

11 June 2026

Dear Parents and Carers,

As a Catholic community, we are continually reminded of our call to uphold the dignity of every person and to stand in solidarity with those who are vulnerable. Two significant upcoming dates on our calendar in June invite our reflection and action: the *World Day Against Child Labour* on June 12, and *Refugee Week* from June 15–21.

The World Day Against Child Labour highlights the urgent reality that millions of children worldwide are still denied their right to education, safety, and a childhood free from exploitation. Our faith urges us to respond with compassion and justice and to protect the most vulnerable among us.

Refugee Week also calls us to open our hearts to those forced to flee their homes due to conflict, persecution, or hardship. It is a time to celebrate the resilience and contributions of refugees, while also recognising our responsibility to offer welcome, dignity, and hope.

Living out this mission in our local context, Iona College is proud to host a special one-day holiday program on July 2, connecting students from Geelong Catholic secondary schools with refugee children from the Cultura Centre. This day of shared games, activities, and connection is more than just an event, it is a living expression of Catholic Social Teaching.

Through laughter, teamwork, and friendship, students will encounter one another beyond labels or differences, developing understanding and a genuine experience of belonging. In this way, they embody the Gospel values of solidarity, compassion, and hospitality.

We encourage our community to reflect on how we can each play a part in creating a more just and welcoming world, whether through advocacy, awareness, or simple acts of kindness. Together, we can ensure that every child is valued, protected, and given the opportunity to flourish, and that refugees experience welcome in new and unknown places.

Let us continue to be people of hope, putting our faith into action.

A Prayer of Welcome

Lord, just as You and Your family once sought refuge, look with mercy on all who are fleeing danger and searching for a safe home. Open our hearts to welcome the stranger, guide us to be sources of comfort, and inspire us to bring relief to those who are suffering.

Amen.



Upcoming Dates - Public Holiday and Student Free Day

A reminder that Tuesday, 16 June is a Student Free Day to support staff professional development. Please note that this does not apply to students scheduled to sit the GAT, who are required to attend as planned.

Asynchronous Learning Day – Year 7s and Year 8s

Please note the upcoming Asynchronous Learning Days (at home learning) for Year 7s and 8s:

Wednesday 17 June: 7G, 7H, 7I, 7J, 7K, 7L, 7M and 8A, 8E, 8F, 8H, 8I, 8L

Wednesday 24 June: 8B, 8C, 8D, 8G, 8K, 8J

On this day, students are expected to:

- Continue working on their *Passion Project*
- Take photos to document their progress (please ensure these are transferred to their laptops, as phones are not accessible during school hours)
- Be prepared to share their progress with their Wellbeing for Learning teacher

This is also a particularly busy period for our Year 7 and Year 8 students. Using part of this day to organise their learning, catch up on outstanding work, and prepare for upcoming commitments would be highly beneficial. More details will follow in an email tomorrow.

Iona College Tech Free Day - Tuesday 23 June

On Tuesday 23 June, Iona College will be running a tech free day for students. As part of our ongoing commitment to balanced learning, we are asking all students to leave their personal devices in their lockers for the day. Teachers will continue to use classroom technology as normal - this is specifically about students stepping away from their own devices and engaging in hands-on learning activities.

We do recognise that some students may have individual provisions that require device access, and these will be accommodated appropriately. To help the day run smoothly, we ask that you remind your child the evening before to leave their device in their locker when they arrive at school.

Elizabeth Grayland

Pedagogy and Curriculum Instructional Leader (E-Learning)

Senior School Learning Updates

Celebrating Success in Unit 1 Exams

Congratulations to our Year 11 students and Year 10 Accelerated students who completed their Unit 1 VCE examinations last week.

The conduct of our students throughout the examination period was exceptional. They approached their exams with maturity, focus and determination, demonstrating the positive learning culture that we value so highly at Iona College. Students conducted themselves respectfully, followed examination procedures carefully and applied themselves with commendable rigour. We are proud of the way they represented both themselves and the College during this important milestone in their academic journey.

