

20 October 2023

Dear Parents and carers,

The outcome of the Referendum does not alter the efforts that we make at Iona to be inclusive, respectful and celebratory of First Nations people and culture. We believe that the voices and histories of First Nations people must be heard and respected to achieve the Catholic Social Teaching principle of subsidiarity which argues that all people have a right to participate in decisions made about their lives and that decisions should be made by those closest to, and most affected by outcomes. We extend our thoughts to our First Nations students and staff and their families, and the wider community as they process the implications of the referendum. We will continue to walk with First Nations people into the future, creating relationships, sharing stories, being respectfully curious and listening to their voices.

We continue to pray for peace in our world especially for those in Gaza and Israel. Our patron of Francis house, Pope Francis leads a Christian response by reminding Catholics that “war does not solve any problems, it only sows death and destruction. It increases hatred, multiplies revenge. War erases the future”. The Pope has called for a day of prayer on Friday 27th October, so that the world can unite in praying for peace and so that a humanitarian crisis might be avoided. In this time of unrest, a prayerful gesture might be lighting a candle in your home at 6 pm (Rome time) on the 27th so that your thoughts might be drawn to the call to pray for peace. It is timely that our Year 10 Religion classes are currently focused on learning about peace and non-violent methods of resolving conflict. In honour of our motto of ‘Learning to Change the World’, we hope that our students can grow in their understanding of the importance of peaceful resolution of difficulties and take their learning into their world beyond school.

Give Where You Live Appeal

As Anti-Poverty Week comes to a close, we give thanks to our staff and their families for contributing to the Feed Geelong Appeal by running a BBQ at the referendum last Saturday. We raised \$1,035 for the Appeal by selling sausages, cookies, drinks and pre-loved books, with all proceeds supporting those in the Geelong region who experience food insecurity. It was wonderful for staff to enjoy time with each other and with members of the local community who dropped in to vote. Staff not only raised money, but they had fun and that is one of the wonderful things about volunteering to help. The Give Where You Live Foundation is very appreciative of Iona’s efforts to support Feed Geelong. The Appeal runs until Sunday so please consider contributing a small amount (no matter how small) [via the the following link](#). We were lucky enough to have Kristi Clapinski, from the Give Where You Live Foundation join us to cheer us on with our fundraising efforts. Kristi was hugely appreciative of the Iona community for everything that has been done for the Feed Geelong Appeal. Today all donations made before 12 pm to the Feed Geelong Appeal will be matched by the Foundation’s generous partners.



From the Wellbeing Team

Hats and Our SunSmart Policy

As the UV Index climbs as we approach November, it is a requirement for all students to wear a College hat (bucket hat or cap) during a) all breaks b) all Physical Education lessons and c) School Sport. Students without a hat should move into the shade to minimise UV exposure and skin cancer risk. As secondary school students, we also recognize the responsibility each individual student has to enact this; please do have this conversation with your young person/people at home.

Of course, a key to wearing our College hat daily throughout Term 4 is having one here on campus. A reminder that the College cap (\$16.95) and bucket hat (\$12.95) are available at Iona's reception where students can pay using cash or card; you may also elect to pay for this over the phone. As always, these hats are also available through our uniform provider PSW (164 Malop Street Geelong). Once obtained, our tip to students is to a) write their name on their hat and b) always keep their hat in their locker and never take it home. This reduces the chances of it being lost and a student being without a hat on any given day at school.

We thank you for your support in this matter and please don't hesitate to contact me should there be any queries or concerns.

Use of ICT at Iona

The College is committed to ensuring all digital technologies are used appropriately with the intention of learning outcomes. The College has prevention measures in place such as 'Ab tutor', Firewall filtering & security software which protects and servers as a deterrent against inappropriate content and not utilising class time to its full potential.

Recently students have been attempting to bypass measures the College has in place by changing the time, installing VPN's and heavily modifying how their device operates. This disabled College staff from viewing student devices at the College. Please note that student devices are not viewable via this program from home.

