

18 June 2026

Dear Parents and Carers,

As we head towards the school break, there is much to celebrate about the end of Term 2 at Iona! This week, our Year 10 and 11 students completed their examinations and Semester 1 assessments with dedication and purpose. Their commitment was evident in the way they prepared thoughtfully, engaged actively with their teachers, and approached each task with responsibility and focus. They are to be commended for the maturity they have shown throughout this process, and we are confident that these habits will serve them well as they continue their learning journey, particularly as they prepare for the important final stages of their secondary schooling.

Our Year 12 VM students had a visit from the team at Vinnies, who work with the homeless and vulnerable in our local area. They broke down stereotypes about homelessness and explored practical ways to create positive change. This inspired our VM classes to lead the winter fundraiser 'Wrap Someone in Warmth'. Through creating posters and raising awareness, students collected donations such as beanies, coats and scarves to support those doing it tough this winter.

Our final group of Year 7 students returned from camp this week, while our first group of Year 8 students set off on their own adventure. Our Year 7 students came back tired yet grateful, having formed new friendships and embraced new challenges.





Meanwhile, our Year 8s departed with enthusiasm, eager to learn and grow in the beautiful surroundings of Lake Dewar. Our final group of Year 8 students will have their camp in the last week of term and return just before the break. We are fortunate to have the experience of camp, and it is wonderful to see our students embrace this learning with positive spirits!

As we conclude Term 2, we reflect on our college value of courage, inspired by our patron of the Francis House - Pope Francis. Often described as a leader of great courage, Pope Francis continually called us to live boldly in faith, to seek peace, and to act with compassion and integrity even when it is difficult. His words remind us that courage is not simply about strength in the face of adversity, but about choosing what is right, just and loving each day: *"To make peace, one needs courage, far more than to wage war. It takes courage to say yes to encounter and no to confrontation."*

May we, as the Iona community, take this message to heart, striving to be people who build peace, act with kindness, and live courageously in all that we do.

A prayer for the end of Term 2
Loving and compassionate God,
We thank you for the gift of our community.
and for the many ways we have grown this term.
Help us to be people of courage,
willing to choose kindness,
to stand up for what is right,
and to bring hope to those around us.
Guide us to be peacemakers in our world,
seeking understanding instead of division,
and generosity instead of indifference.
As we enter into a time of rest,
renew our hearts and strengthen our spirit,
so that we may return ready to serve others with joy.
We ask this through your love and grace.
Amen.

Asynchronous Learning Day –Year 8s

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

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

Wellbeing for Learning - Focus on Character and Character Strengths

Our Year 7 students have explored **Character Development** as part of their Wellbeing for Learning program. This topic helps students understand the strengths and qualities that support them to live meaningful, engaged and purposeful lives.

What Is Character Development?

Character Development is about identifying, using, and developing our character strengths, the positive human qualities that shape how we think, feel and behave. These strengths are recognised across cultures and throughout history, and together they represent *what is best in us*.

One of the most well-known frameworks for character strengths is provided by the VIA Institute, which identifies 24-character strengths:

Appreciation of Beauty & Excellence; Bravery; Creativity; Curiosity; Fairness; Forgiveness; Gratitude; Honesty; Hope; Humour & Playfulness; Kindness; Leadership; Love; Love of Learning; Modesty; Open-Mindedness; Persistence; Perspective; Prudence; Self-Control; Social Intelligence; Spirituality; Teamwork and Zest.

While some strengths feel more natural to us - our signature strengths - research shows that *every person has access to all 24 strengths*, and we can choose to use them in different situations. Strengths reflect what we do, not fixed traits of who we are. Life circumstances also shape which strengths we use most often. For example, becoming a parent creates many more opportunities to practise the strength of Love each day.

Why Do Character Strengths Matter?

Research has shown that using character strengths leads to:

- increased life satisfaction
- stronger relationships
- greater resilience
- improved wellbeing and emotional health

In particular, the strengths most closely linked with overall life satisfaction are Curiosity, Gratitude, Hope, Love and Zest. However, using *any* character strength tends to boost wellbeing, because each is a universally valued positive quality.

