

16 July 2026

Dear Parents and Carers,

Welcome back to all our students, families and staff as we begin Term 3. We hope everyone enjoyed a restful and rejuvenating holiday break, spending quality time with family and friends and taking the opportunity to participate in the celebrations and activities across NAIDOC Week. This important week reminds us of the rich histories, cultures and achievements of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples and the importance of walking together in respect and reconciliation.

This term, our school's focus is Leadership, inspired by the patron saint of MacKillop House - Saint Mary MacKillop. Mary MacKillop is a wonderful example of determination, courage and leadership. Throughout her life, she faced many challenges, demonstrating faith, perseverance, and a deep commitment to serving others. As a school community, we encourage our students to reflect on her example and consider how they can lead through kindness, integrity, service and compassion in their everyday lives.

During the first week of the holidays, students returned from both the Central Australia Immersion and the Indonesian Study Trip. We are incredibly proud of the enthusiasm, respect and exemplary behaviour they demonstrated throughout these important learning experiences. These opportunities allowed students to deepen their understanding of different cultures, communities and perspectives while developing valuable personal and leadership skills.





We were also delighted to be involved in the Community Connections Day in partnership with the Cultura Centre and the Catholic Secondary Schools of Geelong. Students and staff came together to enjoy a day of holiday activities and fun with children from the Cultura Centre. We are deeply grateful to all the students and staff who generously volunteered their time. The friendships formed and the connections made throughout the day were a wonderful example of our school values in action and demonstrated the positive impact of community engagement and service.



As we look ahead, we are excited about the many opportunities and experiences that await us this term. May we continue to grow as a learning community, supporting one another and embracing every opportunity to lead with courage, compassion and faith—just as Mary MacKillop did.

Prayer for Term 3

Loving God,

*As we begin a new term, help us to follow the example of Saint Mary MacKillop.
Give us courage when challenges arise, determination to do our best, and the wisdom to lead
with kindness and compassion.*

*Bless our students, families and staff as we learn and grow together.
Help us to be people of faith, service and hope, always looking for ways to make a positive
difference in the lives of others.*

*May we be leaders who inspire, include and care for those around us.
We ask this through Christ our Lord.
Amen.*

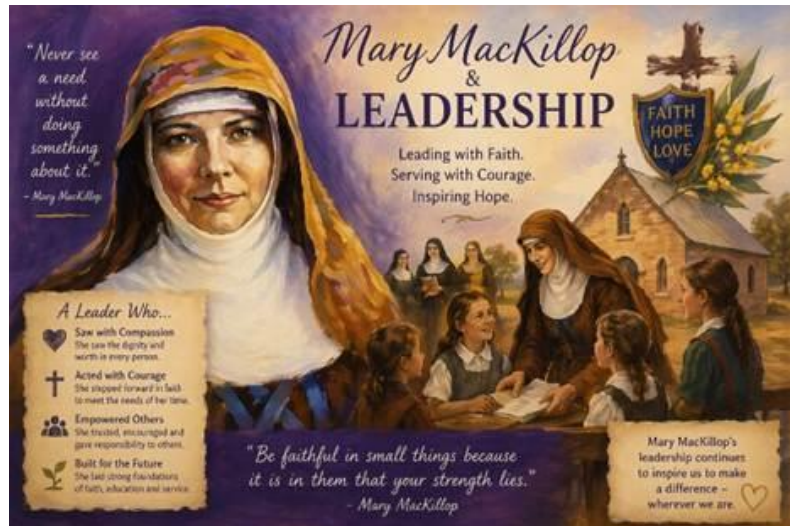
Honouring 20 Years of Principalship



Over the holidays, our Foundation Principal, Damian McKew, was celebrated by the Australian Catholic Secondary Principals Association (CaSPA) for 20 years of principalship across three schools - Trinity College, Clonard College and Iona College. We are so proud of Damian and feel incredibly fortunate to have him leading Iona.

Damian is a leader we are blessed to follow, and we are grateful for the passion, dedication and care he brings to our community each day. Congratulations, on this well-deserved recognition.

MacKillop House Crest Introduction



Given this term's value is Leadership, inspired by St Mary MacKillop, we thought it would be a great time to introduce the MacKillop House crest to our community in more detail.

