

23 April 2026

Dear Parents and Carers,

A warm welcome back to Iona College for Term 2 to all in our school community! We started the term with a Professional Development day for our staff to work together on the learning programs for our students and to develop and strengthen our understanding of our Iona charism. A school's charism is the unique spiritual gifts that distinguish a Catholic school's culture, values and mission, and as a new and growing school, our charism is being shaped by all of us. We focus on Jesus as our central pillar as we develop our understanding of Iona in Scotland, which gives us our name, St. Columba, the founder of the Iona Abbey and its monastic tradition, our four patrons: Caroline Chisholm, Pope Francis, Mary MacKillop and Mary Glowrey, our unique location on Wadawurrung Country, and the gifts and talents we each bring to our school community.

These all work together to shape the Iona College approach to gospel values. It is important for us to take the time to reflect on what makes up our charism and to appreciate the gifts we have been given to contribute to our unique Catholic school culture and identity.



Our focus for this term is 'Courage,' the virtue of Francis House. Pope Francis, our patron of Francis House, embodied courage by speaking up for truth and mercy rather than power and by standing up for the earth and its poorest people. The value of courage and standing up for others is a particularly fitting way to start Term 2, as this first week also includes ANZAC Day this Saturday, 25th April. We held our own ANZAC Day ceremony this week so that we could honour this important day as a whole school community. We came together to reflect on the bravery, service and sacrifice of Australian service personnel, and to pray for all those who dedicate their lives to standing up for others. We thank our students who led this ceremony so beautifully: Ariella Chappell, Gursagun Sidhu, Alexandra McIntosh and Nora Murray. A special thanks to Tyson Walsh, an Iona student and cadet, who led us in the laying of our wreaths of commemoration and raising our flags.

We pray that everyone in our Iona community will experience courage this term.

Dear Lord,

We pray for courage in the face of fear and uncertainty. Help us to take bold steps towards our dreams and to stand up for what is right.

*In Jesus' name,
Amen.*

Year 7, 2027 Applications

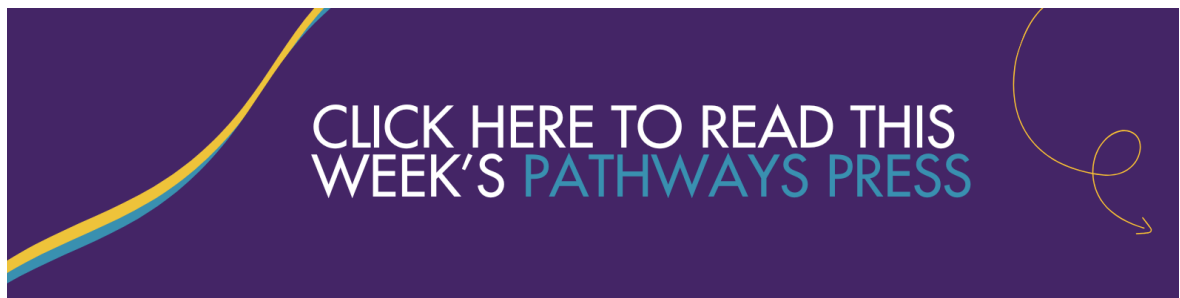


A reminder that families with a sibling currently attending Iona College must submit an enrolment application for Year 7 2027 to be considered for placement. Applications close **Friday, 8 May 2026**.

Submissions received after this date will be automatically placed on our waitlist.