Moving forward, inappropriate use of ICT, including changing the time, engaging in inappropriate searches, and/or playing games in class, will incur the following consequences:

- Breach 1-3 – flag
- 4th occasion – Out of School Hours Reflection Session and parent/guardian phone call

We will be actively promoting this to our students across the course of next week so they are informed and will continue to promote the responsible use of ICT within our school.

Screen Time and Digital Technology Use: How it Affects Child and Teenage Sleep

Recently our Year 8 Wellbeing Leaders conducted a survey with 143 of our year 8 students on a range of topics and in doing so, discovered that approximately half of the students who completed the survey take their mobile phones with them to bed at night. We know parents/guardians have a difficult task in policing this, however, we thought it be worth a reminder as to how screen time and digital technology affect teenage sleep. We recommend [reading this article](#) alongside your young person/people and discussing it as a family as a way of either a) being an impetus to your young person/people to stop doing this or b) explaining why you insist on not allowing the phone into the bedroom at night. Our disclaimer – we recognise enforcing these rules can be very difficult and do not share this in a judgemental way, merely to highlight the importance of sleep and potentially as a stimulus for a conversation at home.

Podcast Recommendations

Luke Darcy, former Australian Rules footballer, hosts a podcast where he speaks to a variety of leaders from various walks of life. [In this episode](#), he talks to Ed O'Malley, a former elected official in Kansas, who left his role to start the Kansas Leadership Center which has impacted tens of thousands of people in his local community. Ed is a fascinating and curious person. He has this fantastic way of talking about leadership often being the act of disappointing people at a rate that they previously couldn't absorb. He makes a really clear distinction between authority and exercising leadership, noting that just because you're in a role of authority doesn't mean that you choose to exercise leadership or have the skills to do it. This leader is passionate about the fact that leadership is actually a skill that can be learned and then an exercise in itself; there are a number of key takeaways for us as teachers and parents from this one!

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

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

Music News

Summer Soiree

With more sunshine comes more music. Some of our music students are getting ready for the “Summer Soiree” that will be held on the 23rd of November. As always students can sign up for these concerts on the ‘sign-up sheet’ outside the Music Room.

This concert will be individual performers, duos, Concert Band and our String Group. An Operoo will come out before the concert, but you might like to save this date in your diary and book your tickets.

Please book tickets [online via this Try Booking link](#). This assists in planning.

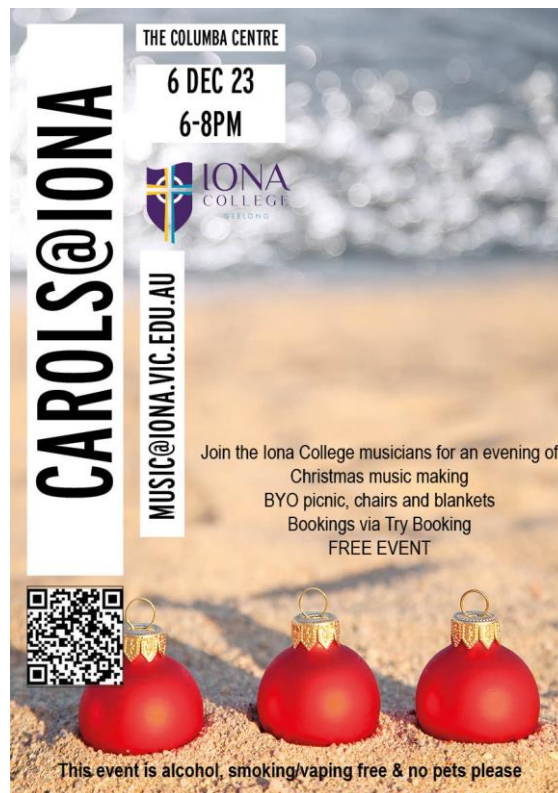


Matthew Flinders Secondary School Music Visit


On Wednesday 18th October our Year 10 Music classes visited Matthew Flinders Secondary School to collaborate, share music and meet new friends. While we have had many musical outings and collaborations this was our first one involving our academic Music students. Our musicians worked collaboratively on an arrangement of “Tequilla”, experimented with the 12 Bar Blues and performed to each other. Thank you to Matthew Flinders for inviting us to visit and we hope that in 2024 we will be able to return the hospitality. A big congratulations to all of our students for just giving everything a go!



