

27 August 2026

Dear Parents and Carers,

This week has been one of connection, learning and celebration across our Iona College community, with students, staff and families coming together in a variety of meaningful ways.

Staff Formation Day: Our Two Marys, One Mission

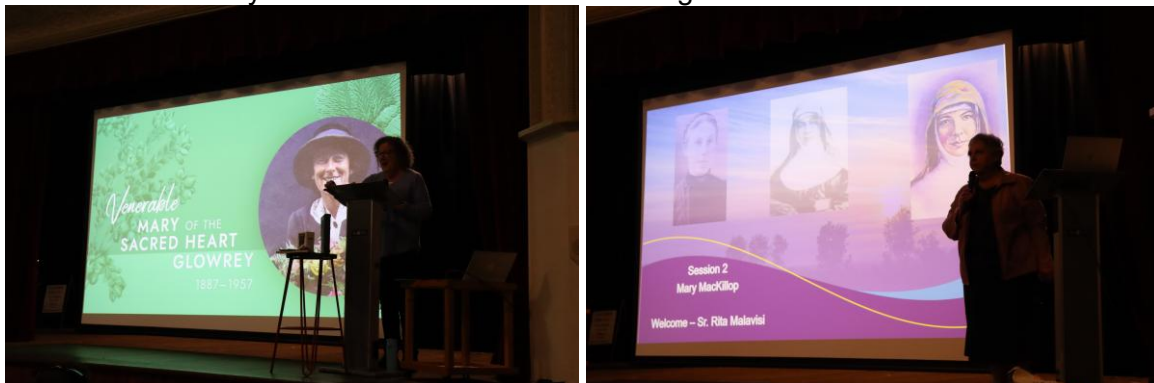
On Tuesday 25 August, staff participated in our annual Staff Formation Day, spending time together in beautiful Birregurra as we continued to deepen our understanding of the unique charism and Catholic identity of Iona College through the theme *Our Two Marys, One Mission*.

Birregurra holds special significance for our College as the birthplace of Mary Glowrey, and staff were privileged to learn more about the lives, faith and witness of two remarkable women who continue to inspire our community: Mary Glowrey and Saint Mary MacKillop.

We were delighted to welcome Louise McGrath, great-niece of Mary Glowrey, who shared personal insights into Mary's life, vocation and enduring legacy of compassion and service. Staff also enjoyed an engaging presentation from Sr Rita Malavisi from the Mary MacKillop Spirituality Centre, who invited us to reflect more deeply on the courage, determination and faith of Australia's first saint, Mary MacKillop.

A highlight of the day was our pilgrim walk through Birregurra to St Peter's Church, taking time to walk on Country, reflect on the history of the area and journey together as a faith community. Staff celebrated Mass with Fr Andrew Hayes, gathering around the Eucharistic table in prayer and thanksgiving.

Throughout the day there was a wonderful spirit of joy, collegiality and learning. Time away from the busyness of everyday school life allowed staff to strengthen relationships, reflect on our shared mission, learn more about the rich history of the region and renew our commitment to the values of compassion, courage, service and hope embodied by our College patrons. It was a valuable opportunity to pause, connect and continue developing the Catholic identity that is at the heart of Iona College.





Parent Teacher Student Progress Meetings

This week also marked the commencement of our Parent Teacher Student Progress Meetings. It was wonderful to welcome so many families to the College on Monday evening and to hear the buzz of conversation throughout the school as parents, students and teachers met together to discuss learning progress and future goals.

These meetings are an important opportunity for families and staff to work in partnership to support the young people of Iona College through their studies and personal growth.

We thank all families who attended and engaged so positively in these conversations.

The next round of meetings will take place online on Tuesday 1 September. Families who have not yet made a booking are encouraged to do so and take advantage of this valuable opportunity to connect with teachers and discuss their child's progress.

Opening Night Approaches for *Two Weeks with the Queen*

Excitement is building as our school production, *Two Weeks with the Queen*, opens this weekend. Our talented students and dedicated staff have been working tirelessly in rehearsals, demonstrating tremendous commitment, creativity and teamwork in bringing this much-loved story to life.

We are incredibly proud of the effort that has gone into preparing the production and cannot wait to see the final result on stage. It promises to be a wonderful show not to be missed.

World Youth Day Launch

On 13 August, fifteen Iona students attended the World Youth Day Launch, hosted by the Catholic Archdiocese of Melbourne and Melbourne Archdiocese Catholic Schools (MACS).

The day brought together approximately 380 young people from across the Archdiocese and was filled with music, faith, testimonies and opportunities for connection.

