

16 May 2024

Dear Parents and Carers,

Through Catholic schooling, we strive to offer our students an education that is 'deeply and enduringly humanising', and we raise awareness of historical events and the social ramifications that have shaped our society in the past and into the present. It is important that we challenge our students to deepen their understanding of humanity and life and consider how prejudice and discrimination affect their own behaviour and their relationships with others.

This week we recall the Gospel message to 'love one another as I have loved you' which asks us to be inclusive and accepting of others. Each and every one of us has been created and loved by God and has an equal place at the table, a place in society, and a voice to be heard.... (Isaiah 43:1,4)

Teaching and learning about Social Justice issues takes place throughout our school year. We take time to reflect on social issues during daily prayer time and within our subject and wellbeing curriculum. Religious Education classes provide socially minded learning opportunities aimed at developing the social conscience of our students. Specific to our Catholic school context is our teaching of Catholic Social Teaching across all year levels. Students seem particularly drawn to the principles of Human Dignity and Preferential Option for the Poor, quickly grasping the need to support the vulnerable and treat others with kindness, fairness and dignity. This term our Year 9s are learning about the issue of homelessness and Year 10s are learning about modern-day slavery, which really does still exist! Our Year 11s are delving into religious perspectives related to ethical issues including capital punishment.

World events and the Social Justice calendar don't always align with our curriculum design, so to connect authentically with the world and humanity, we raise awareness beyond the Religious Education classroom into 'every day, every lesson, every staff member'. Through this approach, we embed a shared commitment to a world made better through justice and inclusivity. A date for recognition occurs tomorrow, the 17th of May, which marks the date that homosexuality was removed from the World Health Organisation register as a disease. In response to this historical event, we acknowledge the impact of societal attitudes and prejudice on the sexually and gender diverse and educate for a world of acceptance and inclusion. Beyond this day, we respect humankind in all of its diversity as we are all created and loved by God. We are all different, but the same in that our human flourishing can only come when we are free of any kind of bullying, harassment and discrimination.

[Nazareth Parish Mass](#)

Nazareth Parish will celebrate their monthly mass in the Resource Centre this Sunday at 9 am. Numbers continue to increase at this celebration, and we are pleased to be able to host the parish community at our school. Everyone is invited to come along.

[Trivia Night fun for Geelong Viqueque Friendship Schools](#)

Last Friday evening, Year 11 language students tried their luck at the GVFS Trivia Night. Our students, led by Bu Haintz and Bu Jack, were wonderful ambassadors of our College; the aim of the evening was not to win but to have fun and connect with others who also support GVFS. The ticket sales, raffle and other activities throughout the night raised much-needed funds for students in Viqueque, Timor Leste.

Along with other Geelong Schools, 'The Month of May for Timor Leste', is a time to raise awareness and funds for GVFS so that they can support one of our closest neighbours by improving educational outcomes. You can help support this cause through the 'Cans for Scholarships' initiative or the Timor Routley's Pie Drive! 25% of total school orders made through the [Pie Drive Fundraising link](#) go directly to the GVFS Scholarship Program! These scholarships support young people to attend school. Order and pay through the online portal and you or your young person can collect your delicious goods at Iona on Thursday afternoon, June 6!



Education Support Appreciation Day

Thursday the 16th of May is Education Support Appreciation Day. At Iona we are incredibly blessed to have a myriad of support staff, who work tirelessly both inside and outside our classrooms. We appreciate your incredibly important role in making our school an inclusive and supportive place for students.



Covid-19 Advice



COVID-19 ADVICE

With the cooler months upon us, we thought it would be a timely opportunity to remind you about the increase in COVID-19 activity. [The Department of Health](#) provides the following advice on preventative measures:

1. Wear a mask: a high-quality and well-fitted mask can protect you and others from the virus.
2. Get vaccinated: stay up to date with your COVID-19 vaccine. There are new monovalent vaccines available that are highly effective at preventing severe disease. You should get a booster if you are over 75 and haven't had one for 6 months. Other groups are also recommended to get a booster. Vaccines are available at your GP or local pharmacy.
3. Let fresh air in open windows and doors when you can – it reduces the spread of the virus. Meet outside when possible.
4. Get tested: if you have symptoms, take a rapid antigen test. If you test positive and are eligible for antivirals, take them as soon as possible.
5. Stay at home if you are unwell: if you have COVID-19, you should stay at home for at least five days until you have no symptoms. Speak to your GP if symptoms worsen.
6. Take antivirals if eligible: if you are at risk of falling very sick, you may be eligible for COVID-19 antiviral medicines. You must take these within 5 days of developing symptoms - the sooner the better. See your GP for more information.

