

19 March 2026

Dear Parents and Carers,

This week we celebrate Catholic Education Week in Victoria which runs from 15th – 22nd March. It is a week to celebrate our Catholic identity and the distinctive mission of Catholic schools to provide a holistic education that integrates faith, culture and learning, centred on the teachings of Jesus Christ.

The theme for Catholic Education Week for 2026 is 'Christ beside me: Walking in the footsteps of Saint Patrick.' This is fitting as the middle of the week includes the feast of St. Patrick, who is also the patron saint of our Cathedral in Melbourne. As an Irish saint, St. Patrick holds a special place in the hearts of our Iona community, as he worked with our own St. Columba to spread the Good News throughout Ireland, Scotland and then around the world.

Catholic Education Week provides a special opportunity to reflect on the rich history of our schools, which have served families, provided support to communities and formed young people of compassion and care who continue to contribute to society. While the learning programs in our schools and the buildings have grown and changed over the years, the commitment to Christian education and spiritual nourishment in our school communities has remained the same. Catholic education has flourished because of this, and our own Iona College is a great example of the growth of Catholic education as we continue to welcome new students into our Iona family.

This week, we have welcomed prospective families to our annual Tour and Information Sessions, and it has been a pleasure to meet so many new members of our community. Throughout the tours, families have experienced the growth of our learning spaces, as well as the warmth and spirit that define Iona. Our teachers have shared their passion as they welcomed visitors into their classrooms and our student leaders have made us incredibly proud with their confidence, openness and genuine hospitality.

As we take some time to give thanks for Catholic Education, let's also pray with an excerpt from the prayer of St. Patrick:

*O, Lord,
I arise today, through
The strength of heaven,
The light of the sun,
The radiance of the moon,
The splendour of fire,
The speed of lightning,
The swiftness of wind,
The depth of the sea,
The stability of the earth,
The firmness of rock.
Amen.*

National Close the Gap Day



National CLOSE THE GAP Day



Today is National Close the Gap Day. National Close the Gap Day is an important time for Australians to reflect on the ongoing inequality experienced by Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples in areas such as health, education and life opportunities. It reminds us that everyone deserves dignity, respect and equal opportunity. For our school community, this day invites us to listen, learn and stand in solidarity with First Nations peoples. As a Catholic community, we are called to uphold the God-given dignity of every person and to work towards justice, reconciliation and healing. Together, we can contribute to a future where all Australians have the opportunity to thrive.

*Loving God,
You created all people in Your image
and call us to walk together in justice and peace.
On this day, help us to listen with open hearts
to the stories and wisdom of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples.
Guide us to act with compassion,
to seek reconciliation,
and to work for a future where all people
are treated with dignity and opportunity.
May Your Spirit lead us to be builders of justice and hope.
Amen.*

Swimming Carnival Year Level Champions



Pictured: Stella Courtney, Mia Peselj, Elliot Sullivan, Pip Johnstone, Maeve Timms, Niamh Doyle, Ashton Rickard, Samuel Timms and Eden Burrows.

Absent: Banjo Condon, Bondi Condon, Aurora Aldersley, Jai McGillivray, Layla McInnes and Jimmy Reilly.

Our recent Swimming Carnival was a fantastic day, and we were grateful for the perfect conditions, which made it even more enjoyable. It was great to see so many students getting involved, whether in the pool or supporting from the sidelines.

In particular, we would like to recognise our Year Level Champions, who gave their all throughout the day:

Year 7 – Samuel Timms / Eden Burrows

Year 8 – Niamh Doyle / Ashton Rickard

Year 9 – Banjo Condon / Maeve Timms

Year 10 – Elliot Sullivan / Pip Johnstone

Year 11 – Bondi Condon & Aurora Aldersley / Jai McGillivray

Year 12 – Stella Courtney, Mia Peselj & Layla McInnes / Jimmy Reilly

A special congratulations to Stella Courtney, our Iona Diving Champion.

A big thank you to all staff, particularly our Sports Department, for making the day such a success.