Interestingly, when people intentionally use their signature strengths in new ways, they experience increased happiness and reduced depressive symptoms. This means that strengths grow stronger the more we intentionally practise them.

Helping Young People Grow Their Character

Character strengths can be nurtured through awareness, reflection and regular practice.

You can support your young person by:

- Noticing and naming the strengths you see them use
- Encouraging them to use their strengths in different settings
- Allowing space for trial, error and growth
- Modelling the use of your own strengths
- Highlighting that strengths can be chosen and developed, not fixed traits

Over time, this builds confidence, purpose, and a sense of identity grounded in what they are capable of contributing.

Try This at Home

Sit down with your young person and review the list of 24 common character strengths.

Together:

1. Identify possible signature strengths for each family member.
2. Share specific examples of times you have seen each other use these strengths in real life.
3. For each signature strength, come up with a new way to put it into action this week.

This simple exercise helps normalise strengths - based conversations and encourages young people to recognise the best parts of themselves - and to use those strengths with confidence.

Kylie Power
Deputy Principal Wellbeing

Iona College Tech Free Day - Tuesday 23 June

A Reminder that next week, 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.

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)

Under 15 Boys State Basketball Championships

On Tuesday, the 16th of June, the under-15 Boys Basketball team made the trip to the State Basketball Centre in Knox to go up against the state's best Basketball teams for their age group.

In qualifying a few weeks earlier, the boys were able to beat schools from Geelong, such as St Joseph's, and Western Heights, as well as other schools from the Western suburbs of Melbourne.



Leaving at 6.20 am on a student-free day, the boys played 5 games across the day and unfortunately came up narrowly short in each match. For some perspective, in the last match against Rowville Secondary College, we lost by 3 points. Rowville then went on to win the Grand final on the day, which shows just how tight the competition was. The boys were highly competitive and played a very high level of Basketball for the entire day. Not only did they display Excellence on the court, but they also represented Iona College exceptionally well, showing great sportsmanship and teamwork, listening to coaches and supporting each other from the start till the end. We were very proud of this as coaches/ staff members. Well done, boys!



Thank you to Matt Johns (LSO), who coached the team throughout the championships. Thank you to Lucy Collins, Avery and Ellery, who scored and took amazing photos throughout the championship.

Sam Herbison
Teacher

Student Achievement



Congratulations to River (Year 10), who continues to demonstrate exceptional dedication and passion for skateboarding. Over the past week, he travelled to Townsville to compete in Stop 2 of the national tour, supported by Skate Australia. We are proud to share that River made the finals and finished in an impressive 6th place.

Earlier this year, he also competed at the Moomba National Australian League event, where he placed 10th out of 33 competitors.

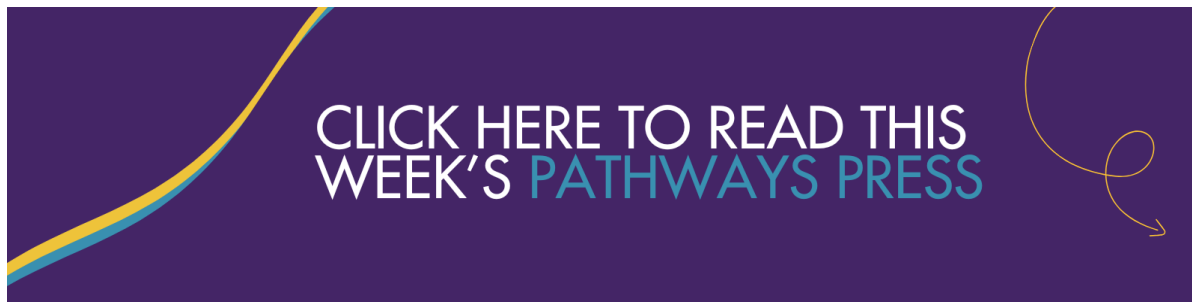
River's next competition will take place on the Gold Coast in July. We wish him all the best for the upcoming event and congratulate him on his achievements so far.

