

30 July 2026

Dear Parents and Carers,

As we move through Term 3, there is much to celebrate across our Iona College community. One of the most exciting developments has been the significant progress of our building works over the holiday period and at the beginning of this term. Each week brings visible change, and it has been wonderful to see our new building for 2027 continuing to take shape. This project represents an important investment in the future of our students and will provide outstanding learning environments for generations of Iona students to come. We look forward to sharing further updates as construction progresses.



Our Year 10 students are also at an exciting point in their educational journey as they begin preparing for their senior studies and future pathways. Over recent weeks, students have been participating in a range of valuable experiences, including White Card training, TAFE Taster Programs and Work Experience placements. These opportunities allow our students to explore potential career pathways, develop practical skills and gain valuable insights into life beyond school. We commend our students for embracing these experiences with enthusiasm and maturity. A reminder to all Year 10 families that Subject Selection Forms are due this Friday. This is an important step in planning for senior studies, and we encourage students to carefully consider their choices and submit forms by the due date.

The rich musical culture of Iona College will be on display at the upcoming July Soiree tonight at 6.00 pm. This special evening will showcase the talents, dedication and hard work of our student musicians. We warmly invite families and community members to attend and support our performers as they share their gifts through music.

Recently, members of our staff participated in the Melbourne Archdiocese Religious Education Symposium, "Inspired by Faith." This valuable opportunity provided both professional learning and spiritual formation, enabling staff to deepen their understanding of contemporary Religious Education and the mission of Catholic schools. The insights and inspiration gained through the symposium will continue to enrich the formation of our students, staff and wider college community.

Our Staff Leaders also engaged in a professional learning day at Deakin University, reflecting on the learning and teaching experiences of students at Iona College. The day challenged leaders to consider who our learners are, what our hopes and aspirations are for every student, and how we can best realise these hopes through meaningful learning experiences. It was an inspiring opportunity to collaborate, reflect and plan for the future as we continue our commitment to excellence in teaching and learning.

As a Catholic community, we also continue to deepen our understanding of our College patrons, values and Catholic identity. The information shared within our newsletters about the symbols and stories represented in our College crests helps us to better appreciate the traditions and virtues that guide our community. We encourage all families to continue following this important series and engaging in conversations about the faith, values and heritage that shape life at Iona College.

Thank you for your ongoing support as we journey together through another exciting and faith-filled term. May we continue to be inspired by our patrons and values as we grow in learning, faith and service.

Don't forget to stay in touch with all that is happening in Catholic Education through Australian Catholics Magazine – free to you as part of the Iona College family.
To access, go to: <https://www.australiancatholics.com.au/>

Choose the Education Hub and the login tab at the top of the screen, and log in using:
Email: parents@iona.vic.edu.au
Password: acparents

Loving God,

We thank You for the blessings of this term, for the opportunities to learn, grow and serve together in our Iona College community.

Bless our students, staff and families with peace, joy and strength.

Bless also our new building project, and all those whose work is helping to create spaces where future generations of students will learn, flourish and grow in faith.

Guide us to live our values each day with compassion, courage, leadership and excellence, and may Your love be with us in all we do.

Amen.

Have Your Say: Parent and Carer Community Engagement Survey - Reminder

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>

Re-enrolment Intentions for 2027

Families are advised that a notification will be sent tomorrow afternoon asking current families to confirm their enrolment intentions for the 2027 school year.

Once received, please log in to your PAM account and select one of the following options:

- Will Return
- Unsure if Returning
- Will Not Be Returning

Your response will assist us with planning for the 2027 school year, and we would appreciate you completing it as soon as possible.

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College Registrar

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
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 & Space: Mother and Mother Figures Evening - Reminder

Year 7 students and their mums or significant female mentors are invited to join us for our annual Time & Space evening on Tuesday 11 August in the Iona College Stadium.

Facilitated by Ray Messer, this special evening provides an opportunity for students and their mentors to pause, connect and have meaningful conversations during the important teenage years. Families come in all shapes and sizes, and we warmly welcome grandmothers, aunts, older sisters and trusted family friends.

Light refreshments will be available from 5:45 pm, with the session commencing at 6:00 pm and concluding by 8:00 pm.

