

31 October 2024

Dear Parents and Carers,

Later this week, we turn the page of our calendar to November. This is a significant time in the Catholic Church when the community prays to and for those who have died. On the first of the month, All Saints Day, prayers of gratitude and joy are offered to saints, who are not necessarily named formally as saints but who are people we know from amongst our families and friends. Plenty of people act with goodness and love and these are the everyday saints who show us how we can make a positive difference in the world. We give thanks to these people during the month of November. On the second day of the month, All Souls Day, we pray for all those who have died. We pray for people who formed and shaped us, who showed us love and who offered us forgiveness. As we pass through November, we keep the loved ones of our community in our prayers and invite you to do the same.

With great joy and appreciation, we celebrated our teachers last Friday on World Teachers' Day. This worldwide celebration recognised the positive impact of teachers. We all know the power of teachers and we carry memories of them throughout our lives. Teachers leave a legacy and much has been spoken about their influence and the importance of education. Teachers share subject expertise and they develop the capacity of their students to be kind, patient, creative, just and forgiving. At Iona they focus on growing young people who act with compassion and courage, show leadership and strive for excellence. Our 'hats off to teachers' celebration expressed our thanks to all teachers, especially those at Iona, who partner with parents and carers to bring about the best in young people.



In reflection of this important occasion, we share some thoughts from our College patrons:

"Be a voice. Use your gifts to amplify the voice of others who are experiencing marginalisation." Caroline Chisholm

"The true educator is never frightened by mistakes, no: he accompanies, takes them by the hand, listens, dialogues. He does not get frightened and waits. This is human education: to educate is this bringing forward and promoting growth, helping to grow." Pope Francis

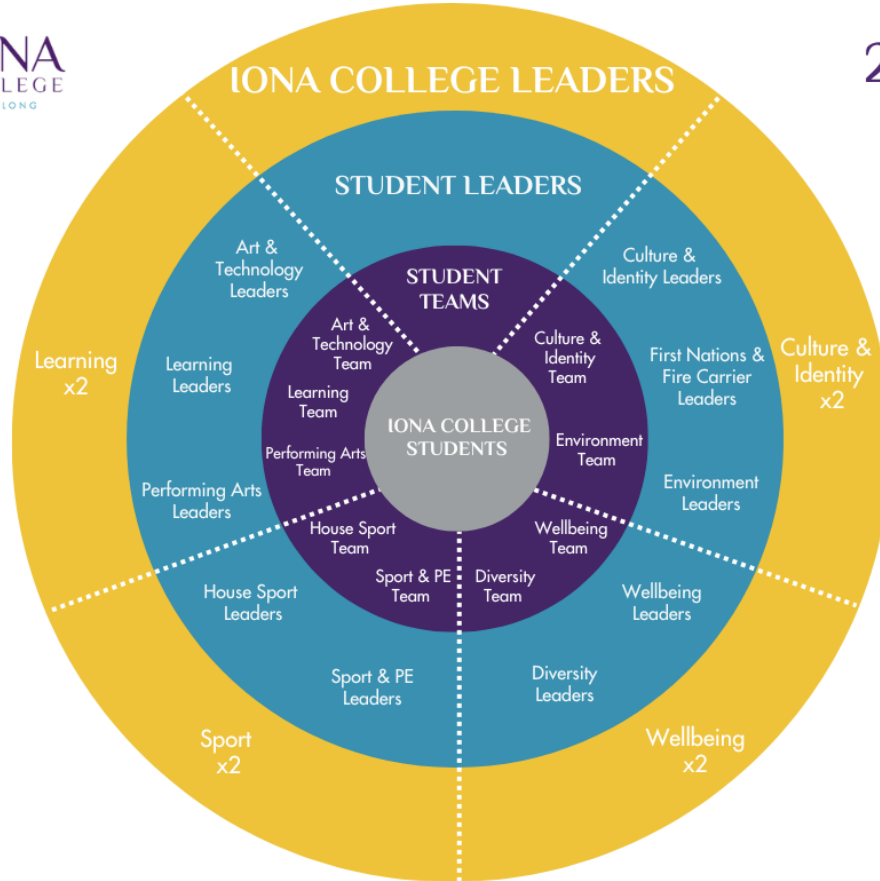
"We must teach more by example than by word." Saint Mary MacKillop

"When I saw how great the need for medical women was (the maternity death rates were very high), I wanted to multiply myself a thousand times...A medical college to train future medical personnel seemed one answer." Sr Mary Glowrey

Reminder: Applications for Student Leadership Model Closing Soon



2025



Applications for Iona's new Student Leadership Model are closing soon! After extensive student-led consultation, this model will guide our Foundation Year 12 students as they step into leadership roles in 2025. We are incredibly proud that this model has been developed by students, for students, with an emphasis on building leadership capacity across all year levels.

