

27 February 2025

Dear Parents and Carers,

On Wednesday 5th we will observe Ash Wednesday as a school community. Ash Wednesday marks the beginning of the Church's season of Lent. The marking of the Ashes on this day is a public expression of our faith. Lent is a time of prayer, fasting and almsgiving. Through prayer, we come closer to God so that we are better able to live justly as Jesus teaches us. We fast, which means going without so that we can make room for something else. We can also make a special effort to make changes that will have a positive impact on our lives, the lives of others and our common home. Giving to the poor or 'almsgiving' is a sign of our commitment to justice and our thanks for all that God has given us. Lent prepares us for the season of Easter, the most important time in the Church's calendar. By praying, fasting and giving alms, we are reminded of Jesus' death and Resurrection. Jesus brought the promise of hope to all people so that we may "Have life and have it to the full." (John 10:10), so that with our neighbours, we can go further, together.

Before he was hospitalised Pope Francis had the following message for us:

Reflecting on the theme, 'Let us Journey together in hope', Pope Francis said that Lent was a time to confront both personal and collective struggles with faith and compassion. He also emphasised the importance of journeying together, saying Christians are called to walk 'side by side, without shoving or stepping on others, without envy or hypocrisy, without letting anyone be left behind or excluded.' The Pope called on Christians to journey together in hope towards Easter, living out the central message of the Jubilee Year: 'Hope does not disappoint.' (Catholic News, 26th February, 2025)

Our prayers are with the Pope at this time as he struggles with poor health.

Prayer for Lent

God of love,
You care for everyone in our global family.
You want all of us to flourish.
Help us to see the challenges faced by so many locally and globally.
Help us to stand tall for justice.
Help us to feel our hearts full of love.
Help us learn to change the world by acting with compassion, leading with courage and being the best that we can be so that others can also be their best.
Amen



Canteen News

Pancake Tuesday- Shrove Tuesday- 4th March

On Tuesday we will be selling pancakes and all the money raised will support the Feeding Program at St Mary's Primary School in Uganda. The children there learn so much better when they have something to eat and they are very grateful for our contribution. Since the feeding program has been operating, many more students are coming to school to receive a simple meal and an education.

Students can purchase pancakes on the day via their student ID card. No preordering is available, so first in best dressed!

Cost: \$3 per pancake + one topping (50 cents per each additional topping)

When: recess and lunchtime

Where: Outside The Columba Centre

Thanks in advance for supporting this important cause.



Please note that no meat items will be sold from the Canteen on Wednesday 5th March, on Ash Wednesday.

Swimming Carnival

Today's Swimming Carnival was a sea of colour, energy and excitement, with students proudly representing their Houses and embracing the competitive spirit. It was wonderful to see students supporting one another and giving their best effort.

We are proud of how our students conducted themselves, demonstrating sportsmanship, teamwork and House pride throughout the day.

A huge thank you to our staff, House Leaders and students for making the day run smoothly. Well done to all our swimmers for putting your all in!

First Aid Update



Year 10 Immunisations – Meningococcal ACWY Vaccine

On Tuesday, 11th March 2025, the Barwon Health Immunisation Service will be visiting Iona College to administer the free Meningococcal vaccine to all Year 10 students.

To ensure your child receives their vaccination, please complete the online consent form as soon as possible via [the following link](#).



Kate Every
College Nurse

Wellbeing At Iona



Sleep Wellbeing, Weekly Grab

At Iona, we know good sleep is important for our whole school community -- our students, our caregivers and our school staff. Last week we told you about a sleep app that is specially for our teenagers (<https://www.dozeapp.ca/>). This is because our teenagers have some unique sleep challenges. Here is a sleep app for us adults, the Insomnia Coach, found at: <https://mobile.va.gov/app/insomnia-coach>. This app brings knowledge of our three sleep systems to help the roughly 10 per cent of those of us with insomnia. In the coming weeks, we will share with you information about our sleep systems. Spoiler alert: sleep hygiene strategies are rarely sufficient for insomnia. Working with our sleep systems is how we make lasting change.

Marisa Lavars
College Psychologist

Maths @ Iona – Halfway Already!



Can you believe we're already halfway through the term? Time really does fly when you're having fun—especially in maths! With so much exciting learning happening across all year levels, it's been a fantastic start to the year.

This week, we hosted a Year 7 Parent Information Evening focused on Maths Pathways, the program we use to help students learn at a level that matches where they are up to in their mathematical journey. A huge thank you to Mr Doyle for his incredible work in this space! If you missed the session or want to revisit any of the key points, don't worry, [here is a link to the recording](#).