Carols@Iona





THE COLUMBA CENTRE
6 DEC 23
6-8PM



CAROLS@IONA
MUSIC@IONA.VIC.EDU.AU

Join the Iona College musicians for an evening of Christmas music making
BYO picnic, chairs and blankets
Bookings via Try Booking
FREE EVENT



This event is alcohol, smoking/vaping free & no pets please

We are very excited to be launching our first *Carols@Iona* on Wednesday 6th December. Many of our musicians (staff and students) will be performing and of course, Santa will be coming. Please [book online](#) via Trybooking. This is a free event, but bookings help us monitor the numbers attending.

On the night the canteen will be open for snacks and treats using debit or credit cards. You are encouraged to bring the family - BYO picnic, blankets, chairs and of course 'singing voices'. As this is a school event no alcohol, smoking/vaping or pets are allowed. There will be many students involved and over the next two weeks, they should know what their role may be. For all students involved an Operoo will be sent out. Please contact me if you have any questions or if you may be willing to help out on the night.

Jodie Townsend
Teacher / Music / Innovation Leader (Pedagogy & Instruction)

Iona's Inaugural House Chess Competition



On Tuesday 17th October, Iona College held its Inaugural House Chess Competition.

It was a fantastic day where all the students played competitively but with great fairness and spirit. Jack Smith from the Geelong Chess Club visited and was impressed with the students' persistence, honesty and love of learning.

The competition consisted of 8 rounds of matches, and the final tally showed a thrilling finish!

House standings were as follows:

1st place: Glower House (28.5 points) – top player Jesse Dragecevic

2nd place: MacKillop House (26 points) – top player Evan Sariego

3rd place: Francis House (22 points) – top player Bruce Henderson

4th place: Chisholm (8 points) – top player Zander Zurawel

Individually we would also like to celebrate everyone who competed and highlight the following performances:

- Evan Sariego (score 8)
- Jesse Dragicevic (score 7)
- Finn Kelly (score 7)
- Ollie Bourk (score 7)
- Bruce Henderson (score 5)
- Finn Elevato (score 5)
- Ed Levy (score 5)

Well done everyone and we look forward to our 2025 competition!

Mr Chalkley and Ms Keating

Year 10 2023 End of Semester Arrangements and Information

As the semester moves quickly, it is important that Year 10 families are reminded of the following information.

Year 10 exams are scheduled for Week 8 of this term (Wednesday 22nd Nov – Friday 24th Nov) and then our Year 10 cohort move into a compulsory Orientation Week of their 2024 VCE/VM Subjects in Weeks 9 and 10. The conclusion of the school year is on Thursday the 7th of December and our Year 10 cohort will be working right up until that date.

Exams (Week 8)

Please take note of the below exam timetable, which runs from **Wednesday the 22nd of November through to Friday the 24th of November**. Attendance at exams for each of your young person's subjects is compulsory and contributes to their end-of-semester grades.

Monday 20/11	Tuesday 21/11	Wednesday 22/11	Thursday 23/11	Friday 24/11
Normal classes for in class assessments/revision	Normal classes for in class assessments/revision	ENGLISH EXAM (all Yr 10 students)	SCIENCE CORE EXAM (68 students)	REVISION TIME / EXAM CLASH MAKE UP
recess	recess	recess	recess	recess
Normal classes for in class assessments/revision	Normal classes for in class assessments/revision	Normal classes/rooms/teachers (supervised Maths Revision)	Normal classes/rooms/teachers (supervised revision)	REVISION TIME / EXAM CLASH MAKE UP
lunch	lunch	lunch	lunch	lunch
Normal classes for in class assessments/revision	Normal classes for in class assessments/revision	MATHS EXAM (all Yr 10 students)	BIO ENV + PHY CHEM EXAM (roughly 70 students?)	UNITS 1 + 2 EXAM 1:15-2:55 (10 reading 90 writing)

