

**20 June 2024**

Dear Parents and Carers,

This year's Refugee Week theme "Finding Freedom" – with a focus on family – encapsulates the profound journey of resilience, strength and unity that defines the refugee experience. This theme invites us to explore the stories of refugees who, despite the challenges they encounter, are strengthened by their families and family-like connections. Whether it's the unwavering support of parents, the protective love between siblings, or the communal strength found in extended and chosen families, neighbours and support systems upon arrival in Australia, or the financial and emotional backbones that make the journey to safety possible, these connections become a beacon of hope in times of uncertainty. Around this time of Refugee Week, our students revisit our need to show compassion to Refugees and Asylum Seekers as they seek freedom and safety. This compassion is at the core of who we are as a Catholic community.



A reminder to Parents/Carers of Year 7 and 8 students, please consider participating in our food drive to collect groceries for The Welcome Place. This simple giving-action supports refugees and asylum seekers in the Geelong region. Please send one item from [this grocery list](#) to your young person's Community Group by the last day of term and our staff will deliver our donations to the centre.



**LONA**  
COLLEGE  
GEELONG

Calling for  
grocery donations  
from our Year  
7 & 8's to make a  
difference ❤️



FOOD  
DRIVE

### Congratulations to our Year 11 GAT Students



This year was Iona's first ever GAT! Congratulations to the Year 11 students who completed the GAT! Your hard work and dedication are commendable, and we are incredibly proud of your efforts. A big thanks to the group of Year 11 parents and carers who helped with the lunch in our Resource Centre for those who sat the GAT. We love moments like these where a strong sense of community is evident.

### Central Australia Report Back

A group of 40 courageous students accompanied by 4 staff are currently travelling through Central Australia. They are having a wonderful time exploring our beautiful country. Reports home have shared their experiences including an opal mine tour at Coober Pedy and sleeping underground in a dugout. In Alice Springs, Rex the Snakeman kept the group entertained with his reptiles and enormous olive python which tested the courage of the students and staff as it slid its way across their shoulders. They explored Standley Chasm, where they prepared and ate kangaroo tails which tested their spirit of adventure. They learnt about kinship, Indigenous plants and the importance of the native environment to the Arrernte people. Tasting bush coconuts, wattle seed and lemon myrtle damper were highlights of the Cultural experience. The trip is showing the students the vastness of Australia with long days of driving and visits to the School of the Air and the Royal Flying Doctors Service giving our students an appreciation of the ease at which they access education and medical care. It is a significant challenge to be away from home for nine days, to sleep in tents, to eat foods that are different from home, and to be amongst peers who are not necessarily within usual friendship groups, but our students are learning that having courage enriches life and creates wonderful memories.



Pushing for Better



Iona College has been Pushing For Better across the first few weeks of June, with 107 participants volunteering to do 3,249 push ups (or sit ups or squats, etc) to raise awareness of mental health issues in Australia as part of the 2024 Push Up Challenge. The Challenge runs from June 5 to June 28 this year and each day there is a new challenge connected to a statistic or health tip related to mental health and wellbeing. At the halfway point our Community has collectively pushed out 72,008 push ups (and counting) and has raised \$1,412 for Headspace, who support young Australians aged 12-25 who are experiencing mental health challenges.

As it stands we're in the top-20 of the 150 Victorian schools taking part this year in terms of push ups completed – so proud! Our Year 7s and 8s are leading the way at the moment, but there are participants from across every level of the school – including a handful of staff – who are all working together to Push For Better. If you'd like to support this fundraiser please feel free to donate via their [fundraising link](#) or the following QR code.



Mr Dean Millard  
*Teacher*

## Consent Labs Online Parent and Carers Workshop Monday 24 June

**CONSENT LABS**

### ONLINE PARENT/CARER SESSION CONSENT LABS

📅 MONDAY  
24 JUNE  
🕒 6:00 PM  
📍 ONLINE

It is essential that our students are equipped with the knowledge and skills to understand and respect personal boundaries. Educating our students about consent helps prevent misunderstandings and reduces the risk of harassment and assault.