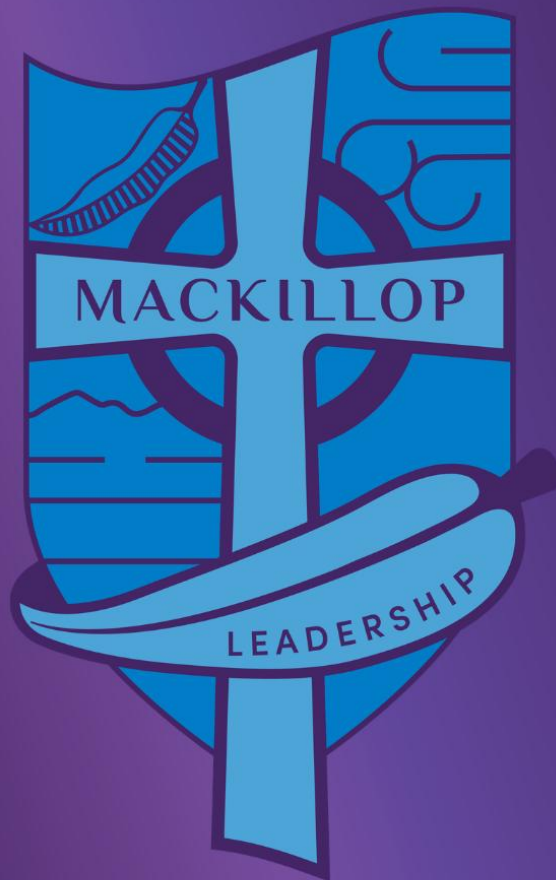
Mary MacKillop became the first member of Australia's first order of nuns, the Sisters of St Joseph of the Sacred Heart. She observed a vow of poverty and dedicated her life to educating "the poorest of the poor". Mary's leadership was both strong and compassionate, overcoming the many challenges she faced throughout her life. She personified the value of leadership.

The following symbols are featured within the MacKillop House crest:

- **The Iona Cross** represents our Catholic identity and faith, grounding each House in who we are as a Catholic school. It also connects to the Celtic (St John's) Cross found outside the Abbey of Iona in Scotland.
- **The Gum Leaf** is a deeply significant symbol of welcome, healing, respect and spiritual cleansing. Woven throughout Iona's culture, it reflects how our College is shaped by the First Nations stories of this Country.
- **Wind** represents movement and direction, reflecting Mary MacKillop's determination to lead with purpose. It symbolises guidance and clarity—qualities of effective leadership.
- **The You Yangs** reflect our connection to the local landscape. Our community not only enjoys views of the sweeping forms of the You Yangs but also extends onto You Yangs Country, a place of deep cultural significance and connection.



Melbourne Archdiocese
Catholic Schools



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Have Your Say: Parent and Carer Community Engagement Survey

We are inviting all parents and carers to complete a short survey to help us learn more about the skills and interests within our community. Whether you have expertise you'd be willing to share, an interest in volunteering, or feedback on how we can make it easier for families to get involved, we want to hear from you.

The survey takes approximately five minutes to complete, and all responses are confidential.

[Complete the survey here](#) or via the following link: <https://forms.office.com/r/HrrDfgxgwA>

Year 7 Immunisations

On Thursday, 27 August 2026, Barwon Health Immunisation Service will visit Iona College to administer the following free immunisations to Year 7 students:

- **HPV (Human Papillomavirus) vaccine** – 1 injection
- **Boostrix (Diphtheria, tetanus and whooping cough booster)** – 1 injection

Please complete the online consent form via the following link:

<https://geelong.book.vitavo.com.au/school/IonaCollegeGeelong-rolbFS>

Your information will be provided to the Barwon Health Immunisation Service. If you do not wish for your details to be provided, please email medical@iona.vic.edu.au before Tuesday 21 July.

Please ensure that students wear their sports uniform on the day.

Kate Every
College Nurse

Year 12 Vocational Major Appeal Reminder

During Term 2, our Year 12 Vocational Major students heard from guest speakers from the Vinnies Education Unit, along with members of the Torquay and Grovedale Vinnies conferences, as part of their RE program. Students and staff gained valuable insight into the growing prevalence of homelessness in our region and explored the stigma and stereotypes that often surround it.

Inspired by these conversations, the students have developed two projects to help support people experiencing homelessness.

1. Wrap Someone in Warmth Appeal. Students and families are invited to donate coats, socks, scarves, canned food, blankets and beanies. All donations are requested by 31 July.

2. Change for Change Afternoon

On Wednesday, 29 July, VM students will run a fun afternoon of activities for the Year 7 students as a “change” from the usual Wednesday program. **Year 7** students are asked to bring a toiletry item, which will be used to create dignity bags for people in need. The following classes are requested to collect the items listed below.

7 A & B – Toiletry Bags

7 C & D- Tooth Brushes

7 E & F- Toothpaste

7 G & H- Soap

7 I- Hair Brushes

7 J & K- Deodorant

7 L & M – Face washers

All donations of toiletry items are requested by the 29th July. All donated items will be passed on to our local Vinnies conferences by our students during National Homelessness Week on 3rd- 9th August.

