

**10 November 2023**

Dear Parents and carers,

At 11 am on the 11th of November 1918, the guns on the Western Front in Europe fell silent after more than four years of continuous warfare. We know that the 11th hour of the 11th day of the 11th month gained a special significance in the post-war years, but the armistice was agreed upon at 5 am on the 11th of November. Word was then sent out to the fronts that the fighting was to cease at the symbolic 11th hour, of the 11th day, of the 11th month. This historic day would become Armistice Day, and then eventually Remembrance Day.

Initially, Remembrance Day was a time to remember those involved in WWI when 70 million people were mobilised and 12 million people were killed. The naïve thought that WWI would be the war that ended all wars has been proven incorrect as we see war and devastating conflict throughout historical records, and we know of the current conflict in Ukraine and the Middle East. Unfortunately, war continues to be raged across the globe despite the efforts of peace advocates. On Remembrance Day we think of all those impacted by war.

This morning we paused, ahead of Remembrance Day, to show our gratitude to those who nurture peace and keep us safe, and to remember those who sacrifice and suffer as a consequence of war. We thank students, Chloe, Maurice, Sienna, Bondi and Melody for leading our ceremony.



### Fundraising for St Estevao, Timor-Leste

Recently staff member, Anna Haintz, also a member of Geelong Viqueque Friendship Schools, arranged for Margie Beck, a great friend to Timor-Leste and former Deputy Director of Bacau Teachers College, to visit Iona and speak to some Year 10 and Year 7 students. Students heard that Timor-Leste, one of our nearest neighbours, has almost 50% of its population living in multi-dimensional poverty with a low standard of living and a lack of adequate health care and education. To action learning and show commitment to these neighbours, student leaders sold donuts last week, which raised \$300 for learning materials at our newly acquired sister-school, St Estevao—well done to Bu Haintz and the student leaders for their leadership of this initiative.



### Year 10, 2024 ICT Device Agreement

A reminder to all Year 9 families entering Year 10 next year, that you must accept the Year 10, 2024 ICT Device Agreement. The ICT device agreement has been issued via PAM. When you sign into PAM a pop-up notification will display asking you to complete the 'Year 10 2024 ICT Device Agreement' Families are reminded that if the agreement is not accepted, your young person will not receive a new device on the first day of school in 2024. We ask you to accept the ICT Device agreement by the 15<sup>th</sup> of December.

For any further queries or questions, please contact Michael Hughes (ICT & Resource Manager) at [michael.hughes@iona.vic.edu.au](mailto:michael.hughes@iona.vic.edu.au)

Michael Hughes  
*ICT & Resource Manager*

Canteen Volunteers Required

# 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.**

### Iona Pathway Network Reminder

Most schools have established links with businesses and industries through years of ongoing engagement. They have a database of contacts they can draw on as required. This is where we are different. Iona is still in its infancy... and therefore we are reaching out to you – our Iona College Community.

We are looking for a range of people and businesses to:

- Provide Work Experience or Structured Workplace Learning to our students,
- Learn more about employing an Iona student as a School-based Apprentice or Trainee,
- Host a class at your place of business to show students what you do,
- Visit our school as a guest speaker, or
- Work with our team to create an industry immersion activity

Can you help us in any of these areas? Or do you know someone who can? We would love to hear from you.

*If any of this has resonated with you and you would like to talk more about the Iona Pathways Network, please email [pathways@iona.vic.edu.au](mailto:pathways@iona.vic.edu.au)*



# Iona PATHWAYS NETWORK

Do you own a business? Work in one? Or know someone in a position to offer opportunities?

Are you willing to:

- Provide Work Experience or Structured Workplace Learning to our students?
- Learn more about employing an Iona student as a School based apprentice or trainee?
- Host a class at your place of business to show students what you do?
- Visit our school as a guest speaker, or work with our team to create an industry immersion activity?

If so, we would love to hear from you!