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.](#)

CLOGS Winter Ball - Fundraising

Next week, on Thursday, Iona College is hosting the College Leaders of the Geelong Catholic Secondary Schools (CLOGS) Year 12 Winter Ball. This year, our students are raising funds through a raffle initiative to support two incredible charities, Feed Me Geelong and Big Brother Big Sister. These charities closely align with their collective goal of supporting local initiatives that positively impact young people and strengthen our Geelong community. If you would like to support this fundraising activity, you are welcome to purchase raffle tickets. 1 ticket for \$5 or 3 tickets for \$10

How to purchase tickets: Head to the Iona College [Canteen Online](#) and select Year 12 Winter Ball / Raffle tickets.



2026 Winter Ball Raffle
1 Ticket \$5 or 3 Tickets \$10

Prizes up for grabs:

- 2x Sets of Apple Airpods
- \$100 Live Wire Voucher
- \$120 Bellbrae Clay Workshop Voucher
- \$500 Bellbrae Clay Sculptural Tall Crush Vase
- Jets Gym 6-Month Membership (Valued at \$610)
- Upstate Geelong 1-Month Unlimited Membership (Valued at \$270)
- Sailors Rest Voucher
- The Great Ocean Road Chocolaterie – 2 Taste & Tour Tickets + 1 x 1 Metre Chocolate Bar
- Go Ride a Wave – 1 Child (3 x 2-Hour Surf Lessons, Valued at \$205)
- Bellarine Adventure Golf Family Pass
- Dolphin Swims – 2 x Adult Tickets for a Seal and Dolphin Swim Tour
- Bronzium – 3-Pack of Spray Tans
- Golden Days Tanning – Gift Voucher
- Body Sculpting Fit – 2 x 3-Month Memberships
- Student-Made Bag
- Rixon's Hairdressing Voucher
- About Time Bath House – 2 x 90-Minute Social Bathing Passes
- BCF Tackle Bag
- Luxe Glow – 5-Pack Tanning Voucher
- Bruenzo's Pizza – 2 Large Pizza Voucher
- Routley's Geelong – 2 x \$25 Vouchers

All proceeds from raffle sales will go towards:



