

**21 July 2023**

Dear Parents and carers,

The generosity of our community never ceases to surprise us. A day of significance for Iona, as well as the broader community, is drawing close. Friday 4<sup>th</sup> August is historically a day to celebrate the birthdays of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children who were taken from their families at a young age preventing them from knowing their actual date of birth. This year, on the 4<sup>th</sup> of August we will celebrate the strength and culture of First Nations young people with a 'Together we Walk' campaign and we invite our Iona Community to partner with us!

On this day our First Nations and FIRE Carrier students will visit cultural sites of significance in the areas of Armstrong Creek and Mount Duneed, including Bunjil's Nest, Duneed Aboriginal Land Reserve, Bal-yan and Dooliebeal Reserve. As part of this initiative, we invite our Iona Community to partner with us [by raising funds for the Opening the Doors Foundation](#). We have set the goal at \$500 but hope that our generous community can exceed this target. All donations of \$2 or more are tax deductible.

**DONATE NOW**



The Opening the Doors Foundation is an Aboriginal-led community organisation supporting educational opportunities for First Nations children. The Foundation aims to help meet the costs of uniforms, books, IT equipment, stationery and more. As a FIRE Carrier school, we celebrate First Nations people and as a Catholic community, we challenge inequality and injustice. We believe that the 'Together we Walk' is a worthwhile and educational initiative that gives us a way to practically respond. Should you wish to learn more about the wonderful work carried out by Opening the Doors Foundation, visit their website [Opening the Doors Foundation](#).



We thank our Iona Community for all the ways they already partner with us. We wouldn't be Iona without our wonderful Iona Community!

## School Review

Over these last two weeks, our college has been undertaking a school review that happens officially every four years. Whilst there are many facets associated with this review the main purpose is to ensure that the College is meeting the VRQA minimum standards for secondary schools as well as a reflection of the achievements in the preceding four years across the spheres of: The Religious Dimension, Leadership and Management, Student Wellbeing, Learning and Teaching and School Community.

We then look forward to the next four years and establish a School Improvement Plan that prioritises the goals for improvement across all elements of the school. We would like to thank the College Leadership Team, Staff, students and parents who have been involved in this process that commenced halfway through last year. We look forward to sharing our new School Improvement Plan with the community at the end of this year.

## Iona is becoming eSmart



eSmart Schools, an initiative of the Alannah & Madeline Foundation, helps teachers, librarians and the greater community to best manage cyber risks, bullying and cyberbullying issues so students feel safer and supported. It is a Framework that sits across the entire community – teachers, students, parents and the library community.

eSmart Schools is a long-term change program designed to educate, track, monitor and prevent bullying and cyberbullying. eSmart supports schools and libraries to embrace the benefits of technology while reducing childrens' exposure to cyber risks, such as cyberbullying, online sexual predation, sexting, identity theft and fraud. Our goal at Iona is to keep children safe from bullying, cyberbullying and violence. eSmart is part of the way we achieve this.

### **eSmart Parent Online session – Parenting in the Digital World**

On Tuesday the 8<sup>th</sup> of August from 7:30 pm to 8:30 pm eSmart will be hosting an Online parenting session. This session is focused on Parenting in the Digital World and will provide insight into the online worlds of young people including the latest trends, risks, and research, and includes a strong focus on social media. It also offers advice parents can use to help manage a child's life online.

Please [RSVP via the following link](#), further details will be provided by the organiser at a later stage.

## Year 9 Headspace Information Presentation



Would you like to meet and learn from Iona's Wellbeing leaders, as well as leaders in the Youth Mental Health space? Would you like to meet other Year 9 parents from the Iona Community?

Join us on Tuesday, the 25th of July from 5:30 pm to 7:30 pm for an encouraging and supportive event at Iona College. The session will give you the opportunity to hear from Headspace, the National Youth Mental Health Foundation, who will guide us in supporting our teens' mental health. Deputy Principal Kylie Power and the Iona Wellbeing team will share proactive strategies for navigating these crucial years.

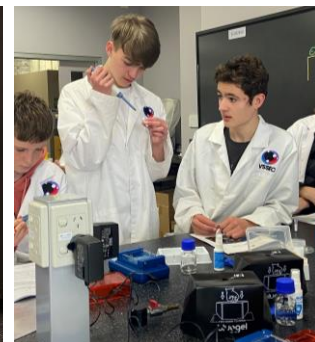
Tea, coffee and light refreshments will be served -please [RSVP via the following link](#).

