

**17 October 2024**

Dear Parents and Carers,

During this final term of the year, we aspire to 'Excellence'. We draw inspiration from the story of our patron Sr Mary Glowrey, who has a remarkable tale of continuous learning and bettering herself so she could contribute to the world in ways that improved the lives of others. Mary studied hard despite the distractions of growing up in a large rural family and became the recipient of a scholarship, enabling her to pursue a university education. She began studying for a Bachelor of Arts but, two years later, changed her path and switched to medicine so she could help underprivileged women and children. With few female medical students at The University of Melbourne and no resident doctor positions in Victoria, Mary went to New Zealand where she became the first ever woman resident doctor. On return to Australia, she established the Catholic Women's League, set up the first baby clinic in Camberwell, and worked at St Vincent's Hospital, the Victorian Eye and Ear Hospital and her private practice which treated the unemployed and impoverished free of charge. Mary wanted to go to India because medical treatment was lacking for women and infant mortality rates were high. However, with WW1 closing shipping channels, Mary couldn't travel, so while she waited, she studied gynaecology, obstetrics and ophthalmology. Finally, in 1920 she sailed to India and with the permission of Pope Benedict XV, she became the first nun-doctor missionary. Sr Mary's commitment to improving health outcomes in India saw her establish and work in health care systems and institutions in India until her death in 1957.

Sr Mary's success did not come easily. She worked hard, she did her best, and she adjusted her pathways in response to factors out of her control. Sr Mary found herself in uncomfortable places as she forged new paths for women who were to come after her. She was motivated to achieve dreams that satiated her passions but, more significantly, served others. Sr Mary modelled 'Excellence' for our students and staff, and as we near the end of the year, undertaking assessments and experiencing culminating moments that bring our year to a close, we encourage our students to do their best and 'be excellent' in their own ways, to reflect on our House patron, Sr Mary Glowrey's story and adopt the attitudes and behaviours of one seeking to be the best they can be.

#### Actioning our motto of 'Changing the World'

Today is International Day for the Eradication of Poverty and we encourage our community to be aware of the needs of others, avoid judgement, and bring to mind actions which support those living in poverty. Late last term, our Year 10s undertook a personal initiative of 'care for others' as part of their Religious Education classes. The intention was not to raise money but to engage in simple achievable action that showed kindness and care for others. It has been heart-warming to hear of the generosity of our students who initiated simple projects such as cleaning out their wardrobe and donating clothes to community organisations such as St Vinnies and Our Village (previously Geelong Mums), donating ill-fitting footy boots to First Nations communities, and baking treats for distribution through Lazarus Community Centre. Many other projects have been completed and we are proud of the generous efforts of our Year 10s. We are conscious of teaching our students that they can change the world; they do so by impacting the world of just one person, they do so with small actions of kindness and making small financial or goods donations. Changing the world is certainly achievable.

As supporters of the 2024 Feed Geelong Appeal, Iona College encourages families to become involved in the Lunch Money Challenge. Food insecurity, arising from cost-of-living pressure, is a reality for many people within the Geelong region and this Appeal invites people to donate the equivalent of what they spend on lunch for one day. Donations are welcome at any time, but for the greatest impact, any donations made today and tomorrow, Thursday 17 and Friday 18 October, will be **DOUBLED** by partner organisations. On receiving this edition of the Weekly News, the time is perfect to hit the donate button and increase your small donation by 100%!



In 2023 the Iona College community raised \$3315 for the Feed Geelong Appeal

**FEED GEE LONG**  
APPEAL  
14 - 20 October 2024



Help make sure nobody in our community goes hungry

*Can you help Feed Geelong?*  
*In the Geelong community, many families are struggling to put food on the table every day. Together, we can change that. Get your school or workplace together and join in the Feed Geelong Appeal Lunch Money Challenge on 17 or 18 October and help create a fairer community where nobody goes hungry.* Give Where You Live Foundation

**WIN!** Sign up to the Lunch Money Challenge and you could win a produce hamper from The Paddock.





SIGN UP TO GET YOUR BUSINESS OR SCHOOL INVOLVED!

**Donate to the Feed Geelong Appeal [feedgeelong.com.au](http://feedgeelong.com.au)**  
 Feed Geelong is an initiative of the Give Where You Live Foundation to address food insecurity in the G21 region

### Nazareth Parish Mass

The monthly Nazareth Parish Mass will be held this Sunday at 9 am in the Resource Centre. All families and friends of the Parish are invited to attend.

## Year 7 R U OK Assembly



This morning, we had the privilege of hosting members from the *R U OK?* team, who presented a very interactive session to our Year 7 cohort. During the assembly, they delved into the meaning behind *R U OK?*, how to live by their philosophy, and the importance of checking in with your friends and listening authentically.

They were also here to acknowledge the artwork by Bridie in Year 7 who was selected as one of the five National Creative Legends, winners of the 'R U OK? Day art competition. The team presented a letter of congratulations from Libby Coker, the councillor for the Surf Coast Shire.

