23 October 2025

Dear Parents and Carers,

This week, we celebrate a significant milestone in our College history: Iona College's inaugural graduation ceremony for the class of 2025. This cohort is close to our hearts for many reasons; we watched them grow as the school grew. When they first walked through the gates of this College in 2020, they began more than just an education; they began a pilgrimage, a journey of faith, discovery, and purpose. On Tuesday evening, we welcomed our graduates, their teachers, families and friends to celebrate the Eucharist one final time as the Year 12 cohort of 2025.

This meaningful celebration of faith and reflection was led by Fr Linh Pham, the Parish Priest from Holy Trinity in Queenscliff. The first reading from Isaiah encapsulated our hopes for our young people,

"*For surely I know the plans I have for you, says the Lord, plans for your welfare and not for harm, to give you a future with hope. Then, when you call upon me and come and pray to me, I will hear you. When you search for me, you will find me; if you seek me with all your heart, I will let you find me, says the Lord"*
This reading reminds our graduates that they are not alone as they walk boldly into the next chapter of their lives. They go with the prayers of the staff and students of Iona College, the love of their families, and the presence of God who walks with them always.

We heard from Matthew's Gospel,

"You are the salt of the earth. But suppose the salt loses its saltiness… You are the light of the world. A town built on a hill cannot be hidden… Let your light shine so others can see it and give glory to your Father in heaven."

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These words are both a compliment and a commission. Jesus tells us that we all have what the world needs - goodness, truth, and hope. To our Year 12 Graduates, please always remember that our world needs your light, your kindness, your courage to speak up, your compassion for those who are struggling, and your commitment to lead and seek excellence in whatever you do.

Let your light shine brightly, not for recognition, but so that through your actions, others may see something of God's goodness. This is not a goodbye; you will always be welcome here. But for now, we hope that we have been successful in fulfilling our mission of helping you graduate as good people who will do many good things.

Let your compassion guide you to serve.
Let your courage move you to act.
Let your leadership inspire others to follow.
And let your pursuit of excellence remind you that all you do is for the glory of God.

Amen

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We would like to acknowledge the many staff who have ensured the positive finish of our Year 12 students.

Thank you to Ms Flynn for her coordination of the Mass, and to Ms Townsend for arranging the music. Thank you to the staff who assisted with other roles associated with the Mass and Graduation Ceremony. Thank you to our Year 12 Coordinator, Mr Nathan Pisani, and Assistant Coordinator, Mrs Lauren Flint, along with our VCE Coordinator, Mrs Anthea Sholl, for their specific guidance and support of our 2025 graduating class. We also thank the Year 12 Community Group Teachers, Ms Carter Blackhall, Ms Bretherton, Ms Cullinan, Ms Grayland, and Mr Cambridge, for their care of the students throughout the year, including during this graduation period.

Thank you to Mrs Cole and the administration team for their efforts with the Graduation Ceremony and dinner. We look forward to a wonderful celebration this evening!

2026 College Leaders

On Tuesday, our eight 2025 College Leaders officially handed the baton to our 2026 College Leaders, a proud day for our College community.

We extend our congratulations and warm welcome to our new leaders as they step into their roles:

- **Isaac & Mia** – Culture and Identity Portfolio
- **Kirby & Maurice** – Learning Portfolio
- **Tai & Alice** – Wellbeing Portfolio
- **Layla & Finley** – Sport Portfolio

The two leadership teams shared lunch together, where our 2025 leaders offered advice, insights and words of wisdom from their experiences throughout the year. To commemorate the occasion, our incoming leaders presented the outgoing team with a beautiful book - a keepsake to mark their time serving in leadership at Iona.

Congratulations to our 2025 College Leaders for leading with integrity, passion and purpose. We look forward to seeing our 2026 College Leaders continue this legacy in the year ahead.

An official commissioning ceremony will be held later this term to formally welcome our new leaders.

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Iona College Uniform Policy

At Iona College, we are proud to offer students the flexibility to choose between their formal and PE uniforms each day. This approach reflects our trust in students to make responsible choices and our commitment to fostering a respectful and inclusive school culture.