Easter Fundraising Reminder – Two Weeks to Go

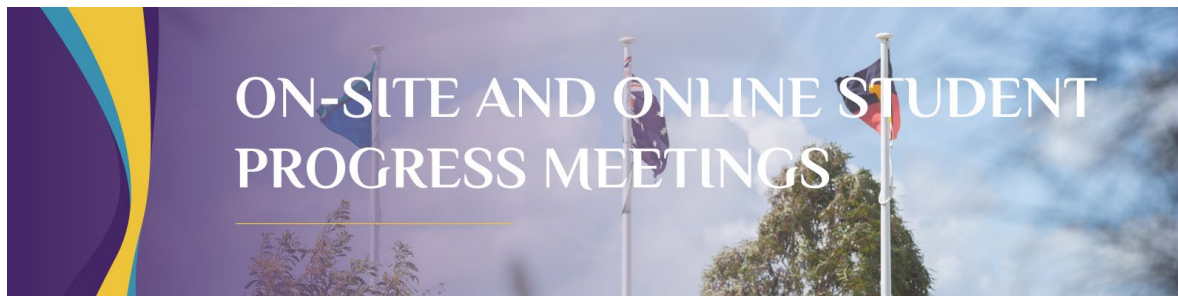


Only two more weeks to for our annual Easter Egg Raffle. This initiative raises funds for the feeding program at St Mary's Primary School in Uganda, helping ensure students receive a daily meal and access to education.

Families are invited to donate Easter eggs and students have recieved raffle tickets to sell, with all funds going directly to the St Mary's feeding program. Winners will receive Easter hampers made from the donated eggs. Donations and sold raffle tickets can be dropped off at the Main Reception by Tuesday, 31 March 2026.

Families wishing to support the program directly can donate via the [St Mary's Feeding Program link](#). All Easter egg donations and sold raffle tickets can be dropped off at the main reception by **Tuesday, 31 March 2026**.

Whole School Onsite and Online Student Progress Meetings



19th March (today): On-site/ In-person interviews will be held across the Glowrey Centre, Resource Centre and Stadium. Please refer to the staffing list below for interview locations and the Iona campus map. Copies will also be available on the day.

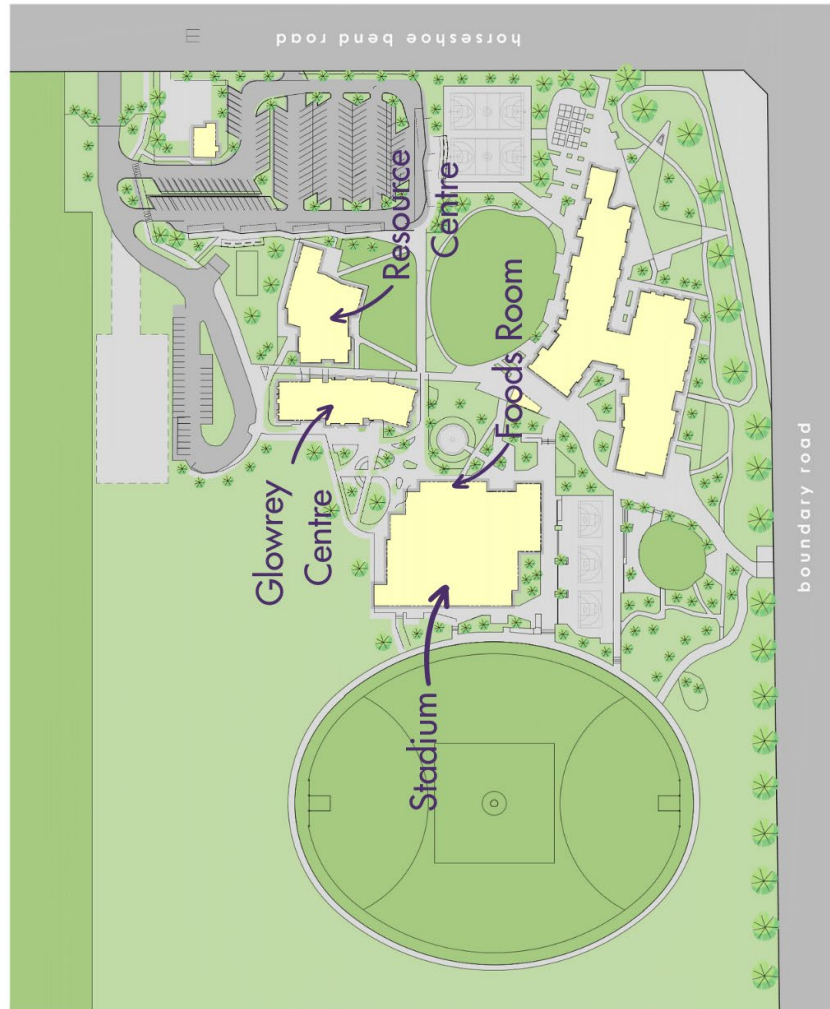
24th March: online via Microsoft Teams (virtual interviews only)

If you experience issues accessing PAM, please email ictservices@iona.vic.edu.au for support.