Please note the following:

- ALL Year 10 students are expected to attend the full school day for their English/Literacy and Maths/Numeracy exams/assessments on Wednesday the 22nd of November. They will also attend a supervised study session in between these two exams on this day.
- If your young person DOES NOT have an exam on Thursday 23rd November, or Friday the 24th of November because they are not studying a Science, or Year 11 accelerated subject, they are not required to attend school on those days.
- For students who DO have an exam on Thursday, or Friday, they are welcome to only attend the college at the times that their exams are scheduled, however, they will need to have parental permission to arrive late to school or to leave early, and they MUST sign in and out of Student Reception. In these instances, any absences must be advised by parents via PAM, or normal absence procedures.
- For any student who is at school, but does not have an exam to sit, they will be expected to attend their normal, scheduled classroom and they will be supervised in private study by their usual classroom teacher.

Ignite Orientation Program (Weeks 9 and 10)

As per the below timetable, **Monday the 27th through to Wednesday the 29th of November** are normal school days. On these days Year 10's will attend their 2023 scheduled classes and in these classes students will have the chance to receive valuable feedback on the exams and end of semester assessments, wrapping up their 2023 studies.

From **Thursday the 30th of November through to Wednesday the 6th of December** all Year 10 students will be stepping up into their 2024 classes in the Ignite Orientation program. There is no expectation that your young person has their 2024 texts, or study materials for these lessons, however, they will need to bring writing materials, their fully charged laptops and their student planner.

Monday 27/11	Tuesday 28/11	Wednesday 29/11	Thursday 30/11	Friday 1/12
Normal classes for feedback + celebration	Normal classes for feedback + celebration	Normal classes for feedback + celebration	Units 1, 2, 3 + 4 HEAD START (2024)	Units 1, 2, 3 + 4 HEAD START (2024)
recess	recess	recess	recess	recess
Normal classes for feedback + celebration	Normal classes for feedback + celebration	Normal classes for feedback + celebration	Units 1, 2, 3 + 4 HEAD START (2024)	Units 1, 2, 3 + 4 HEAD START (2024)
lunch	lunch	lunch	lunch	lunch
Normal classes for feedback + celebration	Normal classes for feedback + celebration	Normal classes for feedback + celebration	Units 1, 2, 3 + 4 HEAD START (2024)	Units 1, 2, 3 + 4 HEAD START (2024)
Monday 4/12	Tuesday 5/12	Wednesday 6/12	Thursday 7/12	
Units 1, 2, 3 + 4 HEAD START (2024)	Units 1, 2, 3 + 4 HEAD START (2024)	Units 1, 2, 3 + 4 HEAD START (2024)	MASS + CELEBRATION DAY	
recess	recess	recess	recess	
Units 1, 2, 3 + 4 HEAD START (2024)	Units 1, 2, 3 + 4 HEAD START (2024)	Units 1, 2, 3 + 4 HEAD START (2024)	MASS + CELEBRATION DAY	
lunch	lunch	lunch	lunch	
Units 1, 2, 3 + 4 HEAD START (2024)	Units 1, 2, 3 + 4 HEAD START (2024)	Units 1, 2, 3 + 4 HEAD START (2024)	EARLY FINISH	

Thank you in advance for your support of this important part of your young person's schooling.

Steve Parker, Anthea Sholl and Kate McLaren
Learning Leaders

2023 Premier's Reading Challenge



Throughout Term 2 all of our Year 7 cohort were entered in the 2023 Premier's Reading Challenge and many participated with some very impressive results. In particular, congratulations to Chelsea Sizeland, Jenna Goerke, Lilly Clark, Max Dillon, Naomi Rijnvis, Shiwangi Bhattarai and Zoe Gullo for all meeting their Reading Challenge goal. A huge shout out to both Chelsea Sizeland and Max Dillon, for their high-scoring reading completions of 20 and 19 books respectively. The reading choices of our young people have been noted so that our ever growing Resource Centre can ensure it is stocking its shelves with the titles that they love to read!

