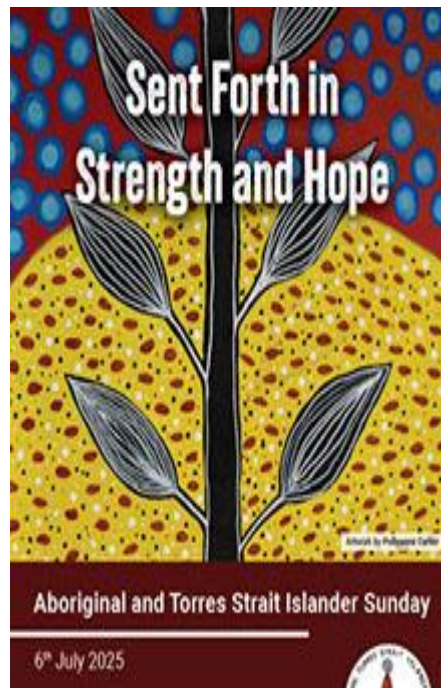


3 July 2025

Dear Parents and Carers,

During the holidays, we will be celebrating two very important events in our calendar, *Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Sunday* on July 6th and *NAIDOC* week 6th- 13th July. On the first Sunday of July each year, the Catholic Church in Australia observes Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Sunday. On this day, we gather as one to honour and celebrate the rich cultural heritage and contributions of our First Nations peoples to our Catholic Church.



This year, we come together under the theme: “Sent Forth in Strength and Hope.” It is Christ who sends us to walk together in faith, grounded in the deep spirituality and culture of First Nations Peoples, strengthened by the Gospel, and filled with hope for the future God is leading us into.

Our Catholic Church is a tapestry woven from many cultures. From the enduring wisdom of the world’s oldest continuing cultures, the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Peoples, to those who have journeyed from distant lands, we are one Body in Christ. In our diversity, we discover richness. In our unity, we find strength. And in every heart, we see the Spirit of God at work. If you would like to learn more about Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Sunday, refer to [these resources](#).

You are warmly invited to Mass at St Patrick’s Cathedral in Melbourne to celebrate *Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Sunday*, 6th July, 11.00 am -12.00 pm.

St Patrick’s Cathedral
1 Cathedral Place
East Melbourne

The Next Generation: Strength, Vision & Legacy

2025 NAIDOC Week, 6 – 13th July, marks a powerful milestone: 50 years of honouring and elevating Indigenous voices, culture and resilience. The 2025 theme, "The Next Generation: Strength, Vision & Legacy," celebrates not only the achievements of the past but the bright future ahead, empowered by the strength of our young leaders, the vision of our communities, and the legacy of our ancestors.

The NAIDOC journey began as a movement for recognition and rights, sparked by Indigenous communities who saw a future built on justice and equality. Over the decades, it has grown into a powerful national celebration, a testament to the enduring strength of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples. This year, the National NAIDOC Committee takes an important step toward independence, embracing self-determination as a model for the next generation. With every story shared, every act of resilience remembered, and every cultural practice celebrated.

From this solid foundation, the next generation will rise, grounded in the strength of our Elders, history, inspired by a shared vision, and committed to building a legacy of unity, respect and self-determination for all.

For more information about what's happening in our local Community, [please see the following website:](#)



If you are interested in attending NAIDOC week celebrations in our region, please refer to [the following site](#).

A special NAIDOC week Mass will be celebrated on **Sunday 13 July 2025 from 11.00 am–12.00 pm** at St Francis' Church- 326 Lonsdale Street, Melbourne. All are welcome to attend.

God of all creation,
from the beginning, you have spoken through the land,
and through the voices of the First Peoples who have cared for it with wisdom and reverence. We thank you for the cultures, stories, and spiritual strength of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples. We honour their deep connection to this ancient land, a connection that reveals your presence in all things.

Holy Spirit, move across this land.
Inspire us to walk gently, speak truthfully, and act justly.
Unite us as one people, many cultures, sharing one faith.
May your Church be a sign of hope, a community of welcome, and a voice for justice and healing.
We make this prayer through Christ our Lord.