Resource Centre



Stadium and Foods Room





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Teacher	Room	Teacher	Room
Adams Peter	Stadium	Jones Declan	GB403
Aitken Heath	Stadium	Kavenagh Siobhan	Stadium
Anderson Prue	GA401	Kline Clea	GB403
Aulsebrook Elke	GA401	Koch Bianca	GB403
Aulsebrook Ned	GB405	Konigson Jenny	Resource Centre
Badrock Abbey	GA401	Kotz Samantha	GB403
Bamford Lyndon	GA401	Kukulka Elise	GB404
Batson Will	Stadium	Lane Ella	GB404
Baulch David	GA402	Lappin Georgia	GB404
Bourke David	GA402	Lechte Kristen	Stadium
Bretherton Loretta	Stadium	Long Fletcher	GB404
Bromley David	Stadium	Mangelsdorf Ruby	Resource Centre
Cambridge Heath	GA402	McDonald Michelle	GB410
Carter-Blackhall Jodie	Stadium	McKenna Meg	Stadium
Chalkley Hannah	GA402	McKenzie Tom	Resource Centre
Chalkley Tom	GA403	McLaren Kate	GB406
Collier Melissa	GA403	McLauchlan Chad	Resource Centre
Collins Lucy	GA403	McMeel George	GB406
Critchell Nick	GA403	Mellor Greg	GB406
Cross Sarah	GA404	Millard Dean	GB410
Cullinan Sarah	GA404	Mott Danielle	Foods Room A210
Cunningham Shannon	Stadium	Nadile Nicolas	GB406
Dagleish Lauchlan	Stadium	Neumann Hannah	GB410
Davey Kristin	GA404	Northeast Pauline	GB410
Dober Jasmine	GA406	Nunn Tim	Stadium
D'Offay Jason	GA406	O'Callaghan Madeleine	GB409
Doyle Ed	GA406	Oliver Gina	Stadium
Dunstan Tessa	GA404	Otto Kate	Foods Room A210
Dwyer Pat	GA406	Parker Steve	Resource Centre
Earl Melanie	GA409	Pavez Frank	Resource Centre
Ellmer Sarah	Foods Room A210	Pisani Nathan	Resource Centre
Erlenbusch Kate	GA409	Reed Kate	Stadium
Evans Rebecca	Foods Room A210	Reynolds Luke	Stadium
Fitzpatrick Justine	GA409	Rimmer Michael	Stadium
Flint Lauren	GA409	Roberts Anna	Resource Centre
Flynn Kristin	GA410	Sampson Taneisha	Resource Centre
Frawley Nick	GA410	Schaffner Isabelle	Resource Centre
Gillett Laura	Resource Centre	Serle Naomi	Resource Centre
Gooch Andrew	Stadium	Sholl Anthea	GA405
Goodwin-Watson Kimberley	Resource Centre	Spadoni Rachele	Resource Centre
Grayland Elizabeth	GB401	Spencer Narelle	Resource Centre
Green James	GB401	Stephenson Natalie	GB409
Greiner Peyton	Resource Centre	Stevenson Taylah	GB409
Hackett Shelby	Stadium	Sutton Jesse	GB408
Hagan Patrick	GB401	Tedford Kim	Stadium
Haintz Nick	GA410	Tobon Cortes Marianela	GB409
Henneman Dean	GB402	Townsend Jodie	Stadium
Henning Paula	GB402	Vines Eamonn	Resource Centre
Herbison Mitchell	Stadium	Wallace Lachlan	Stadium
Herbison Sam	Stadium	Walsgott Andrew	Resource Centre
Hicks Mikaila	GB402	Ward Elise	Resource Centre
Hill Mollie	GB402	Whitfield Amy	Resource Centre
Higgins Justin	Stadium	Williams Scott	Stadium
Horsted Matthew	GB402	Wilson Cathy	Stadium
Huxtable Jaqueline	Foods Room A210	Wood Sam	Stadium
James Sam	GB401	Wood-Bradley Alysia	Resource Centre
Jenkins Jack	Stadium		

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Year 7, 2027 Applications



A reminder that families with a sibling currently attending Iona College must submit an enrolment application for Year 7 2027 to be considered for placement. Applications close **Friday, 8 May 2026**.

