

**7 May 2026**

Dear Parents and Carers,

As we settle into Term 2, we have much to be grateful for. We have seen our students shine through the many opportunities available at Iona, and we have had special occasions to celebrate our school. The whole school community is uplifted when we see learning and development occurring and spirits soaring!

Our College patrons are wonderful examples of those who searched for the deeper meanings of life, connecting with God and their own unique gifts, and in doing so, contributing greatly to the lives of others. This week, we celebrated the opening of the Glowrey Centre of Excellence, named after our patron, Venerable Mary Glowrey. Born locally in Birregurra in 1887, Mary Glowrey was a religious sister, a highly educated doctor and a missionary in India.

She set up health care systems and services for the poor and vulnerable, saving the lives of thousands of people during her lifetime and countless lives since, as her health care services in India continue to serve over 21 million people every year. Mary's special talent in medicine and her work as a doctor deepened her faith, giving her a greater connection to God and others. She said, "Day by day, I see more clearly how in healing the sick, one comes in contact with souls". Mary Glowrey's legacy was honoured by the Church in November last year, when she was given the title of Venerable, making her only the second Australian to be granted this status and bringing her one step closer to sainthood.



This week, she was honoured by Iona College through our official opening of the Glowrey Centre of Excellence, which included distinguished guests Ms. Libby Coker MP, Member for Corangamite, Dr Edward Simons, Executive Director, Melbourne Archdiocese Catholic Schools, as well as several of Mary Glowrey's living descendants, whom we were so pleased to welcome to our school. We were proud of our students who led this formal celebration and demonstrated the excellence we will see continue.



Damian McKew, Foundation Principal, Libby Coker, MP, Member for Corangamite, Dr Edward Simons, Executive Director, Melbourne Archdiocese Catholic Schools, Professor Elizabeth Labone, Chief Executive Officer, Mr Gerard Dalbosco, Melbourne Archdiocese Catholic Schools Chair of the Board



*Mary Glowrey's descendants, including two current Iona students*

We had great participation for the Iona Cross Country event that took place at school at the beginning of term, and wonderful weather, amazing achievements and a great sense of community at the whole school Athletics Carnival in Corio. Our first-ever Iona College Debating Teams were formed this term, with three teams of bright and enthusiastic students proudly representing our school and heading off to debate with other secondary schools from across Geelong. Our senior study sessions were launched, offering support and private study in the Resource Centre every Thursday after school, ensuring our senior students have every opportunity to reach their goals, and our Year 12 music students had the opportunity to perform at the Flying Brick Cider House to hone their musical talents and showcase their performances. There has been a lot happening in the first 3 weeks of Term 2!

All of this reminds us that Catholic education is holistic - nurturing and developing the whole person, socially, emotionally, physically and spiritually. We recognise that pastoral care is essential for academic excellence, and our students need to acknowledge and develop their unique and God-given special gifts and talents. We aim to provide opportunities for every kind of gift and talent to have an outlet to be expressed and celebrated. Sometimes this means giving our students the chance to turn within and reflect on who they are and their place in the world.

Earlier this term, our year 7 students took part in an Embrace Wellbeing Day, focused on appreciating their minds and bodies with workshops on Mindfulness and fuelling healthy bodies for healthy lives. Our Year 12 students headed off on an overnight Retreat at Rutherford Park, a beautiful retreat centre in the countryside with picturesque views of rolling green hills and fields. This allowed them to switch off from the stresses of Year 12 studies, work and daily life, and to contemplate what they will take with them from Iona into their adult lives as they prepare for the end of secondary school, and what they want to leave behind and be remembered for by the students that come after them. This is reflective of the Columba monastic tradition of retreating from the world, turning within and understanding more deeply the relationship with oneself, with God and with others.





As we reflect on the beginning of Term 2 and look ahead at what is to come, we give thanks for the opportunities we have, the diverse talents in our school community and the legacy of excellence that is a gift from Venerable Mary Glowrey.

### Thank you to our Iona Community

We are also incredibly proud of our Iona community, who raised \$4,503 for St Mary's Primary School in Uganda through this year's Easter Egg Raffle and fundraising drive. We are sincerely grateful for the generosity shown by our community. These funds will go directly towards the school's feeding program, providing a daily meal for students. This support is invaluable, and we are thankful to continue our partnership with St Mary's in this meaningful way.