Thank you for supporting this meaningful, student-led initiative.



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IONA'S WINTER CLOTHING DRIVE

Wrap Someone In Together Warmth

This will be a competition between community groups - that whoever donates the most will receive a paid lunch of their choosing!!

Deliver your winter clothes at:



**IONA COLLEGE
GEELONG**

15 Donegal Dr, Charlemont VIC 3217

Donate your winter clothes during:



**June 9th - July
31st, 2026**

09:00 AM - 03:05 PM

**You can share the warmth this
season by donating these cozy
essentials (please bring a bag):**

- | | |
|-----------|------------|
| ✓ Coats | ✓ Cans |
| ✓ Socks | ✓ Blankets |
| ✓ Scarves | ✓ Beanies |



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Term 3 Student Progress Meetings

Parents and carers are invited to attend our Term 3 Student Progress Meetings. These sessions provide a valuable opportunity to check in on student progress, celebrate successes, and work together on strategies for continued growth. Students are welcome to attend alongside their parent or carer if they wish.

Student Progress	Date	Time	Location
Unit 4 Student Progress Meeting (Bookings Open)	Wednesday 22 July	3:30 pm – 5:30 pm	On site - Glowrey Centre, Iona College
On-Site Student Progress Meeting	Monday 24 August	3:30 pm – 6:30 pm	On site – Iona College
Online Student Progress Meetings	Tuesday 1 September	3:30 pm – 6:30 pm	Online

Keep an eye on your emails in the coming weeks for a notification letting you know when bookings open.

Upcoming Parent/Carer Events

Year 7 Time and Space Mother and Mother Figures

The teenage years accelerate quickly, and the chance to pause and talk together becomes rarer with every passing term. On Tuesday, 11 August, Year 7 students and their mums or female mentors are invited to the Iona College Stadium for our annual Time & Space evening. Light refreshments from 5:45 pm, 6:00 pm start, finishing by 8:00 pm.

Time & Space is a single-evening program built around conversation and connection, led by facilitator Ray Messer. It is a warm and conversational night, and mums and mentors regularly leave a little surprised by how openly our students speak about their lives.

Families come in all shapes and sizes. A grandmother, aunt, older sister or trusted family friend is warmly welcome as a mentor.

Please register [via the following link](#):

Kylie Power
Deputy Principal (Wellbeing)

Talking Consent at Home: An Online Session for Parents and Carers

Talking with our children about consent, boundaries and respectful relationships matters, and most of us would welcome a little help knowing where to start.

This term, Iona is partnering with Consent Labs to host an online session for parents and carers on **Wednesday 12 August, 6:00 pm – 7:00 pm**. The session is open to families across all year levels.

Consent Labs is a youth-led organisation that delivers evidence-based consent and respectful relationships education in schools across Australia. In this hour, they will:

- Explain the best practices and research behind their programs
- Explore what age-appropriate consent education looks like at different stages
- Share practical strategies for starting meaningful conversations at home
- Outline how school and families can work together to support a culture of respect and safety

This is a partnership between school and home, and we would love to see as many families as possible join us.

RSVP: Please RSVP [via the following form](#). A link to join the online session will be sent to those who register closer to the date.

Kylie Power
Deputy Principal (Wellbeing)

Melbourne Archdiocese Catholic Schools – School Improvement Surveys (MACSSIS): 31 August – 18 September 2026

Every year, we pause to listen to our students, families and staff to gauge how our learning community is travelling. This feedback is invaluable to our progress as an effective school community and is backed by evidence-based research and best practices.

A significant and formal way in which we engage and gather data is through MACSSIS, the Melbourne Archdiocese Catholic Schools – School Improvement Surveys.

MACSSIS is a set of surveys that have been built specifically for Catholic schools in Melbourne by the School Effectiveness team at MACS, in partnership with researchers at Learning First and in wide consultation with principals in Catholic schools in Melbourne.

In 2026, students, families and staff are invited to participate in MACSSIS via our secure and purpose-built online platform. The online platform is where our school leaders will access the summary reports that visualise the results of the student, family and staff surveys.

The MACSSIS survey platform is operated by an independent supplier, ORIMA Research Pty Ltd. The platform meets the high security and privacy standards for handling student and school data.

Students at our school will be provided with supervised sessions, where teachers are on hand to help and answer any questions. Families and staff can complete the survey anytime during the three-week window via an emailed link and password. Feedback has indicated that previous surveys were completed across a range of mobile devices and different web browsers. Schools will be providing more information about MACSSIS throughout Terms 2 and 3.