If you have already applied, no further action is required. Applications can be made online via the following link.

Applications can be made [via the following link](#).

Iona Pathways Press



This week's edition of the Careers and Pathways team's Pathways press is available [via the following link](#).

Wellbeing for Learning - Focus on Mindsets

In Term 2, our Year 7 students explore Mindsets as part of their deep dive into how the brain works, including learning about neuroplasticity and the "amazing brain." This week's topic, 'Mindsets', helps students understand the beliefs that shape how they approach learning, challenges, and personal growth.

What Are Mindsets?

Mindsets are the beliefs we hold about the origins of our talents and abilities.

- A growth mindset is the belief that we can improve at most things through effort, practice and effective learning strategies.
- A fixed mindset is the belief that our abilities are largely predetermined and cannot change significantly.

These beliefs have a powerful influence on how young people behave. Students with a growth mindset tend to:

- show greater motivation and engagement at school
- earn stronger academic outcomes
- enjoy activities more fully
- experience lower levels of anxiety and depression
- embrace challenges rather than avoid them

Understanding mindsets helps students recognise that their effort, strategies and persistence, not just natural talent, determine how much they can achieve.

Growing a Growth Mindset in Young People

Professor **Carol Dweck**, the leading researcher in this field, reminds us:

“If parents want to give their children a gift, the best thing they can do is to teach their children to love challenges, be intrigued by mistakes, enjoy effort and keep on learning.”

Encouraging a growth mindset does not mean praising children simply for working hard. Instead, it’s about helping them value learning, embrace mistakes as part of the process and build confidence through genuine effort and strategic practice.

You can support a growth mindset by:

- Encouraging your child to give things a go, even when they seem difficult
- Talking about how the brain forms new neural pathways when we learn and practise (neuroplasticity)
- Modelling a growth mindset yourself by attempting something you find challenging
- Showing your child how to respond when you make mistakes
- Providing opportunities for them to solve problems independently
- Encouraging them to seek feedback and try new strategies
- Helping them view setbacks as information - not as evidence that they “can’t”

When adults step in too quickly to fix problems, young people may believe they are not capable on their own or that failure must be avoided. Instead, we can guide them to reflect on what happened, explore strategies for next time and set realistic goals. This builds a sense of agency and reinforces the belief that abilities can grow with effort.

Try This at Home

Choose a challenging activity to attempt together as a family - perhaps juggling, drawing, dancing, or a tricky puzzle. Before starting, create a list of encouraging self-talk phrases such as:

- *“I can do it.”*
- *“This is hard, but I’m learning.”*
- *“Mistakes help my brain grow.”*

During the activity, use these phrases to stay motivated. Remind each other that your brains are making new connections and that mistakes show you are learning something new.

Kylie Power

Deputy Principal (Wellbeing)

Year 8 LifeChanger Workshops



Our Year 8s were excited to participate in the LifeChanger wellbeing workshops over the last six weeks.

These sessions, held every Wednesday, are designed to be engaging and dynamic, incorporating fun and movement to foster a positive learning environment. The LifeChanger program aims to empower young people by focusing on five key pillars: Health, Skills, Self, Purpose and Tribe.

Each week, our students focused on a different theme, exploring topics such as physical and mental health, mindfulness, goal setting, problem-solving, gratitude, self-awareness and resilience.

These workshops are more than just lessons; they are interactive experiences that encourage students to actively participate and apply what they learn to their daily lives. By engaging in these sessions, students will develop essential life skills and build a strong sense of community and self-awareness.

We encourage parents to discuss these topics with their young person, reinforcing the concepts and supporting their personal growth.

Together, we can help our Year 8 students navigate this journey towards becoming resilient and empowered individuals.

Kylie Power
Deputy Principal (Wellbeing)



CYBER SAFE CLASSROOM

Iona College has partnered with the Cyber Safety Project to implement *Cyber Safe Classroom*, an evidence-based curriculum designed to help students develop safe, responsible and positive online behaviours. Year 8 students will complete the program in Term 2, followed by Year 7 students in Term 3.

Why This Matters

Students today navigate a digital environment shaped by technology, gaming, social media and AI. The Cyber Safety Project equips them to stay safe online, protect personal information, identify and respond to risks such as cyberbullying and scams, and build respectful, resilient and ethical digital habits.

