

16 June 2023

Dear Parents and carers,

This week we are pleased to announce the appointment of a new Deputy Principal (Learning) who will commence her role at Iona in 2024. Melissa Gould is currently the Principal of Rochester Secondary College and has been in this role since 2019. Before this, Melissa was the Assistant Principal (Learning) at Echuca College. Melissa will bring valuable experience in leading a secondary college to the Iona community, along with a distinct passion for enhancing educational learning outcomes for students. As we increase in student population, we made the decision to appoint a second Deputy Principal for 2024. Kylie Power, who has been doing an outstanding job as the singular Deputy, will focus her energy as the Deputy Principal (Wellbeing) with further responsibilities in Learning Diversity. We look forward to introducing Melissa to the College Community in due course.

Congratulations to all of the students who performed so admirably in the Winter Soiree on Wednesday evening. It was wonderful to see the student musical talent that we have at Iona. Thank you to our Director of Music, Jodie Townsend, for her organization of the evening and to Cathy Wison, Michael Hughes and the College music tutors who supported the event.



End of Term Finish

Please note that there is an early finish to the term next Friday (23 June) at 2:05 pm. This finish is in line with the state school finish and will allow for regular bus connections, which will be scheduled an hour earlier. There will also be an early close of the College office on this day at 2:35 pm. The College will be open during the first week of the holidays.

Supporting Refugee Families

We remind Parents and Carers that we are collecting grocery items to support Refugee families within the Geelong region. Community Groups teachers will continue to take their shopping bag into morning Community Group so that students can easily make a donation. Please add an item from the list to your shopping trolley and have your young person bring it into school before the end of term. We thank you for your contribution.

- Rice
- Oil
- Beans (not baked beans please as they are unsuitable for refugee families)
- Salt/Pepper
- Shampoo/Conditioner/Soap
- Deodorant/toothpaste/toothbrushes
- Toilet Paper/Sanitary Items
- Washing powder/dishwashing detergent

Helping Refugees

RE-SETTLEMENT SUPPORT FOR REFUGEE YOUTH & MOTHERS

We are collecting:

- Rice
- Oil
- Beans (not baked beans)
- Salt/Pepper
- Shampoo/Conditioner/Soap
- Deodorant/toothpaste/toothbrushes
- Toilet Paper/Sanitary Items
- Washing powder/dishwashing detergent

How to help:

Fill your Community Group bag with items from this list in the last two weeks of this term. The goods will be given to a speaker who will attend our final-day assembly

Resettling Refugees:

This service supports refugee youth and mothers in the Geelong region to settle well and thrive in their new community and addresses challenges associated with resettlement. They help teenagers and kids, connect with their school education to find pathways to further their education and gain confidence to achieve their aspirations. As well as Increasing their sense of well-being and giving them the tools to deal with future issues and past trauma. They also help refugee mothers who have the additional challenge of supporting their children through school while navigating re-settlement. Catholic Care help with employment, financial support (food, bills) and other necessities through an emergency relief service.





Strengthening families & communities

From the Wellbeing Team

Finishing Term on a Positive Note

We know the end of term can be a stressful time for our young people with assessment tasks due and exams/tests beckoning. Some tips to consider discussing with your young person at home to assist with their wellbeing and academic performance include:

- Study Groups: Consider forming or joining a study group with classmates who are studying the same content. Using Microsoft Teams or Zoom are great options whilst at home. Consider getting your young person to have these meetings in a common space at home (e.g., kitchen) or a place you can monitor to help them stay on track and ensure that the study group remains focused and doesn't become a distraction.
- Stay positive: focusing on what your young person can achieve through a growth mindset is critical; positive affirmations and encouragement can help fuel action.
- Breaking tasks into manageable chunks: large projects or assignments can be overwhelming. Break them down into smaller, manageable tasks with specific deadlines. Tackling one step at a time can make the workload feel more achievable and reduce stress.
- Communicate with teachers: if your young person is feeling overwhelmed, encourage them to reach out to their teachers. They may be able to provide guidance, motivation, and/or suggest additional resources to support their learning.
- Celebrate achievements: Take time to acknowledge and celebrate your accomplishments, no matter how small they may seem. Recognizing your progress and hard work can boost motivation and confidence.

College Assembly Next Friday 23rd June – Formal Uniform Required

Please note that we will be gathering as a College community for our end-of-term Assembly next Friday (23 June). Students are required to wear their formal uniform for the event.

In order to provide clarity, please see below for the three variations of the formal uniform that are acceptable on such occasions:

Option One

- Short or long sleeve Iona shirt
- Trousers or shorts
- College crew socks
- Leather lace up shoes or T-bar with heel
- College tie
- College blazer

Option Two

- Short sleeve blouse
- Knife pleat skirt (calf length)
- Tights
- Leather lace up shoes or T-bar with heel
- College tie
- College blazer

Option Three

- Summer dress
- Tights or College crew socks
- Leather lace up shoes or T-bar with heel
- College blazer

Should you be experiencing financial difficulties or barriers to accessing the uniform, please contact our College Business Manager Tom Harriott (tom.harriott@iona.vic.edu.au) to discuss the matter.

Should your young person arrive at school on a formal occasion not wearing the correct uniform and without a valid note from home with a valid reason, they will be required to attend either a lunchtime reflection session (those who are breaching the uniform policy for the first time) or an Out of School Hours Reflection Session (those who have breached the uniform policy for the 2nd or more occasion) either before (8-8:45 am) or after (3:05-3:50 pm) school on a date to be determined.