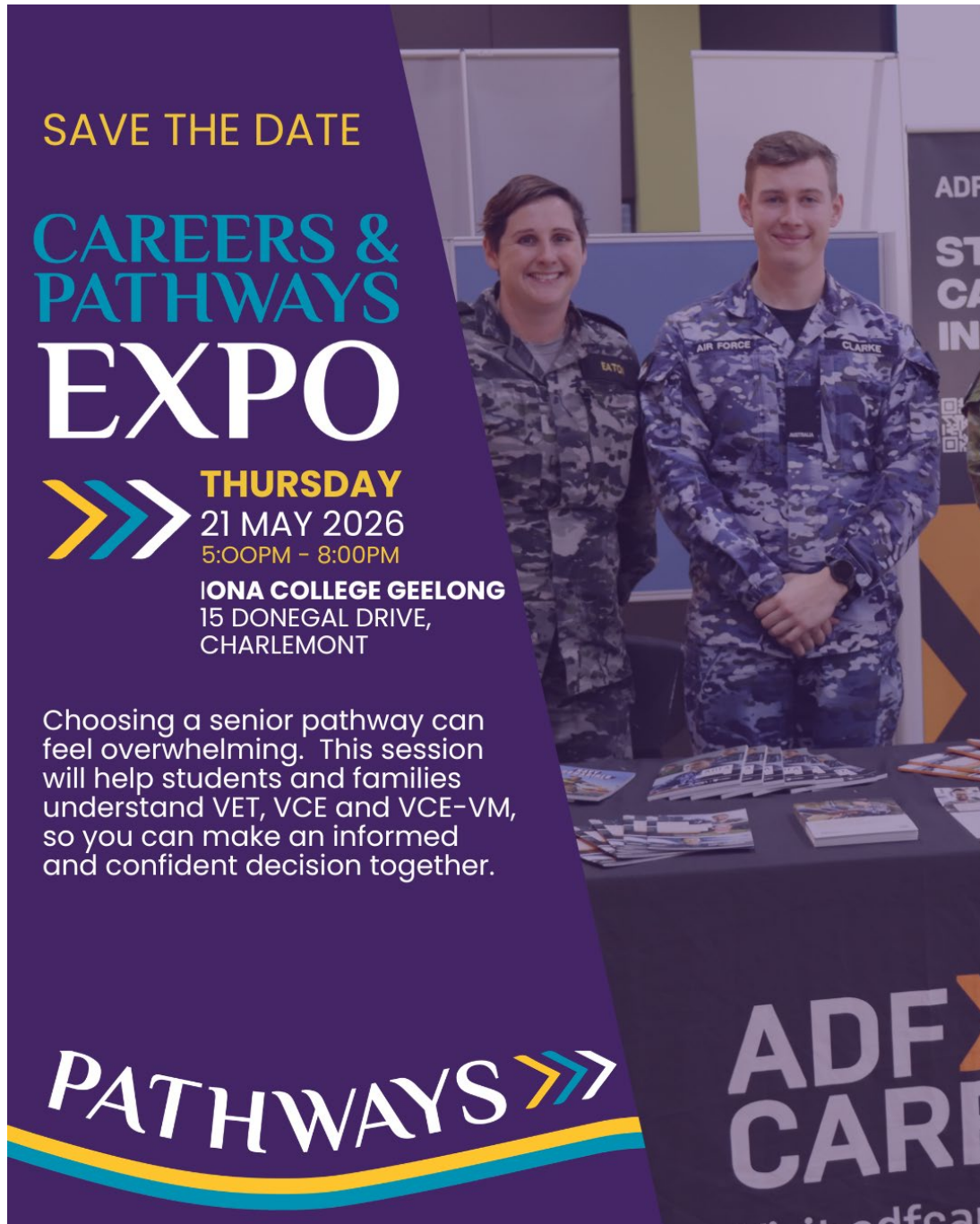
If you have already applied, no further action is required. Applications can be made online via the following link. Applications can be made [via the following link](#).

Iona Pathways Press



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

Save The Date – 2026 Iona Careers and Pathways Expo



SAVE THE DATE

CAREERS & PATHWAYS EXPO

THURSDAY
21 MAY 2026
5:00PM – 8:00PM

IONA COLLEGE GEE LONG
15 DONEGAL DRIVE,
CHARLEMONT

Choosing a senior pathway can feel overwhelming. This session will help students and families understand VET, VCE and VCE-VM, so you can make an informed and confident decision together.

PATHWAYS

ADF CARE

More details will follow closer to the date.

VCE Afterschool Study Sessions



Year 12 VCE AFTERSCHOOL STUDY SESSIONS

Your final year of VCE is a big one, and we want to support you every step of the way. Join us for weekly study sessions to stay on top of your learning, get expert help, and build confidence.

TERM SCHEDULE

WEEK 1	Thu 23 Apr	 NO SESSION Year 12 Retreat
WEEK 2	Thu 30 Apr	 ENGLISH focus
WEEK 3	Thu 7 May	 GENERAL MATHS + METHODS focus
WEEK 4	Thu 14 May	 ENGLISH focus
WEEK 5	Thu 21 May	 NO SESSION Careers Expo
WEEK 6	Thu 28 May	 GENERAL MATHS focus
WEEK 7	Thu 4 June	 ENGLISH focus
WEEK 8	Thu 11 June	 GENERAL MATHS focus
WEEK 9	Thu 18 June	 ENGLISH focus
WEEK 10	Thu 25 June	 GENERAL MATHS focus

THE DETAILS

 **WHERE**
Resource Centre,
Francis Centre

 **WHEN**
Thursdays,
3:15pm–4:45pm

 **WHO'S THERE**
Year 12 English or
Maths teachers
(alternating weeks)

 **ADDED BONUS**
Snacks and hot
chocolate making
facilities provided!

Come along to revise, ask questions, complete homework, or simply study in a calm, focused environment.