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

Talking Consent at Home: Parent and Carer Online Session - Reminder

Iona College is partnering with Consent Labs to support families in having conversations about consent, boundaries and respectful relationships.

Parents and carers from all year levels are invited to join this online session on Wednesday 12 August, from 6:00 pm – 7:00 pm. The session will provide practical strategies for starting meaningful conversations at home, explore age-appropriate consent education, and highlight the importance of working together as a school and community to foster a culture of respect and safety.

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.

Year 7 Grandparent/Special Person Morning Tea



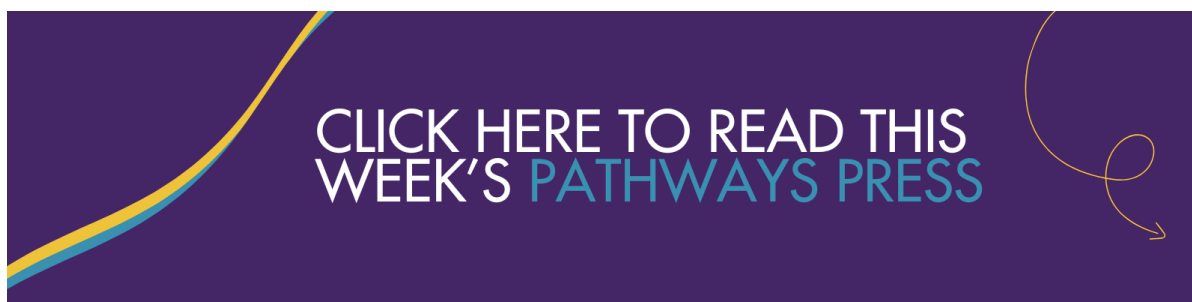
We are delighted to introduce a new tradition at Iona College and warmly invite our Year 7 families to save the date for our inaugural Year 7 Grandparent/Special Person Morning Tea.

Date: Tuesday 8 September
Venue: Iona College Stadium
Time: To be confirmed

This special event will provide our Year 7 students with the opportunity to welcome a grandparent or special person into our Iona community and share part of their Iona experience.

Further details and a formal invitation will be emailed to Year 7 families in the coming days.

Iona Pathways Press



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

Ensemble Showcase

Families are warmly invited to join us for our **Ensemble Showcase**, where our talented music students will perform a wonderful evening of music.

Date: Thursday 13 August

Time: 6.00 pm

Venue: Iona College Stadium

Come along and support our student musicians as they showcase the hard work they have put into their ensembles throughout the year.

Bookings can be made via the following link: <https://www.trybooking.com/DOBAN>



Iona College Inaugural Play

It is with great excitement that we announce that tickets are live for Iona College's inaugural 2026 Play: 'Two Weeks With The Queen'. The show opens on Friday 28th August and closes on Saturday 29th August.

Tickets can be booked online [via the following link](#), but be quick; tickets are already selling fast!

This beloved Australian classic bursts to life in a hilarious and heartfelt adventure through 1980s London, where one determined boy sets out on an audacious mission to break into Buckingham Palace in hopes of saving his brother. Filled with eccentric characters, big laughs, touching moments and unstoppable courage, 'Two Weeks With The Queen' promises an unforgettable theatrical experience brimming with chaos, charm and heart.



Join us at the Platform Arts Theatre in Geelong as we celebrate the outstanding talent, creativity and spirit of our Iona College students. This is a milestone event, and you're invited to be part of it!

Columba Day 2027



Every year, the Iona community looks forward to a special day on our calendar, the Columba Day Celebration. This year, Columba Day will be held on the last day of Term 3, Friday 18 September. Here is more of a rundown of what you need to know:

What Uniform is required?

Students are invited to dress in the House colours for the day; this may include House-colour fancy dress, should they wish. Anyone participating in the Staff vs. Students Footy game should bring appropriate sports attire to change into.

Activities Galore!

We have a variety of activities planned for the day:

- House Music
- Join classic games like the egg and spoon race, ball in the bin and sack races
- Dunk Tank
- A disco for students to showcase their dance moves
- 3v3 basketball knockout on the half-courts
- The iconic Staff vs. Students Footy Game (Junior and Senior games)
- Quiet activities like board games/cards and more in the Resource Centre
- Volley Ball/Pickle Ball

More information on the food trucks/canteen venue will be shared in the coming weeks.

