

19 September 2024

Dear Parents and Carers,

We are so excited for Columba Day tomorrow. This is our fourth Columba Day celebration and it is really wonderful that each year many more students and staff have joined us for our special day. We started the tradition in 2020, intent on setting aside a day purely for communal reflection and fun. While this year we cannot gather as a full school due to the Stadium works, technology will enable us to stream the mass, celebrated by Fr Jim Clarke, from the Resource Centre into our classrooms and homes. Year 7 students and a handful of older students have been active in volunteering for roles at the mass and we thank them for sharing their talents and overcoming their nerves, to lead our community by reading and assisting. Our celebrations are so much better when we have student participation, and we are particularly proud of our youngest Iona students for getting involved on this significant occasion.

Following mass, students and staff will enjoy our College grounds with entertainment coming through lots of fun activities including watching the staff get dunked in the tank and enjoying food from the food trucks. Each year as our students have grown in size and skill, the AFL games have become harder for the staff to win, but no doubt our staff will triumph again tomorrow as per tradition!

On Columba Day, we stand back to appreciate how far we've come, and we give thanks for all of the hands, hearts and minds that have contributed to making Iona College what it is. Archbishop Hart imagined our school as being a centre of learning by the sea, and so he named us Iona. This naming connects us to the isle off Scotland where St Columba established a place for learning about the Gospels and spreading its messages of love and justice across the world in order to make positive change. Today we proudly recognised our past and our present and we continue creating story, shaped by compassion, courage, leadership and excellence, that will change the world.

Farewell to Fr Linh

We'd like to take the opportunity to acknowledge the departure of Fr Linh as he takes up a new parish priest appointment in Melbourne after fourteen years as the Parish Priest of the Nazareth Parish. Fr Linh was the first of four Delegated Canonical Administrators appointed to Iona at the end of 2018 and subsequent to that a Canonical Administrator on our Advisory Council. We are very grateful to Fr Linh for his support of Iona over the years and his willingness to give his time to our evolving Catholic school community.

Columba Day Mass

Please join us for Mass via livestream if you are able. It will begin at 9.15 am. A link will be sent to Parents/Carers tomorrow morning.

An invitation to 'Why God?' – a conversation with Fr Richard Leonard

Our community are invited to attend the 'Why God?' event with Fr. Richard Leonard on October 11 & 12th at St Bernard's, Belmont. He is a most interesting and entertaining presenter so parents/carers might be keen to catch one or two of his sessions.

Why God? In Conversation with Fr Richard Leonard Event: TWO Day Parish Renewal

Purpose: An opportunity for spiritual growth and to activate faith-based service within our school/parish communities and beyond.

Location: St. Bernard's Church, 74 Fryers Road, Belmont.

Dates: Friday, October 11 & Saturday, October 12, 2024

Free event, donations are appreciated.

Bookings for Friday: [https:// www.trybooking.com/cuppe](https://www.trybooking.com/cuppe)

Bookings for Saturday: [https:// www.trybooking.com/cupud](https://www.trybooking.com/cupud)

Staff on Pilgrimage

Ms Kristin Flynn and Miss Georgia Lappin will participate in a pilgrimage to Rome, Siena and Assisi in these school holidays as part of the 'Inspired to Lead' formation program. This program supports MACS teachers and staff to deepen their faith and Catholic identity, aligning with the vision and mission of the Archdiocese of Melbourne. It will include learning about the Church's mission and Christ-centred leadership and opportunities for personal faith formation. We wish Kristin and Georgia safe travels and look forward to hearing about their enrichment experiences on their return.

Lorne 120

Tomorrow, our Lorne 120 students will see months of training and fundraising for Give Where You Live come to fruition as they complete their relay run from Iona to Lorne and back. We are incredibly proud of the dedication, time and passion that has gone into this journey. Photos of their achievement will be shared in the coming weeks. We wish our Lorne 120 staff and students the best of luck as they embark on this exciting adventure!

