

6 October 2023

Dear Parents and carers,

Welcome back to our final term of 2023. This term we focus on the theme of Leadership that will be led by our students in Glowrey House. We look forward to all that this term has in store for us and for the opportunities for each of us to find ways to lead various aspects of college life.

Personally, it is wonderful to return after a period of planned leave last term. This was a chance for me to 'recharge the batteries' and undertake some professional learning in readiness for the next busy period of the College's development. I am very thankful to Kylie Power who stepped into the position of Acting Principal, Ash Mills who stepped up to the Acting Deputy Principal role and Nathan Pisani who took on additional responsibilities during my absence. As I mentioned to the students at Monday's assembly, my absence would not have been noticed by many and this is due to the fact that we have outstanding leaders willing to take on additional roles at the College.

During my time away I was fortunate to visit the Island of Iona following in the footsteps of several families and staff members who have already been to the island. I feel really privileged to have had this opportunity to connect with Iona and develop my own understanding of St. Columba and the history associated with his works and what takes place there today. It is my hope that we can develop a relationship with the local area that will allow our future students and staff the opportunity to visit and extend their own connection to the Iona story. I look forward to sharing my experiences with members of our community in the future.

We are excited to announce that we are preparing to commence the next stage of the Iona building project in the coming weeks. This stage will include the establishment of fifteen general purpose classroom facilities and associated office spaces and facilities, duplication of the College gymnasium inclusive of retractable seating for 1000 people, staging and associated audio-visual enhancements along with the duplication of the Food Technology facility. We will also be undertaking significant car park works that will allow for an increase in bus servicing to accommodate our increasing numbers and ensure the safety of all members of the College community. We expect these works to be completed by the commencement of the 2025 school year which is when we will have our full cohort (7-12) of students. We are working hard behind the scenes to ensure that the physical build continues beyond this next development and expect to be able to achieve the development of our new library, student services and admin centre ahead of schedule. This will also allow for the relocation of music and performing arts to our current temporary library/ administration area. We are excited by these building developments, and I would like to acknowledge our College Business Manager, Tom Harriott, who continues to work tirelessly towards the betterment and establishment of facilities for our College Community.

Refugee Holiday Program

On the first Tuesday of the school holidays, a wonderful group of 15 of our Year 7 and 8 students, Kate Erlenbusch, Donna Baker and I volunteered at the Refugee Holiday Program. This program has a long history for the Geelong Catholic Secondary Colleges but has been absent over the last few years. Traditionally, on the first Tuesday of Terms 1, 2 and 3 holidays, the combined Catholic secondary schools come together to run a day of activities and fun for local refugee children.

Cultura, previously known as Diversitat, invite children aged 9-14 years and facilitates the connection with their families and the transport on the day. The venue rotates through the Catholic schools with the staff of that school taking the lead on organising the day but inviting volunteers from each school to assist. It is through the combined efforts of the schools that this day is so successful. The role of the staff and student volunteers is to welcome the children, provide the activities, have fun with the children as they engage in the activities and enjoy a shared lunch with the participants and the other volunteers.

Our Iona students had a lot of fun at the program – they danced, played soccer and other games, and made origami, beaded bracelets and turtle weavings. They enjoyed their time with their friends while making connections with the refugee community.

Opportunities will be provided for Iona students to be involved in future events which will move around to the different schools. We look forward to hosting at Iona in the September holidays of 2024 and have no doubt that these first volunteers will have great ideas to assist with the planning of our program. We are very proud of the enthusiasm and care that our volunteers showed and thank them and our staff for their willingness to support the Holiday Program.



Carmen Ahearn
Head of Culture and Identity

[2023 Feed Geelong Appeal - Lunch Money Challenge](#)

Across the Geelong region, demand for food relief is continuing to increase and the Geelong Food Relief Centre has reported a 239% increase in demand. This is why, from **16 - 22 October**, coinciding with World Food Day and Anti-Poverty Week, we will be raising funds for the **2023 Feed Geelong Appeal**.

We are excited to support this Appeal by sharing this donation link and promoting our Lunch Money Challenge Day on Friday 20th October. This is a great opportunity to join our school with the Geelong community in a collective effort to **make sure no one in our community goes hungry**.