Craig Durran and Andy Walscott

*Year 9 Level Wellbeing Leader and Assistant Year 9 Level Wellbeing Leader*

## Academic News

Congratulations to Thomas Goerke in Year 10, for representing Iona College at The Mathematical Association of Victoria (MAV) 2023 Maths Camp for High Mathematics Potential Rural and Regional Year 10 Students. The camp ran from Monday 26th to Friday 30th June. The students from regional Victoria were chosen for their development and keen mathematical thinking. During the Camp, they worked in partnership with RMIT University, Reserve Bank of Australia, Ford, Texas Instruments and Victorian Space Science Education Centre (VSSEC). They had the opportunity to visit the organisations onsite to learn and experience the organisations first hand. The students were grouped to compete in a trivia night and to work on industry problems. The week finished with students presenting their findings on their projects at RMIT.



## Year 10 Immunisations



Barwon Health immunisation service will be visiting Year 10 students on Tuesday 22<sup>nd</sup> August to administer the Meningococcal ACWY vaccine (1 injection). Please [complete the following online consent form](#) and select either YES or NO.

If you are having difficulty with the online consent [please complete the following PDF consent form](#), which can be emailed directly to Barwon Health [immunisation.user@barwonhealth.org.au](mailto:immunisation.user@barwonhealth.org.au) or returned to school. Please phone Barwon Health on 4215 6963 if you have further questions or to make a booking if you would like this given outside of the school environment.

For further information please visit [the following link](#).

Don't hesitate to contact me if you have any questions via email at [Kate.Every@iona.vic.edu.au](mailto:Kate.Every@iona.vic.edu.au) or by calling the main reception - 03 5229 0004

Kate Every  
College Nurse

## Year 7 Guest Speaker



### Community Outreach Meals made and shared with love

Stay Connected



On Tuesday the 18<sup>th</sup> of July, the Year 7 cohort welcomed Marty from the BayLeaf Community Kitchen and Vinnies to speak with the students about his contribution to the charitable work that occurs in the Geelong community. Marty assists those in the community in need by using the Catholic Social Teachings, a concept the Year 7's are learning about in Religious Education this term.

Two students reflected on their experience:

Marty came into our school to speak about his work and how he helps people in need. He got all the year sevens to group up and my favourite part was when he spoke about how you should always tell the truth because in the end it is the right thing to do and is the best thing to help others. I was reminded to be kind and helpful and think I could help if I signed up and supported the organisation, which helps people in need of that support. - *Lincoln*

Marty came to talk to us about the charity he works with called the BayLeaf Community Kitchen, explaining how he created it and what the organization does, like providing people with fresh food and advice. He also explained how we, as people who are fortunate, can help others who don't have the same luxuries and are having a hard time in their personal lives. My favourite part was when Marty explained how his charity was different from the others and what difference BayLeaf made for people. The second-best part in my opinion was at the end when the year sevens got to ask questions about the work the charity and other charities he works with, such as the St Vincent De Paul Society, have done to help people. Some of the things that I can do in my own life to help others, like being there for them, listening when they need someone to talk to and trying to improve myself as a person. – *Chelsea*

Georgia Lappin  
*Teacher*

### Canteen Volunteers Wanted



We are still looking for volunteers to assist in our popular canteen. If you are willing to give some time to volunteer in our buzzing canteen, [complete this online form](#). Once you have completed the form, you will receive more information on how to become a volunteer. If you have already completed the form, no need to complete it again, please check your emails, including junk mail for further instructions from [compliance@iona.vic.edu.au](mailto:compliance@iona.vic.edu.au). A current Working With Children Check (Volunteer) is required. **A big thanks to those who are already volunteering.**

## Sports News

Yesterday in the cold and rain, 24 selected students represented Iona in the Vic Netball School Championships at Kardinia Park. In tough conditions, against tough opponents from other schools from Geelong and parts of outer Melbourne, our two teams did an incredible job and had some amazing success. The 9/10 Inter team had a mixed day of wins, draws and a loss and played very competitively against their opposition, while the 7/8 Junior team were undefeated in the 6 games that they played, and will progress to the State finals in Melb in September. Good luck girls, what an incredible effort by all! A big thanks to those parents who braved the cold weather to come and support us.



## Music News

### Winter Soiree

Bookings are now open for the Winter Soiree. Please use [the following link to book your tickets online](#). Please note that booking is essential.



There are still a few spaces left for students to sign themselves up. The sign up sheet is outside the Music Room.