However, we are becoming increasingly concerned about a growing number of students who are pushing the boundaries of our uniform expectations. We are seeing issues such as:

- Inappropriate dress and short lengths
- Excessive or non-permitted jewellery
- Visible makeup, eyelash extensions, and false nails or nail polish
- Incorrect or non-uniform items being worn
- Mixture of formal and sports uniform items

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These trends are not in keeping with the standards we expect at Iona, and they undermine the values of pride, respect, and unity that our uniform represents. Unless we see a significant improvement over the next month, we will be reviewing our current uniform policy.

We are asking for your support in reinforcing these expectations at home. Please take a moment to check your child's uniform before they leave for school and remind them of the importance of presenting themselves with pride and respect.

Together, we can ensure that our students continue to enjoy the privilege of choice while upholding the high standards that define Iona College.

The current uniform policy can be found online via the following link.

Thank you for your ongoing support.

Kylie Power
Deputy Principal (Wellbeing)

Year 9 Camp and Leadership Summit Camp

This week, we held two exciting camps, the Year 9 Melbourne Urban Camp and our Leadership Summit Camp. We are proud of the way our students represented Iona throughout both experiences.
We look forward to hearing their stories and sharing photos from the week with our community soon.

Uniform Item Donations

As we approach the end of the year, we invite you to lend a helping hand to families in our school community. If your student has outgrown any school uniform items or if you have pieces that are no longer needed, we warmly encourage you to consider donating them to Iona College.

Our goal is to build a range of uniform items that can be shared with families in need. By doing so, we can ensure that every student has access to the essential clothing they require to feel comfortable and confident while attending school.

Here's how you can make a difference:

Uniform Donations: We are grateful for any contributions of uniform items that are clean, in good condition, and adhere to the school's uniform guidelines. Whether it's shirts, pants, skirts, or blazers, every piece counts.

Drop-off Details: To donate, please bring your items to the Main Reception area. Our staff will be more than happy to assist you.

Thank you sincerely for your generosity and support of our school community. Your thoughtful contributions truly make a significant impact.

Music Department News

Summer Soiree – Thursday 16th October

Congratulations to the students who performed at the recent Summer Soiree. It is always wonderful to hear the growth in our students musically and their confidence within themselves. We had individual performances, duets and our String Ensemble performed. It was a fitting end to our soirees for 2025.

Thank you to all the students who performed, Mr Wallace and other music staff, Lottie Noller (Music Administration) and our Maintenance team.

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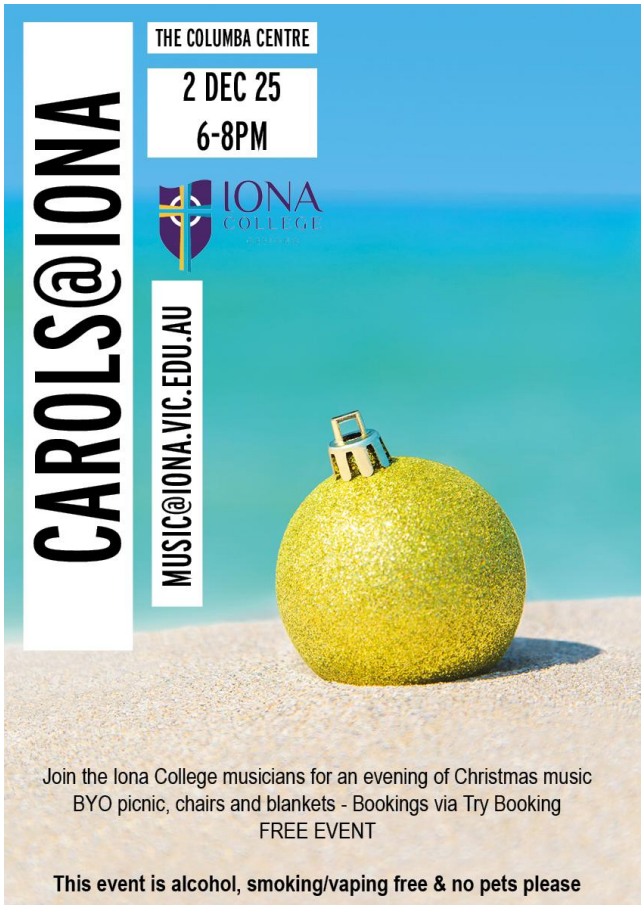
Carols@Iona



