

**28 March 2024**

Dear Parents and Carers,

Holy Week is significant in the Catholic Church as it commemorates the final week of Jesus Christ's life, including his entry into Jerusalem (Palm Sunday), the Last Supper (Maundy Thursday), his crucifixion (Good Friday), and his resurrection (Easter Sunday). Each day holds specific religious significance, leading to Easter Sunday, the most important day in the Christian calendar, celebrating Jesus' resurrection.

Throughout Holy Week, Catholics participate in special services to reflect on these events and deepen their faith which is the reason we gathered today for the long-standing ritual of Stations of the Cross. This practice originally emerged to replicate early Christian pilgrimages to Jerusalem which retraced the steps taken by Jesus as he moved towards his death. Later, with the addition of prayerful meditation on sections of the final journey, Christians were invited to imagine being with Christ as he took the path to his crucifixion while encouraging reflection on the connection of faith to life. Reflection is important to personal growth and 'knowing self' and our time spent in quiet reflection today prepared us for the holy days ahead.

The beginning of Lent feels like such a long time ago. As a reminder, on Ash Wednesday we listened to the words of Dr Conor McDonald about the provision of health care in Uganda. Dr Conor and his team of young medical doctors and students, reflect our Term One theme of Compassion through their generosity and selflessness. Part of the education that we provide at Iona, is to teach our young people to notice and respond to the needs of others and to seek fulfilment through acts of compassion. Our Catholic tradition takes this a step further during Lent to encourage us to pray, fast and give alms (which is money and/or service to those in need). In the Lenten season and our time of focus on compassion, we are so proud of everyone's efforts to support our fundraising for the Feeding Program at St Mary's Uganda and Project Compassion. Thank you to our generous community for your donations! Our aim for St Mary's was to raise \$5,000 which equates to approximately \$5 per Iona student, and we are pleased to report that we almost made it – but not quite.

Our balance for each activity is currently:

- Raffle - \$2,801.10
- Casual clothes - \$1,069.00
- Pancake day - \$218.00
- Canteen fundraising link donations - \$345.00

This brings our total to \$4,433.10. We are so very close! We would absolutely love to see it rise our balance rise to meet our target. We are no longer selling raffle tickets, as prizes have been drawn today, but if your family is in a position to make a final donation via the Canteen fundraising link, please do so this week so we can celebrate hitting our target and fulfil our commitment to St Mary's. During the coming weeks, we will forward our financial contribution to Fr Emma for administration of the Feeding Program which we know will bring great joy to the children and families at St Mary's.

### Easter Raffle

A busy group of Easter helpers were super-industrious on Monday morning and we thank them for donating their time and creativity. We hope that our raffle-winning families enjoy the chocolate treats that are brought home today. Phone contact will be made regarding uncollected prizes and these can be picked up from Reception.



### End of Term 1

Congratulations to all students for the positive way that we have concluded Term 1. We recognise our 260 Year 7 students (along with our new students in other year levels) who have transitioned to Iona over the past nine weeks. We are delighted to have you as part of our school community. We also acknowledge the 53 new staff members who have completed their first term with us. As we continue to grow as a school, we remain ever thankful for the support of all of our staff members in the continual build of our college.

### End of Term Assembly



We concluded the term with a final assembly. A chance for us to acknowledge the efforts and passions of our students as they pursue being their best. The following awards were announced during the assembly.

### **Term 1 Compassion Certificate Award Winners**

Term 1 has seen a focus on the virtue of 'compassion', our Wellbeing Year level leaders presented awards to students from each year level who have best demonstrated this in their year level. Congratulations to the following students:

#### **Year 7**

- Cooper Ford
- Lulu Sawyer
- Abigail Hunt
- Henry Tobias

#### **Year 8**

- Mackinley Bragge
- Lukas Tomkins

#### **Year 9**

- Lily McCrohan
- Angus Bartrop

#### **Year 10**

- Jai Riordan
- Kirby Reynolds

#### **Year 11**

- Charlotte Carmicheal
- Charlie Peters

### **The Duke of Edinburgh's International Award Winners**

During the assembly, two students were presented with the Duke of Edinburgh's International Award. Congratulations to Rory Smith and Mitch Penrice on this fantastic achievement!



### Opening the Doors Foundation Certificate of Appreciation

Congratulations to Lara Newbegin, who throughout last year, ran a second-hand clothing store to raise money for the Foundation. This award recognises Lara's initiative and her ongoing dedication to making a difference to others.



