

1 May 2025

Dear Parents and Carers,

The funeral for Pope Francis was held on Saturday night in St Peter's Square, Vatican City. The event was attended by almost 250,000 people and watched by millions at home. We pray that we have the courage to continue the legacy of Francis, patron of Iona's Francis House, to 'build bridges, not walls'.



Eternal rest grant unto him, O Lord,
and let perpetual light shine upon him.
May the souls of all the faithful departed,
through the mercy of God, rest in peace.
Amen

Year 12 Retreat

We are so proud of the way our Year 12 students entered into the spirit of Iona's first-ever Year 12 retreat. We were blessed with beautiful weather to enjoy the tranquil surrounds of Rutherford Park, in Blampied. Our dedicated staff set the tone of the retreat by sharing parts of their own Year 12 experience and the lessons they have learned along the way. Throughout the sessions, students were encouraged to reflect on their school journey so far, their future plans and the legacy they want to leave as they finish their secondary education.

Incorporated into the program was time for prayer, reflection and opportunities to enjoy spending time with friends on the idyllic Dja Dja Wurrung Country. Students led a meaningful liturgy to conclude our time together. The liturgy was inspired by the legacy of our college patron, St Columba of Iona and our house patrons, Caroline Chisholm, Pope Francis, Mary MacKillop and Mary Glowrey and a Dreamtime story from Dja Dja Wurrung Country.

The following reflection was shared on retreat, encapsulating the essence of our time together.

*We are all on a journey,
We are moving towards 'something', sometimes we don't know what it is,
But it is the way we have to go,
The journey forward is the only life for us.*

*It is hard,
It is exciting, it is satisfying, joyous, lonely, frustrating, puzzling,
Enlightening, real. It is our life, that's all.*

We must accept it. With God's help and the help of good people in our lives, we can.

SO, PROMISE YOURSELF

*To forget the mistakes from the past, and look forward
To think well of yourself and proclaim the fact to the world
To live in the faith that the whole world is on your side, as long as you are true to the best that is in you.*

We are very grateful for the dedication of Mr Nathan Pisani, Mrs Lauren Flint and their hard work organising this experience for our students along with our Head of Culture and Identity, Ms Kristin Flynn who ensured that the inaugural Retreat experience was a positive one. We also want to acknowledge the support of the Year 12 staff and the Culture and Identity team, who worked with them to ensure this retreat was so memorable for our students.





Tasty Treats for Timor Leste



This month, we are raising funds for one of our closest neighbours, Timor-Leste. Timor-Leste has almost 50% of its population living in multi-dimensional poverty, with a low standard of living and a lack of adequate health care and education. Iona College is a member of Geelong Viqueque Friendship Schools (GVFS), with our partner school being St Estevao, Viqueque. We are raising much-needed financial support through the fundraiser below.

Please consider buying some tasty treats from Routley's to support a great cause. 25% of your order placed through the website below will go directly back to Geelong Viqueque Friendship School's Scholarship Program.

Just order and pay through the [online portal](#), select 'Iona College' from the dropdown menu at checkout, and your young person can collect your delicious goods at Iona on Wednesday, May 28th.



Our Village- Geelong Mums



We're excited to let you know that next week we'll be holding a fundraiser to support [Our Village](#), a not-for-profit organisation that relies on the generosity of our community to help young people in need. We are asking for donations of clothes suitable for teenagers.

As the colder months approach, we're kindly asking for clothing donations, just one pre-loved item (or more!) from your wardrobe that you no longer wear could make a world of difference. Your contribution will go directly to helping teenagers stay warm and feel supported this winter.

The fundraiser will start on Monday, the 5th of May, and Friday, the 16th of May. A donation box will be placed at the Main Reception. Every little bit helps, and we're so grateful for your support!

Lily T & Kezia B
Year 12 Students

Election voting at Iona College - Democracy Sausages

Iona College is an official voting centre for this Saturday's federal election. We will have a dedicated team of staff and student volunteers cooking up a BBQ to raise money for **Geelong Viqueque Friendship Schools (GVFS)** and **Our Village- Geelong Mums**. Please come and visit us and buy your democracy sausage while supporting a worthy cause.