The structure of our Student Leadership Model includes:

- **Iona College Leaders (Gold)** – 8 Year 12 leaders across Wellbeing, Learning, Culture & Identity, and Sport.
- **Student Leaders (Teal)** – Up to 4 representatives per portfolio, from Years 8-12, covering areas such as Wellbeing, Diversity, Environment, and Performing Arts.
- **Student Teams (Purple)** – Leadership support teams open to students from Years 8-12.

Applications for leadership roles opened on Monday, October 28, and close on November 5. Encourage your young person to apply for this exciting chance to be part of Iona's future!

Sam Wood
Head of Student Voice and Agency

Be Bold Be Heard Connections Report Back



Throughout the year, a dedicated group of Year 10 and 11 students have joined forums with other schools across Geelong, tackling important issues facing young women in schools today. Recognising a need for stronger connections among Year 10 and 11 girls, our students organised a special event to create a welcoming space for these young people to come together.

The evening, held on Tuesday, included a wellbeing and Pilates movement session, followed by a BBQ to celebrate all the inspiring women in our students' lives.



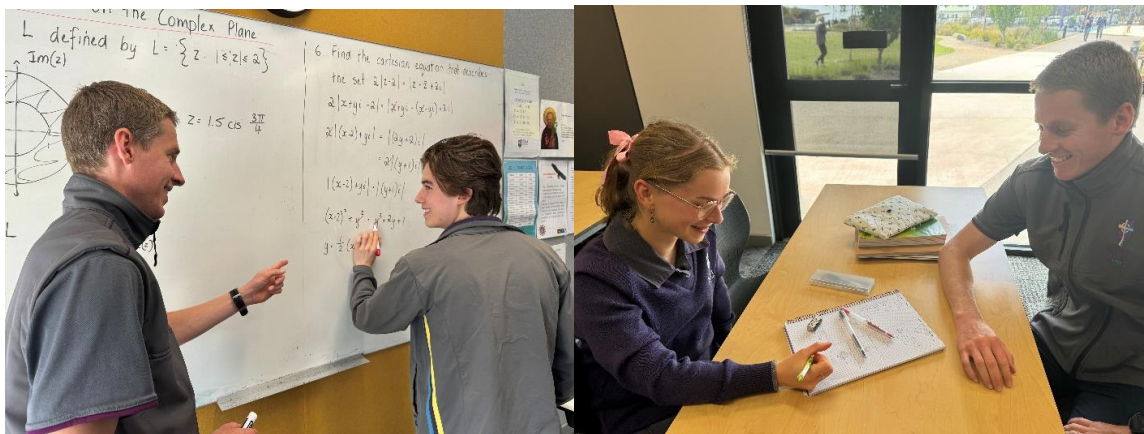


Thank you to everyone who joined and made the night such a success!

The Be Bold Be Heard Team

Maths @ Iona

This week I thought I would introduce you to our Year 11 Specialist Mathematics class! Specialist Mathematics is considered the most challenging VCE mathematics, and our class here at Iona consists of two lovely students – Ava and Lachy - supported by Mr. Hagan.



Ava and Lachy spoke to me about what prompted them to select Specialist Mathematics, their possible future pathways and what a Specialist class is like in the interview below:

Lachy: "I really liked mathematics and thought Specialist Maths would be a good challenge. I also thought it might link in well with the pathways I'm considering after school, which are Data Science and/or Engineering. I know if I can do well, this subject will get 'marked up' for my ATAR which is a bonus."

Ava: “The good thing about Specialist is learning new concepts – it’s a whole new way to approach maths. Being in a small class means the environment is different to a usual class and we can get a lot of one-on-one support”

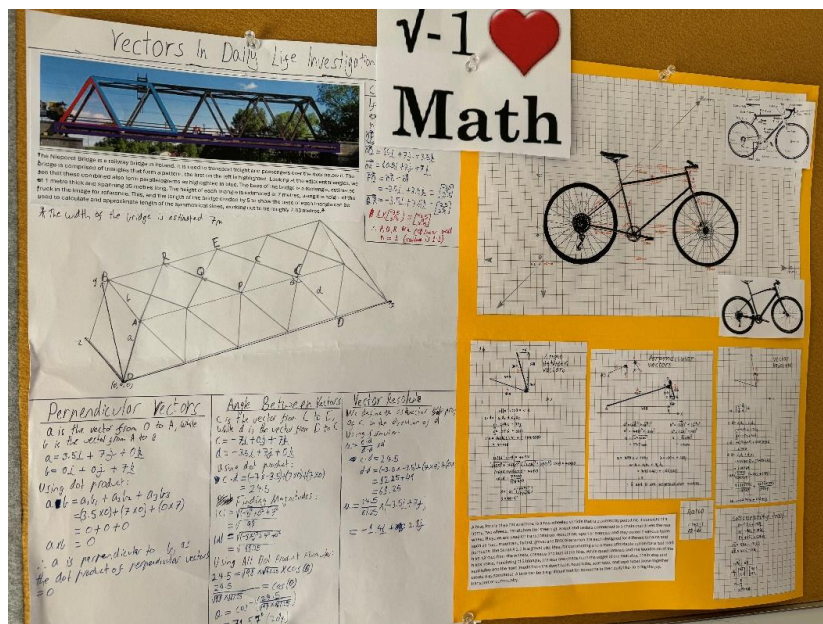
Lachy: “You really have to tune your brain in. The concepts are more difficult and lengthy – it’s a different way of thinking. Some things match up and can help with our Maths Methods subject”