### Sports Awards

During the assembly, several sports awards were presented to commend the exceptional efforts of our students. We take pride in the dedication and commitment demonstrated by each recipient both on the field and off the field. Congratulations to all the deserving awardees!



### Surf Coast Trek

We wish a number of our staff and students well for their participation in the 40km Surf Coast Trek during the upcoming holidays. We know that getting active is great for mental and physical health, and on this occasion, being active also raises money for the important community work of Kids+ and Give Where You Live. The Iona College community will be cheering on our walkers as they journey along our spectacular coastline.

### ANZAC Day Commemoration Service

Please note, in the first week of Term 2 an Assembly, which will include an ANZAC Day Commemoration Service, will be held on Thursday 18<sup>th</sup> April during period 1. All students are required to wear formal uniform for this special occasion.

### Wellbeing For Learning Journey Recognised by LineWize



We are excited to announce the [release of a video produced in partnership with Linewize](#), showcasing Iona's approach to Wellbeing. This video not only explains our philosophy to wellbeing but also introduces Pulse, a valuable tool we use to support student wellbeing in real time. We are proud to be recognised as a leading school in the wellbeing space and are grateful that Linewize chose to feature our journey in this video. A huge thank you goes out to the students who participated in this project, and of course a big thank you to all our exceptional staff who prioritise the value of wellbeing for learning in our school.

2024 Parent Engagement Survey Reminder



# REMINDER

## 2024 PARENT ENGAGEMENT SURVEY

A reminder to all parents/carers to please take a moment to complete the [link to our Parent and Carer Community Engagement Survey for 2024](#). Your feedback will help us better understand your interests and skills, as well as how we can better serve you through programs, events and communications. Your input is invaluable and we thank you for being part of the Iona College community!

### Athletics Carnival

Congratulations to all our students who gave their best at yesterday's Athletics Carnival. Despite the tough weather conditions, great fun was had by all and we are proud of our students for making the most of every opportunity with enthusiasm.

The results were as follows:

Team Name	Team Score
Glowrey	1147
Francis	1139
Mackillop	984
Chisholm	899

Age Group Champions		
Student Name	Age	Points
William McCrohan	Year 7	41 Points
Gabrielle Sullivan	Year 7	52 Points
Zack Waterson	Year 8	40 Points
Zoe Barrie	Year 8	40 Points
Jordan Penrice	Year 9	38 Points
Jasper Delaney		
Lily McCrohan	Year 9	59 Points
Tai Stewart	Year 10	31 Points
Amy Litaize	Year 10	48 Points
Lukas Pierce	Year 11	45 Points
Isabella Dunne	Year 11	81 Points

Congratulations to our Age Group Champions!



### VCE – Term 1 update

As we come to the end of Term 1, we want to acknowledge our VCE students for their commendable start to the academic year. The students have successfully managed the increased demands of VCE studies and have completed a number of OATs and SACs over the last few weeks.

Keep up the good work as you continue on this journey!

A few reminders:

- Whilst we encourage students to rest and spend time with loved ones over the term break, we also encourage them to complete work in their VCE units. Students may have work set by their teachers or may prepare for the next unit by reading ahead in their texts or using Edrolo.
- Absence from OATs/SACs

- When the absence for an OAT or SAC is known in advance students should apply prior to their absence to reschedule the assessment (such absences are usually due to school based activities OR planned medical leave).
  - When absence is unexpected students will apply for the reschedule on their first day back to the college.
  - Supporting documentation must be supplied for absences that are not school based. Documentation would include medical certificates or statutory declarations.
  - All reschedules occur after school hours and are usually on Mondays and Thursdays. Specific details of dates will be communicated to parents via the Supplementary Assessment Session (SAS) form.
- Attendance requirements
- Meeting the VCAA VCE requirement of 85% attendance is crucial for achieving a Satisfactory (S) in VCE units. It allows teachers to monitor progress and validate efforts.
  - For absences of more than one day a medical certificate or stat dec is recommended.

More information about attendance and assessment requirements can be found in the *Iona VCE Administrative Handbook, 2024*, the link for this can be found via PAM.