New Date for the Year 12 Group Photo

Arthur Reed Photos will now be on-site on **Friday, 23 May**, to take the Year 12 group photo. The photo will be taken first thing in the morning, so students are asked to arrive on time and in formal uniform.

Students who are usually off-site on Fridays for trade school will be driven by Iona staff after the photo has been taken. Please ensure you communicate with your employer that you will arrive later than usual.

Schools in Philanthropy Program

Throughout Term 1, the VCE/ VM students had the opportunity to participate in the SIP (Schools in Philanthropy) program. This started with Amy Waters from the Geelong Community Foundation, speaking to our classes about what the Foundation does within the community.

We were given three grant applications, which we had to thoroughly look through and analyse. Throughout this time, we worked in small groups to help us decide which grants we would recommend funding. This was a task that took time and was far from easy. As a part of the process, we had to decide which charitable organisations we would be selecting to give the grants to, with a certain amount of money we had to donate.

After working through this as a class, we then put a PowerPoint together with details around which of the three organisations we selected. We then presented at the Geelong Regional Library.

Out of the team of 10 students, 6 students were selected to speak alongside Geelong Lutheran College, Bannockburn College and St Ignatius College. Whilst there was a big build-up of nerves, it was a great feeling to have completed the speech, which was done very well. Overall, this was a great experience, and we all learnt a lot. Although it was a long process, which challenged us, it was so worth it. After all the presentations, we were then served a beautiful morning tea to celebrate everyone's hard work.

Throughout the time of reviewing the grant applications, Freda from the Geelong Community Foundation came in once a week to help us. We also had guest speakers from all 3 grant applicants, which was an amazing experience to learn about.

Thank you to everyone for providing us with this amazing opportunity where everyone learnt a lot, a special thanks to our teachers, Ms Ellmer, Mr Gooch and Jennie for supporting us all throughout this.

Charlotte B & Millie M
Year 12 Students



Wellbeing At Iona



Sleep Wellbeing, Weekly Grab

At Iona, we know that good sleep is the foundation for learning, health and wellbeing. Sleep does more than help us feel rested, it also helps us make good decisions. It helps us take in information and make sense of it.

As we move closer to exam time this term, many students will be tempted to lose sleep to gain extra study time to 'cram' and some may even 'pull all-nighters'. Unfortunately, this is an ineffective strategy, as I myself know from experience. I did not do as well as I had expected on my Year 12 exams! Regular sleep routines and sufficient sleep help us to learn and remember information effectively.

There are helpful ways we can increase how much information we can remember. These strategies have been used by First Nations peoples to remember vast amounts of information – what might take up volumes in encyclopaedias, they carry in their minds! Amazing! They include strategies such as 'memory palaces' and portable memory devices. If you want to find out more about these strategies, you could start by looking at [the work of Lynne Kelly](#).

Happy sleeping!

Helpful Apps:

[Doze App](#) for our teenagers

[Insomnia Coach](#) for adults

[Separating out sleepiness from insomnia:](#)

[Useful resources for young people](#)

Marisa Lavars

College Psychologist

Upcoming Parent/Carer Session – How Do I Talk to My Teen About Food

Our upcoming Parent/Carer session will be run by Clinical Nutritionist (BHSc), Angelica, from *This is Your Body*. This session is designed for **Year 7 and 8 parents and carers only** and is **not intended for students**.

Where: Iona College Resource Centre

When: Thursday, 22 May

Time: 6:00 PM – 7:30 PM

Our teens are under increasing societal pressure to conform to an unattainable standard of thinness and muscularity at a pivotal stage in both their physical and psychosocial development. In the past two months, Angelica has had many students share with her that they want to appreciate their body, but that it seems nearly impossible to do. It is time that we give them some hope.

In this session, she will cover:

- Where this pressure to conform has come from
- Why food has become so complicated
- The role that food plays in teen growth and development
- How to support a teen struggling with their body image
- Language that builds a positive relationship with food
- Steps you can take in your home to foster a joyful relationship with food and body

There will also be an opportunity for questions at the end.