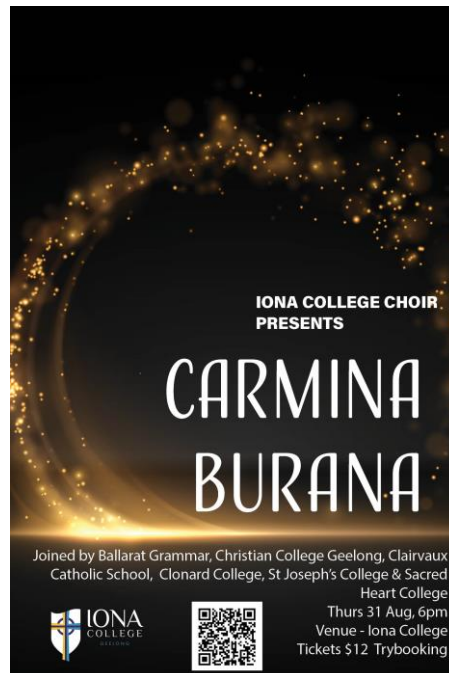
### Collaborative Music Leadership

We were fortunate on Tuesday to host an inaugural meeting of Heads/Directors of Music from around the Geelong district. It is hoped that by meeting regularly we can share best practice in music programmes/education, resources and also work together to present concerts for our students and professional development for our staff.



### Carmina Burana Tickets on Sale

On Thursday 31<sup>st</sup> August our choir will be joining six other schools to perform movements from the famous *Carmina Burana*. Tickets can be purchased online via the [following Trybooking link](#). Please be advised that there are designated seats for this concert.



### Parent Volunteers

We are looking to start up a 'mailing list' of parents who may wish to help out with our Performing Arts programme. Volunteering may be covering new books for us, helping out with audio at concerts, door ushers, parking ushers, and cleaning instruments ....there are always many jobs to be done.

Emails would then be to this 'mailing list' sent and if you are able to assist with any given tasks we would be delighted. It would not be assumed that you would help out for every event, just the ones that suit you and your skill set.

If you think that you may like to be part of this 'mailing list' please email me at [music@iona.vic.edu.au](mailto:music@iona.vic.edu.au). When you reply it would be wonderful if you could also include any particular skills you may have.

Jodie Townsend

*Teacher / Music / Innovation Leader (Pedagogy & Instruction)*

### Iona Meet the Team



Meet Kirsty Cassidy our VET extraordinaire! Kirsty has a successful background in vocational education and training but decided to join the lucky Iona team to use her skills and passion to help secondary school students find their post-secondary pathways. Kirsty's favourite part of her job is guiding students towards their career goals and witnessing their growth.

Kirsty's family includes her husband Andrew and their two delightful daughters, Frankie and Lola. Outside of work, Kirsty enjoys walking, Pilates, all things fashion and designing creative content for social media. Born and raised in Geelong, she has a strong connection to her community. Her first job was at none other than the Grovedale Hotel as a coffee and dessert attendant. Kirsty is a proud supporter of the Geelong Cats – "GO CATS!".

Kirsty's overseas adventure led her to Banff, Canada, where she worked on a ski hill. Despite facing extremely cold temperatures, she considers this experience one of the best she's ever had.



Kirsty's decision to join the Iona Team was driven by her need to be part of making a difference in students' education – we love that. She finds great fulfilment in contributing to the development of the Iona community and providing incredible opportunities for students.

With her expertise in vocational education, her dedication to student success, and her vibrant personality, Kirsty is an invaluable asset to our team! We can't wait to see what the future holds in Iona's VET space!

### Congratulations

Congratulations to staff member James Green and partner Sarah on the arrival of their baby daughter 'Esther', and to Pat Hagan and partner Michelle on the arrival of their son, 'Hugo'.

### The Educator's Most Influential Educator Award



In March this year, The Educator publication began the hunt for influential professionals who have had the strongest impact in creating a reformative teaching and learning culture in the last 18 months.

Participation in The Educator's Most Influential Educators 2023 report – proudly supported by Positive Education School's Association (PESA) – provides a wealth of opportunity for leaders looking to build their professional profile as it is a clear affirmation of a candidate's focused work and dedication to rising above the unique challenges that facing Australia's education sector.

Between March 6-31, The Educator received a large number of nominations for the Most Influential Educators list, along with details of nominees' extensive achievements and contributions to the profession. The final list consisted of 45 educators and other professionals who delivered specific outcomes that significantly influenced the Australian education industry.

We are delighted that our own Deputy Principal Kylie Power has been recognised as one of the most influential educators. We congratulate Kylie on this most wonderful recognition and testament to Kylie's outstanding leadership within our college community.



## Student Free Day- August

Please note that Friday the 25<sup>th</sup> of August is a staff Professional Development Day and as such a student free day.

Thanks for your support,

Damian and Kylie