As part of our ongoing commitment to supporting student success, Year 11 students also participated in an online incursion delivered by Elevate Education. The session focused on effective time management strategies and encouraged students to reflect on their current study habits while developing a forward-thinking approach to their future learning. With Unit 2 examinations and the demands of Year 12 on the horizon, the session provided valuable practical tools to help students build productive routines and make the most of their study time.

Year 10 Exams Week 9

A reminder to families that Year 10 English and Mathematics examinations are approaching. The Year 10 Mathematics CORE and Pre-Methods examination will take place on Monday 15 June during Periods 5 and 6, while the Year 10 English examination will be held on Wednesday 17 June during Periods 1 and 2.

Students enrolled in Year 10 Numeracy and Literacy will complete an alternate assessment task in place of these examinations.

We wish all Year 10 students the very best as they prepare for their upcoming assessments and encourage them to make the most of the revision opportunities available to them over the coming week.

Kate McLaren

Director of Culture and Strategy, Learning

Parent/Carer Webinar Reminders



Elevate Education's Term 2

Parent Webinar Series

Elevate Education delivers high-impact workshops to our students that help to develop their study skills, motivation, and exam preparation. Over the next term, you're invited to join their parent webinar series, where you can help support your child at home by reinforcing the skills they're learning at school.

How to Help Your Child Navigate the World of AI and Study

6th May 6:30pm (AEST)

How You Can Help Your Child Prepare for Exams

20th May 6:30pm (AEST)

How You Can Support Your Child During Exams

3rd June 6:30pm (AEST)

Ask Me Anything (Live Q&A)

17th June 6:30pm (AEST)

How to Help Your Child Alleviate Stress

1st July 6:30pm (AEST)

Register today at: <https://go.elevateeducation.com/auschoolwebinars>

Parent/Carer Online Workshop: Understanding Youth Gaming to Gambling



Understanding Youth Gaming to Gambling

A Workshop for Parents and Carers

In today's digital landscape, the lines between gaming and gambling are increasingly blurred, posing new challenges for young people. Features like "loot boxes" mechanics in video games introduce elements of chance that closely resemble gambling. These features can lead to significant health, financial, and social consequences.

This free workshop aims to equip parents and carers with the knowledge and tools to understand and address these emerging issues. By fostering open conversations and awareness, we can work together to minimize potential harms associated with underage gambling.

Key topics covered

- **Understanding the Intersection of Gaming and Gambling:** Insights into how gambling mechanisms are integrated into video games and their impact on young people
- **Recognising Signs of Gambling Harm:** Identifying behavioural indicators that may suggest a young person is experiencing gambling-related issues
- **Strategies for Prevention:** Practical tips on how to discuss gambling with young people and promote healthy attitudes towards gaming and betting
- **Support Resources:** Information on where to seek professional advice and support for gambling-related concerns

MELI meli.org.au

Date: **Wednesday 17 June**
Time: **6.00pm**
Location: **Online (Microsoft Teams)**
Cost: **Free**

Why attend?

As a parent or carer, your influence is crucial in shaping young people's attitudes towards gaming and gambling. By understanding the risks and learning effective communication strategies, you can help prevent gambling harm and support healthier choices.

How to register

Please scan the QR code to secure your spot.

For additional information or assistance, contact us on (03) 5226 5900.



About Meli's Gambler's Help Team

Meli's Gambler's Help Team is dedicated to providing support and education to individuals and communities affected by gambling. Our mission is to promote responsible gambling practices and reduce the impact of gambling-related harm through community engagement and tailored programs.

Upcoming Formal Uniform Day



Please note the upcoming formal uniform day on the final week of the Term – Tuesday, 23 June, for a whole school assembly.

Iona Pathways Press



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

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)
Tuesday 26 May	Reconciliation Week Assembly (Formal Uniform)
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
Wednesday 17 June	Asynchronous Learning Day - Learning from Home for 7G, 7H, 7I, 7J, 7K, 7L, 7M and 8A, 8E, 8F, 8H, 8I, 8L
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
Tuesday 23 June	End of Term Assembly (Formal Uniform)
Wednesday 24 June	Year 8 Camp Group 2
Wednesday 24 June	Asynchronous Learning Day - Learning from Home for 8B, 8C, 8D, 8G, 8K, 8J
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.

Thanks for your support.

Damian, Kylie and Melissa