

24 October 2024

Dear Parents and Carers,

This week began with World Mission Sunday, inspiring the Pope to spread a message far and wide to say, “Go and invite everyone to the banquet”. This message of inclusion presents an opportunity for growth and unity if we open our hearts and minds to others. The Gospels tell us to gather, extend invitations and avoid exclusion, they ask us to share the celebration of life with others so that we all can flourish as children of God. World Mission Sunday, and this whole month, celebrates those who dedicate their lives to the service and care of others. Some such people work and volunteer for large organisations known across the globe, but many people who ‘do good’ for others are ordinary people, doing what they regard as ordinary things. Being a missionary is something everyone can do, no special skills are required, just the ability to notice, and take gentle action focused on supporting others. With a focus on our faith mission, we can help to create a more just world, which has at its core the principles of inclusion and unity.

We are pleased to share with you today a student account of the recent Lorne 120. We thank Mr. Craig Durran for his vision and leadership in instigating this opportunity for our Year 11 students. The team achieved much more than the memory of running the 120kms to Lorne and back. They strengthened their connection with each other, filled their families and our school with pride and raised a significant amount of money for Give Where You Live.

[Lorne 120 Report Back](#)





Here's a report back from Luca, one of our Lorne 120 runners:

On the 20th of September, a group of students and teachers took on the mental and physical challenge of running a shared 120kms, in hopes of raising money for the foundation Give Where You Live. Give Where You Live is centered around building an equitable community in the Geelong region, giving the less fortunate the ability to thrive. In total the Lorne 120 team \$3,310.95, these funds will go towards helping with food security, homelessness assistance, employment and an inclusive economy.

Leading up to the run, Term 3 was our opportunity to raise our individual goal of \$100 by finding sponsors, on top of that we raised money by hosting lunchtime BBQs, bake sales and a silent auction. The run started at 12:00 am Friday morning at Iona College, where the first leg began. From there the team of 20 took it in turns running 5km legs along the great ocean road to Lorne, where we ran along the beach at sunrise together and met members of the school for breakfast. Students ran the same route back to Iona College where they were welcomed by the entire school and celebrated for their enormous achievement. Students and teachers dealt with fatigue, steep hills, pain and pushing themselves to the max, in hopes of helping those in the community around them. Thank you to Mr Durran, for giving us all this amazing opportunity and pushing us when we felt like giving up, we are extremely grateful!

Luca Fraser
Year 11 Student

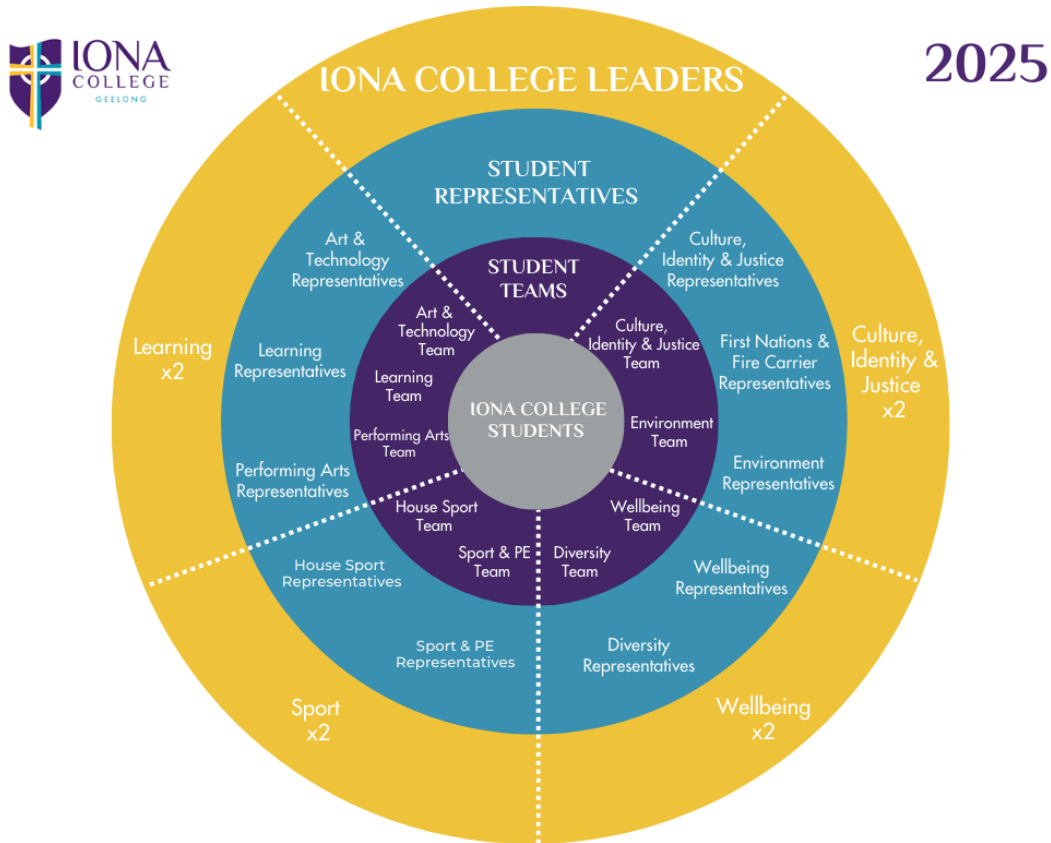
A Milestone Moment for Iona's First Year 12 College Leaders