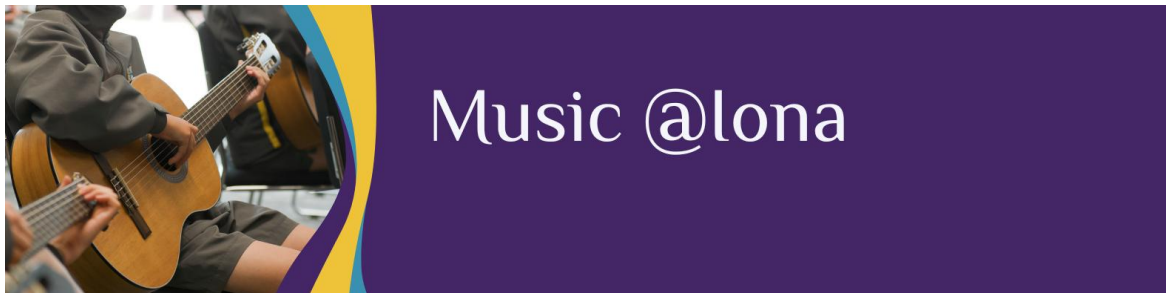
About Angelica:

Angelica is a Clinical Nutritionist (BHSc), body image educator, and the founder of *This is Your Body*. Since graduating from Endeavour College of Natural Health in 2021, she has worked with young people across Australia to give them the tools and strategies they need to build a joyful relationship with food and their body. With lived experience of struggling with disordered eating as a student, she understands how deeply it can impact young people's lives. Angelica has worked with thousands of students, using evidence-based and sustainable strategies to help them appreciate and celebrate their bodies. Her approach is joyful and offers hope in what can often be heavy or uncomfortable conversations.

We hope you can join us for this valuable session.

Kylie Power
Deputy Principal Wellbeing

Music Department News



Congratulations to two of our contemporary bands for their fine performances at the Flying Brick Cider House on Thursday, 24th April. This was a collaborative event coordinated by the Geelong Heads of Music. The Flying Brick Cider House generously agreed to host the event, and we are all very grateful for the opportunity given to our students. A special thank you to the Christian College VET Sound Production students for 'mixing' and providing all the sound support on the evening. It was great to see our students collaborating with others, sharing their love of music making and learn from each other.



Iona Pathways Press

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

- Dates to Diarise in Term 2
- Iona Career Expo
- VCE and Career Expo 2025
- CoGG Work Experience Opportunity
- Focus on Melbourne Information Sessions
- ACU: 'Talk with Industry' Webinars
- Discover Monash Events
- The Hotel School Australia: Tourism Insights Event
- Difference between a Bachelor of Laws and the Juris Doctor
- News from Bond University
 - Bond University Scholarships – 2026
 - Applying for 2026 Entry
- Sport Science Immersion Day
- So you want to be a Vet Nurse
- US/UK University Admissions Webinars
- JMC Academy: Open Day – May 2025
- Dental Technology and Oral Health Courses in Victoria in 2025
- Snapshot of Macquarie University in 2025