Our community's opinions are critical to understanding how our school is performing – MACSSIS is a key data source for guiding the ongoing work to improve our school.

All participation is invited, welcomed and 100 per cent voluntary. The surveys are not a test; they are an inclusive way to support the work we are already doing to improve our school. Everyone has the right to refuse to participate or withdraw from the survey at any point before, during or after completion of the survey. Please notify the school if your child does not wish to participate.

If you would like more information, please contact Main Reception.

Important Update to Student Attendance, Welfare Procedures and Absence Notification

The safety and wellbeing of our students at Iona College Geelong is our highest priority. As part of recent changes to attendance and student welfare requirements, MACS (the College's governing body) has updated its procedures for responding to unexplained student absences.

From the beginning of Term 3, if a student is absent from school and the absence has not been explained by a parent or carer, the College will continue to make every effort to contact parents/carers using the contact details provided. However, where these attempts are unsuccessful, the College will now also contact the student's nominated emergency contacts to determine the student's whereabouts and wellbeing.

If the College is unable to establish contact with a parent/carers or emergency contact, and the student's whereabouts remain unknown, the matter will be referred to the Police, who may conduct a welfare check.

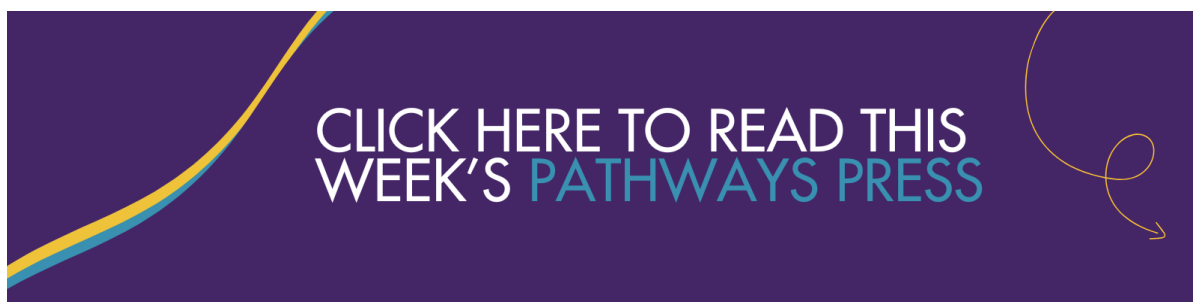
These changes have been implemented to ensure that all reasonable steps are taken to confirm the safety of students whose whereabouts cannot be verified during school hours.

We ask all families to assist us by:

- Promptly notifying the College of any student absences.
- Ensuring parent/carers and emergency contact details are current and accurate.
- Responding to attendance-related communications from the College as soon as possible.

We appreciate your cooperation in supporting these important measures, which are designed to safeguard the wellbeing of all students in our care.

Iona Pathways Press



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

Term 3 Dates to Remember

Date	Event
Saturday 20 June - Thursday 2 July	Indonesian Study Trip
Monday 22 June - Tuesday 30 June	Central Australia Immersion
Friday 26 June	Term 2 Concludes (2:05 pm)
Thursday 2 July	Community Connections Day
Friday 4 July - Friday 10 July	Admin Office Closed for Holidays
Monday 13 July	Student Free Day (Staff Professional Development)
Tuesday 14 July	Term 3 Starts
Wednesday 22 July	Unit 4 Student Progress Meetings (Onsite, 3:30 pm - 5:30 pm)
Thursday 30 July	July Soiree (6 pm - 8 pm)
Tuesday 11 August	Time and Space Evening, Year 7 Students and Mother Figures (Iona College Stadium, 6 pm - 8 pm)
Wednesday 12 August	Consent Labs Parent/ Carer Night (Online, 6 pm - 7 pm)
Monday 24 August	Student Progress Meeting (Onsite, 3:30 pm - 6:30 pm)
Tuesday 25 August	Student Free Day (Staff Professional Development)
Friday 28 August	School Play Evening Performance (Plat Form Art, 6 pm - 8 pm)
Tuesday 1 September	Student Progress Meetings (Online, 3:30 pm - 6:30 pm)
Saturday 12 September - Wednesday 23 September	Timor-Leste Immersion
Thursday 17 September	Whole School Mass (Formal Uniform)
Friday 18 September	Columba Day
Friday 18 September	Term 3 Concludes (2:05 pm)
Monday 21 September - Thursday 24 September	Year 12 Trial Exams
Friday 25 September	Grand Final Public Holiday
Friday 25 September - Friday 2 October	Admin Office Closed for Holidays
Monday 5 October	Term 4 Commences

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