We are excited to share another new milestone for the Iona community! After extensive consultation with our students, we are proud to announce the Student Leadership Model that will guide Iona as our Foundation students step into their roles as Year 12 leaders next year. It's important to note that the development process of this model has been student-led, something we are very proud of.

At Iona we strongly believe that all students are at the core of our leadership model and that they can lead in their own capacity and environment.

The purpose of this leadership model is to build leadership capacity in our students. By providing opportunities such as workshops, camps and other experiences, our leaders will develop essential leadership skills. Our leaders will then amplify the voice of the Iona students - creating greater agency in school programs by giving students both a voice and, often, a choice in how they learn.

The Student Leadership Model will be structured as follows:



Iona College Leaders (Gold)

We will have 8 Year 12 College Leaders, with 2 College Leaders representing each of the following portfolios:

- Wellbeing
- Learning
- Culture & Identity
- Sport



These College Leaders will embody Iona's values and vision, serving as role models and guiding the student body in their respective portfolios.

Student Representatives (Teal)

Supporting the College Leaders are our Student Representatives, elected across the following portfolios:

- Wellbeing
- Culture, Identity & Justice
- Learning
- Sport & PE
- Diversity
- Environment
- Performing Arts
- House Sport
- First Nations and Fire Carrier
- Art & Technology

Up to 4 Student Representatives will be elected for each portfolio – open to Years 8-12.

Student Leader Teams (Purple)

Further supporting our Student Representatives are the Student Leader Teams, consisting of students from Years 8-12. These teams will work alongside the College Leaders and Student Representatives to implement various initiatives and programs.

Students from across Years 8 -12 are encouraged to apply.

Applications for each respective leadership role will open on Monday the 28th of October and will close on the 5th of November. Please encourage your young person to apply.

We are very excited about this important step for Iona and look forward to seeing our students embrace these leadership opportunities. A true highlight will be watching our first Year 12 Student Leaders thrive as role models, guiding and inspiring our school community.

Melbourne Archdiocese Catholic Schools 'Inspired to Lead' Pilgrimage



We were extremely fortunate to join the Melbourne Archdiocese Catholic Schools 'Inspired to Lead' Pilgrimage during the September school holidays. Our group comprised of 50 other staff from across the diocese visiting places of spiritual significance in Rome, Sienna and Assisi. As pilgrims, we had the privilege of visiting some of the most extraordinary churches and Basilicas such as St Clemente, Paul Outside the Walls and St Peter's Basilica in Vatican City. Celebrating Mass in some of these magnificent places was both reflective and moving. One of the most unforgettable moments was attending a general audience with the Pope. Seeing him in person and hearing his message of peace among nations was inspiring, and there was a real sense of solidarity among the crowd.

