

30 January 2025

Dear Parents and Carers,

Let us pause and breathe deeply as we embark on the adventure of a new school year. May the gift of each new day be a chance to learn. May our kindness and compassion be a moment to teach each other. May the fragility of students, parents and staff be a place to build community. May listening and encouragement be the well-spring of leadership. May the passion of young people keep our hearts alive. May the wisdom of older people keep our feet on the ground. May laughter and joy spread like branches above us. May prayer and gratitude be our deepest roots. May justice and peace ripen like fruit as we grow in generosity reaching out beyond our familiar world to help those in need. In this Year of Jubilee, may we be Pilgrims of Hope. May we find God in every class, recess, game, performance, meeting, discussion, assignment, friendship and lunch. May we find God's love and grace in even our most ordinary days. Amen. Written by Michael McGirr (2025), published by Caritas Australia

Welcome back to the 2025 school year! Today, we were excited to welcome 312 new Year 7 students, along with students joining Iona in other year levels. We also had a fantastic day of workshops and bonding with our Year 12s. Our returning students (Years. 8 - 11) will return to us tomorrow. We hope that all our returning students and families managed to have a lovely break. A special welcome to all our new students and their families. We are delighted to have you as part of our Iona Community.





Along with our new students who are commencing at Iona this year, we also welcome 45 new staff members to our community. Over future editions of this newsletter, we look forward to progressively introducing our new staff to you. In welcoming all our new staff members. With the significant influx of new staff and students, we are mindful to patiently support all as they adjust to their new surroundings. We are excited by the many gifts that each individual will bring to us and the lasting contributions that they will make to our community.



A weekly emailed newsletter will be distributed on a Thursday afternoon this year. The newsletter is a very important source of information for families and will provide updates regarding dates and activities at the College. There has been significant work around the College with regard to roads and

access. Whilst we are aware that this can be a source of frustration the scope and timing of the road construction have been beyond our control. Over the next week, these access issues will ease. You should have received email correspondence regarding student pick-up and drop-off procedure last week. Thank you for your cooperation in keeping everyone in our community safe. Additional information about access to Iona is included below.

Next week we will publish a list of key staff contacts at Iona. This will assist parents and carers in the event that they need to make contact with an Iona staff member. As the College continues to grow at a rapid rate, we are continuing to refine our communications with parents and carers.

We officially welcome the following staff to the Iona school community:

| Staff Member | Position |
|--------------------|--|
| Claire Abreu | Westvic Trainee |
| Heath Aitken | Teacher (Year 10 Coordinator) |
| Emily Anderson | Learning Support Officer (Art) |
| David Bromley | Teacher |
| Hannah Chalkley | Teacher |
| Lucy Collins | Teacher |
| Storm Cotton | Westvic Trainee |
| Shannon Cunningham | Teacher (VCE-Vocational Major Coordinator) |
| Jasmine Dober | Teacher |
| Edward Doyle | Teacher |
| Patrick Dwyer | Teacher |
| Rebecca Evans | Teacher |
| Lauren Gleeson | Receptionist |
| Andrew Gooch | Teacher |
| Peyton Greiner | Teacher |
| Madeline Hegarty | Student Services Administrator |
| Mikaila Hicks | Teacher |
| Chloe Jeffrey | Learning Support Officer |
| Jack Jenkins | Teacher |
| Pauline Jones | Learning Support Officer |
| Tracie Jozipovic | Canteen Assistant |
| James Kernick | VET Coordinator |
| Jennifer Konigson | Teacher |
| Samantha Kotz | Teacher |
| Elise Kukulka | Teacher |

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|--------------------|--|
| Kristen Lechte | Teacher |
| Kate Lee | VCE Administrator |
| Libby Leissner | LSO |
| Nicholas Lott | ICT/AV Officer |
| Michelle McDonald | Teacher |
| George McMeel | Teacher (Domain Coordinator Mathematics) |
| Baxter Morris | Learning Support Officer |
| Arnika Nelson | Learning Support Officer |
| Hannah Neumann | Teacher |
| Maniah Onekawa | LSO |
| Francisco Pavez | Teacher |
| Genevieve Pop | Teacher |
| Sophia Powers | Lab Tech |
| Naomi Serle | Teacher |
| Petra Shepherd | Specialist Assistant- Food Technology |
| Rebecca Spiteri | Teacher |
| Natalie Stephenson | Teacher (NCCD Leader Yr 11) |
| Jacob Talarico | LSO |
| Sue Vigrone | Learning Support Officer |
| Lachlan Wallace | Teacher |

Buildings and Facilities Update

We are pleased to inform the school community that we have successfully purchased 3590m² (9/10th of an acre) of land on the northern boundary of the College. This has enabled us to secure some land that will assist us with further developments in the years to come. I would like to acknowledge our Business Manager, Mr Tom Harriott for the work that he has done in facilitating the purchase of this land. Some of the current works include the establishment of 'Donegal Drive' which will shortly become the street address of the College.

We are also pleased that we have full use of The Glowrey Centre which will be where our new Year 7 students are based, as well as the College Gymnasium that has been duplicated over the past year. Numerous internal building adjustments have been made including the establishment of three 'pods' that will cater for our rapidly increasing music department. We have also established a new maintenance shed and wood technology room that will also cater for the growth in that learning space.