We are very excited to be preparing for Carols@Iona, which will take place on Tuesday, 2 December. This special community event is a wonderful way to come together, enjoy beautiful music, and celebrate the spirit of the festive season.

This year, we are delighted to be joined by singers from St Joseph's College and St Catherine of Siena, and we look forward to warmly welcoming them to our Iona community evening.

The evening will include:

- Carols and Christmas music that everyone can join in with
- Face painting for all ages
- Games and family fun
- A sausage sizzle
- A visit from a very special "red guest"

Tickets are free, but bookings are essential so we can plan for numbers.

Please register via the following link.

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2026 Music Enrolments

Please do not forget to confirm if your young person will be continuing with their music lessons. New enrolments for 2026 are being taken now, too. Contact music@iona.vic.edu.au if you are interested or need new information. Please view our 2026 brochure via the following link.

Jodie Townsend
Head of Performing Arts

Unit 2 Business Management Excursion - Great Ocean Road Chocolaterie and Ice Creamery

On Tuesday, October 21, both Year 11 Business Management classes went to the Anglesea chocolaterie to enhance their studies regarding marketing and staffing a business. Students created their own chocolate pizzas and lollipops, and participated in a presentation from the business in regard to the key strategies and processes they have in place to ensure the success of the venue, and meeting customer's needs.

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Royal Geelong Show Cookery Competition 2025

This year, several Year 10 & 11 students who are studying VCE Food Studies entered the Geelong Show cookery competition, and we are extremely proud and excited with how well they did across the competition. This is the second year we have entered the competition, and we look forward to making it a regular activity as part of our Food Technology department.

The following students were awarded the places.

Best exhibit Secondary Students Rosette Year 11 & 12 students – Ava Collins

First place
Ava Collins – Lemon Slice
Ava Collins – Caramel Crunch Slice
Millicent Sullivan – Anzac Biscuits
Eli Williams-Treloar – Banana and Choc chip muffins

Second place
Millicent Sullivan – Decorated Cupcakes
Angus Weller – Caramel crunch slice
Angus Weller – Lemon Slice
Mylee Taylor & Tahlia Schnieder – Caramel crunch slice (Year 9 & 10)

Third place
Felix Abbott – Banana and choc chip muffins
Millicent Sullivan – Caramel Crunch Slice
Charley Trotter – Lemon Slice
Charley Walsh and Sid Wood – Anzac Biscuits
Mylee Taylor & Tahlia Schnieder – Lemon Slice (Year 9 & 10)

Highly Commended
Felix Abbott – Caramel Crunch Slice
Kyla McCarthy & Scarlett Brown – Lemon Slice

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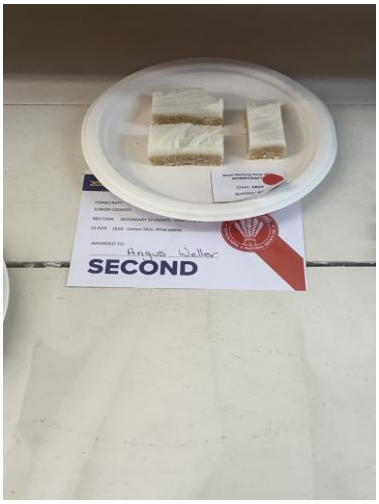

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Weekly Emotional Regulation Strategy

EMOTIONAL REGULATION STRATEGY: I'M HAVING THE THOUGHT THAT...