Kate McLaren,
Literacy Curriculum Leader

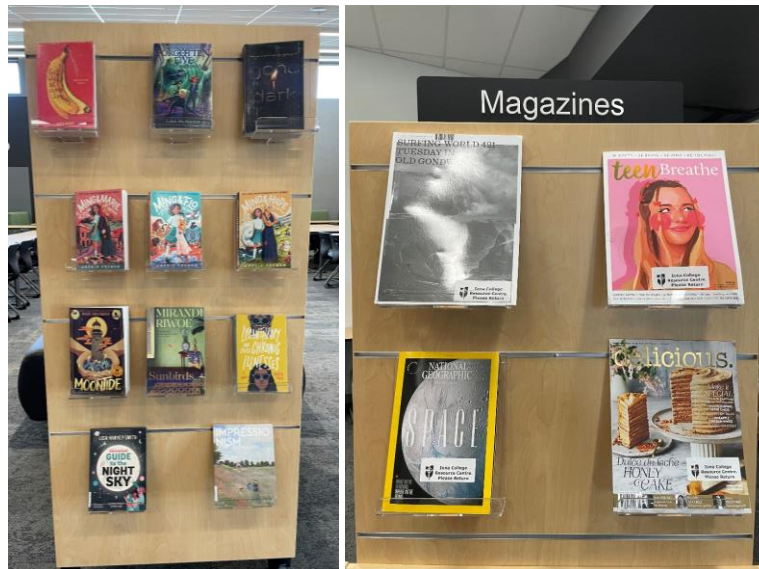
Resource Centre News

Our Library collection is growing every week both on the shelves and in our online presence! Our staff and students now have access to The Age newspaper along with the EBSCO research database and ePlatform ebooks via our [lona library website](#).

We have new release magazines and new books for our students and staff to access and lots more new books ready to be catalogued and covered before going out into the wild to be read by our Lona community.

And we're not just providing books for fun. Providing textbooks for teachers to assist in planning their 2024 classes is just one of the important jobs happening in the Resource Centre at this time of year. Happy reading to all!





Sharon Cuthbertson
Resource Assistant

Art Department News

Our Year 9 VCD Design our World students have been working on their folios. This week our Art Department wanted to highlight two students in particular for their fantastic work on their folios. These folios are a great representation of our young artist's exploration of other Artists' styles and techniques to help them develop skills for their final artwork pieces. Please click on the links or buttons below to view these folios in their entirety.

- 1) [Emma Cook Year 9 VCD Design our World Folio](#)