Feed Me
Turning Excess Into Impact
Geelong



STRONG BROTHERS STRONG SISTERS



1 Raffle Ticket

3 Raffle Tickets



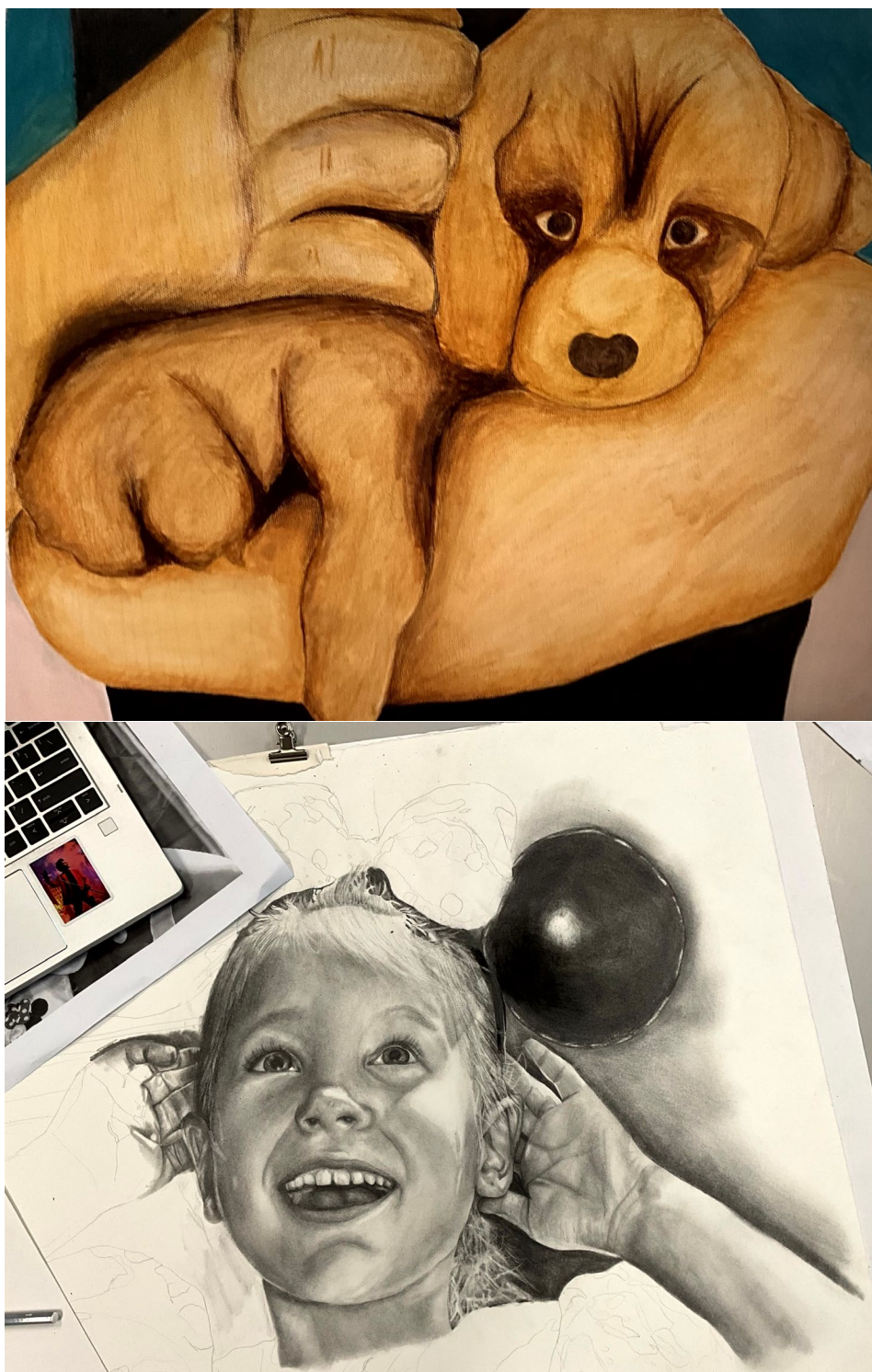
Tickets are on sale until Monday, 22 June 2026.

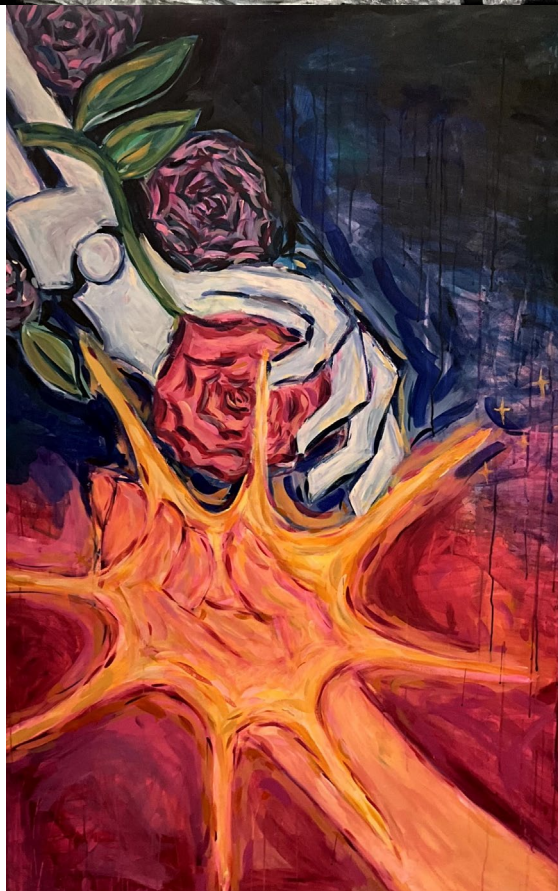
Art Department News

VCE students have been working towards their final artworks, building on the ideas and research developed throughout Semester 1.

Each piece reflects their exploration, experimentation, and growth, capturing the effort and creativity behind their artistic journey.







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