Teaching and Learning Update

It's been a busy start to the term as we come quickly towards the end-of-semester assessment period of the year. As a Teaching and Learning team, we have been so impressed by the diligence that many of our students have shown in their approach to their studies throughout Semester 1 and in particular, are proud of the way that our Year 7 cohort has settled into the rhythm of managing a range of different subjects and teachers in their first year of Secondary School.

It has been a whirlwind of activity in recent weeks, especially for our senior students who are gearing up for the next phase of their academic journey.



Senior School Parent Information Evenings & Subject Selection Sessions

Our Senior School Parent Information Evenings and subject selection sessions have provided invaluable insights for our Year 9, 10, and 11 students as they navigate through the process of selecting their courses for the upcoming academic year of 2025. The decisions made during this time are pivotal in shaping their academic pathways and future aspirations and we ask that parents and carers please reach out to the Learning Team with any questions that they may have.

Guidance and Counseling

At Iona, we recognise the significance of personalised guidance and support, especially during crucial decision-making periods. As such, all Year 10 students have or will be participating in one on one course counselling meetings with our Senior Pathways Team to explore their options thoroughly. Additionally, many of our Year 11 students have been actively seeking advice on their pathway into Year 12, ensuring that they are well-equipped for the challenges and opportunities that lie ahead.

Celebrating Academic Success

It has been wonderful to see just how diligently the majority of our Year 11s have approached their Unit 1 and Unit 3 studies. Congratulations to our senior students for their commendable efforts in their VCE and VCE VM studies. As Units 1 and 3 draw to a close, we encourage both students and their families to reflect on the successes and challenges of Semester 1 and set realistic goals for success in Units 2 and 4 with this past semester in mind.

Utilising Resources Effectively

One of the hallmarks of success lies in the effective utilisation of resources. The VCE lunchtime study sessions held on the C level have been buzzing with activity as students engage in collaborative learning and revision sessions.

Furthermore, it is heartening to see our students utilising their breaks wisely, seeking guidance from teachers, and working diligently towards success in their assessments.

As partners in your young person's educational journey, we encourage you to continue providing your support and encouragement. We look forward to the exciting developments and achievements that lie ahead.

Ms. Kate McLaren and Mr. Steve Parker
Heads of Learning and Innovation

Our Students Love Sending Gratitude!

Each Tuesday our students are prompted to check in and tell us how they are feeling through the LineWise Pulse app. This easy and quick check-in has become a regular part of our practice and has really assisted us in normalizing help seeking behaviour. A new feature added to the app last year is that students can give gratitude to either a staff member or a peer.

Expressing gratitude contributes to a positive, supportive and thriving learning environment that benefits not only our teachers but our staff as well. Pulse highlights what values students and staff are sending gratitude to the most. By recognizing and celebrating the standout gratitude points, our students may be more motivated and closer on a community level. Mr McKew highlighted the huge numbers of students giving gratitude at our last assembly. So far this year 9,408 messages of gratitude have been sent by our students.

By far our biggest form of gratitude given is highlighting others' humour, and kindness and just to say thanks! Nice to see the students also giving gratitude to their teachers. Keep up the good work and keep giving gratitude.

Gratitude given ⓘ Give gratitude Week Month Term Year **Year** Current Over time

Gratitude	Student	Staff	Total	Gratitude	Student	Staff	Total	
9408				Determination	1205	180	1385	
▼ 18750	Kindness	2088	317	2405	Just say thanks!	2113	528	2641
	Fairness	442	58	500	No gratitude ⓘ		674	
	Humour	2340	137	2477				

Ms Kylie Power
Deputy Principal, Wellbeing

Boys 1st XVIII

Another exciting and close finish for Iona boys 1st XVIII as they beat Kardinia International school by 16 points on Tuesday. In a seesawing affair where the lead changed several times during the day and Kardinia hit the lead 7 minutes into the last quarter and raced out to a 10 point lead before two last quarter goals each to Ethan Taylor and Peter Christo saw Iona finish in front.

Final Scores
Iona College defeated **Kardinia International School**
11.7 (73) to 8.9 (57)

Goal Scorers
E. Taylor 4, T. McEnroe 3, P. Christo 3, I. Franklin 1

Best Players
M. Penrice, E. Taylor, T. McEnroe, J. Prosser, L. White, P. Christo

Year 10,2025 Online Information Night



Attention all parents and carers of Year 10 students for 2025: You and your young people are invited to a 'Year 10,2025 Online Information Night'. This event is a valuable opportunity for our future Year 10s to learn about subject selection and pathway opportunities. Attendance is highly encouraged by you and your young person.

