

6 February 2025

Dear Parents and Carers,

Last week we welcomed all new members, Year 7s, new staff and new students, to the Iona community with a traditional smoking ceremony in our Yarning Circle. We were honoured to have Aunty Naomi, a traditional owner, welcome us to Wadawurrung Country. This tradition is important to our community because it connects our school to both our First Nations and our Catholic rituals and traditions.



First Nations people used fire for hunting, cooking, warmth and managing the landscape. When First Peoples gathered around the fire, they passed down stories and knowledge through words, songs and dance.

For Catholics, fire is in many Bible stories where people are transformed and come to new understandings. Fire shows that God is present and the Holy Spirit is represented by flame. Candles are lit to bring Christ close to us when we pray, and flame helps us find the way in the footsteps of Jesus and others who act with goodness and justice.

Tomorrow, we embark on another significant Iona College tradition, the commissioning of our College Leaders. Our leaders will make the following pledge:

We, the College Leaders of Iona College, accept the trust placed in us today by the school community. Inspired by the example of Jesus, we will seek to serve the community and encourage every member of the school to join us in learning to change the world. Following the example of St Columba and our patrons Caroline Chisolm, Mary Mackillop, Mary Glowrey and Pope Francis we commit to reach out to others, to care for country, be people of courage, foster reconciliation, serve others through leadership and strive for excellence in all that we do.

The Iona Community are very proud of our student leaders and is excited to see how they will use their gifts to shape their legacy.

Please note that students are required to wear their full Formal Uniform tomorrow for this special event.

Student Achievements

As well as celebrating the induction of our student leaders tomorrow, we will also acknowledge the student academic achievements from the 2024 VCE cohort. We were delighted with the efforts of our first VCE Unit 3 & 4 students as their hard work paid off with some great results. We thank the College staff who have guided our students through the four VCE Unit 3 & 4 subjects last year along with all of the staff who have contributed in so many ways to the success that our students have achieved.

VCE Year 11 & 12 Information Night



YEAR 11 & 12 VCE INFORMATION EVENING

-  TUESDAY
11 FEBRUARY
-  6:00 PM - 7:00 PM
-  IONA COLLEGE
STADIUM

We warmly invite parents and carers of our Year 11 and 12 students to attend our Parent/Carer Information Evening, where you'll gain valuable insights into the expectations of VCE.

- **Date:** Tuesday, 11 February
- **Time:** 6:00 – 7:00 pm
- **Venue:** Iona College Stadium

The evening will begin promptly at 6:00 pm with a welcome from our Principal, Damian McKew. Following this, our Deputy Principal of Learning, Melissa Gould along with Kate McLaren and Anthea Sholl will present an informative session about VCE expectations. We will then break into year-level groups to hear from our Year Level Leaders and have an opportunity to meet Community Group Teachers.

Tea and coffee will be provided. We look forward to seeing you there! Please note that this session is intended for parents/carers only, students do not need to attend.

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.

Year 7 LifeChanger 'Immersion' Workshops



This week our Year 7s participated in a 90-minute session with our friends from LifeChanger. The session was divided into three parts, guiding participants through a journey of self-discovery and collaboration, emphasising the importance of connection. Through reflection on personal experiences and emotions, participants gain a deeper understanding of themselves. The second part shifts the focus to peer connections, encouraging collaboration through interactive activities to strengthen peer relationships. The final segment explores future-oriented connections, prompting our Year 7s to reflect on their goals and create actionable steps for the future. By the end of the workshop, each student has a better understanding of themselves, stronger connections with their peers, and a clearer vision of their future.

The Immersion workshops were a fun and interactive introductory experience centred on the theme of connection. A perfect workshop in our Transition week.

Kylie Power
Deputy Principal Wellbeing

Year 7 Parent/Carer Welcome Evening



**YEAR 7 PARENT/CARER
WELCOME EVENING**

 TUESDAY
18 FEBRUARY

 6:00 PM - 7:00 PM

 IONA COLLEGE
STADIUM

We are excited to warmly welcome our new Year 7 parents and carers to the Iona community at our upcoming Parent/Carer Welcome Evening.

Details:

Date: Tuesday, 18 February

Time: 6:00 – 7:00 pm

Venue: Iona College Stadium

This evening is a wonderful opportunity to hear from our Foundation Principal, Damian McKew, meet the Year 7 Leaders and Community Group teachers, and connect with other parents and carers from the Year 7 cohort.

We encourage all parents and carers to attend this special event. Tea and coffee will be provided. Please note that this session is intended for parents/carers only, students do not need to attend.

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



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.

[Iona Pathways Press](#)

The 6th February edition of the Iona Pathways Press can be found [here](#).

In this edition you will find information about:

- **Dates to Diarise in Term 1**
- **Work Experience Opportunity ~ Avalon Airshow**
- **Kick off your Career in Sport with Melbourne City Institute**
- **Defence Force: Melbourne Gap Year Information Session**
- **Young Women in Aerospace Defence School Holiday Program**
- **The University of Melbourne: The Hansen Scholarship for 2026 Entry**
- **Finding a Career in Space - International Day of Women and Girls in Science**
- **Veterinary Science Degrees on offer in Australia in 2025**
- **Snapshot of The Australian National University (ANU) in 2025**



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

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.

Congratulations to staff member Chrissie McPhan on the safe arrival of her beautiful daughter 'Bobbie Leanne' born yesterday.

Thanks for your support.

Damian, Kylie and Melissa