Wavemakers led participants in song and meaningful conversations about living with purpose, integrity and compassion. It was a fantastic opportunity to build connections with young people from other schools in the Melbourne Archdiocese. Students were delighted by the Korean-themed food and the joyful energy in the room.

Participants reflected on Pope Francis' call to be *Pilgrims of Hope* and explored the theme for World Youth Day 2027: "*Take courage! I have overcome the world*" (John 16:33).

Students were encouraged to consider how they can demonstrate courage in their everyday lives, embrace new opportunities, contribute positively to their communities and be a source of hope and encouragement to others. World Youth Day will take place in Seoul, South Korea in August 2027, and we look forward to exploring ways that Iona College can be involved in this significant pilgrimage and faith experience for young people.



Term 3 Student Progress Meetings - Reminder

A reminder for the upcoming online student progress meetings. Bookings close tomorrow on Friday 28 August.

Tuesday 1 September – Online, 3.30 – 6.30 pm

Bookings via PAM: Open from Wednesday 12 August and close at 4.30 pm on Friday 28 August.

Year 7 Grandparent/Special Person Morning Tea – RSVP Closes Tomorrow



A reminder to our Year 7 families to please RSVP for our inaugural Year 7 Grandparent/Special Person Morning Tea. **RSVPs are due by tomorrow, Friday 28 August.**

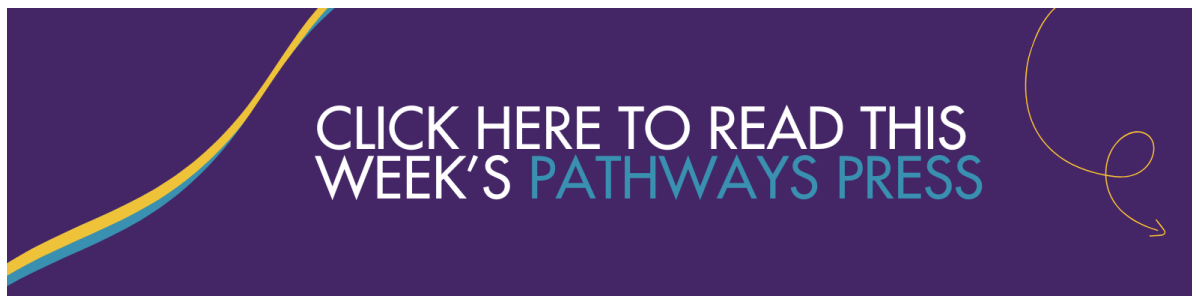
The RSVP link can be found in the initial email invitation.

Date: Tuesday 8 September

Venue: Iona College Stadium

Time: Please refer to your email invitation for your allocated time.

Iona Pathways Press



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

Girls in Physics Morning Tea



On Monday, August 17, I attended a Physics Morning Tea hosted at The Gordon with other female physics students from Years 10 to 12. The event featured guest speaker Natalie Clements, who shared her journey to becoming a Medical Physicist and explained how radiology is used to treat cancer. We also had the opportunity to sit among other women working in physics-related fields, whilst engaging in fun and interactive activities.

The purpose of the event was to expose young female students to potential careers in physics and encourage us to pursue opportunities in a traditionally male-dominated field. By hearing directly from women working in the industry, we gained a deeper understanding of the different pathways available to us.

Personally, I thoroughly enjoyed listening to Natalie's non-linear journey into her profession and speaking with her one-on-one about the steps I can take towards a future in physics. Something that stood out to me was that when Natalie first entered her profession, she was the only female Medical Physicist among 15 men in Victoria. Her message to us, "Be the change you want to see", was inspiring. Opportunities like this provide valuable representation, inspiration and encouragement for female students considering careers in physics.

Holly

Year 10 Student

Danielle Binks Year 7 Author Visit

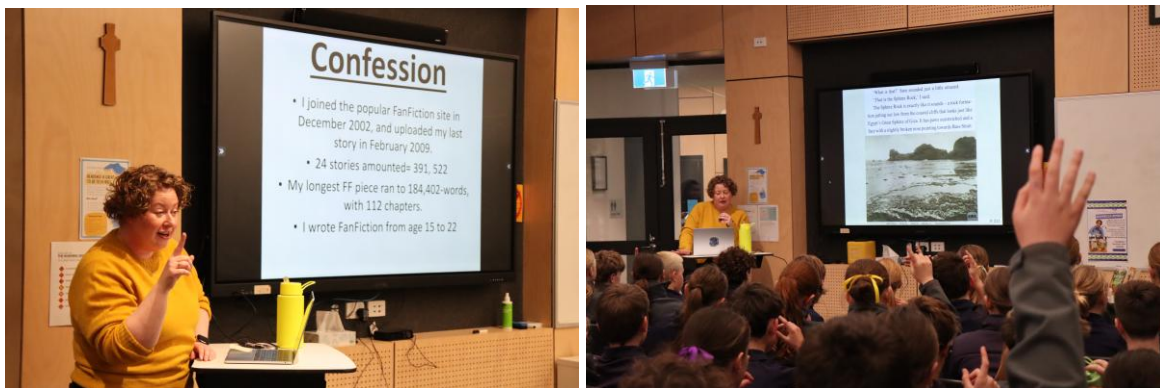
On Thursday, August 6th, our Year 7 cohort were fortunate to have the author Danielle Binks come and speak to them in the Resource Centre.