Students will engage in:

- Age-appropriate lessons delivered by their Wellbeing for Learning teachers
- Interactive activities, discussions and videos
- Learning aligned to four core cyber safety values: **Responsibility, Integrity, Strength and Empathy**

How Families Can Support at Home

- Talk regularly with your child about their online experiences, including what they enjoy and any concerns.
- Use values-based language (responsibility, integrity, strength, empathy) when discussing online behaviour.
- Explore the resources provided by the school and the Cyber Safety Project.
- Model safe, balanced and respectful online behaviour.
- Contact your child's teacher or Wellbeing team if you have any questions.

LEARN MORE cybersafetyproject.com

CYBER SAFETY PROJECT



Kylie Power and Elizabeth Grayland
Deputy Principal (Wellbeing) and Pedagogy and Curriculum Instructional Leader – E-Learning

Term 1 Formal Uniform Days



Please note the following upcoming formal uniform date:

- **Thursday 2 April** – Whole School Assembly

Music Department News



Summer Soiree

Our recent Summer Soiree was a wonderful way to start our performances for the year. We were very blessed to have the choir from St Catherine of Siena come and join us again, and Iona had over 50 students involved. Performances included some of our rock bands, individual items and of course choirs. Thank you to all of the students who shared their love of music with us on the night. A special thanks goes to all those who helped 'behind the scenes'.

If students are interested in performing, they need to personally 'sign up', the sheet for this is outside the Music room.

Jodie Townsend
Head of Performing Arts

Year 8 Visual Arts

Year 8 students have been designing imaginative Australian animal-inspired creatures in the style of Tim Burton. They've explored drawing techniques, contrast and creative character design to bring their quirky hybrid animals to life.





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Term 1 2026 Dates to Remember

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.

Date	Event
Thursday 18 December - Tuesday 20 January	Iona College Admin Office Closed for Christmas Break
Wednesday 21 January	Iona College Admin Office Opens
Thursday 29 January	Term 1 Commences for Year 7, Year 12 and All New Students to the College (Formal Uniform for Year 7s and all New Students to Iona)
Friday 30 January	Years 8-11 Commence
Tuesday 10 February	School Photo Day (Formal Uniform)
Tuesday 10 February	Yr 11 & 12 VCE Parent Information Evening (6:00 pm - 7:00 pm Iona College Stadium)
Wednesday 11 February	Whole School Mass (Formal Uniform)
Tuesday 17 February	Year 7 Parent/Carer Welcome Evening (6:00 pm - 7:00 pm Iona College Stadium)
Thursday 19 February	Whole School Assembly - 2025 VCE & VOC Major High Achievers Awards and 2026 Leaders Induction (Formal Uniform)
Wednesday 25 February	Year 7 Maths Parent/Carer Information Night (6:00 pm - 7:00 pm)
Friday 27 February	Year 12 Group Photo (Formal Uniform for Year 12s)
Friday 27 February	School Photo Catch-Up Day and Sibling Photography Formal uniform required for all students being photographed.
Friday 6 March	Swimming Carnival
Monday 9 March	Labour Day Public Holiday
Tuesday 10 March	Units 3 Student Progress Meeting (Glowrey Centre of Excellence, On-site)
Tuesday 10 March	Year 12 Parent/Carer Engagement Forum (Francis Centre, 5.45 pm - 6.45 pm)
Wednesday 11 March	Teen Mental Health Matters Webinar with Dr Sarah Barker (Online)
Wednesday 11 March	Summer Soiree (6:00 pm - 7:30 pm, Iona College Stadium)
Monday 16 March	Open Day - Tour and Information Session (4:15 - 5:45)
Tuesday 17 March	Open Day - Tour and Information Session (11:00 - 12:30)
Wednesday 18 March	Open Day - Tour and Information Session (9:00 - 10:30)
Wednesday 18 March	Open Day - Tour and Information Session (4:15 - 5:45)
Thursday 19 March	Open Day - Tour and Information Session (9:00 - 10:30)
Thursday 19 March	Student Progress Meetings (Onsite)
Friday 20 March	Staff Professional Development Student Free Day
Tuesday 24 March	Student Progress Meeting (Online)
Thursday 2 April	End of Term Assembly (Formal Uniform)
Thursday 2 April	Term 1 Concludes (2:05 pm)
Monday 20 April	Staff Professional Development Student Free Day
Monday 20 April	Practice GAT (all VCE and VCE VM unit 3/4 students or similar)
Tuesday 21 April	Term 2 Commences

A reminder that tomorrow, Friday, 20 March, is a Student Free Day to allow for staff professional development.

Thanks for your support.

Damian, Kylie and Melissa