No sign-up needed—just drop in!

If you have any questions or would like more information, please email Mrs McLaren at kate.mclaren@iona.vic.edu.au

We look forward to *supporting you,* starting next Thursday!



Upcoming Athletics Carnival - Tuesday 28 April 2026

Our annual Athletics Carnival will be held on Tuesday, 28 April at Goldsworthy Reserve Athletics Track, Corio. This is a compulsory whole school event, and there will be no on-site supervision at the College. Students without parent/carer consent must remain at home.

Consent:

Parents/carers are required to provide consent via **PAM**. (A medical certificate may be required for Year 11–12 students unable to attend.)

Participation:

Students are encouraged to participate in at least two events across track, field or novelty activities.

Transport:

- Students who normally travel by bus will go directly to and from the venue via their usual bus service.
- All other students will travel via McHarry's Bus Lines, departing Iona at 9.00 am and returning at approximately 3.05 pm.

Families:

Families are warmly invited to attend. Please sign in on arrival and move to the designated viewing area.

Important information:

- Students will check in at their year level area before Community Group and phone collection
- Iona sports uniform or appropriate House-coloured sports attire is required (no denim)
- Please bring a hat, sunscreen, water, snacks and lunch
- Jewellery and behaviour expectations remain in place
- A First Aid area will be available on the day
- The Goldsworthy canteen will be open (cash or card required)

The carnival will run from approximately 9.30 am to 2.40 pm.

If you require further information, please contact Mitchell Herbison via email Mitchell.Herbison@iona.vic.edu.au or College Reception reception@iona.vic.edu.au

Wellbeing for Learning – Focus on Grit and Persistence

Last term, our Year 8 students explored Grit and Persistence as part of their Wellbeing for Learning curriculum. This topic supports students to understand what it takes to work towards meaningful goals - especially when things become difficult.

What Are Grit and Persistence?

Grit and persistence are about working hard, staying committed, and continuing to show up even when a task becomes challenging or progress feels slow. They also involve pursuing long-term goals that matter to us - goals we feel genuinely passionate about.

While our natural abilities or life circumstances can influence our pathway, research shows that grit is one of the strongest predictors of long-term success. This is because grit encourages us to:

- Set clear goals
- Seek feedback to improve
- Learn from mistakes
- Develop skills through consistent practice
- Identify meaning and purpose in what we are striving to achieve
- Push through obstacles that arise

Young people who develop grit learn that effort - not perfection - is the key to accomplishing things that matter.

Helping Young People Develop Grit

The good news is that grit and persistence can be taught, nurtured, and strengthened over time. Professor Angela Duckworth, the leading researcher in this area, suggests several ways adults can support children to grow their grit:

- Encourage them to try new things, even when they feel unsure.
- Respond with warmth and care when they fail or struggle - mistakes are part of the learning journey.
- Invite them to try again after setbacks rather than stepping in too quickly.
- Give them opportunities to explore their interests, allowing them to discover what they enjoy and what motivates them.
- Share stories of perseverance, whether from family experiences or well-known individuals who faced repeated challenges before eventually succeeding.

These messages help young people understand that success is less about innate talent and more about commitment, curiosity and resilience.

Try This at Home

Remind your young person that practice makes progress. Encourage them to reflect on the last step they took toward an important goal. Then challenge them to compete not with others, but with who they were yesterday.

Some simple examples include:

- Attempting a slightly harder music piece
- Swimming a little further than the previous session

- Staying with a dull or difficult task for a few minutes longer
 - Reworking a piece of writing instead of settling for the first draft
- Small, consistent steps help build the habit of perseverance - one of the most powerful tools for lifelong achievement.

Kylie Power
Deputy Principal (Wellbeing)

Empowering Parents in Vaping Conversation Session



Families are invited to attend a parent/carer evening on Monday, 18 May, 6.00 – 7.00 pm at the Francis Centre, Iona College.

You are warmly invited to attend an upcoming parent/carer evening at Iona College, focused on supporting families in navigating conversations around vaping.