Following on from the student workshops held earlier this term, we are offering an online session for parents and carers. We encourage all parents/carers to attend so that we can continue to lay the foundations for healthy interactions throughout our young people's lives.

#### Details of the event are as follows:

- **Date:** Monday, 24 June
- **Time:** 6:00 PM
- **Location:** Online

Did you know that only 46% of Australian parents feel comfortable dealing with the online risks their children face? Many parents find it difficult to talk to their children about topics such as online safety, dating, and consent. By attending this session, we aim to:

- Explain best practices and evidence-based research that underpins Consent Labs programs.
- Explore age-appropriate consent and respectful relationship education.
- Assist parents in starting meaningful conversations with their young person with practical strategies and tips.
- Provide an opportunity to partner with the College to ensure a broader culture of respect and safety in our community.

[Please register for the event online.](#)

Parents and carers can join the session on Monday evening by [clicking on the following link.](#)

This link will also be emailed to parents on Monday.

Ms Kylie Power  
*Deputy Principal Wellbeing*

### New Pathways Press at IONA

Our Pathways Team is excited to launch our new Iona Pathways Newsletter, the **Pathways Press**. The **Pathways Press** has been created as a reference point for ideas, important dates, events and updates throughout the careers space at Iona, Geelong, Melbourne, Victoria and beyond.

Whether you are a student or parent/carer of Year 7 or Year 11, you can use the Pathways Press to help aid or spark an area of interest in your pathways journey.

Our first edition can be found [here](#). In this edition you will find information about:

- What the Pathways Hub can assist you with
- Dates to Diarise in Term School Holidays and Term 3
- Job seeking sites
- Apprenticeship and Traineeship opportunities
- Discover ACU Melbourne – FREE EVENTS in the Term 2 school holidays!
- Discipline Guided Visits ACU Ballarat – Term 2 & 3 school holidays
- RMIT Tech and Trades Experience Day
- Events at Monash
- A Day at Melbourne
- Apprenticeship & Traineeship Forum
- Studying Psychology at La Trobe University
- Career as a Data Scientist
- Accelerated Bachelor of Education (Primary) at Deakin University
- Film Production workshop
- Optometry Courses in Australia in 2024
- Speech Pathology and Audiology Degrees in Victoria in 2024



#### **Find & Subscribe to the Pathways Press Newsfeed**

**For Students:** Visit [Careers](#) to find the Newsfeed and to subscribe, click on 'for students' choose Newsfeed [subscribe to Pathways Press newsfeed](#)

**For Parents:** Visit [Careers](#) to find the Newsfeed and to subscribe, click on 'for parents' choose Newsfeed and [subscribe to Pathways Press newsfeed](#)

*The Pathways Team*

## Resource Centre News

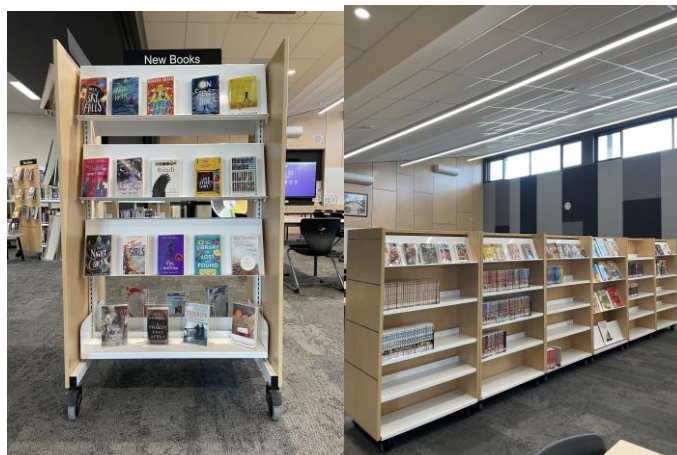


As usual, there has been quite a bit going on in the Resource Centre. Apart from lots of new books as well as new bookshelves arriving, we have officially opened our VCE study room to students.