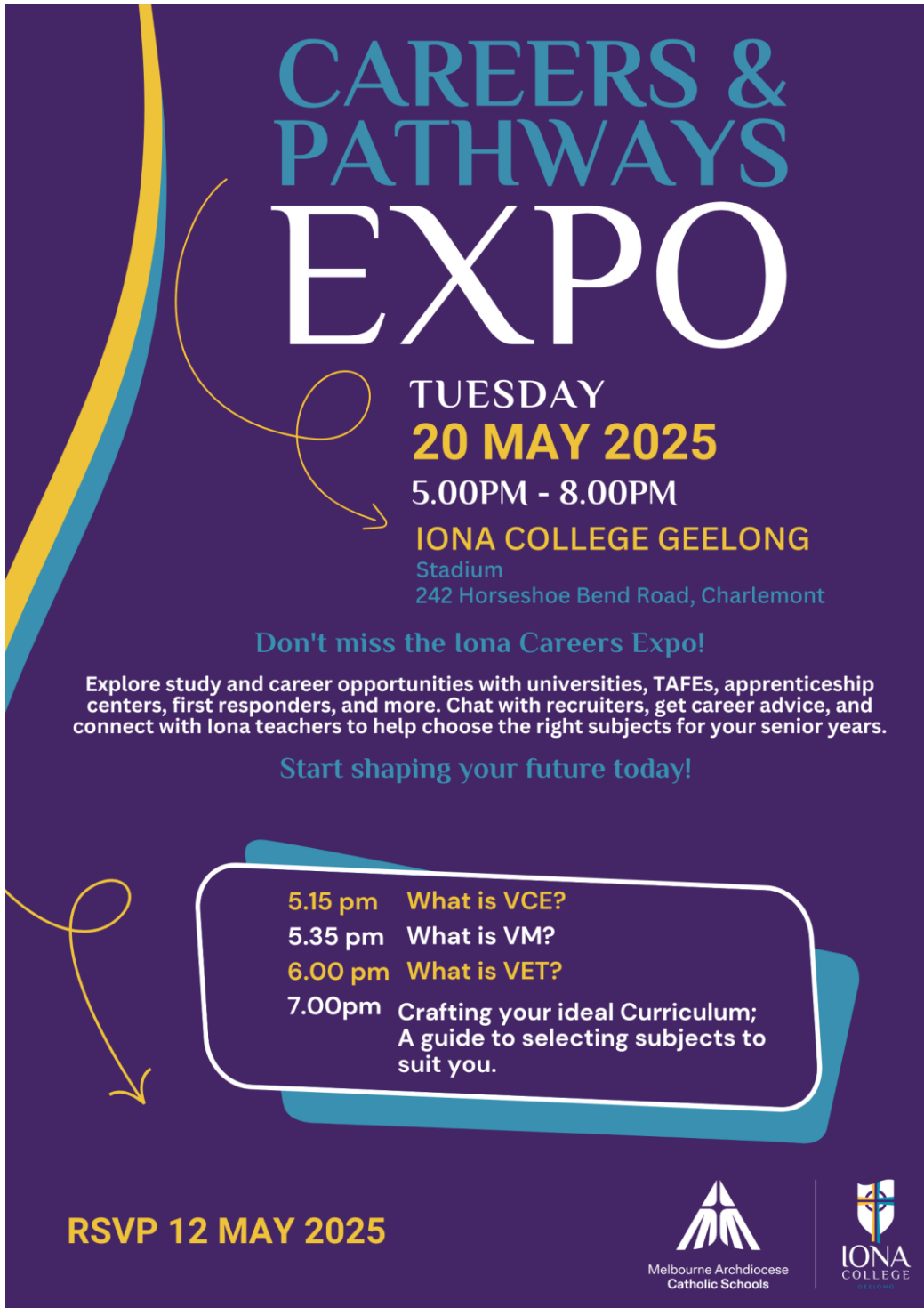
Find & Subscribe to the Pathways Press Newsfeed.

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

Careers and Pathways Expo – Tuesday 20 May



CAREERS & PATHWAYS EXPO

TUESDAY
20 MAY 2025
5.00PM - 8.00PM
IONA COLLEGE GEE LONG
Stadium
242 Horseshoe Bend Road, Charlemont

Don't miss the Iona Careers Expo!

Explore study and career opportunities with universities, TAFEs, apprenticeship centers, first responders, and more. Chat with recruiters, get career advice, and connect with Iona teachers to help choose the right subjects for your senior years.

Start shaping your future today!


5.15 pm What is VCE?

5.35 pm What is VM?


6.00 pm What is VET?

7.00pm Crafting your ideal Curriculum;
A guide to selecting subjects to suit you.

RSVP 12 MAY 2025



Melbourne Archdiocese
Catholic Schools



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COLLEGE
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As you will have already heard, we're excited to be hosting Iona College's first Careers and Pathways Expo on Tuesday 20 May 2025 – a valuable evening designed to support students in exploring future study, training and career options.

When: Tuesday 20 May 2025

Where: Iona College Stadium

Time: 5:00 pm – 8:00 pm

The event is open to the Iona community, but it is aimed at students in Years 9–12 and their families. It will feature a wide range of exhibitors and informative sessions to help guide subject selection and post-school pathways.