Federal Mills Excursion

VCE VM Year 11 students recently visited the Hamilton Group at the Federal Mills precinct to explore a range of local businesses and employment opportunities. During the visit, students toured several spaces within the precinct, learning about their uses, including restaurants, retail stores, and office environments. They also participated in discussions about employability and transferable skills, and gained valuable insights into what employers look for in job applications. The day concluded with a wander through the Vintage Market and a well-earned treat from Paddock Bakery.



Vocational Major Yr 12 Religious Education Outreach Projects **Wrap Someone in Warmth and Change for Change Appeals**

Throughout the year the Year 12 Vocational Major RE classes have been focusing on the Iona College values of compassion, courage, leadership and excellence. The values of compassion and leadership particularly resonated with this group, and shaped the direction of their projects going forward. Before launching into a project, we realised that it was important to learn more about current social justice issues and their impact on our communities. We were so lucky to have Sarah from Vinnies Youth Education Unit and members from the local Vinnies conferences visit classes to discuss the growing problem of homelessness in our local communities. From this learning, 'Wrap Someone in Warmth' and 'Change for Change' appeals were born.

Due to the overwhelming generosity of the Iona Community, we have plenty of warm woollies and dignity bags to donate to Vinnies, just in time for National Homelessness Week (2nd-9th August). It was particularly heartening to receive some beautiful hand-



knitted items from our talented and generous community members.

We are very proud of the work of our Year 12 Vocational Major students and the difference they have made to those who need it the most. They have lived out the Catholic Social Teachings in a very authentic way. A big thank you to our wonderful Iona community for supporting this cause.



Library & Information Week

"Truth used to feel like something you could point to. These days, it's harder to pin down — shaped, stretched and sometimes distorted in a crowded information landscape. In some cases, the truth isn't just blurred — it's buried." Australian Library & Information Association.

That's where libraries come in. Built on the careful keeping and sharing of knowledge, they help communities cut through the noise, supporting people to question, verify and understand what they encounter, and to navigate misinformation and disinformation with confidence.

Here at Iona, our community is fortunate to have a growing library staffed by passionate information professionals and a collection that is growing all the time, with input from staff and students to cater to their needs.

In addition to this, we have the amazing [Biyal-a Armstrong Creek public library](#) right on our doorstep. Both of these libraries are here to help students find and decipher information that they are looking for, provide a wide range of options for reading – whether it be for research or leisure - and to connect the community.

These are all things well worth celebrating during this Library and Information Week, and we are celebrating by sharing resources with our students all week to help them learn about and navigate misinformation and disinformation as well as reinforcing the importance of, and sharing information about, media literacy - a vital skill in today's society!



Art Department News

Throughout Semester 1, Year 10 VCD students have developed a comprehensive design folio based on the development and creation of a new Pavilion for a chosen audience.

They completed a design brief analysis, researched existing designs, and explored a range of materials, techniques, design elements, and principles. Students produced both technical and digital drawings, including floor plans, orthogonal drawings, and two-point perspectives. Programs such as Adobe Illustrator and Photoshop were used to develop and present their final designs and accompanying promotional posters. 3D models were constructed using a mixture of materials such as foam core, artificial grass, corrugated cardboard, wooden sticks, and 3D printed figures and benches.





In Semester One, Year 8 Textiles students completed their final assessment task by designing and creating a unique eye mask or “Weirdlet” soft toy, inspired by Fugglers by ZURU. Working with a chosen end user in mind (often a younger sibling, cousin, or friend), students designed a product for someone other than themselves, considering the needs and interests of their intended recipient. Before construction began, students created personalised designs based on creative themes such as animals, superheroes, and people before students developing original patterns. Drawing on the production skills gained through their tote bag project, students demonstrated increasing confidence, creativity, and problem-solving throughout the design and making process. The “Weirdlets” were sustainably filled using fabric offcuts collected from Year 9 and 10 hoodie and track pant projects, giving new life to materials that would otherwise have become waste.



Melbourne Archdiocese
Catholic Schools



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)
Thursday 13 August	Ensemble Showcase (Iona College Stadium, 6 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