also in week 6 where Melrose entered 1 senior team and 2 junior teams. The senior boys showed great teamwork and exceptional skill finishing the day undefeated and grand final winners. The junior boys showed cohesion and a willingness to never give up. Down on numbers, both junior teams narrowly missed out on the finals. Thank you to Mr Douglas, Ms McAlister, and Ms Marmont for taking these teams on the day.



On Wednesday 10 March, 20 intrepid souls headed to the "beach" at Lyneham to play Beach Volleyball! For some, it was the first time that they had touched a volleyball, let alone trying to dig, set, serve, or spike on sand. The 2 Junior teams and 2 Senior teams all played well in all their games and were great ambassadors for the school. At lunch the students had a chance to watch a display match between 2 Australian Beach Volleyballers and 2 Local ACT boys. The students were amazed at the skill and talent, some even asking for tips from the experts at the end! Thank you to Mr Croker and Ms Leiper for taking these students out for the day.

Most recently was the boys' and girls' Southside Secondary Basketball Carnival. Both boys' teams progressed through to the Grand Final, narrowly missing out on the win. There were similar results at the girl's carnival day where the senior girls finished equal first. All 4 Melrose teams will be progressing to the ACT finals day in week 1 of next term.



These sporting excursions do not happen without the hard work from all involved staff members. Thank you very much to all our supervising teachers/supercoaches. Please keep an eye out for upcoming sporting events such as the ACT Schools Basketball finals, Volleyball, Buroinjin, AFL, Cross Country, and the Rugby League Clyde Rauter Shield.

DRAMA, ART AND DESIGN COLLABORATION

Year 8 Drama, Art and Digital Media Design students have had fun collaborating on an animal themed project. Drama students have explored animal movements and had the opportunity to perform these to an audience, wearing the masks that were made in Visual Arts. They then paired up with the Design class who made digital landscapes appropriate for their animal



MUSIC

Music classes have been busy making all sorts of music over the semester. The Year 7 Beginner Band class have been getting the hang of their new instruments and working together as an ensemble, 9/10 classes have been looking at Protest Music and composing their own protest songs, and the ACE class has been studying Jazz. Well done to Mitchell in Year 10 for doing our first musical performance at assembly, we are looking forward to many more throughout the year!





CULTURAL INTEGRITY UPDATE

Yuma* and welcome to the first Message Stick Cultural Integrity update for 2021.

We proudly embrace and acknowledge our First Nations students and staff here at MHS, ensuring that everyone has the opportunity to learn about our true shared history.

It is so important for all of us to understand where we have been in the past to be able to have a clearer idea of how they can be a part of a more positive and united future.

Our assemblies each fortnight have become one of the small ways we are weaving Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander perspectives into our learnings and experience, from poetry readings, presentations by students on issues like Closing the Gap and Mabo and much more planned for the rest of the year.

Cultural integrity needs to be a part of what we do and how we do it and we are pleased to see 2021 off to such a strong and positive start in this space.

Boy's Mentoring Group

The program has kicked off for another year and is still being successfully run by Tim Cornforth (Torres Strait Islander) and Mark Baldwin (MHS Youth Worker). The class is full each week with the boys engaging in sport, culture and positive yarns.

IEO Update

Our Indigenous Education Officer (IEO) Monica Harland would like to hear from you if you have any ideas for how you would like to get involved or support the sharing of First Nations culture across our MHS community. It could be a creative/art session, yarn circles or if you have a skill, some knowledge or would like to share elements of your mob/history/family, please email Mon on monica.harland@ed.act.edu.au or call on 02 6142 0708 for a yarn.

Holiday reading ideas

Whether you're staying local or leaving the Capital over the break, here's some ideas for some fresh reads to take on your road trip: <https://kooricurriculum.com/blogs/news/top-books-for-road-tripping-that-celebrate-aboriginal-culture>

Be safe, stay kind and tread lightly on this sacred land of ours.

Leaving you with a poem called 'Knowing' from a book entitled 'Living on Stolen Land'

*Yuma is the Ngunnawal word for hello

KNOWING

In Indigenous systems
knowing
comes from understanding
how we connect
to all the life around us
and how all the life around us
connects to each other

Knowing
means understanding
there are things we can never
know
All knowledge
is limited by positionality
and governed by relationships
The world
cannot be fully understood
by life in human shapes
because humans
cannot occupy the spaces held
by all other life
or see to the end of connections
Every pebble
contains the hill
but the hill
is greater than all the pebbles

This means
it is important to be cautious
about drawing conclusions
or setting yourself
on a course of action
Important
to be open to changing
to shifting
in response to shifts
in Country
Important
to maintain
constant awareness
of all the voices
of the life around you
and what
they're trying to tell you
One of my grandfathers called this
learning to read the signs

~ by Ambelin Kwaymullina ~



Information Night



**Tuesday 4th May
2021**

**The college will be open
Join us anytime
between 6-8pm**

Prospective students are invited to our Information Night for 2022 enrolment. Come and have a look around the college and check out our facilities and programs. Meet our teachers and talk with some of our students. We look forward to opening our doors to you.

*In line with Covid19 requirements we recommend that each student bring only one family member along please.



Are you a Year 10 student? Are you starting Year 11 in 2022?

Enrol at a college that educates, supports, and values its students to help them achieve their full potential. At Canberra College students enjoy a broad selection of study opportunities and curriculum pathways. We have a tradition of academic excellence and we offer extensive specialty programs in modern purpose-built facilities.

A great choice for your future studies - Canberra College



Need more information?

Ph 6142 3288

W <http://www.canberrac.act.edu.au/>

E canberrac.info@ed.act.edu.au

2 Launceston Street PHILLIP ACT 2606





Pathways to Post School Life

A session for young people in Years 10-12 and the people who support them

The NDIA would like to invite young people with a disability in Years 10-12, their parents, carers and education professionals, to attend a virtual information session.

This is a session about building skills and paving a pathway to post school life. We'll discuss a range of NDIS-funded supports and other assistance to help young people build skills to prepare for their transition, and support them in achieving employment and other goals, post-school.

Sessions are offered over multiple dates to allow flexibility for attendees, and will be delivered via video-conference using Microsoft Teams. Registrations will close three business days before the event. If you would like to attend, please register via Eventbrite. Two business days prior to the event, login details (including the MS Teams link to join the session) will be sent from events@ndis.gov.au to the email address you provide at registration.

For any enquiries regarding this session, please contact events@ndis.gov.au. Please include the session name in the subject line.

Where: Virtual Information Sessions via Microsoft Teams

Dates & Times:

Wednesday 5 May 2021	6.00pm – 7.30pm (AEST)
Tuesday 18 May 2021	3.30pm – 5.00pm (AEST)
Thursday 3 June 2021	6.00pm – 7.30pm (AEST)
Wednesday 16 June 2021	3.30pm – 5.00pm (AEST)

RSVP: Please register via Eventbrite at www.eventbrite.com.au/e/pathways-to-post-school-life-a-session-for-young-people-in-years-10-12-tickets-146694728883

Additional information: Accessibility is important to us. If you have any accessibility requirements please let us know when you register for your chosen session. Please note - we need a minimum of five (5) business days' notice to book Auslan interpreters and live captioning services.



ndis.gov.au