We thank you for your ongoing support in ensuring our uniform standards are being met.

Podcast Recommendations – ‘The Imperfects’

‘The Imperfects’, a creation from the team at ‘The Resilience Project’, is a wonderful podcast that highlights practical tips and strategies to help us be our best as human beings. [This episode with Emma Murray](#), a high-performance mindset coach for Richmond FC and mother to four children, is a particular favourite. As the founder of High-Performance Mindfulness – a company that uses mindfulness, psychology and meditation to help people perform at their best – Emma works with elite athletes, corporate executives, students and actors. In this very practical and vulnerable episode, Emma explains how high-performance mindfulness has not only helped her clients but also helped her when in 2016, her son Will (13 at the time) sustained a spinal cord injury that left him in a wheelchair for life. It is a good one for parents, teachers and young people alike.

We thank you all for your ongoing support and the privilege of working with your young person/people.

Sincerely,

Mr. Ashley Mills (Head of Student Wellbeing) on behalf of myself and the Student Wellbeing Leaders –Mrs. Justine Fitzpatrick, Mr. Greg Mellor, Mr. Nathan Pisani, Mrs. Belinda Dezdjek, Mr. Craig Durran, Mr. Andy Walsgott, Mrs. Lauren Flint, Mr. Luke Reynolds

[Year 7 2024 Offers](#)

Please note that Year 7 Offers and Declines have been communicated via email today. Please be sure to check your junk folder if you have not received this communication. If you have any concerns please contact our College Registrar on 52290004 or via email registrar@iona.vic.edu.au.

Every Young Person has the Right to Feel Safe, Conversation Starters - a Resource for Parents



All young people have the right to feel safe. Personal safety education for young people can help to prevent child abuse and can support the development of healthy relationships free from violence and harm. Personal safety education includes young people being able to **Recognise** body clues, **React** in an unsafe situation and **Report** to an adult who can help.

Teaching personal safety to your child is more than just one talk, it's an ongoing conversation that continues over time as your teen grows up. Some parents and carers may find entering a dialogue with their teen to be a little difficult. [This Conversation Card resource pack](#) has been designed with that in mind, and is intended to provide you with the opportunity to engage in effective personal safety conversations with your child.

Kylie Power
Deputy Principal / Child Protection Officer

Sports News



Congratulations to our Year 8 Girls Yellow Rep netball team who had a grand final win against Christian College. The game went into overtime and the team won by 1 point. Amazing effort!

End of Semester Statement of Results

The 'End of Semester Statements of Results' will be available via PAM on the afternoon of Friday 23rd June. An email will be sent to notify parents and carers when they are available. For each subject studied by a student this semester, the following information will appear:

- A course synopsis
- The student's level of achievement against the Victorian and Religious Education curriculum standards
- The student's learning behaviours and work habits
- An attendance summary

Please note that this Statement of Results is intended for parents and carers and provides a snapshot of learning in specific curriculum areas. The level of achievement against the curriculum standards does not need to be shared directly with your child and is not intended to make comparisons with other students. We encourage parents and carers to have constructive conversations about learning behaviours using the feedback provided by teachers.

At Iona, we use an ongoing reporting process via PAM to parents and SIMON to students. On these platforms, parents and students can regularly check in and view more specific and thorough feedback and levels of achievement on individual class and assessment tasks.

Resource Centre News

Would you like your students to have some reading material for the holidays? Our collection is growing each week and we have a variety of books available for all students to borrow.



The Geelong Regional Library Corporation are holding several Holiday activities and events across their branches. See what's on at your local branch [here](#).

SCHOOL HOLIDAY PROGRAM

**OUR PEOPLE
OUR WORLD**



GEE LONG
REGIONAL
LIBRARIES

EVENTS FOR YOUTH AT WAURN PONDS LIBRARY

Our People, Our World is the theme for these June/July school holidays.

Explore the exciting range of events to try at your local library.

Scan the QR code for full details on our website, including any booking information



www.grlc.vic.gov.au

Write Like an Egyptian

Wednesday, June 28 10:30am - 11:30am

Mini Masterpieces (ages 12+)

Thursday 29th June @ 2:30-4:00pm

World Quest

Tuesday, July 04 2:00pm - 3:00pm

Celebrate YOU - DIY Bunting

Thursday, July 06: 2:00pm - 3:00pm

book
now

All events are FREE unless otherwise specified.
Bookings essential.
Online www.grlc.vic.gov.au/events.
In person at any branch, or phone 4201 0500.

National Blood Donor Week 13–19 June

This week is National Blood Donor week. Over 8.3 million Australians will need blood in their lifetime.

When you give blood, you're more than just a donor. You're the Lifeblood of your community. Your football team. Your family. Your book club. Your neighbourhood. You're the Lifeblood of Australia.

Donors are part of a community. They may lead very different lives, but they have one important thing in common: giving life.

PSW Uniforms

PSW has recently had a delivery of more tracksuit pants.

Please be aware that significant roadworks are happening in Malop St, Geelong, which is directly affecting access to the area. Part of Malop St is closed to Westbound traffic and parking is limited. There is ample access and parking in the streets surrounding.

Please be aware that PSW will remain open, Tuesday – Saturday, throughout this period.

Thanks for your support,

Damian and Kylie