Unit 3 & 4 studies key dates:

- VCAA General Achievement Test (GAT): June 18<sup>th</sup>
- Practice exams: 24<sup>th</sup> September (please note this is during the term break)
- Written VCAA exam period: Tuesday 29 October 2024 – Wednesday 20 November 2024 (specific dates for each study will be released by VCAA later in the year)

More information on the GAT and unit 3/4 exam periods can be found on the following links

- [GAT Testing](#)
- [VCE Exam Timetable](#)

For additional clarification on VCE matters, feel free to reach out to the Learning and Innovation leaders, Kate McLaren & Steve Parker or the VCE coordinator, Anthea Sholl.

### Resource Centre News

It's been another big term in the Resource Centre with a couple of large orders of books arriving. We now have almost 3000 books on our shelves and are continuing to grow the collection to cater to our student's needs. An enormous thank you goes to our parent volunteers who have done an amazing job covering books so that we can get them on the shelves for our students to read. We appreciate your assistance. With more variety to choose from we have had terrific numbers of students borrowing which is wonderful. Hopefully, your young person has borrowed something to read over the holidays. If not they can go to your local Geelong Regional Libraries branch and borrow something to read or take part in their holiday activities. Wishing all in our Iona community a safe and happy Easter and we look forward to seeing you all in Term 2.

Ms Sharon Cuthbertson  
*Resource Assistant*

**SCHOOL HOLIDAY PROGRAM**



**JOIN THE HOLIDAY FUN AT TORQUAY**

Join in all the **Magic** for youth at the library these April school holidays. Check out the line up of activities especially for young people at the library. Scan the QR code for the full details of these events on our website.

**Magical Watercolour Landscapes 12+**  
Wednesday 3rd April 2:30pm - 3:30pm

**Magical Tangram Puzzles 12+**  
Tuesday 9th April 2:30pm - 3:30pm

[www.grfc.vic.gov.au](http://www.grfc.vic.gov.au)

**SCHOOL HOLIDAY PROGRAM**



**JOIN THE HOLIDAY FUN AT WAURN PONDS LIBRARY**

Join in all the **Magic** for youth at the library these April school holidays. Check out the line up of activities especially for young people at the library. Scan the QR code for the full details of these events on our website.

**Magical Watercolour Landscapes (12+)**  
Thursday 11 April @ 10:30am - 11:30am

**Magical Cover Poetry (12+)**  
Thursday 11 April @ 2:30pm - 3:30pm

**Magical Miniature Books (5+)**  
Friday 12 April @ 10:30am - 12:00pm

[www.grfc.vic.gov.au](http://www.grfc.vic.gov.au)

### Our True North Session

**Our True North**  
Becoming the paroikia for our time

  
Sacred Heart  
College  
GEE LONG

This session will refocus us on our collective Catholic mission to remind us of who it is that we serve and what we hope to be for our community.

**Kynote speaker**  
**Fr Brendan Reed**  
Wednesday 17 April

Fr Brendan Reed is a Parish Priest responsible for the stewardship and spiritual guidance of his parishioners. He is a theologian, having studied in Belgium, Rome and Leuven. He is active in the leadership of the Church Mission, and this year, he celebrates 34 years of priestly life and ministry. Fr Reed will guide us in an exploration of what it means to be the face of Christ for humanity. With Jesus as the wellspring of our motivation, we seek to be the paroikia (parish) of God's Mission.

**In-person**



Celina Dining Room  
Sacred Heart College  
Wednesday 17 April  
4:00pm to 5:00pm  
3:30pm arrival

**Online**



Zoom (link will be sent closer to the event date)  
Wednesday 17 April  
4:00pm to 5:00pm

**RSVP**

Interested in attending?  
Click the button to register.

Register today!

This professional development opportunity will be recognised for accreditation for teaching staff in Catholic schools. Registration details will be available soon on the Teacher Accreditation Platform. Staff can register via CECP's Teacher Accreditation Platform (TAP). If not attending in person, the Zoom link is included in the description.

Sacred Heart College warmly invite members of our Iona College community to join them for 'Our True North: becoming the paroikia for our time'. This session will explore what it means to be part of a Catholic community in the modern age. It will consider the challenge that Catholic schools, parishes and community groups have, to be the face of Christ to others, and will delve into what that actually means. The guest speaker, Fr Brendan Reed, leads a Mission community in Melbourne and he will speak about living in service of others. Participation can be in person or online. Registration details are on the flyer. [You can register online.](#)

### Kangourou Sans Frontiers Maths Competition



On Tuesday 26<sup>th</sup> March, we had 180 students compete in an online international maths competition. We are so proud of our students for challenging themselves and showing persistence, bravery and a love of learning in opting to complete this external competition! It is not easy! The questions require higher order thinking and rely on our students to use their problem-solving and mathematical reasoning skills.