We hope to commence our next building project, which will be a new Library, Student Services and Administration at the end of this year. We remain excited by the establishment of new facilities that will provide wonderful learning opportunities for our students.

Access to Iona College

By now, you will have seen information about changes in access to Iona while nearby roadworks are completed and a new Main Entrance is constructed. The former Main Entrance is now a new road.

To help you navigate these changes, please carefully review the following information:

30th Jan – 6th Feb:

- All drop-offs and pick-ups must take place on Boundary Road while the new Main Entrance is being constructed.
- **Students arriving on foot:** Students can still access the College via the Horseshoe Bend Road entrance. Staff will be present to safely guide them into the College. Students can also access on foot via Boundary Road – for safety reasons please cross at the raised traffic island.
- **Early pick-ups/late drop-offs:** Temporary visitor parking is available on Horseshoe Bend Road (3 spaces only) for appointments between 9:15 AM and 2:45 PM.
- Please note that the Boundary Road gate will remain locked during class hours.

We strongly encourage parents and carers to contact us via phone or email, rather than in person during these roadworks, whenever possible to minimise disruptions.

Thank you for your patience and cooperation as these changes are implemented.

Temporary Visitor Entrance off Horseshoe Bend Road



Temporary Visitor Exit off Horseshoe Bend Road



From 6th Feb: New Main Entrance

- The new Main Entrance, located just off Horseshoe Bend Road on the newly constructed Donegal Drive, will open. Donegal Drive replaces the old Main Entrance to Iona College off Horseshoe Bend Drive.
- The Visitor Carpark will also become accessible.



School Photos 2025

Arthur Reed Photos will be taking our annual school and sibling photos on Thursday, 13th February 2025. Please ensure your child wears their full formal uniform, including the Iona College blazer.

We kindly ask that you review the [Iona College Uniform Policy](#) in preparation. Please note that there is no need to return any forms or payments to the school.

After photo day, unique image codes will be issued to all students. These codes will allow families to register online and view images once they are available in the webshop.

How to Register:

1. Follow the simple steps outlined on your child's personalised flyer once you receive it.
2. Add the image codes for all of your children attending Iona College.

Even if you registered last year, please complete the process again using your child's 2025 image code to ensure their images are linked correctly with your contact details.

Parents who have registered will be notified by SMS and email when the images are available to view in the webshop. Please wait for this notification before making any purchases.

Tour and Information Sessions



BOOK YOUR TOUR AND INFORMATION SESSION TODAY.

Our annual March Tour and Information Sessions are now open to all potential families. Families are requested to limit their bookings to a maximum of three people where possible.

Please [book your spot online](#).

Year 7 2026 Enrolment Applications Open



YEAR 7 2026 ENROLMENT APPLICATIONS ARE OPEN

We would like to remind parents that if your child is set to enter Year 7 in the year 2026, it is important to submit an enrolment [online application via the following link](#).

Enrolment applications are currently open and will remain so until Friday 9 May.

Please note that applications received after this closing date will be added to a waitlist, which may affect your child's placement. To ensure your child has the best opportunity for enrolment, please complete the application process before the deadline.

Term 1 Dates to Remember

| Date | Event |
|-------------------------------------|---|
| Thursday 30 January | Year 7, Year 12 and New Students (Year 8-11) First Day (Year 7 & New Students Year 8-11 - Formal Uniform, Year 12- Uniform of Choice) |
| Friday 31 January | Year 8,9,10 & 11 First Day 2025 (Uniform of Choice for all students) |
| Friday 7 February | Assembly and Commissioning of the College Leader Ceremony (Formal Uniform) |
| Tuesday 11 February | School Mass (Formal Uniform) |
| Tuesday 11 February | Year 11 & 12 Parent/Carer Welcome Evening (On-site) |
| Thursday 13 February | School Photos (Formal Uniform) |
| Tuesday 18 February | School Photos Catch-Up Day |
| Tuesday 18 February | Year 7 Parent/Carer 'In-Person' Welcome Evening |
| Thursday 27 February | Iona College Swimming Carnival |
| Wednesday 5 March | Ash Wednesday (Formal Uniform) |
| Monday 10 March | Labour Day Public Holiday |
| Tuesday 11 March | Year 10 Immunisation |
| Tuesday 11 March | Unit 3 Student Progress Meetings (On-site) |
| Monday 17 March | Open Day Tour & Information Sessions (4:15 pm - 5:45 pm) |
| Tuesday 18 March | Open Day Tour & Information Sessions (11:00 am - 12:30 pm) |
| Wednesday 19 March | Open Day Tour & Information Sessions (11:00 am - 12:30 pm) |
| Wednesday 19 March | Open Day Tour & Information Sessions (4:15 pm - 5:45 pm) |
| Thursday 20 March | Open Day Tour & Information Sessions (11:00 am - 12:30 pm) |
| Thursday 20 March | Student Progress Meetings (Online) |
| Friday 21 March | Staff Professional Development (Student Free Day) |
| Wednesday 26 March | Student Progress Meetings (On-site & Online) |
| Thursday 27 March | Iona College Athletics Day |
| Monday 31 March - Wednesday 2 April | Year 8 Camp (Group 1) |
| Wednesday 2 April - Friday 4 April | Year 8 Camp (Group 2) |
| Friday 4 April | End of Term 1 (2:05 pm Finish) |
| Tuesday 22 April | Term 2 Starts |

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