Date: Monday 18 May
Time: 6.00 – 7.00 pm
Location: Iona College – Francis Centre

Led by Dr James Durl from Blurred Minds, this session will provide practical insights and strategies, including:

- Understanding vaping culture and peer influences
- Marketing tactics targeting young people
- Health and environmental risks
- Strategies for conversations at home
- Tips for prevention and support

This is a valuable opportunity to build confidence in addressing this important issue with your young person.

[Please register via the following link before Friday, 15 May.](#)

We encourage all parents and carers to attend.

Healthy Masculinity Parent/Carer Evening

Families are invited to attend a free parent/carers evening with Daniel Principe, focusing on healthy masculinity and the influences shaping boys today. This session will provide practical strategies to support open communication and encourage respectful behaviours.

Date: Tuesday 9 June

Time: 6.30 – 7.30 pm

Venue: SJC Performing Arts Centre, Newtown

This event is open to both St Joseph's College and the Iona communities.

[Please register for the event via the following link.](#)



HEALTHY MASCULINITY
WITH
DANIEL PRINCIPE
PARENT EVENING

HOSTED BY
ST JOSEPH'S COLLEGE GEE LONG IONA COLLEGE GEE LONG

FREE EVENT OPEN TO BOTH COMMUNITIES

TUESDAY 9 JUNE | 6.30PM - 7.30PM
SJC PERFORMING ARTS CENTRE
135 Aphrasia Street, Newtown, Victoria 3220

OFFERING INSIGHTS INTO DIGITAL INFLUENCES
SHAPING BOY'S ATTITUDES AND PRACTICAL
STRATEGIES TO FOSTER OPEN COMMUNICATION
AND ENCOURAGE RESPECTFUL BEHAVIOURS

BOOK NOW <https://www.trybooking.com/DKXJS>



Tuning into Teens



Tuning into Teens

Emotionally Intelligent
Parenting

A six-session emotion
coaching parenting
program



Iona College will be running a series of **Tuning into Teens** programs for our parents throughout 2026. This is a highly sought after program which will be offered free of charge to Iona parents.

Spaces will be limited so please contact **molly.morris@iona.vic.edu.au** for more information and to express your interest.

We have a couple of places available for term 2 starting on

**Thursday 7th
May 5-6:30pm**

at Iona College.
Please email Molly
to reserve your
place.

Would you like to learn how to:

- Talk with your teen?
- Better understand your teen.
- Help your teen learn to manage their emotions?
- Help to prevent behaviour problems in your teen?
- Teach your teen to deal with conflict?



Tuning into Teens provides information on how to help your young person develop emotional intelligence. Research has shown that adolescents with greater emotional intelligence:

- are more aware, assertive and strong in situations of peer pressure
- have greater success with making friends and are more able to manage conflict with peers
- are more able to cope when upset or angry
- have fewer mental health and substance abuse difficulties
- have more stable and satisfying relationships as adults
- have greater career success – Emotional Intelligence may be a better predictor of academic and career success than IQ.



2026 School Photos Available

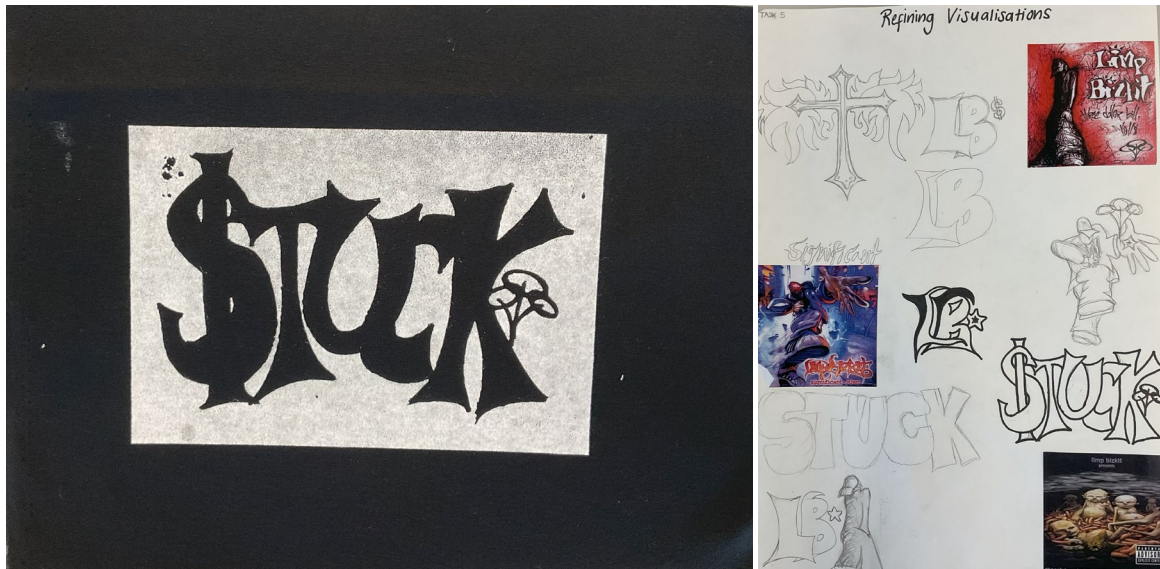
Arthur Reed school photo flyers were distributed at the end of last term to your young person. School photos are now available online for you to purchase. If your young person misplaces this flyer, please contact Arthur Reed Photos customer service team directly on 5243 4390 (option 1) or customerservice@arphotos.com.au. All photo packages will be sent directly to your nominated address, so please ensure that you enter the correct details and nominated shipping address upon checkout.