A big thank you to our entire community for your support and involvement.



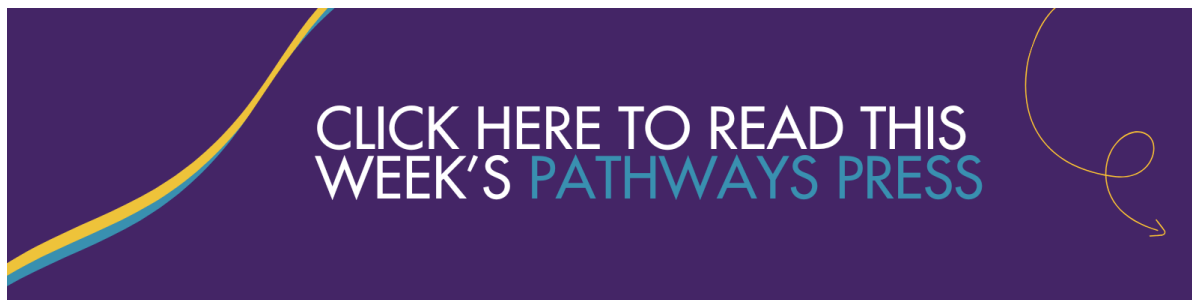
Year 7, 2027 Applications – Due This Week, Friday, 8 May 2026 (Tomorrow)



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 this **Friday, 8 May 2026 (tomorrow)**. 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](#).

### 2026 Iona Careers and Pathways Expo - Reminder

A reminder that our Careers & Pathways Expo will be held on Thursday, 21 May, 5.00 – 8.00 pm in the Iona College Stadium. We encourage families, particularly those in Years 10–12, to attend and explore a wide range of post-school options.

Attendees will have the opportunity to speak with 40+ exhibitors, including universities, TAFEs, training providers and industry representatives, and learn more about pathways and subject choices at Iona.

An information session on VCE/VM/VET will run at 5.15 pm, 6.15 pm and 7.15 pm (recommended for Year 10, with Year 9 welcome).

Please [register via the online form](#) by Friday, 14 May:



A BBQ will also be available on the night, raising funds for Timor-Leste. Sausages and drinks will be available for \$2.50 each, with all proceeds supporting this cause.

We look forward to seeing you there.

*The Pathways Team*

VCE Afterschool Study Sessions Reminder



## 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

<b>WEEK 1</b>	Thu 23 Apr	 <b>NO SESSION</b> Year 12 Retreat
<b>WEEK 2</b>	Thu 30 Apr	 <b>ENGLISH</b> focus
<b>WEEK 3</b>	Thu 7 May	 <b>GENERAL MATHS + METHODS</b> focus
<b>WEEK 4</b>	Thu 14 May	 <b>ENGLISH</b> focus
<b>WEEK 5</b>	Thu 21 May	 <b>NO SESSION</b> Careers Expo
<b>WEEK 6</b>	Thu 28 May	 <b>GENERAL MATHS</b> focus
<b>WEEK 7</b>	Thu 4 June	 <b>ENGLISH</b> focus
<b>WEEK 8</b>	Thu 11 June	 <b>GENERAL MATHS</b> focus
<b>WEEK 9</b>	Thu 18 June	 <b>ENGLISH</b> focus
<b>WEEK 10</b>	Thu 25 June	 <b>GENERAL MATHS</b> 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](mailto:kate.mclaren@iona.vic.edu.au)

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



## Your Local Support - The Orange Door Geelong

Iona cares about the safety and wellbeing of our students and their families. Sometimes things at home or in a relationship are not OK, or families can be worried about the wellbeing of their young people. [The Orange Door](#) can help you to get the support you need, quickly and easily. It's free, and you don't need a referral.

### **The Orange Door**

The Orange Door can help families. They provide support for concerns with parenting, relationships and family violence.

The Orange Door is a free intake and assessment service for:

- families requiring support for their child or young person's wellbeing or development
- families needing parenting support
- young, isolated or unsupported families
- individuals and families experiencing family violence
- adults using family violence
- young people using violence in the home.

If you contact The Orange Door, they can help by:

- working with you to identify the help and support you need
- supporting you with the wellbeing and development of your child or young person
- helping you make a safety plan if someone is making you feel unsafe
- connecting you to services that can help, like counselling, accommodation, mental health and drug and alcohol services, parenting support groups, services for children, financial help, or legal assistance
- supporting you to access funding for basic living expenses and some other costs
- supporting you to change abusive or controlling behaviour.