Amen.

[Source](#)

Our Resource Centre has put some fantastic reading material together:



End of Term Acknowledgements

As we conclude the term, we would like to acknowledge our students for their efforts over the course of this term. We are blessed to be guiding a wonderful student cohort, and we remain impressed with the many achievements over the last eleven weeks. As always, the most important part of being an Iona student is to do and be your individual best. We would also like to acknowledge the efforts of the Iona College staff who have supported our student cohort each day. We thank them for all that they do and for their dedication to ensuring that each student is making the most of all the opportunities on offer.

Indonesian Study Tour and Central Australia Immersion

We've loved receiving regular updates from both the Indonesian Language Study Tour and the Central Australian Immersion. By all accounts, the students are having an incredible time. Staff have shared how proud they are of the way our students are representing Iona and embracing every opportunity that comes their way. We look forward to sharing more of their stories and photos with you in the coming weeks.





Iona Receives 5-Star Employer of Choice Award.



We're delighted to report that Iona has been named as one of the schools that received The Educator's 5 Star Employer of Choice award. As part of the selection process, our staff team participated in a survey, and the College was assessed across several key areas, including:

- Professional respect
- Sustainable workloads
- Strong leadership
- A culture of trust and recognition
- Development opportunities

We are incredibly grateful to our dedicated staff who support our students so passionately, and we are thankful to be acknowledged in this way.

Year 7 Immunisation



On Tuesday, 12th August 2025, Barwon Health immunisation service will visit our Year 7 students to administer the following immunisations for free:

- HPV(Human Papillomavirus) vaccine =1 injection
- Boostrix(Diphtheria, tetanus and whooping cough booster) = 1 injection

Please complete the online consent form via the [following link](#), as soon as possible, or via the QR code below:



Kate Every.
College Nurse

ICT Update

As our Year 12s prepare to conclude their time at the College, we would like to remind you to check your Iona Online account balances. Students and families are reminded that any remaining balances on your Iona Online account are non-refundable. To ensure you make the most of your funds, we strongly encourage you to use all remaining balances before concluding your time at Iona College. If a sibling is currently enrolled at the College, you may request to transfer a remaining balance to their account. To initiate this process, please contact the College's Finance team via email atfees@iona.vic.edu.au

Michael Hughes
ICT / Resource Manager

Wellbeing At Iona



Sleep Wellbeing, Weekly Grab

At Iona, we know that our knowledge about sleep will be something that will help us and those we care about throughout the rest of our lives. Part of being able to sleep is making sure that we are calm enough throughout the day and also at night time (this helps our arousal sleep system).

Just before we fall asleep is a time for many of us when worries might come into our minds. Almost all of us have this happen, and it can be something to do with the way we have adapted over time as humans. If you gently let the worries drift away and don't give them too much attention, they will usually fade.

Having Trouble Stopping Worrying at Bedtime? Set Aside Problem-Solving Time

If you are someone for whom the worries are too big and they stop you from falling asleep, it can be helpful to set aside some problem-solving time to get the work or worrying done. This could include setting aside time earlier in the day to journal. See the DOZe app for more information.

Helpful Apps:

[Doze App](#) for our teenagers

[Insomnia Coach](#) for adults

[Separating out sleepiness from insomnia:](#)

[Useful resources for young people](#)

[Cumulative sleep debt may create behaviours which look like ADHD, and may exacerbate ADHD symptoms.](#)

Marisa Lavars
College Psychologist

Restorative Practices Parent Seminar

The Iona community has been invited to the following seminar at Clonard College. Please be sure to register via the QR code below if you'd like to attend.

Restorative Practices in Schools: A Parent & Carer Seminar

As part of our commitment to being **Intentionally Connected** through our **One Pace Beyond 2025-2028 School Improvement Plan**, we are aiming to build partnerships with families through delivering a family seminar program.

Our next session will be based on developing Thriving Change Agents through our Strategic Commitment to Leading in positive behaviour, restorative practices and inclusion.