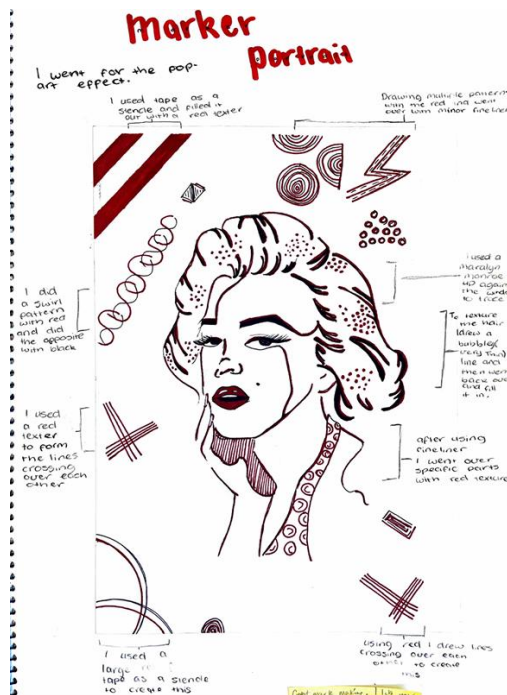
EMMA COOK FOLIO



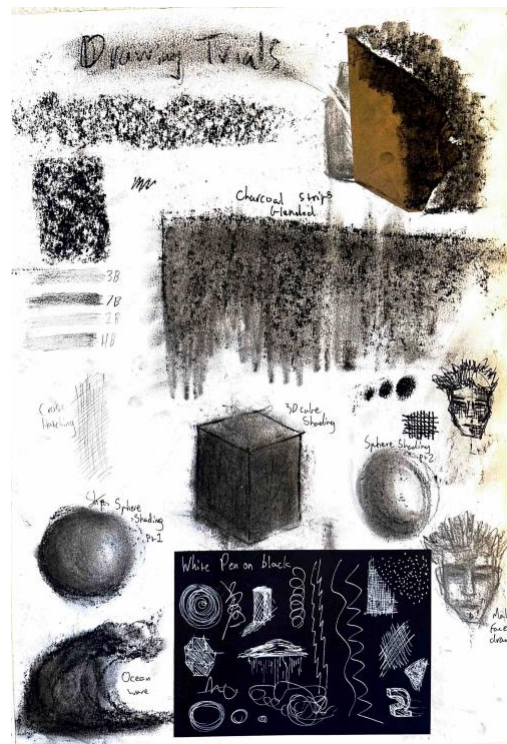
- 2) [Angus Thorley Year 9 VCD Design our World Folio](#)

ANGUS THORLEY FOLIO





A page from Emma Cook's Folio



A page from Angus Thorley's Folio

Congratulations on the hard work and passion that has gone into these folios!



**IONA MEET
THE TEAM**

SARAH RIVALLAND

Learning Support Officer

"Focus on the step in front of you, not the whole staircase."



Meet Sarah Rivalland, a cherished member of our Learning Support team. Sarah was driven to join the Iona Team by the exciting prospect of contributing to a growing school, putting down roots and growing alongside Iona. She has a genuine care for helping people, particularly young people – something that is very clear in the way she engages with the Iona students. If you ever walk past Sarah in the Iona corridors, you are sure to be met with a friendly smile and kind words!

For Sarah, the most fulfilling aspect of her role is assisting kids in reaching their full potential. Her passion for making a difference in their lives really shines through.

Sarah hails from Jan Juc, she loves the outdoors, with a penchant for surfing, cooking, walking and spending quality time with family and friends. She's also an avid Richmond Tigers supporter. Sarah has had the privilege of exploring places like Hawaii and Indonesia, but her favourite trip was to the Mentawai Islands off the coast of Sumatra, on a memorable surf adventure.

For our students, Sarah had these words of wisdom: "Focus on the step in front of you, not the whole staircase." What a great reminder to take things one step at a time and not be overwhelmed by the bigger picture.

Sarah, thank you for everything you do in the Diversity team and Iona – we are so lucky to have such a positive, friendly, caring and dedicated LSO on the team!

Speed Reminder on Horseshoe Bend Road

We have received reports of cars exceeding the speed limit on Horseshoe Bend Road. This poses a safety risk for students who use the road to get to school. We appeal to our community to please drive at the recommended speed limit, especially along the roads close to Iona.

Dates to Remember

Cape York, Year 11 2024 Online Parent Information Session	Monday 16 October, 6 pm
Year 7 Online Parent Information Night	Tuesday 17 October, 6 pm
Combined Schools Solo Concert	Thursday 2 November, 6 pm
Mid-Term Break	Monday 6 November & Tuesday 7 November (Melbourne Cup)
VCE Information Evening for Parents and Students	Thursday 16 November – Resource Centre, 6 pm
Summer Soiree	Thursday 23 November – Iona Stadium, 6 pm
Lunchtime Concert	Monday 27 November
Carols@Iona	Wednesday 6 December – 6 pm
End of School Mass – Formal Uniform Day	Thursday 7 December
Final Day of Term 4	Thursday 7 December, 3:05 finish

Thanks for your support,

Damian and Kylie