If you require any assistance ordering your photos, please contact Arthur Reed Photos directly on 5243 4390 (option 1) or email customerservice@arphotos.com.au

Di Makings
Iona College Registrar

Art Department News

Year 10 students have followed the Double Diamond Design Process to investigate and generate ideas to design a screen print for a hoodie or crew neck for an end user group of their choosing. Students have tested their designs through screen printing trials to determine the pros and cons of the designs.



Term 2 Dates to Remember

Date	Event
Monday 13 April - Sunday 19 April	Admin Office Closed for Holidays
Monday 20 April	Practice GAT (Year 12s and Year 11s VCE 3/4 Students)
Monday 20 April	Student Free Day (Staff Professional Development)
Tuesday 21 April	Term 2 Starts
Wednesday 22 April	Iona College Cross Country
Thursday 23 April - Friday 24 April	Year 12 Retreat
Friday 24 April	Year 7 Embrace Day
Tuesday 28 April	Iona Athletics Carnival
Thursday 30 April	Flying Brick Cider House Music Performance
Monday 18 May	Blurred Minds Parent/Carer Evening (Francis Centre, 6 pm - 7pm)
Tuesday 19 May	Student Free Day (Staff Professional Development)
Thursday 21 May	Iona College Career Expo (Iona Stadium)
Monday 1 June - Wednesday 3 June	Year 7 Camp Group 1
Wednesday 3 June	Units 1 and 3 - All OATS and SACS
Thursday 4 June	Autumn Soiree
Monday 8 June	King's Birthday Public Holiday
Tuesday 9 June	Daniel Principe Parent Carer Evening (6.30 - 7.30 pm) St Josephs College Performing Arts Centre, Newtown
Thursday 11 June	Year 10 Immunisation
Monday 15 June - Wednesday 17 June	Year 7 Camp Group 2
Tuesday 16 June	Student Free Day (Staff Professional Development) except for GAT Students
Tuesday 16 June	GAT (Year 12s and Year 11s VCE 3/4 Students)
Wednesday 17 June - Friday 19 June	Year 8 Camp Group 1
Saturday 20 June - Wednesday 1 July	Indonesian Study Trip
Monday 22 June - Tuesday 30 June	Central Australia Immersion
Wednesday 24 June	Year 8 Camp Group 2
Thursday 25 June	Year 12 Clogs Winter Ball
Friday 26 June	Term 2 Concludes (2:05 pm)
Monday 6 July - Friday 10 July	Admin Office Closed for Holidays
Monday 13 July	Student Free Day (Staff Professional Development)
Tuesday 14 July	Term 3 Starts

[A printable version of the Dates to Remember](#) is available online. Please note this is regularly updated as new events are added and changes are made.

St Bernard's Church Annual Book Fair

The St Bernard's Church Annual Book Fair will be held on Sunday, 17 May, from 8.00 am to 2.00 pm at Clairvaux School Hall, Reynolds Road, Belmont. Families are invited to browse a wide selection of second-hand books, including fiction, non-fiction and children's titles, all at affordable prices. Jigsaw puzzles, DVDs and CDs will also be available. A great opportunity to find something for everyone.

Thanks for your support.

Damian, Kylie and Melissa