The strategy of saying "I'm having the thought that..." comes from cognitive defusion, a therapeutical intervention underpinned by the theory that distress often comes from being fused with our thoughts, treating them as literal truths or commands.
For example: "I'm a failure" feels like a factual statement.
When we're fused with a thought, it can strongly influence our feelings and actions leading to avoidance, anxiety, or hopelessness. By adding the phrase: "I'm having the thought that I'm a failure," we create psychological distance between ourselves and the thought. This reduces the impact of the unhelpful thought and increases flexibility to enable us to choose how to respond (rather than automatically reacting). Building awareness helps to reinforce the notion that thoughts are passing experiences and not always true. This small shift helps someone see the thought rather than be the thought.

I AM HAVING the THOUGHT THAT.....

STEP BACK FROM YOUR THOUGHTS

It's important to remember that thoughts are NOT facts, and you are NOT your thoughts.

Instead of saying
"I'm a (insert negative thought),"

try saying:
"I'm having the thought that I'm a (insert negative thought)."

When a tough thought shows up, say:

"I'm having the thought that..."

Take a slow breath.

Notice the difference?
You're not your thoughts — you're the observer of them.

- Accept your thoughts
- Connect with the present moment by taking a grounding breath
- Take charge of your thoughts and be kind to your mind

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Iona Pathways Press

The 23rd October edition of the Iona Pathways Press can be found here.
In this edition, you will find information about:

- Dates to Diarise in Term 4
- Iona Careers Message Board
- VTAC 2026 Upcoming Key Dates
- Studying the Bachelor of Design at the University of Melbourne
- Master of Project Management at Victoria University
- Diploma of Teacher Education Preparation
- Career in Digital Marketing
- Part-time Job Opportunity
- US Virtual College Fair
- Project Management Courses in 2025 in Victoria
- Snapshot of JMC Academy in 2025
- How to get a Tax File Number

Art Department News

Mr Bromley's Year 10 Visual and Digital Art iCreate class have been looking at the Surrealist Art movement. Inspired by artists such as Salvador Dalí, Andre Breton, and Max Ernst, students have explored the notion of surrealism and a 'beyond reality' through the medium of sculpture. Being asked to create a face, students used polymer clay, moulding tools and their imaginations to dream up these impressive, surreal sculptures.

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Term 4 2025 Dates to Remember

Date	Event
Monday 6 October	Student Free Day (Staff Professional Development)
Tuesday 7 October	Term 4 Starts
Tuesday 14 October	Year 7, 2026 Parent Information Night (Online)
Thursday 16 October	Summer Soiree
Tuesday 21 October	Whole School Assembly (Formal Uniform Required)
Tuesday 21 October	Year 12 Arts and Technology Exhibition (5 pm - 5:45 pm)
Tuesday 21 October	Year 12 Graduation Mass (6 pm, Iona Stadium)
Wednesday 22 October	Year 12 Celebration Session
Thursday 23 October	Year 12 Graduation Dinner
Wednesday 22 October - Thursday 23 October	Year 9 Camp (Group 1)
Thursday 23 October - Friday 24 October	Year 9 (Group 2)
Tuesday 28 October	VCE Unit 3 & 4 Exams Begin
Monday 3 November	Student Free Day (School Closed for Mid-Term Break)
Tuesday 4 November	Melbourne Cup Public Holiday
Monday 17 November - Friday 21 November	Year 10, 11 and Unit 2 Exams
Wednesday 19 November	Year 8 Passion Project Expo (1:30 pm - 3 pm)
Thursday 20 November	"Inspired" Art and Technology Exhibition of VCE Work
Monday 24 November	Student Free Day (Staff Professional Development)
Wednesday 26 November	Year 7 Passion Project Expo (1:30 pm - 3 pm)
Wednesday 26 November - 3 December	Ignite Program (Years 10 -12)
Tuesday 2 December	Carols@Iona (6 pm - 8 pm)
Wednesday 3 December	End of Year Mass (Formal Uniform Required)
Thursday 4 December	Term 4 Concludes (3:05 pm)
Thursday 29 January	Year 7, Year 12 and All New Students to the College Start
Friday 30 January	Years 8-11 Commence

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

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