We invite all parents and carers to attend a session with Kristy Elliott who has been working with our staff and leaders to develop Restorative Practices in Schools.



CLONARD
COLLEGE
GEE LONG

Date: **Wednesday July 30**

Time: **6:30-7:30pm**

Location: **Kildare Theatre**

Restorative Practices in schools is about managing the relationships across the school community with processes and techniques that help to build, maintain, deepen, and repair relationships. One of the many benefits of this approach is the development of resilience and conflict navigation skills – both of which influence our wellbeing. Schools embracing this philosophy prioritise building positive relationships, developing social-emotional capabilities, wellbeing for all, creating supportive learning environments, and establishing fair, democratic systems across their community.

Parents and carers attending this seminar can expect to learn:

- **The foundations of Restorative Practice;**
- **What Restorative Practice looks like in schools;**
- **The benefits of using restorative practices; and**
- **How families can use restorative approaches at home to build resilience and enhance parent-child relationships**

Register via the QR code or link below



<https://forms.office.com/r/GEdc5J8itk>



This seminar is delivered by Kristy Elliott. Kristy holds a Bachelor of Education and a Masters in Applied Positive Psychology. Kristy is an experienced teacher and consultant, having worked for over two decades with schools in Australia and Asia making a positive difference in the lives of young people, educators, and school communities. Kristy is founder and director of Melbourne-based business Restorative Pathways. She passionately supports schools to create relational, thriving school cultures using the science of wellbeing, and restorative approaches to relationship management.



Active and Able - Blind Bowls Come and Try Day – Free Family Fun These Holidays!

Looking for something fun and inclusive to do these holidays? Come along to the Blind Bowls Come and Try Day at Highton Bowls Club, Geelong! This is a fantastic opportunity to experience what our students have been exploring in the Active and Able classes—learning about inclusive sports and how everyone can get involved, regardless of ability.

Bring your family or grab a few mates and have a go! It's a great way to connect, have fun, and build awareness around accessible sport. Have a chat with Travis Zimmer, who has been supporting our Active and Able classes.

Blind Bowls Come and Try Day Highton Bowls Club Geelong BOOK NOW



Blind Bowls at Highton Bowls Club

Saturday 12th July

11 am to 2pm

Tea, coffee and BBQ lunch provided.
Enquiries: Rachel DeSumma 0493 105 800

No experience needed. Coaching provided. All Abilities welcome.








Join BSRV, Blind Bowls Victoria, Leisure Networks and Sport 4 All for a friendly and inclusive 'Come and Try Day' at Highton Bowls Club. This is a great opportunity to try lawn bowls adapted for people with vision loss. The event is open to all ages and abilities. No experience is necessary. Parent supervision is required.

Date: Saturday 12 July 2025

Time: 11:00 AM – 2:00 PM

Location: Highton Bowls Club, Corner Roslyn and North Valley Road, Highton

Cost: Free

Event Schedule:

- 11:00 AM —Welcome and introductions, followed by an introduction to Blind Bowls and practice on the green
- 11:45 AM – Tea and coffee break
- 12:00 PM – Play on the middle green (or indoor green if the weather is poor)
- 1:15 PM (approx.) – BBQ lunch
- 2:00 PM – Event concludes

Enquiries:

Rachel DeSumma – BSRV

Email: rachel@blindsports.org.au

Phone: 0493 105 800

Register online [via the following link](#).

Iona Pathways Press

The 3rd July edition of the Iona Pathways Press [can be found here](#).
In this edition, you will find information about:

- Dates to Diarise in Term 3
- Melbourne Career Expo 2025
- Deakin Guarantee ATAR
- Meet Melbourne Bellarine Peninsula
- ADFA Open Day
- Monash Information Session in Geelong
- Jetstar Engineering Apprenticeship Program
- Apprenticeship and Trainee Forum
- Photography Studies College School Holiday Workshops
- Swinburne Early Entry Program
- Swinburne Youth Space Innovation Challenge
- Collarts Winter Holiday Workshops

Art Department News

The Year 10 Product Design and Technology students have finished off the semester with the completion of their Major Assessment Task, a screen-printed hoodie or Crew Neck. Selecting a specific end user group to cater their design too, students created a unique hand or computer-generated placement print. They individually screen printed their design onto their own fabric and followed the process of sewing their entire garment. Showcasing their designs, the students look fantastic!