Danielle is the author of the book *The Year the Maps Changed*, which our Year 7 students are currently studying in English class, as well as several other Young Adult books including her latest release, *Shakespeare in the Orchard*.

It was wonderful to see our Year 7 students so engaged and interested in Danielle's presentation about *The Year the Maps Changed*, her writing process and the stories behind the book. This experience has given our students a deeper understanding of the story and the events surrounding it. Not many students get to have these insights direct from the author about a text they are studying!

During the lunch break Danielle presented her Building Blocks of Storytelling session to several students across the year levels who are interested in writing either as a hobby or as a career. These students got to pick Danielle's brain not only about her writing process, but also about her experiences as a literary agent and lecturer in Fiction & Young Adult Writing at RMIT.

We are grateful to be able to give our students these wonderful experiences to enhance their learning and expand their horizons.

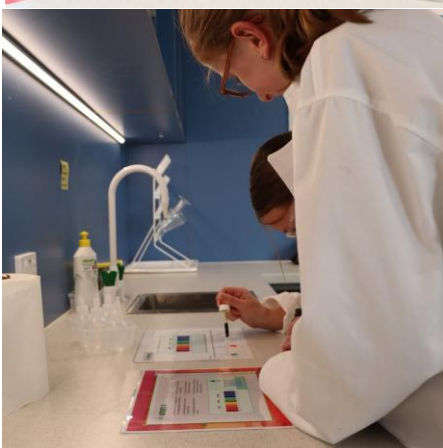


Sharon Cuthbertson
Resource Assistant

Science Week

Last week Iona College celebrated National Science Week. Science Week celebrates all the learning and beauty of sciences, studied at school and in the world around us. The week was filled with daily science quizzes and lunchtime activities that many students and staff have got involved in. One of the highlights of the week, was the Watermelon Explosion at lunchtime on the central plaza, measuring how many rubber bands it takes. Turns out the answer is 267 rubber bands. A big thank you to Mr Lachlan Kelly and Miss Maddy O'Callaghan, who were adding the rubber bands at the time of the explosion and wore much of the watermelon on their faces, hair and clothing. Another highlight was the lunchtime escape room challenge that required students to solve problems using science to crack the codes.

Thanks to all the teachers who helped and the students who got involved for making the week special. A special thanks to our wonderful lab techs Ms Regina Paganini, Ms Nicola Harker-Davies and Miss Sophia Powers for all they do in organising all our science pracs, managing the labs and making science fun (and safe).



Tom Chalkley
Assistant Head Catholic Identity (Justice and Liturgy)

Columba Day 2027



Columba Day – Friday 18 September

A reminder that the Iona community will celebrate Columba Day on Friday 18 September, the final day of Term 3.

What to Wear: Students are invited to wear their House colours, with House-themed fancy dress welcome. Students participating in the Staff vs Students Footy Game should bring sports attire to change into.

A Day of Activities

Students can look forward to a fun-filled day of House Music, games, the Dunk Tank, disco, 3v3 basketball knockout, volleyball/pickleball, quiet activities in the Resource Centre and the much-loved Staff vs Students Footy Game.

Food & Canteen

Students can use their Iona Student ID card to purchase/preorder food from the Iona Canteen. Please note that smoothies will no longer be available from the Iona Canteen, however hot chocolates will be available from the Iona Cottage for Year 7 -12 and Year 12s will be able to purchase coffees.

A range of **food trucks** will also be available, offering pizza, dumplings, Mexican, Twisto, churros, bao/pho and burgers. Food truck purchases can be made using cash or EFTPOS/debit card.

Please refer to the menus below for available food options. Prices are subject to change.