Bridie's beautiful artwork, titled "*Healthy Conversations*," beautifully represents the importance of connecting and checking in with people in your everyday life—whether at school, with neighbours, family, friends, or in your communities. Her piece illustrates her and her neighbour engaging in this vital dialogue.

Congratulations, Bridie! Thank you for sharing your artwork and for reinforcing the value of healthy conversations here at Iona.

### The Algorithm of disrespect – a new educational tool

As mentioned in earlier newsletters the Australian government has a current national campaign called **Stop It at the Start** that aims to prevent gender-based violence by influencing change to attitudes and behaviours that support or condone gender-based violence. It takes a primary prevention approach to ensure adults play a role in the prevention of disrespect and violence supportive attitudes among our young people aged 10-17 years. The latest tool is timely when our community leaders and politicians are discussing the impact social media has on young people. This may be uncomfortable to watch however it is a very real reality for many of our young people.

There is a marked contextual shift driving a significant knowledge gap for adults, creating a generational divide in how Australians feel and experience disrespect.

New significant influences, originating in **social media** are creating an echo chamber of disrespectful voices which are having a significant impact on the attitudes and behaviours of young people towards gendered disrespect. They are changing the definition of respect / disrespect, how disrespect is experienced and felt, and adults are largely absent from these conversations. These new powerful influences are creating fertile ground for generationally violence supportive attitudes to grow.

**The Algorithm of Disrespect™** is an educational tool simulating the average young person's online experience, following the journey of a boy named James. It is designed to reveal and educate adults on the new, hidden forms of disrespect. Everything you're about to see is based on the type of content being served to young people on a daily basis and has been recreated using actors. [Click here to watch the video version.](#)

Iona College is proud to be a lead school in the Barwon respectful relationships initiative. In Term 4 our focus is on unpacking the new Respectful Relationships curriculum and updating our approach to this sensitive yet important topic.

For further information about this campaign a resource hub with lots of ideas for conversation starters [can be found online here](#). The resources will assist you to better understand current experiences of disrespect - together we can have a positive influence on our young people and set the standard for what is and isn't acceptable, right from the start.

Kylie Power  
*Deputy Principal Wellbeing*

### Reminder - Senior Student Rugby Jumper

A reminder that the new Senior Student Rugby Jumper for Years 10-12 is now available for purchase at PSW for \$93.95. This jumper reflects the pride and responsibility of our senior students and will phase in over the next three years.

Parents and carers of senior students should have received an email with further details. There is no obligation to purchase until needed.

Year 12 2025 students will also have the option to purchase a Commemorative Year 12 Jumper in February 2025. More information will be shared soon.



### Iona Pathways Press

The October 18th edition of the Iona Pathways Press can be found [here](#). In this edition you will find information about:

- **Casual Employment opportunities – Baker’s Delight**
- **Iona Pathways Network**
- **Useful links for your pathways research**
- **Career Targets**
- **Snapshot of the White House Institute of Design 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 \(ionacareers.com\)](#)

For Parents: Visit the College Career website, click on ‘for parents’ choose Newsfeed and subscribe: [Iona College Geelong \(ionacarers.com\)](#)

To contact the Pathways team please email [pathways@iona.vic.edu.au](mailto:pathways@iona.vic.edu.au)

### Be Bold Be Heard Connections Afternoon

As you may have heard, on Tuesday, October 29th, the *Be Bold Be Heard* team is hosting a special Connections Afternoon for Year 10 and 11 female students at Iona College Geelong. This incursion has been a student-led initiative to build stronger connections and relationships between the females of Year 10 and 11 students.

After school, Year 10 and 11 girls are invited to enjoy snacks followed by a Pilates/movement class. From 5:00 to 6:30 pm, students and staff are encouraged to bring along any special women in their lives for a relaxed BBQ.

Please bring your own picnic rugs, camper chairs, and soft drinks as we come together to build connections within the Iona community. We'd love to see you there!

The Be Bold Be Heard team

### Maths @ Iona

You may have been speaking to your young person about their mathematics at home, where they have been sharing (enthusiastically!) the news about our weekly homework!

After some classes trialling a weekly homework in Term 3, all Years 7-10 mathematics classes will be completing regular weekly homework this term. This homework will appear on SIMON in Class Tasks with the due date determined by the classroom teacher. This homework is in addition to the work related to the concepts being taught in the classroom.

The task your child receives requires a series of maths skills to be repeated each week, with research showing that this regular skill building will support deeply entrenched learning of a skill. Put simply, with repetition, these skills will become second nature.

We understand that all students across mathematics have varying strengths and weaknesses, but we ask every student to complete the homework to the best of their ability!

Thank you for your support as we do our best to support your young person in the mathematics classroom!

Lou Keating  
*Learning Area Leader (Maths & Numeracy)*

### 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.

### Staff Update

We are pleased to welcome Marisa Lavars, our new College psychologist, to the Iona team. We are delighted to have her join the Wellbeing team and wish her all the best for her first term here at Iona.

Thanks for your support.

Damian, Kylie and Melissa