After a very busy few days in Rome, we travelled to Sienna and Assisi for some time in retreat. It was fascinating to learn more about the lives of Saint Catherine, Saint Claire and Saint Francis and walk through the villages where they lived.

We learned so much from experts in Theology, Church History and Catholic Formation and were lucky to be able to share our ideas, questions and wonderings with the new friends we made along the way. The pilgrimage enriched both our professional and personal lives and was a transformative experience we will treasure always.

Kristin Flynn and Georgia Lappin

Year 11 VM Student Project – Helping others



The Year 11 VM students had an incursion last week with two members of the Bay Leaf Community Kitchen coming to visit. They talked to us about how the Bay Leaf Kitchen supports people by giving them meals and sitting down and eating with them. They explained how they are different from other food donors because they actually share a meal with people so that they can talk to them about issues they may have. By spending time with people and showing that they care, they are really trying to have an impact on others. Following this visit, the VM students have decided to help out Bay Leaf by making items for their Christmas hampers like cookie ingredient jars, homemade Christmas tea towels and minty wreaths. This will be a project that we will work on this term and we look forward to sharing some photos once we have made the hamper goodies. This is the [website for Bay Leaf](#) if you would like to discover more about them and their great community work

Tyson Barry and Jamieson Berechree
Year 11 Students

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

Blurred Minds Vaping Unit and Workshop



This term the Year 8s are studying an online Drug Education unit focused on vaping. The Academy program helps our students to engage with relevant, meaningful education to change their beliefs and behaviours for the better. The curriculum-mapped modules, assessments and activities are designed to:

- Increase student knowledge about alcohol, vaping, and other drugs.
- Allow our students to have accurate perceptions of how many young people drink, vape and smoke cannabis
- Increase their capability to say no to a drink, vape or cannabis if offered to them
- Reduce positive expectations for alcohol vaping and cannabis use
- Reduce or maintain low levels of drink vaping and cannabis use

To complement this Term 4 unit, this week all Year 8s and their Health teachers participated in a fantastic workshop that reinforced the ongoing lessons by addressing vaping and drug use through a behaviour change lens, moving away from fear-based techniques. This workshop helped to solidify the concepts taught in the classroom. We thank our presenter Dr. James from **Blurred Minds** for working with us today. If you as a parent would like some further resources of support to have better conversations with your young person about alcohol, vaping, cannabis and other drugs [please click on the following link](#).

Iona Pathways Press

The October 25th edition of the Iona Pathways Press can be found [here](#). In this edition you will find information about:

- **Casual Employment opportunities – Baker's Delight**
- **Useful Tips for a University Degree Wannabe (UDW)**
- **News from the University of Melbourne**
 - **Satisfy Subject Prerequisites**
 - **New Guaranteed Pathways for Bachelor of Design Students**
- **Career in Economics**
- **Study Abroad & Exchange Programs - Victorian Universities**
- **Psychiatrists and Psychologists: What's the Difference?**
- **Studying the Doctor of Medicine at Deakin University**
- **Snapshot of The Hotel School – Melbourne in 2024**



Find & Subscribe to the Pathways Press Newsfeed.

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

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

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

Royal Geelong Show Schools Cookery Competition



A small number of our Year 10 and 11 Food Technology students chose to prepare entries for the Royal Geelong Show this year in the school's cookery competition. It was great to see the creativity and skill shown in the preparation of their entries. It was a wonderful reward to see all the students placing in their classes and we look forward to growing the participation in this event in the coming years.

Results:

Yr 10:

Sonny – 1st Uncooked Slice, 1st Honey Joys and Best Exhibit Yr 9&10 Cookery.

Millicent – 1st Decorated Cupcakes, 3rd Biscuits.





Yr 11

Christelle – 1st Decorated Cupcakes.