Term 2 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 Except for GAT Students |
| 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 | Parent & Carer Evening (all year levels) - 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 |
| Tuesday 17 June | Unit 3 VCE & VCE VM GAT |
| Wednesday 18 June - Friday 20 June | Year 7 Camp (Updated Date) |
| 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) |

Term 3 2025 Dates to Remember

| Date | Event |
|--------------------------------------|--|
| Monday 21 July | Student Free Day (Staff Professional Development) |
| Tuesday 22 July | Term 3 Starts |
| Wednesday 23 July - Saturday 26 July | Combined Catholic Schools Production (Geelong Arts Centre) |
| Friday 25 July | Whole School Assembly (Formal Uniform Required) |
| Thursday 31 July | Strings Festival (Iona Stadium) |
| Friday 1 August | Year 11 2026 Subject Selections Due |
| Thursday 7 August | Winter Soiree (Iona Stadium) |
| Friday 8 August | Year 10 2026 Subject Selections Due |
| Tuesday 12 August | Year 7 Immunisation |
| Friday 15 August | Year 9 2026 Subject Selections Due |
| Wednesday 20 August | Unit 4 Student Progress Meetings (3:30 pm - 5:30 pm, face-to-face) |
| Thursday 21 August | Ensemble Showcase (6 pm, Iona Stadium) |
| Monday 25 August | VCE Recital (6 pm, Iona Stadium) |
| Tuesday 26 August | Student Progress Meetings (3:30 pm - 6 pm, Online) |
| Monday 1 September | Online Parenting Session - Empowering Parents in the Vaping Conversation (6:30 pm, Online) |
| Wednesday 3 September | Year 8 Time and Space Parent and Student Evening (5:45 pm - 8 pm, Iona Stadium) |
| Thursday 4 September | Student Progress Meetings (3:30 pm - 6:30 pm, Face-To-Face) |
| Friday 5 September | Student Free Day (Staff Professional Development) |
| Wednesday 10 September | Year 7 Time and Space Parent and Student Evening (5:45 pm - 8 pm, Iona Stadium) |
| Thursday 11 September | Combined Choral Collaboration (Iona Stadium) |
| Thursday 18 September | Whole School Mass (Formal Uniform Required) |
| Friday 19 September | Columba Day Celebration & Lorne 120 |
| Friday 19 September | End of Term 3 (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.

Farewells

As we conclude this term, we say farewell to the following staff members:

Cassie Healy- Cassie was the second employee of Iona College (after the Principal) who joined the staff in May 2019. Cassie was instrumental in the establishment of Iona, particularly leading the establishment of the administrative arm of the College. We will be forever indebted to Cassie for her commitment to our school, and she will remain a very important part of our history. Thank you, Cassie!

Carlene Harlock (Learning Support Officer)- Carlene will be leaving us to pursue some travel opportunities overseas with her family. Thank you, Carlene, for the support you have given our students over the last three years.

Michael O'Donnell (Instrumental Teacher) - we wish Michael well as he pursues opportunities overseas over the next part of the year.



Mel Nayda concludes her role as a Provisional Psychologist and we wish her well as she pursues professional opportunities in to the future.

We also wish *David Bourke* well as he takes a well-deserved Long Service Leave break in Term 3. Amongst his overseas travels, Mt Bourke will be visiting the Isle of Iona!

End of Term Update and Office Hours

Please note that due to a change in the last day of term schedule, tomorrow, Friday, 4 July, will **no longer be a formal uniform day**.

Please note that the Iona College office will close at 3:00 pm on Friday, 4 July, following the early finish for students at 2:05 pm. The office will remain open during the first week of the school holidays and will be closed during the second week.

We hope that our community has a restful and positive break, and we look forward to seeing our students back on site on Tuesday, 22 July.

Thanks for your support.

Damian, Kylie and Melissa