As the title suggests, this space is open to VCE students when the Resource Centre is open. We have 12 carrels for students to use to study and work undisturbed. 6 of these stations are equipped with laptop chargers. The space is heated and there is a small supply of stationery for students who require it.

There are guidelines for using the space which we expect to be adhered to such as not disturbing others and keeping the space clean and tidy. We are pleased to be able to offer this new space to our dedicated students and we look forward to more students using this space as we move closer to exams and assessments.

We were also pleased to host the lunch arranged by parents for the Year 11 students who were sitting the GAT. The students enjoyed their lunch and a bit of respite before getting stuck into the second part of the GAT after their lunch.



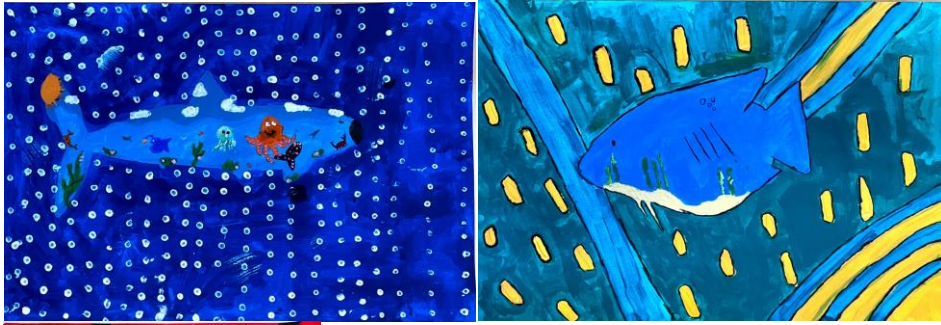
Is your young person a reader? Whether they are or not please encourage them to borrow a book from our library to read over the upcoming holidays. We have a wide variety of fiction and non-fiction titles for students to choose from and we take requests! Students can also borrow ebooks to read on their phone, tablet, or laptop from the ePlatform app or website. Find it via the Library website [here](#), log in using your Iona username and password, and off you go! If you have any questions email [library@iona.vic.edu.au](mailto:library@iona.vic.edu.au).

Ms Sharon Cuthbertson  
*Resource Assistant*

### Art Department News

Our Year 7 students have been making great progress on their "Inside Out" major artwork task. For this project, they used multiple elements of art to choose an animal with a distinct pattern as the basis of their artwork. They then painted the animal, incorporating its natural environment as the inside of the animal and using the animal's markings and patterns as the background. The materials used for this task included acrylic paint, markers and pencils.