Details:

Date: Monday 27 May 2024

Time: 6:00 pm – 7:00 pm

The online meeting link was emailed to current Year 9 parents and carers yesterday.

Mrs Melissa Gould
Deputy Principal, Learning

Concert Band and String Ensemble

At Iona, we have a developing Concert Band run by our woodwind teacher Allister Cox and a String Orchestra directed by Michael O'Donnell. If there are any parents in our community who play a string or a woodwind/brass instrument and would be interested in playing in either of these ensembles you are more than welcome to join.

Rehearsals are on Tuesday from 3:10-4:15 pm

Please contact me via email if you are interested or have any questions.

Ms Jodie Townsend
Head of Performing Arts

Maths @ Iona


Hi mathematicians! It's been great to see students and families gaining some valuable information about their 2025 Year 11 and Year 12 subjects and pathways! Upcoming is the Year 10 Online Information Night, and I thought it was timely to share the VCE/VM Mathematics options with you so you can feel informed about your choices.

There are three questions to ask yourself when you are making your VCE/VM Mathematics selections:

1. **What do I like?**
2. **What am I good at?**
3. **Where do I want to go?**

There are 4 main options for Mathematics at Iona College in the Senior Year:

VM Numeracy General Mathematics
Mathematical Methods Specialist Mathematics



There are **so many** mathematics pathways and options!


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MATHEMATICS OPTIONS

YEAR 10 2024	YEAR 11 2025	YEAR 12 2026
Pre Methods	Unit 1&2 General Mathematics	Unit 1&2 General Mathematics
	Unit 1& 2 Mathematical Methods	Unit 3&4 Mathematical Methods
	Unit 1&2 Specialist Mathematics	Unit 3&4 Specialist Mathematics
	Unit 3&4 General Mathematics	
Core Mathematics	Unit 1& 2 General Mathematics	Unit 3&4 General Mathematics
	VM <u>Numeracy</u>	VM Numeracy
Numeracy	VM Numeracy	VM Numeracy

There is an amount of flexibility in your math pathway as you move through the years, but some subjects lead more appropriately into others, some mathematics options should be studied together – and some Unit 1&2 options are prerequisites to Unit 3&4 – so it is important to understand all the options!

Let's look at some student examples to get an idea of how this works:



Jemima has completed Year 10 Core Mathematics this year and found it difficult.


She wants to study Nursing once she finishes school, and mathematics isn't a prerequisite.

Jemima decides to do Unit 1&2 General Mathematics next year, and not complete math in Year 12.

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MATHEMATICS OPTIONS

YEAR 10 2024	YEAR 11 2025	YEAR 12 2026
Pre Methods	Unit 1&2 General Mathematics	Unit 1&2 General Mathematics
	Unit 1& 2 Mathematical Methods	Unit 3&4 Mathematical Methods
	Unit 1&2 Specialist Mathematics	Unit 3&4 Specialist Mathematics
	Unit 3&4 General Mathematics	
Core Mathematics	Unit 1& 2 General Mathematics	Unit 3&4 General Mathematics
Numeracy	VM Numeracy	VM Numeracy



Hugo has completed Pre Methods in Year 10.

He loves math and wants to challenge himself further with his math studies.

He also hopes to be an engineer.

Hugo selects to complete two Unit 1&2 Maths next year, with Mathematical Methods and Specialist Mathematics.

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MATHEMATICS OPTIONS

YEAR 10 2024	YEAR 11 2025	YEAR 12 2026
Pre Methods	Unit 1&2 General Mathematics	Unit 1&2 General Mathematics
	Unit 1& 2 Mathematical Methods	Unit 3&4 Mathematical Methods
	Unit 1&2 Specialist Mathematics	Unit 3&4 Specialist Mathematics
	Unit 3&4 General Mathematics	
Core Mathematics	Unit 1& 2 General Mathematics	Unit 3&4 General Mathematics
Numeracy	VM Numeracy	VM Numeracy



Stella has completed Core Mathematics in Year 10.

She is very organised and even though she finds some ideas tricky, she usually does well in math.

Stella wants to complete her VCE and then do an Electrician Apprenticeship

Stella selects to complete Unit 1&2 General Mathematics and continue those studies in Year 12., while she does VM.

MATHEMATICS OPTIONS

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YEAR 10 2024	YEAR 11 2025	YEAR 12 2026
Pre Methods	Unit 1&2 General Mathematics	Unit 1&2 General Mathematics
	Unit 1& 2 Mathematical Methods	Unit 3&4 Mathematical Methods
	Unit 1&2 Specialist Mathematics	Unit 3&4 Specialist Mathematics
	Unit 3&4 General Mathematics	
Core Mathematics	Unit 1& 2 General Mathematics	Unit 3&4 General Mathematics
Numeracy	VM Numeracy	VM Numeracy



Connor has completed Pre Methods in Year 10.