Ava: “At the start of the year I felt like Methods was harder! But now they are even in how difficult they are – just different in their approach”

Lachy: “If you’re thinking about doing Specialist Maths make sure you’re doing it because you love maths! Don’t just do it because you think it will give you a good score. You have to love to put time and energy into difficult concepts and work through them”

Ava: “It helps having a teacher who loves maths and has a passion for it. He gets excited if we solve something and he has lots of different ways to approach a problem. At the end of every lesson we do an exam-style question and Mr Hagan will play a song of his choice as the timer. So we are getting an education in 70’s, 80’s and 90’s music as well as maths! ‘Here comes the sun’ has been my favourite so far”

Lachy: “Mine is ‘Mr Blue Sky’”



We're really proud of Lachy and Ava for challenging themselves with this subject! When you're thinking about your VCE studies, make sure you're considering:

What do I love?

What am I good at?

What do I need to get where I'm going?

Thanks for reading mathematicians! Hope you enjoyed this little snapshot into our littlest maths class!

Lou Keating
Mathematics and Numeracy Leader

First Aid Update



Managing Hayfever

As the weather warms up, many students are finding themselves struggling with hayfever. Sneezing, itchy eyes, a runny nose, and sinus congestion, make it hard to focus at school. Here are some simple strategies to help manage symptoms:

Tips for Relief:

- Check Pollen Levels: Stay informed by using apps or websites that provide daily pollen forecasts. Reduce exposure on high-pollen days.
- Medication: Antihistamines, nasal sprays, and eye drops can help manage symptoms. Take one before coming to school.
- Minimise Pollen Exposure:
 - Keep windows closed during the morning and early evening when pollen levels are highest.
 - Shower and change clothes after being outdoors to remove pollen from your skin and hair.
 - Use air purifiers indoors to filter out allergens

Update your students' Medical Profile and Medication Authority Form

If your student's medical authority form is updated to include the listed over-the-counter medications I am authorised to administer antihistamines at school. This does not require a doctor's signature.

[The following video](#) will demonstrate how to complete and upload the form.

Medication Authority Form How-To



By being proactive, you can reduce the impact of hayfever and enjoy the season comfortably. If symptoms become severe, consider seeking medical advice.

Kate Every
College Nurse

2025 Bus Information Update

Planning of next year's school bus services is now in its final stages. Information including student allocations, bus routes, stop points and departure times is expected to be released by the end of November. Next year there will be a total of 22 Iona College private buses/routes (up from 18) accommodating almost 1,200 student bus travellers – massive! We remind families and students that bus routes and departure/arrival times can and do change from year to year (as students enter and exit Iona), and unless an obvious error is made by us, to be accepting of any changes that do occur.

Iona Pathways Press

The November 1st edition of the Iona Pathways Press can be found [here](#).
In this edition you will find information about:

- **Casual Employment opportunities – Baker's Delight**
- **Pathway to Physiotherapy at Monash University**
- **News from Victoria University**
 - **Studying Osteopathy at VU**
 - **Important Notice: Bachelor of Architectural Design**
- **Collarts – Summer workshop opportunity**
- **University Terms**
- **Snapshot of LCI 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: [Iona College Geelong \(ionacareers.com\)](https://ionacollegegeelong.com.au/ionacareers.com)

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

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

Online Safety

As parents/carers you know your young person better than anyone and have the best opportunity to support and guide them to have safer online experiences. The e-safety commissioner offers parents and carers helpful information which covers some of the key online safety issues for young people and includes practical tips and advice on what to do if things go wrong. Please visit www.esafety.gov.au/parents for more information.

Counselling support for students over the summer or at any time- eheadspace provides free online and telephone support and counselling to young people 12-25 and their families and friends. It is available from 9 am to 1 am 7 days a week. www.eheadspace.org.au or 1800 650 890.

Kids Helpline provides free and confidential online and phone counselling to young people aged 5-25. It is available 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. www.kidshelpline.com.au or 1800 55 1800.

Parent support

Victoria has a dedicated Parentline that offers counselling, information and a referral service. Call 13 2289

Kylie Power
Deputy Principal Wellbeing

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.

Please note that Monday 4th November, is a Student Free Day, and Tuesday 5th November is the Melbourne Cup Public Holiday. During this time the College Office will be closed. We hope that our Iona community has a relaxing and enjoyable break!

Thanks for your support.

Damian, Kylie and Melissa