Melbourne Archdiocese
Catholic Schools



COLUMBA DAY MENU

CHUBBY BAO

BAO 1 for \$8, 3 for \$22

Pho Fried Chicken, cucumber, chilli & fresh herbs Crunch Fried Chicken, slaw, Chubby mayo Beaut Pork belly, pickles, cucumber & peanut (DFO, GFO)

Beast Beef brisket, kimchi, radish, gochujang mayo & spring onion (DFO, GFO)

Sailor Furikake prawn, charcoal buns, slaw, pickles & yuzu aioli Forest Mixed mushroom, water chestnut, cabbage, carrot, garlic, spring onion & peanut (DF, VG, GFO)

Nightshade Eggplant, slaw, Szechuan glaze (DF, VG)

SIDES

Fried chicken \$25

Signature fried chicken with Chubby sauce

Pulled beef fries \$25

kimchi, spring onion & gochujang mayo

Plain chips \$8/12

COMBOS Meal for One \$32

Choice of 3 baos, 1 side & 1 drink

Kid's Bao Bun Meal \$20

Crunch bao bun & chips

Kid's fried chicken Meal \$20

Fried chicken & chips

EXTRAS/DRINKS

Chubby sauce \$2

Gochujang mayo \$2

Soft Drink \$4

Water \$4

TWISTED TEMPTATIONS

Twisted Potato \$12.00

Twisted Combo \$14.00

One twisted potato and one drink

Feed for Two \$25.00

Two twisted potatoes and two donuts

Twisted Mega Deal \$30.00

Soft Drink (Sugar Free) \$4.00

Water \$4.00

Hot Jam Donut \$3.00

Churros Yummy Donuts

Cinnamon Sugar \$7.00

Icing Sugar \$7.00

Chocolate Drizzled \$8.00

Caramel Drizzled \$8.00

Nutella Drizzled \$9.00

Jam Filled \$9.00

GYPSY LUNCHBOX

Kids Cheese Burger \$14.00

Angus beef, American cheddar, Westmont pickles, onion, and ketchup.

Angus Beef & Bacon Burger \$17.00

Angus beef, American cheddar, lettuce, tomato, onion, Westmont pickles, house burger sauce.

Southern-fried Chicken Burger \$17.00

Southern-fried chicken, American cheddar, house slaw, chilli mayo.

Side Fries \$6.00

Tray Fries \$15.00

Loaded Fries (Bacon, cheese, sauce) \$17.00

Soft drink \$4.00

LIL DUMPLING VAN

4 Pieces w free sauce \$10.00

8 Pieces w free sauce \$18.00

Steamed Bun \$6.00

Regular Chips \$8.00

Dumpling Options:

- Pork
- Chicken
- Beef
- Vegetable/ Vegan

PERLA MEXICAN

TACOS ..2/\$16

Beef, Chicken or Black bean soft tacos with pico de gallo, pickled onion & salsa verde

NACHOS.. \$16

Corn Chips, melted cheese, salsa, guacamole, sour cream, pickled onion, jalapeno, coriander

FRIES..\$10

Fries w/ Perla salt seasoning

LOADED FRIES..\$16

Fries w/ melted cheese, meat or beans, lime crema, pickled onion & coriander

PIZZA PARTY MAN

Garlic \$15.00

Garlic, cheese & Oregano

Margherita \$20.00

Tomato & Mozzarella

Vegetariana \$22.00

Tomato, Mozzarella, Mushroom, Onions, Olives

Hawaiian \$22.00

Tomato, Mozzarella, Ham & Pineapple

Salame \$25.00

Tomato, Mozzarella, Salami

Mushroom \$22.00

Tomato, Mozzarella, Mushroom

Melbournian \$25.00

Tomato, Mozzarella, Salami, Pesto

BBQ M/Lovers \$25.00

Tomato, Mozzarella, Ham, Onion, Salami, BBQ Sauce

Frankie \$25.00

tomato, Mozzarella, Prosciutto, Rocket, Parmesan Cheese

Nutella \$15.00

Nutella, Icing Sugar



IONA CANTEEN

Sausage Roll \$4.00

Toasties

Cheese

Ham and Cheese, Cheese and

Tomato \$4.00

Ham, Cheese and Tomato \$4.50

IONA COTTAGE

Hot Chocolate (Yr7-11) \$3.00

Coffees (Staff & Yr12 Students) \$4.00

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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)
Thursday 27 August	Year 7 Immunisations
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)
Tuesday 8 September	Year 7 Grandparent/Special Person Morning Tea, Iona College (View Email for Allocated Time)
Saturday 12 September - Wednesday 23 September	Timor-Leste Immersion
Tuesday 15 September	VCE English Trial Exam
Wednesday 16 September	VCE Recital (Iona College, Drama Room, 4:30 pm - 8:15 pm)
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	VCE Unit 3&4 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
Tuesday 27 October - Tuesday 17 November	VCE Unit 3&4 VCAA External Written Exams

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