He loves math and is good at it. He wants to experience a Year 12 subject in Year 11.


He also aims to do a Commerce degree after school.

Connor selects to complete Unit 1&2 Mathematical Methods, and also applies to complete Unit 3&4 General Mathematics next year.

MATHEMATICS OPTIONS

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YEAR 10 2024	YEAR 11 2025	YEAR 12 2026
Pre Methods	Unit 1&2 General Mathematics	Unit 1&2 General Mathematics
	Unit 1& 2 Mathematical Methods	Unit 3&4 Mathematical Methods
	Unit 1&2 Specialist Mathematics	Unit 3&4 Specialist Mathematics
	Unit 3&4 General Mathematics	
Core Mathematics	Unit 1& 2 General Mathematics	Unit 3&4 General Mathematics
Numeracy	VM Numeracy	VM Numeracy



Max is studying Numeracy in Year 10.

He also aims to become a hairdresser and wants to start working towards that whilst at school.

Max selects to complete VM Numeracy along with his other VM subjects.

MATHEMATICS OPTIONS

YEAR 10 2024	YEAR 11 2025	YEAR 12 2026
Pre Methods	Unit 1&2 General Mathematics	Unit 1&2 General Mathematics
	Unit 1& 2 Mathematical Methods	Unit 3&4 Mathematical Methods
	Unit 1&2 Specialist Mathematics	Unit 3&4 Specialist Mathematics
	Unit 3&4 General Mathematics	
Core Mathematics	Unit 1& 2 General Mathematics	Unit 3&4 General Mathematics
Numeracy	VM Numeracy	VM Numeracy

Students have the opportunity to accelerate their mathematics studies at both Year 10 and Year 11, so please make sure to ask about these opportunities.

At Iona, we pride ourselves on offering a pathway unique to every student. We know that subject selection can be overwhelming, and with mathematics having so many options it can be confusing!

Any questions, queries or concerns please reach out! Consider the following people as your first point of call:



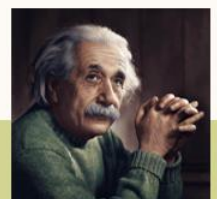
MRS. MCLAREN & MR. PARKER
LEARNING & INNOVATION



MS. KEATING
MATHEMATICS



MR. HORSTEAD & MS. CASSIDY
SUBJECT PATHWAYS



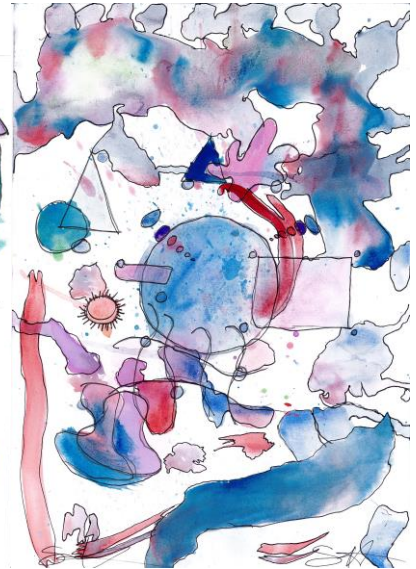
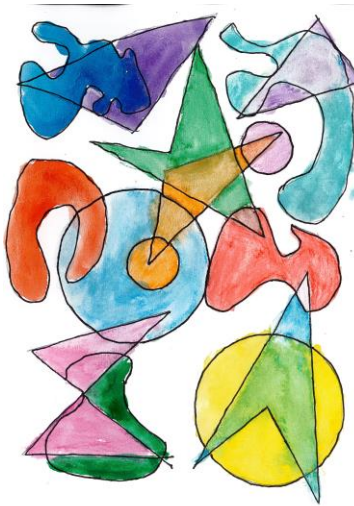
YOUR MATH TEACHER!

Thank you for reading and happy subject selecting!

Ms Lou Keating
Maths/Numeracy Leader

Art Department News

Our Year 7s have been exploring 'Ink Artwork' and we are blown away by their amazing creations. Here is a sample of artwork



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	Year 7 & 8 Digital Tattoo Information 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 Online
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 Online
Friday 14 June	VCE Unit 1 Ends
Saturday 15 June - Sunday 23 June	Year 10 Central Australia Experience
Monday 17 June	VCE Unit 2 Commences
Tuesday 18 June	General Achievement Test (GAT) VCE Unit 3 and 4 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 July	Staff Professional Learning Student Free Day
Tuesday 16 July	Term 3 Commences for Students

Thanks for your support.

Damian, Kylie and Melissa