Columba Day Logistics

A reminder that students are invited to wear colourful fancy dress tomorrow. Alternatively, the Sport Uniform is also an option. As there may be occasional drizzle throughout the day, it's a good idea for your young person to bring a jacket.

For parents and carers seeking an alternative to their young person bringing a debit card for the food trucks, consider purchasing an EFTPOS gift card from your local supermarket. The canteen will also be open for over-the-counter purchases, with limited pre-ordered items available.

The day will start with a whole school mass, followed by a variety of fun activities. The school day will conclude at 2:05 pm, with buses running as normal from this time.

Performing Arts Update

We have been very busy as a team in our Performing Arts space in the last few weeks of school.

Charlie and the Chocolate Factory



As you will have most likely already seen, audition information is now available for parents and students to learn more about how we are going to manage the show and also sign up for auditions. There are only a few more audition spaces available.

We were also pleased to announce our creative team with Nick Mawson (Director), Jodie Townsend (Musical Director & Vocal Coach) and Xavier McGettigan (Choreographer). There will be many more staff involved in helping and supporting this event and their roles will be revealed soon.

Please take a look at the [Audition Information pack](#) to find out more about what is going to be a very exciting Combined Schools Musical.

Choral Collaborative



On Thursday 12th September, we had our Choral Collaborative concert. This concert was originally planned to be in The Stadium here at Iona but unfortunately due to construction, we had to move the venue. Our sincerest thanks go to Saint Ignatius College for offering their beautiful venue for this event.

As a collaborative event, we were joined by choirs from Christian College, Clonard College, Sacred Heart, Saint Ignatius College and St Joseph's College. Each choir performed their own repertoire and then we all joined to sing *Lucy in the Sky with Diamonds* and *I Can See Clearly Now*.

It is always inspiring to work with other educators and their students. New friends, new ideas – great musical learning for all.

Thank you to all the staff and students involved in this event.

VCE Masterclass



On Wednesday 18th September we were fortunate to be able to take our VCE Year 11 Music students to Geelong Grammar School for a combined performance master class. The performance component of the VCE Music Course is a major part of the Study Design. This opportunity allowed our students to hear other VCE students and also receive valuable feedback from another teacher.

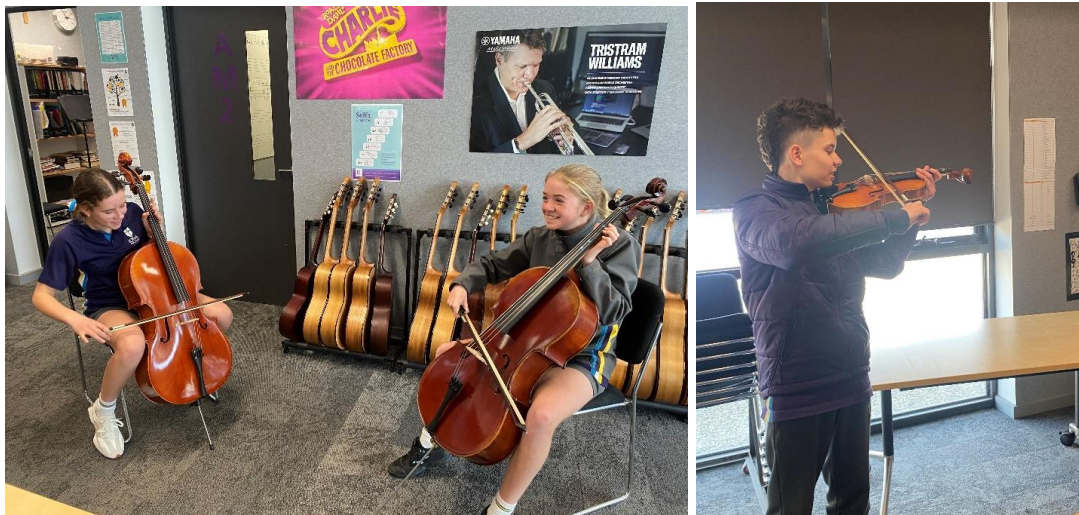
Students were given the opportunity to perform for each other and then we all combined to perform *Until I Found You* by Stephen Sanchez.