Paris – 1st Uncooked Slice.

Eloise – 1st Honey Joys.



Geelong Show Performance



On Friday 18th October we had the chance to take some of our performers out to the Royal Geelong Show. It was a day of “ups and downs” due to the weather. The Motor Pavilion normally would have been an excellent venue but with the weather we had on Friday, it turned into a lake at one stage with performances suspended and finally in the afternoon became completely flooded. Three of our bands managed to perform but unfortunately, two were cancelled near the end of the day. Not much we could do about that!

Many of our performers and parents ‘waded’ out of the show grounds. Thank you to all of the students, parents and staff who participated on this day and were flexible and patient – it certainly was a day to remember.

While we are disappointed about not getting all of our bands on stage they are ALL performing at our concert on the 21st November. Keep a look out for the details.

Jodie Townsend
Head of Performing Arts

House Chess 2025

This Tuesday 22nd October we held our annual Iona College House Chess Competition!



The competition required students to play 8 matches across the day, representing their Houses. It was a fantastic day played in great spirit – and we want to congratulate all the students who took on this challenge!

The final result was extremely close, with Glowrey managing to win back-to-back Championships by the smallest of margins – 1 point!

| POSITION | HOUSE | POINTS | TOP PLAYER |
|-----------------|-----------|--------|------------|
| 1 st | Glowrey | 19.5 | Henry |
| 2 nd | Chisholm | 18.5 | Colbey |
| 3 rd | MacKillop | 17.5 | Evan |
| 4 th | Francis | 16 | Bruce |



ABOVE: Glowrey team members: Jesse, Will, Henry, Finn



ABOVE: Top players from each House, Henry (Glowrey), Colbey (Chisholm), Bruce (Francis) and Evan (MacKillop)

Individually Henry proved unbeatable and was our top player of the day. Well done to Glowrey and all involved! Looking forward to more Chess fun in 2025!

Lou Keating & Tom Chalkley
Pretend Chess Gurus

Missed School Vaccinations 2024

The Secondary School Immunisation Program offers free vaccines provided by the [National Immunisation Program](#) to each year to students in Year 7 (HPV and Diphtheria/Tetanus/Whooping cough) and Year 10 (Meningococcal ACWY).

If your child missed out on receiving their vaccinations at school this year, it's not too late to get vaccinated.

Free adolescent vaccines can be accessed at your local council immunisation service, GP or pharmacist immuniser.

To see if your child is due for any vaccines, check your child's [immunisation history statement](#) on the Australian Immunisation Register using your [MyGov account](#). Children aged 14 years of age and over can access their own immunisation history statement via MyGov.

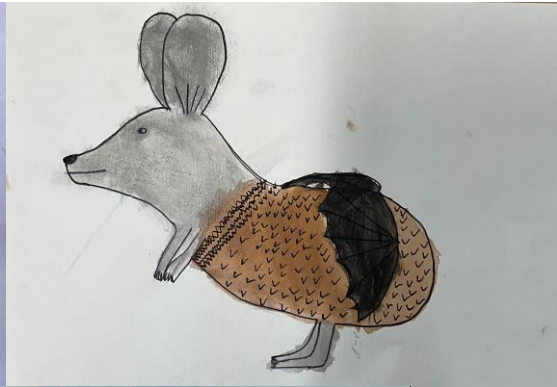
Further Information

- Contact your local council immunisation provider.
- Better Health Channel – Secondary [School Immunisation Program fact sheet](#)
- Adolescent vaccinations [outside of school and catch-up immunisation](#)

Art Department News

Our Year 8 students explored the creative world of Tim Burton and used his unique style as inspiration to design new species of Australian animals. The results are impressive!





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 |
| Wednesday 27 November | Year 7 & 8 Passion Project Expo (Columba Centre) |
| Thursday 28 November - Wednesday 4 December | VCE/VCE VM Ignite Program |
| Thursday 28 November | Awards Celebration Evening (Stadium) |
| 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.

Thanks for your support.

Damian, Kylie and Melissa