Of course, no maths update would be complete without a mind-blowing mathematical fact, so here's one to impress your friends:

Did you know there's only a 1 in 1,461 chance of being born on a leap day? That's right—Leap Year babies get to celebrate their actual birthday just once every four years! But why do we even have leap years? It's because a full orbit of Earth around the Sun actually takes 365.2422 days, so we need an extra day every four years to keep our calendars aligned with reality.

But wait—there's more! Not every year that's divisible by 4 is a leap year. To fine-tune the system, years divisible by 100 are NOT leap years... unless they're also divisible by 400! That's why the year 2000 was a leap year, but 1900 wasn't. So, if you're planning ahead, the year 2100 won't be a leap year—bad luck for anyone hoping for a February 29th birthday that year!

Thanks for a fantastic start to 2025—we can't wait to see what the rest of the term brings!

George McMeel
Learning Area Leader (Maths & Numeracy)

Summer Soiree



We are very much looking forward to 'kicking' off our performing year with the Summer Soiree on Thursday 13th March. This concert will be jam-packed with many ensemble and solo items. While tickets are FREE, we ask that you book so that we can ensure seating is set up for those attending. You can book through the [following Trybooking link](#). Come along and support our young musicians and learn more about our Music Program.



Jodie Townsend
Teacher / Head of Performing Arts

Tour and Information Sessions



**BOOK YOUR TOUR AND
INFORMATION SESSION
TODAY.**

A reminder about our upcoming annual March Tour and Information Sessions.

Our student-led tours provide a great opportunity to explore our College, ask questions and hear directly from students about life at Iona.

Please book your spot online - <https://iona.vic.edu.au/tour-and-information-session/>

Book Tour and Information Session



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 young person's placement. To ensure your young person has the best opportunity for enrolment, please complete the application process before the deadline.

HPE Active and Able



Last week, our Active and Able class had the opportunity to work with Travis Zimmer, an inclusion coach from Sport4All Greater City of Geelong. Travis introduced our class to some Sport4All online learning modules before running a hands-on session where students navigated our school using a cane and vision impairment simulation goggles or blindfolds.

We were then privileged to take part in skills and drills used by the Blind Cricket Team in their training sessions. Travis and the Sport4All team have been valuable partners in supporting our Active and Able class over the past three years, providing knowledge and guidance on building a culture of inclusivity and opportunity for all. We sincerely thank Travis for his time as a guest presenter last week and look forward to working with him again later this semester.

For families interested in exploring more inclusive sporting opportunities—or even trying a Blind Cricket session with Travis—head down to GMHBA Stadium next Friday, 7th March, for the **Festival of Sport 2025**. Start your Labour Day long weekend at Kardinia Park with a fantastic lineup of activities!



Get involved in batting, kicking, rolling, stretching, jumping, skipping, bowling and everything in between.

When: Friday, 7th March

Where: Kardinia Park, Geelong

Time: From 5 PM

Now a highlight on the Geelong events calendar, the Festival of Sport offers an array of family-friendly activities and entertainment. Celebrate the diversity of sport in our region, explore active recreation, and embrace healthy lifestyles with opportunities to 'come and try' something new!

Gina Oliver and the Semester 1 Active and Able Class

[Iona Pathways Press](#)

The 27th 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
- Victoria Police ~ SWL and Work Experience Info Night
- Avalon Airshow Excursion Opportunity
- Work Experience Opportunities
- Nuclear-Powered Submarine Student Pathways
- Upcoming 'Careers in Navy' Events
 - HMAS Arunta – Open Day
 - HMAS Cerberus Open Day
- Important Announcement: New Adelaide University
- News from Deakin University
 - New PPE/Communication Double Degree
 - New Master of Speech Pathology from 2025
- Banking and Finance Degrees in Victoria in 2025
- Snapshot of Swinburne University 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

Art Department News

Year 10 Visual and Digital Art iCreate:

Our Year 10 Visual and Digital Art iCreate students are exploring how ideas, aesthetic qualities and style have been explored in Art throughout time. The Baroque period has been used as an influence, with students creating still-life acrylic paintings of fruit and vegetables in both tonal and coloured variations.





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 6pm
Thursday 27 February	Iona College Swimming Carnival
Wednesday 5 March	Ash Wednesday
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 (On-site and Online)
Friday 21 March	Staff Professional Development (Student Free Day)
Wednesday 26 March	Student Progress Meetings (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 - Formal Uniform)
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