Thank you to John Shawcross and Geelong Grammar for having us “share and play” on this day.

Music Lessons

It has been so wonderful to see the students involved in having music lessons grow gradually over my time at Iona. We now have 13 music tutors with over 100 music lessons a week.

In the last two weeks some of our Year 7 classes have been trying our brass and string instruments. We definitely have some students who have a natural flair for some of these instruments.



Enrolling in Lessons

If you are interested in enrolling your young person in instrumental lessons I would encourage you to think about an orchestra instrument. If students learn an orchestral instrument they then have the opportunity to join an ensemble which makes music making so much more fun and allows them to meet new friends. If you are unsure of what instrument your young person might like to learn [this link will take you to our website](#) where you can see videos of the different instruments. Students [can also take a "compatibility" test](#) to see what instrument might suit them.

Terminating Lessons

Students will often want to cease lessons for varying reasons. If your young person does not want to continue with lessons please let Ms Lottie Noller know ASAP so we can ensure staff loads for Term 4. Reports for your young person's music lessons will be coming out in Term 4. In the meantime, if you have any questions or require feedback from their teachers, please feel free to write a message in the Music Diary or contact the teachers directly via email.

New Equipment

As every student knows we are very short of space in the Music area. To try and combat this we have purchased some wonderful new equipment that allows a 'band' experience anywhere.

Students have been enjoying working with our Boss Gigcasters and our new NUX Drum kit. The NUX Drum kit allows students to physically play the drums through headphones or a small amp. They can then plug these into the Boss Gigcasters and play in an ensemble with other musicians. A Boss Gigcaster allows 4 students to "jam" with headphones anywhere there is a PowerPoint! So much fun! Aran and Kade have been using this equipment to create and record an original song.



Term 4 – What is coming up?

- Friday 18th October – our contemporary bands head to the Royal Geelong Show to perform.

- Thursday 21st November – Ensemble. This is a large concert that will involve all of our musical ensembles. Book your tickets using this [TryBooking link](#).



- Tuesday 3rd December – Carols@Iona.

Keep the date free and bring the family!

Jodie Townsend
Head of Performing Arts

Iona College Students Shine at Youth Model United Nations Conference

Last Friday, September 13th, a group of our dedicated Senior Students made a remarkable impression representing Iona College at the prestigious Youth Model United Nations Conference, hosted by St. Joseph's College. This event brought together young minds from across the state to engage in high-level discussions on one of today's most pressing issues: modern slavery and its impact on human rights.

Our teams, comprising of Year 11 students Anabel Jones, Olivia Davies, Gurleen Jaswal, Ava Tadich, Josie Leonard, Mia Curtis, Thomas Smith, Archer Westhorpe, Lily Dingle, Star Lawson, Stella Rose, Nicola Van Der Meer, Thomas Goerke, alongside Year 10 students Gursagun Sidhu, Arielle Chappell, and Michael Slater, showcased their exceptional skills and commitment. They were tasked with representing various nation-states, and their preparation and presentations reflected a deep understanding of the complex geopolitical contexts surrounding modern slavery.



The conference was an opportunity for our students to collaborate in teams of four, each team delving into the unique perspectives and positions of their assigned countries. The discussions involved engaging with peers from neighbouring Catholic Colleges such as St. Joseph's, Clonard, Sacred Heart, and Saint. Ignatius, as well as other institutions including Xavier, Genazzano, MacKillop, and Sacre Coeur Colleges.

Our students not only contributed insightful and well-researched positions but did so with a level of maturity and respect that distinguished them throughout the event. Their dedication and enthusiasm were evident, as they invested significant time and effort outside of their regular studies to prepare for this conference.