[pathways@iona.vic.edu.au](mailto:pathways@iona.vic.edu.au)

Together we can build an Iona Pathways Network that will support and engage our students as they explore their futures.



From the Wellbeing Team

### **Improving Uniform Standards**

As a staff, we continue to explore ways to both challenge and support our students to be the best version of themselves. In doing so, we are driving standards that help enhance the social environment of our school.

One area as a staff and school we are striving to improve is our consistency in monitoring student uniforms. We thank all our Community Group teachers for checking uniforms each morning and confiscating banned items – this has led to significant improvements across the board in how our students are wearing their uniforms.

Two areas we have identified where a small percentage of students are electing to operate outside our uniform policy are a) earrings in the upper ear and b) nose rings. In the interest of consistency, next week all students in breach of our uniform policy will be spoken to by a Wellbeing Leader; should a student who needs to remove a piercing be unable to do so immediately, a period of grace will be granted to the student to rectify the situation and parent/guardian contact made. Should the issue still not be rectified by the conclusion of the grace period, the student will be unable to return to class until it has been addressed.

As always, we welcome questions, queries or concerns should you have them, and thank you for your ongoing support in continuing to make our school the best it can be.

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

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

### **Student Medical Profiles**

A friendly reminder for families that have not completed their PAM medical profile. The College requires all medical profiles to be completed by the 15<sup>th</sup> of December. This is in preparation for our transition away from Operoo to PAM Medical.

We also recommend families download the ‘SIMON Everywhere’ app which will allow you to stay up to date with Medical Alerts, Student Activities and other College important notifications. You can find the instructions to set up your PAM Medical and ‘SIMON Everywhere’ app [online here](#).

Kate Every  
*College Nurse*

Michael Hughes  
*ICT Manager*

### Calendar change: VCE Information Evening to be replaced by VCE Informational Video

Relevant to the parents/guardians of all students studying a VCE or VCE Vocational Major subject next year is the recent decision made by the College to record an informational video detailing the expectations, processes and requirements of VCE study rather than asking families to tune into a live stream presentation.

This video will be released to families on the afternoon of Thursday 16th November rather than the previously advertised VCE Information Evening.

By choosing to pre-record the information, it will be possible for us to keep the information presented tight and concise and for students and parents/guardians to be able to easily access this information whenever you choose.

Unlike the previous VCE information evenings held in our Resource Centre, which explored the differences between VCE and the VCE Vocational Major and outlined what VET studies involve, the information on the video to be released will outline the various requirements of VCE, addressing such matters as attendance, absence during assessment, the rescheduling of assessment, verification of student work, plagiarism, the General Achievement Test and applying for special provisions, amongst other important details.

Steve Parker

Anthea Sholl

*Head of Learning & Innovation*

*2024 VCE Coordinator*

### Combined Catholic Schools Boards/Councils Dinner

Next Wednesday, Iona will be hosting the combined Catholic School Boards/Council's dinner. This is an opportunity to give thanks for all of the voluntary work that each of our secondary schools Councils Boards/Councils do in support of Catholic Education. We look forward to the opportunity to host our many visitors next week.

### First Aid Update



As we are all aware there are still some cases of covid popping up in our community.

Iona follows the Department of Health recommendations that staff and students who test positive for COVID-19 isolate for a minimum of 5 days and do not attend school until their symptoms resolve.

Thank you for your assistance.

Kate Every  
*College Nurse*

Carols@Iona



Iona is hosting its inaugural Carols by Candlelight – Carols@Iona! Join us for a magical evening on Wednesday, December 6th from 6 - 8 pm. Our talented musicians (including staff and students) will serenade you, and yes, Santa is making a special appearance! Don't miss out on this enchanting event – secure your spot by [booking online through Trybooking](https://www.trybooking.com). It's a free event, but your bookings will help us ensure we have enough room for everyone.

#### Dates to Remember

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