This is a really important cause that directly impacts people living in our region, so we encourage students and staff to choose a day to donate what they'd normally spend on lunch. Online donations can be made via [Iona's Feed Geelong Appeal page](#) or by putting a cash donation into a paper bag or envelope, labelled with 'Lunch Money Challenge' and student name. This paper bag can be taken to Reception.

In anticipation of your generosity, we say thank you on behalf of Feed Geelong who are working so hard to relieve food insecurity within Geelong.

The Voice

On October 14, those eligible to vote in the referendum will be required to attend a polling station and vote on the Indigenous Voice referendum. You may have read and heard much about this topic. National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Catholic Council (NATSICC), in conjunction with others, has developed a website which contains information, interviews and resources on 'The Voice' from the perspective of our Catholic Social Teachings. The [One Journey, Together](#) site has been designed to assist you in making an informed decision on 14 October.

Passion Project Expo - Wednesday 11th October



Would you like to see what your young person has been working on for their Passion Project? Parents are invited to the Year 7 and 8 Passion Project Expo 2024 next Wednesday (11th October) from 1:45 pm-2:45 pm. Those who wish to attend are asked to sign in at Iona's Main Reception by 1:40 pm. From there you will be taken to the Columba Centre where the Year 7s will present on Level B and Year 8s on Level C.

We are very much looking forward to proudly sharing our students' work with our community. The top 3 projects from each class will then be exhibited at the Awards Evening later this year.

Sporting Achievements

State Basketball



Congratulations to Wil and Hendrix in Year 7 who have both been selected to represent Vic Country in Basketball at the Southern Cross Challenge (SCC) in January 2024 in Melbourne.

This tournament will see teams from Victoria, Western Australia, New South Wales, South Australia and Queensland compete across 4 days. Tremendous dedication has fueled their journey to this point, and we're proud of all the effort they've invested to reach this stage.

Skateboard Championship



Congratulations to River in Year 7 who spent the first week of the school holidays competing in the National Championship Leg of The Rumble Skateboarding Tour, where he won his division. This gave him plenty of points to take out the overall National Championship in the 13 and Under Street Division.

River has poured an incredible amount of hard work and passion into chasing this dream!

From the Wellbeing Team

Assembly Earlier this Week to Commence Term 4

We commenced Term 4 with an assembly with all staff and students to welcome everyone back and re-establish our support and expectations for all students. We also used this opportunity to welcome back Damian after his long service leave and to hear about some valuable reflections on his pilgrimage and time away from school.

I addressed the students about our desire to maximise student performance, student wellbeing and staff wellbeing at the same time. We discussed the opportunity and responsibility that comes with being in Term 4 of their current year level (can you believe our young people are $\frac{3}{4}$ of the way through this academic year...where has the time gone?!), and that we will continue to ask them to focus on controlling the things they can control – uniform, body language and effort, among other things.

Students are aware that two key responsibilities each of them holds are to a) put in their best effort to learn in each class and b) allow other people in their class to learn. Should a student be interfering with the learning of others, our staff will follow what we call a '3 x R' approach:

- Remind student – address the behaviour that needs to be changed directly with the student.
- Relocate student – move the student to a different part of the classroom to increase chances of focus.
- Remove student – a Wellbeing Leader comes to take student from class to their office where they can continue their schoolwork under his/her supervision.

Should a student progress to the 'remove stage', be it through an accumulation of poor choices or an act requiring them to be removed from class, a flag will be issued and parents/guardians will be notified.

New Procedure Regarding Banned Items

During our assembly, we also informed all students of our focus on improving uniform standards at our College. This will involve Community Group teachers checking uniforms each morning, addressing breaches of uniform (including acrylic nails, nails with obvious nail polish, excessive make-up, shoes, etc.) and confiscating any banned items including:

- Bracelets
- Necklaces
- Earrings outside our 'two plain gold or silver studs or sleepers in the lower lobe' expectation
- Nose rings
- Long-sleeved garments visible under polo shirts

The process for this will be:

- 1st time with a banned item – Community Group teacher confiscates item, places it under lock and key (in the phone box), issues non-flag and the student gets the item back at the end of the day.
- 2nd time wearing banned item – Community Group teacher confiscates item, places it under lock and key (in Year Level Wellbeing Leader's office), issues flag and the student gets the item back at end of term.
- 3rd time wearing banned item – Community Group teacher confiscates item, places it under lock and key (in Year Level Wellbeing Leader's office), issues Out of School Reflection Session and the student gets the item back at end of term.
- 4th time wearing same banned item – Community Group teacher confiscates item, places it under lock and key (in Year Level Wellbeing Leader's office), issues Out of School Reflection Session; the student gets the item back at end of term and parent and student meeting with Year Level Wellbeing Leader.