The focus of this year's conference on modern slavery highlighted the urgent need for global dialogue and action, and our students played a vital role in these critical discussions. Their ability to articulate their positions and engage respectfully with others was a testament to their hard work and the supportive educational environment at Iona College.



Students were presided over by Ian Howie, a former United Nations official, who lived and worked around the world fostering international relations with UN member states.



I AM IAN HOWIE
FORMER PRESIDENT

Ian is currently Adjunct Professor in International Studies at RMIT University, Melbourne. Ian has spent more than 30 years working in the field of international development. The main of this time was spent with the United Nations as a career official and included multi-year assignments as the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) representative in China (with responsibilities also for Mongolia and North Korea), Viet Nam, Ghana, Rwanda and Papua New Guinea. He also spent seven years at UN Headquarters, New York, following his appointment as Director, Division of Human Resources. Earlier, he served as a Chief Technical Adviser (CTA) with the International Labour Organisation (ILO) managing primary health care projects in rural Bangladesh, in the plantation sector in Sri Lanka and in the industrial estates of Kenya and the slums of Nairobi. Prior to joining the UN, Ian spent a number of years in the South Pacific working as a university lecturer, a trade union official and as a ministerial adviser. Ian has also been the recipient of a number of national awards including Distinguished Service medals from Viet Nam, China and Mongolia and a presidential citation from Ghana. Currently, Ian is on the boards of the Australian Institute of International Affairs, the Hotham Mission Asylum Seeker Project, and the Australian Reproductive Health Alliance, and is a patron of Marie Stopes International.



Thank you to Ms. Grayland and Lachie Corrigan for accompanying our students to the event and congratulations to Anabel, Olivia, Gurleen, Ava, Josie, Mia, Thomas, Archer, Lily, Star, Stella, Nicola, Thomas, Gursagun, Arielle, and Michael for their impressive representation of Iona College. We are incredibly proud of their achievements and the positive impact they made at the Youth Model United Nations Conference.

Kate McLaren
Head of Learning and Innovation

Iona Pathways Press

The September 20th edition of the Iona Pathways Press can be found [here](#).
In this edition you will find information about:

- **Work Experience Opportunities**
- **Melbourne International Games Week**
- **New Diploma of Radiation Science at RMIT**
- **New Majors in the Bachelor of Biomedicine at La Trobe**
- **News from Monash University**
 - **New Courses and/or Majors/Minors in 2025**
 - **Pathways into the Bachelor of Education**
- **Bachelor of Educational Studies at ACU**
- **Diploma in General Studies (DiGS) at the University of Melbourne**
- **Cetacean Sisters - Inspiring Future Female Scientists through Cetacean Science Workshops**
- **Media, Communication & Journalism Degrees in Victoria in 2024**
- **Snapshot of the University of Tasmania (UTAS) in 2024**



Find & Subscribe to the Pathways Press Newsfeed.

For Students: Visit the College Career website, click on 'for students' choose Newsfeed and subscribe: [Iona College Geelong \(ionacareers.com\)](https://ionacollegegeelong.com.au)

For Parents: Visit the College Career website, click on 'for parents' choose Newsfeed and subscribe: [Iona College Geelong \(ionacarers.com\)](https://ionacollegegeelong.com.au)

To contact the Pathways team please email pathways@iona.vic.edu.au

Exciting Opportunity for Year 11 Students



DEAKIN

**DEAKIN
YOUNG
INFLUENCER
AWARD
2024**

Aarushi Malhotra – Past Deakin Young Influencer Award recipient, current Deakin student

Reward your efforts, not just in the classroom, but outside of school life too, with a \$5000 scholarship to fund your university study at Deakin.

If you're in Year 11 and a strong leader in your local community, have a willingness to help others or enjoy thinking of new ideas to solve real-world problems, then this award is perfect for you.