Students and their families can also visit their local Orange Door (Geelong Orange Door) in person for support, Monday to Friday, 9 am - 5 pm for support. No appointment is needed.

To find your local service, see: The Orange Door – Support near you.

<https://www.orangedoor.vic.gov.au/support-near-you>

Kylie Power

*Deputy Principal Wellbeing*

## Empowering Parents in Vaping Conversation Session – Reminder



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 - Reminder

A reminder to register for a free parent/carers evening with Daniel Principe, focusing on healthy masculinity and the influences shaping boys today.

**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  
 

**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>



### Music Department News

#### Harwyn Battle of the Bands

At the end of Term 1, we had a band prepare to enter the Harwyn Battle of the Bands competition. Students worked really hard to prepare two songs for this entry and recorded them in the Music room. Unfortunately, after we had processed the entry, the company let us know that they had cancelled the competition. While this is disappointing, it was great to see the students work so hard toward this goal. Congratulations to Lara, Bohdi, Willow, Ash and Zoe. [Here is a short snippet of one of their songs.](#)

#### Flying Brick Cider Co.

For the second year in a row, Iona has had the privilege of organising this collaborative event with other schools in the Geelong area. Once again, VET Sound Production students from Christian College used this experience as part of their assessment. This provided them with a “real-world” experience to test their sound engineering skills. A huge thank you to Christian College for providing all of the equipment and these “up and coming” sound engineers.

Seven schools took part, with over 11 bands sharing their musical talent with us all. Schools included The Geelong College, Christian College, Oberon High School, Belmont High School, Clonard College, Kardinia International College and of course Iona. We had two bands participate in this event, and our congratulations to the following performers: Thomas, Asha, Sabine Chappell, Elizabeth, Lila, Nora, Carter, Magdalena, Amelia, Jenna and Willow. Great to see you having your first ‘hit out’ with your bands. We hope that this gig will happen again next year with the collaboration of the Geelong Heads of Music. A thank you to all the staff, students and parents who supported this event.



## Winter Soiree



We have our **Winter Soiree** coming up this term and encourage any musicians who would like to perform to sign up – the sign-up sheet is outside the Music rooms. Any ensembles that are ready to perform will be involved, but this decision for most of the ensembles will be made in the next two weeks.

Tickets can be booked online [via the following link](#).

Jodie Townsend  
*Head of Performing Arts*

## Unit 1 VCE Food Studies Masterclass incursion with Samesyn Restaurant, Torquay

Our students were extremely fortunate to have Graham Jefferies from Samesyn Restaurant in Torquay conduct a Masterclass in the Iona food kitchens. The aim of this incursion was to expose the students to several key areas from the VCE Food Studies course and provide inspiration for their upcoming assessment. The focus was on using indigenous ingredients in contemporary dishes, sustainable food preparation in the hospitality industry to reduce food waste and exposing them to ingredients they would not normally experience, such as cooking with offal.

The students learnt about Graham's journey in the food and hospitality industry and how he works with Feed Me Surf Coast to raise awareness around food security and food relief. Graham demonstrated three dishes to the students, then allowed them to replicate his dishes themselves with his guidance.

- Raw kangaroo, fermented chilli, kefir cream
- Mussels served with a cucumber skin puree and indigenous beach herbs
- Peri peri chicken gilet skewer cooked over the Hibachi grill

This learning experience helps develop our students into informed consumers of the food industry and strengthens our connections within the community.





Melbourne Archdiocese  
Catholic Schools



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### Art Department News

In Term 2, Year 8 Art students continued developing their imaginative, Australian animal-inspired creatures, drawing inspiration from the distinctive style of Tim Burton. Students were challenged to combine two or more animals to invent their own unique hybrid creature. They began by designing their ideas in 2D, before bringing them to life in 3D. Using materials such as polymer clay, wire, and aluminium foil, students sculpted their creatures, transforming their concepts into detailed, tactile artworks. Some students decided to colour their pieces with acrylic paint, whilst others opted to spray-paint.





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## 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 - 7 pm)
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.

A reminder that we have a Staff Professional Development Student free day coming up on Tuesday, the 19<sup>th</sup> of May.

Thanks for your support.

Damian, Kylie and Melissa