Results for the competition will be released in Term 2 and each student will receive a certificate outlining their result. Below is a question from the Year 7 and 8 competition this week. I wonder how many of you could get it right?!

***Nine cards numbered from 1 to 9 were placed face down on a table. Aleksa, Bart, Clara and Deindra each picked up two of the cards.***

***Aleksa said "My numbers add up to 6".***

***Bart said "The difference between my numbers is 5"***

***Clara said "The product of my number is 18"***

***Deindra said "One of my numbers is twice the other one"***

***All four made a true statement. Which number was left on the table?***

***1, 3, 6, 8 or 9.***

Ms Lou Keating  
Maths/Numeracy Leader

### Eltham High School Visit



On Tuesday 26<sup>th</sup> March, we were very excited to have Eltham High School visit us again. Eltham High School has a well-renowned music program, and their visit enabled our Concert Band to have the opportunity to play in a large ensemble, work with a different conductor and learn from other students. This is the third year that Eltham High School have paid us a visit and it is wonderful to see that each year we are able to contribute a little more with players and equipment. Thank you to the staff and students from Iona who made Eltham High School welcome and hosted for the day. We hope that maybe one day we can visit them.

Ms Jodie Townsend  
*Teacher / Head of Performing Arts*

## Term 2 Dates to Remember

Date	Event
Monday 15 April	Staff Professional Learning Student Free Day
Tuesday 16 April	Term 2 Commences for Students
Wednesday 17 April	Year 7 - 11 Cross Country
Thursday 18 April	ANZAC Day Commemoration Service - Formal Uniform
Thursday 25 April	ANZAC Day Public Holiday
Monday 29 April	Year 12 2025 Information Night - 6 pm Resource Centre
Thursday 2 May	Batforce Parent Session
Monday 6 May	Year 11 2025 Information Night - 6 pm Resource Centre
Thursday 9 May	Music Soiree
Monday 13 May - Wednesday 15 May	Year 7 Camp 1 - Phillip Island
Wednesday 15 May - Friday 17 May	Year 7 Camp 2 - Phillip Island
Monday 20 May	Year 12 2025 Selections Due in
Friday 24 May	Year 11 2025 Selections Due in
Monday 27 May	Year 10 2025 Information Night - 6 pm Resource Centre
Monday 27 May - Wednesday 29 May	Year 8 Camp 1 - Lake Dewar
Wednesday 29 May - Friday 31 May	Year 8 Camp 2 - Lake Dewar
Monday 10 June	King's Birthday Public Holiday
Tuesday 11 June	Year 10 2025 Selections Due in
Wednesday 12 June	Year 9 2025 Information Night - 6 pm Resource Centre
Saturday 15 June - Sunday 23 June	Year 10 Central Australia Experience
Tuesday 18 June	General Achievement Test (GAT) Year 11 Students
Tuesday 18 June	Year 7 Immunisations
Friday 21 June - Wednesday 3 July	Year 10 Indonesian Language Study Tour
Friday 28 June	Year 9 2025 Selections Due in
Friday 28 June	Term 2 Concludes - 2:05 pm
Monday 15 June	Staff Professional Learning Student Free Day
Tuesday 16 June	Term 3 Commences for Students

## Congratulations

Congratulations to staff member Eamonn Vines and partner Jess who will be getting married on the middle weekend of the holidays. We wish you both a lifetime of happiness.

As indicated in the Important dates section above, the first day of term 2 for our students is Tuesday 16 of April with Monday 15th being designated as a professional learning day for all staff.

We take this opportunity to wish everyone in our school community a restful two-week break. The Easter period is an important part of our Catholic tradition remembering that the "Risen Christ" lies at the heart of our belief.

*The angel said to the women, "Do not be afraid, for I know that you are looking for Jesus, who was crucified. He is not here; he has risen, just as he said. Come and see the place where he lay. Then go quickly and tell his disciples: 'He has risen from the dead and is going ahead of you into Galilee. There you will see him.' Now I have told you." (MT 28:5-7)*

Thanks for your support and a happy Easter to all.

Damian, Kylie and Melissa