Apply now, celebrate your achievements and stand out from your peers.
One winner will be selected from each participating school.

APPLICATIONS CLOSE
Wednesday 9 October 2024

For more information and to apply visit
deakin.edu.au/young-influencer-award

Deakin University CRICOS Provider Code: 00333B 22/01/2024



We are pleased to note that Iona has been invited to participate in Deakin's prestigious 2024 Young Influencer Award! If your young person is a leader in your community, enjoys helping others and loves coming up with new ideas to tackle real-world problems, this award could be for them.

One student from Iona, along with students from other select schools, will be chosen for this incredible opportunity.

The winner will receive a \$5000 scholarship to support their future studies, with \$500 awarded upon winning and the remaining \$4500 distributed during their first year of undergraduate study at Deakin University in 2026.

Applications close on Wednesday, 9 October, with the successful recipient announced on 1 November 2024.

Learn more and apply at [Deakin Young Influencer Award](https://deakin.edu.au/young-influencer-award).

Term 3 Dates to Remember

Date	Event
Monday 15 July	Staff Professional Learning Student Free Day
Tuesday 16 July	Term 3 Commences for Students
Thursday 25 July - Saturday 27 July	Combined Schools Musical
Thursday 1 August	Winter Soiree
Tuesday 6 August	Year 10 Immunisations
Friday 30 August	Staff Professional Development Student Free Day
Thursday 5 September	Student Progress Meetings
Tuesday 10 September	Parent/Carer Sleep Connection Workshop
Wednesday 11 September	Student Progress Meetings
Thursday 12 September	Combined Schools Choral Concert (Saint Ignatius College)
Friday 20 September	Columba Day
Friday 20 September	Term 3 Concludes - 2:05 pm
Tuesday 24 September	VCE Unit 4 Practice Exams
Monday 7 October	Staff Professional Learning Student Free Day
Tuesday 8 October	Term 4 Commences for Students

If you would like to download a printable version of the schedule above, [please access it here](#). This link will be updated each week in the newsletter as new events are added to the calendar.

Term 4 Dates to Remember

Date	Event
Monday 7 October	Staff Professional Learning Student Free Day
Tuesday 8 October	Term 4 Commences for Students
Tuesday 8 October	Whole College Assembly - Formal Uniform Not Required
Tuesday 15 October	Year 7 2025 Online Parent Information Night
Monday 28 October - Friday 1 November	Year 7 - 10 PAT Testing
Monday 4 November	Mid Term Break
Tuesday 5 November	Melbourne Cup Public Holiday
Tuesday 19 November - Monday 25 November	Year 11 Exams
Tuesday 26 November	Student Free Day
Wednesday 27 November	Year 11 Ignite Parent Evening
Thursday 28 November - Wednesday 4 December	VCE/VCE VM Ignite Program
Thursday 28 November	Year 7 & 8 Passion Project Expo (Columba Centre)
Thursday 28 November	Awards Celebration Evening (Stadium)
Tuesday 3 December	Carols @ Iona
Thursday 5 December	Last Day of Term 4 (3:05 pm)
Thursday 30 January	Year 7, Year 12 and New Iona Students (Year 8 - 11) First Day of 2025
Friday 31 January	Year 8,9,10 & 11 First Day 2025

If you would like to download a printable version of the schedule above, [please access it here](#). This link will be updated each week in the newsletter as new events are added to the calendar.



We wish our Iona community a healthy and happy holiday break, and we look forward to welcoming our students back on campus on Tuesday, 8th October for the start of Term 4.

Please note that we had originally planned for a whole school assembly on the first day back, and as such, had communicated that formal uniform would be required. However, as the assembly will now be broadcast remotely throughout the school, formal uniform is no longer necessary.

Also, please be aware that the Admin Office will be closed during the second week of the school holidays.

Thanks for your support.

Damian, Kylie and Melissa