If a student is detected to be in breach of our uniform policy during the day by a staff member (i.e. after morning Community Group), that staff member will inform the Community Group teacher of the breach who will then manage the matter thereafter.

If your young person has something of significant sentimental value that they wear, we ask that you contact their Year Level Wellbeing Leader ASAP to discuss this matter.

Podcast Recommendations – 'Habits of Leadership' with Dan Hasler

The 'Habits of Leadership Podcast' helps leaders & their teams to thrive, professionally and personally. As parents/guardians, we lead our young people, and one thing we are often in charge of is providing a healthy diet for both ourselves and our young people. [In this episode](#), podcast host Dan Hasler chats with Jessica Spendlove, a Performance Dietician who specialises in nutrition and high-performing behaviours. Jess has worked with professional athletes in most codes and brings the principles that elite athletes adhere to, to the wider population. This is an interesting listen as a parent/guardian a) looking to improve your own diet and hence health and b) to promote excellent eating habits for our young people and enhance their wellbeing.

We thank you all for your ongoing support and the privilege of working with your young person/people and wish each of them a wonderful break before we embark upon term 4!

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

Dolly's Dream Fundraiser

On Thursday the 14th of September the school hosted a fundraiser for the charity '[Dolly's Dream](#)'. The community supported this day by making it a Footy Colours Day. The day started off with an exciting community group quiz and other fun activities for each year level at break time. I want to thank the community for their support and congratulate all the students who participated in the activities. I also want to give a big shout-out to all the staff that helped during the day. Together we raised \$856.55 by wearing their chosen Footy teams and donating a gold coin. All the money will be donated to a charity which addresses the impact of bullying and youth suicide through direct support and education to young people and families.

Blaire Durran
Year 8 Student

Australian Mathematics Competition

At the end of Term 3 we had the chance to celebrate some fantastic achievements by our students in the Australian Mathematics Competition.

Congratulations to all students who showed bravery by challenging themselves to participate! We would also like to acknowledge the following students who achieved exceptional results:

Distinction (top 20% of Australian participants):

Year 7: Archie Dickinson, Jesse Dragecevic, Imogen Heffer

Year 8: Leo Newby, Aisleigh Gray

Year 9: Thomas Asbell

Year 10: Jett McAuley, Kezia Berends

Credit (top 50% of Australian participants):

Year 7: Xavier Butler, Aaron Deb, Eli Egan, Kira Hollmer, Jackson Howe, Annette Kizhakkebhag, Tiana Le, Sam McCracken, Flynn Pretlove, Naomi, Rijnvis, Kody Schroeder, Chelsea Sizeland, Elliot Sullivan, Griffin Sweeney, Max Wallace, Emily Wight.

Year 8: Serena Caimano, Bao Chu, William Cuttriss, Carter Dingle, Lincoln Gray, Kody Hodge, Jed McKenzie, Charlie Parker, Briony Peplow, Lylah Rickard, Samuel Sharp, Ewan Sullivan, Lila Tadich, Milan Vattakkattu

Year 9: Edwin Kizhakkebhag, Joel Prince, Xavier Kapp.

Year 10: Gurleen Jaswal, Harry Ford, Jake Sanderson, Josh O'Brien, Luca Fraser, Spencer Davenport, Stella Kook, Lachlan Meighan

Students who have not already received their certificate can collect it from their maths teacher over the coming week.

Well done everyone! It's fantastic to see our Iona students showing such grit and perseverance in rising to these challenges!

Louise Keating
Numeracy leader

Art Department News
Year 9 Textiles



Our Year 9 Textiles class have been working on printing techniques applied to fabric. This fabric was then used to create tote bags to store their projects as an introduction to the textiles class.

Year 7 and 8 Art News



Our Year 7 and 8 students are enjoying exploring their favourite storybooks and spending time designing illustrations on them. They are then given the opportunity to laser cut these illustrations. This is yet another way for them to become more familiar with Adobe software and our well loved laser cutter.

Damian and Kylie