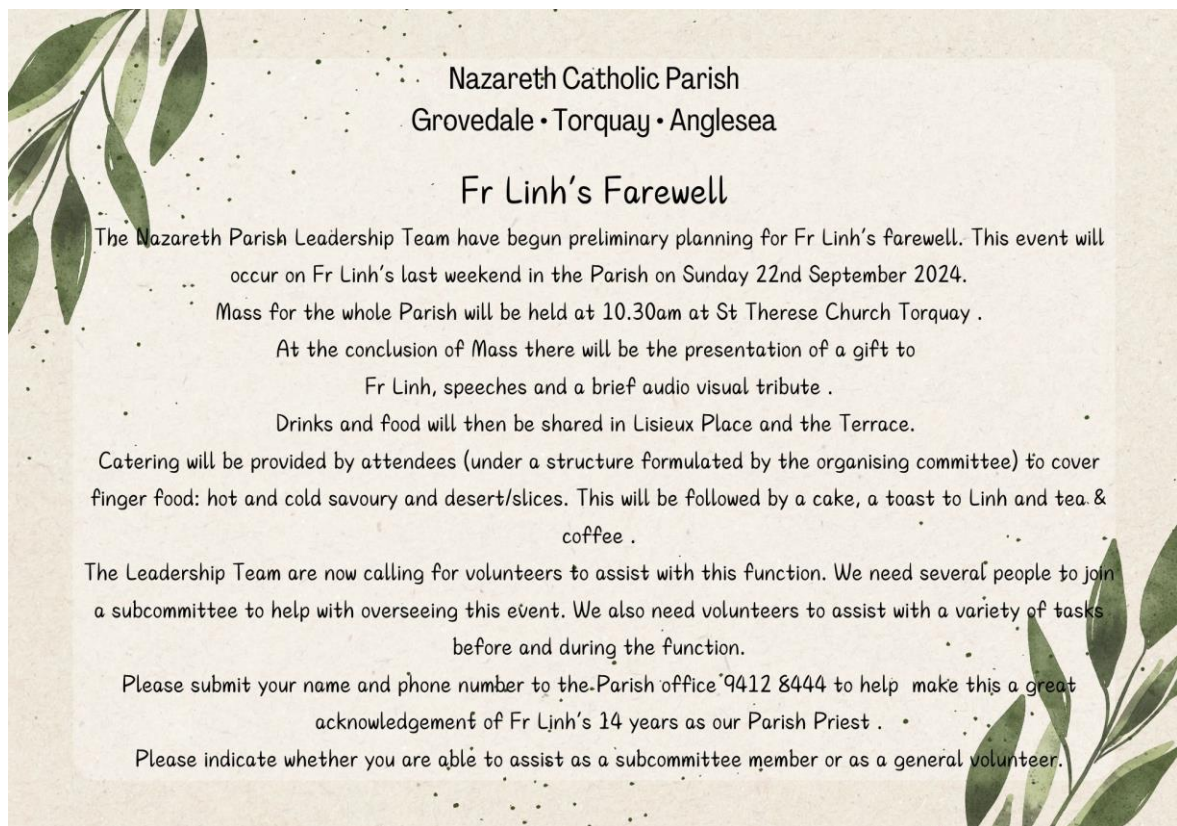
Pixar's Inside and Out 2 – a chance to talk to our young people about new emotions!

Much of Inside Out 2 is not only relatable but also backed by science. As our young people enter adolescence, their brains go through a rapid 'construction', with new wiring designed for seeking out and prioritising social relationships with peers. Here is an interesting and timely article about [emotions don't decide who you are](#) – perhaps over the holidays go and see the movie and unpack this important topic with them.

Ms Kylie Power  
*Deputy Principal Wellbeing*

### Parish News

The Nazareth Catholic Parish's Leadership Team is seeking suggestions for a new name for their Parish. If you are interested in being involved in this process [please see the following letter from the Parish](#).



Nazareth Catholic Parish  
Grovedale • Torquay • Anglesea

### Fr Linh's Farewell

The Nazareth Parish Leadership Team have begun preliminary planning for Fr Linh's farewell. This event will occur on Fr Linh's last weekend in the Parish on Sunday 22nd September 2024.

Mass for the whole Parish will be held at 10.30am at St Therese Church Torquay .

At the conclusion of Mass there will be the presentation of a gift to Fr Linh, speeches and a brief audio visual tribute .

Drinks and food will then be shared in Lisieux Place and the Terrace.

Catering will be provided by attendees (under a structure formulated by the organising committee) to cover finger food: hot and cold savoury and desert/slices. This will be followed by a cake, a toast to Linh and tea & coffee .

The Leadership Team are now calling for volunteers to assist with this function. We need several people to join a subcommittee to help with overseeing this event. We also need volunteers to assist with a variety of tasks before and during the function.

Please submit your name and phone number to the Parish office 9412 8444 to help make this a great acknowledgement of Fr Linh's 14 years as our Parish Priest .

Please indicate whether you are able to assist as a subcommittee member or as a general volunteer.

### 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
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
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
Monday 24 June	Consent Lab Parent & Carers Online Workshop
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