Here's a quick look at what you can expect:

Over 40 exhibitors, including:

- Universities and providers such as **Deakin, ACU, University of Melbourne, RMIT, Swinburne, The Gordon, Photography Studies College**, and many more
- Career pathways like the **Australian Defence Force, Victoria Police, GenU, WestVic** and **Collarts**
- Iona's own subject areas, including **English, Science, Maths, The Arts, Humanities, PE, Tech, Languages, Religious Education** and more

Helpful Info Sessions:

- **5:15pm** – What is VCE?
- **5:35pm** – What is VM?
- **6:00pm** – What is VET?
- **7:00pm** – *Crafting Your Ideal Curriculum: A Guide to Subject Selection*

RSVP is essential, please RSVP online via the [following online form](#) before 12 May 2025.

Further information will be emailed to Year 9–12 families within the next week.

The Pathways Team

Reminder: Horseshoe Bend Road Closure

A reminder that Horseshoe Bend Road (north of our main entrance via Walter Street) is now closed for approximately six weeks from Monday, 28 April.

- Pedestrian access remains open.
- No vehicle access from the north — please detour via Boundary Road.

We appreciate your patience during this time. For questions, please contact Reception.

242 Horseshoe Bend Road
Charlemont VIC 3217

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Reminder: Uniform Items Available via Reception

Just a reminder that a range of uniform accessories is available to order through the Canteen Online Shop under the 'Uniform Items' section. Once ordered, students will be notified by email when items are ready for collection from Main Reception.

Now available:

- **Bucket Hats** – \$15
- **Baseball Caps** – \$20
- **College Ties** – \$27
- **College Beanies** – \$20
- **Iona Scarves** – \$33
- **Formal Grey Socks (2pk)** – \$20
- **Sports Socks (2pk)** – \$20

This service is here to help families access those easy-to-miss or last-minute items conveniently.

Year 7 Camp Postponed

Year 7 families have been notified via email of a change to the Year 7 Camp dates due to unexpected major construction at the campsite. To ensure a safe and enjoyable experience for all students, the camp will now take place from Wednesday, 18 June to Friday, 20 June (previously scheduled for 12–16 May). The new dates will allow us to be able to attend camp as a whole cohort, which we believe is a positive outcome.

We appreciate your understanding and flexibility with this change. Please refer to the email for full details.

Term 2 2025 Dates to Remember

| Date | Event |
|--|---|
| Friday 4 April | End of Term 1 (2:05 pm Finish - Formal Uniform) |
| Tuesday 22 April | Term 2 Starts |
| Wednesday 23 April - Thursday 24 April | Year 12 Retreat |
| Thursday 24 April | Consent Labs - Parent Webinar, Powering Parents and Carers (Online , 6 pm - 7:30 pm) |
| Thursday 24 April | ANZAC Day Assembly (Formal Uniform) |
| Friday 25 April | ANZAC Day Public Holiday |
| Monday 19 May | Student Free Professional Development Day |
| Monday 19 May | Practise GAT Exam - All Unit 3 Students |
| Tuesday 20 May | Careers Expo Evening (Iona Stadium, 5 pm - 8 pm) |
| Thursday 22 May | Year 7 & 8 Parent & Carer Evening - How Do I Talk To My Teen About Food, Onsite (Iona Resource Centre, 6 pm - 7 pm) |
| Friday 23 May | Year 12 Photo (Formal Uniform) (Updated Date) |
| Thursday 29 May | Reconciliation Week Assembly (Formal Uniform) |
| Thursday 29 May | Autumn Soiree |
| Monday 9 June | King's Birthday Public Holiday |
| Tuesday 17 June | Student Free Professional Development Day Except for GAT Students |
| Wednesday 18 June - Friday 20 June | Year 7 Camp (Updated Date) |
| Tuesday 17 June | Unit 3 VCE & VCE VM GAT |
| Wednesday 18 June - Thursday 19 June | Year 10 Semester 1 Exams |
| Friday 20 June | Year 12 2026 Subject Selection Due |
| Saturday 28 June - Wednesday 9 July | Indonesian Study Tour |
| Monday 30 June - Tuesday 8 July | Central Australia Immersion |
| Friday 4 July | End of Term 2 (2:05 pm Finish) |

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