

10 September 2026

Dear Parents and Carers,

We are fortunate at Iona College to have many opportunities to celebrate the gift of connection, deepen relationships and live out our commitment to the common good. Across classrooms, parish partnerships, family celebrations, service initiatives and immersion experiences, our students are reminded that Catholic education is about more than academic success. It is about recognising the dignity of every person and working together to make a difference in the lives of others.

Next week Thursday, we look forward to our Whole School Mass. We remind our students to please wear full formal uniform for this celebration.

Celebrating Rosh Hashanah

From 11-13 September, Jewish communities around the world will celebrate Rosh Hashanah, the Jewish New Year. For Catholics, this important feast provides an opportunity to recognise our deep spiritual connection with our Jewish brothers and sisters.

Rosh Hashanah is a time of reflection and renewal, inviting people to consider the year that has passed and the opportunities for growth and reconciliation ahead. As Christians, we share a rich heritage rooted in the Jewish faith and traditions that continue to shape our understanding of God and salvation history. By honouring this celebration, we foster understanding, respect and friendship, recognising our shared call to help build a more just and compassionate world.

An Inspiring Visit from John Pridmore

On 8 September, our Year 10 Religious Education students had the privilege of spending time with international speaker John Pridmore, who is currently in Australia leading mission events, including within the Damascus Parish community alongside Iona College Chaplain Fr Joel Peart.

John shared his remarkable story of transformation, describing how a profound encounter with God changed the direction of his life and inspired a mission of sharing hope, faith and mercy with others. Our students were highly engaged, asking thoughtful questions and reflecting on how faith can transform lives. His visit was a powerful reminder that no one is beyond God's love and that every person is capable of new beginnings.

Grandparents and Special Persons Day



Also on 8 September, our Year 7 students welcomed grandparents and other special family members to Iona College for a joyful Grandparents and Special Persons Day celebration.

The morning included morning tea, student musical performances, College tours and quality time shared between students and their loved ones. It was a wonderful celebration of the important role grandparents and significant adults play in nurturing faith, values, wisdom and a sense of belonging within families and communities.

Shooting for Kindness on R U OK? Day



Today our College community came together for the inaugural *Shooting for Kindness* Staff versus Students Basketball Competition as part of R U OK? Day. The event promotes kindness, connection and positive mental health while supporting Year 7 student Alex Scott's *Shoot for Kindness* not-for-profit.

While there was plenty of friendly competition, the event's deeper message was that a simple conversation can make a significant difference. It encouraged all members of our community to look out for one another and help create a culture where everyone feels valued, supported and connected.

We were lucky enough to have a few special guests on site: Gee Gee, the Geelong United Basketball (GUB) Mascot, as well as Lachlan Barker (Former Tassie Jack Jumpers/Cairns Taipans and Current Aus 3x3, Geelong NBL1), as well as Seth Garcia (Big V Bellarine Storm, Mt Gambier NBL1).

What a wonderful celebration it was!

Preparing for the Timor-Leste Immersion

From 12-22 September, a group of our Year 11 students will embark on their Timor-Leste Immersion Experience, an opportunity that embodies the Gospel call to solidarity, relationship and service. Through engagement with local communities, collaborative experiences with students and participation in community projects, students will gain a deeper understanding of the culture, history and daily life of the Timorese people.

A highlight of the immersion will be spending time with students from our partner school, St Estevao in Viqueque. We hope this will be the beginning of a long and meaningful relationship between our two school communities, built on mutual respect, learning and friendship.

More than a trip, this immersion is an opportunity for students to encounter Christ in others, broaden their understanding of the world and deepen their commitment to justice and the common good. We pray for safe travels and trust they will return enriched by the relationships they form and the lessons they learn.

As each of these events demonstrates, strong communities are built through connection. Whether through interfaith understanding, family relationships, stories of transformation, supporting wellbeing or building friendships across cultures, we are reminded that our Catholic mission calls us to walk alongside others and work for the good of all. In doing so, we continue to build a community where every person is known, valued and inspired to flourish.

Celebrating Mia and Marlie



We are proud to celebrate Year 12 students Mia Morris and Marlie O'Brien, who attended the MACS First Nations Year 12 Graduation Dinner last Friday. It was wonderful to see Mia and Marlie recognised alongside First Nations students from Catholic schools across the Archdiocese as they prepare to complete their secondary education. We are incredibly proud of the way they have embraced and celebrated their First Nations heritage throughout their time at Iona and the contribution they have made to our College community.

Music Department News

On Wednesday, 2 September, we were fortunate to be able to run a Microphone Workshop for our College singers. One of our resident vocal teachers, Kate Daley, worked with students, teaching them about microphones and discussing how they can be an extension of their performance. Kate worked with students individually to look at how they were holding and using the microphone, and also workshopped ideas for presenting on stage.

We hope that we can run another one of these workshops soon to help our contemporary singers become more adept at using microphones.
Thank you to Kate for her time on the day.

Jodie Townsend
Head of Performing Arts

Bay Leaf Community Kitchen Guest Speaker



Our Year 9 cohort recently had the opportunity to listen to guest speaker Marty, who is vice president of Vinnies and founder of Bay Leaf Community Kitchen. He visited us to talk about homelessness and gave us valuable insights into the work he does with these non-profit organisations. Marty demonstrated how homelessness can be caused by a wide range of factors, one of those main factors being family struggles. Family conflict, domestic violence, divorce, or a lack of support can force people to leave their homes and have nowhere safe to stay. Marty showed that homelessness is often the result of difficult personal circumstances rather than poor choices, as most people may think. This highlights how beneficial it is to have strong support networks during challenging times.

Many people who are struggling do not have people they can turn to for support. Without these support systems, it can be much harder to overcome challenges, which is why all the non-profits around Geelong play such an important role in society. They provide support, guidance and a sense of community for those who feel they have nowhere else to turn. Marty educated us on how different organisations deal with different stages of homelessness. At Bay Leaf, Marty assists people with getting their lives on track before they reach homelessness. The work accomplished by all these companies changes many people's lives and gives them hope, support, and opportunities that they may not have had otherwise.

Marty's talk helped us all to thoroughly understand the depth of homelessness and to recognise that it isn't always what stereotypes suggest. His presentation encouraged us to 'love our neighbour' and to follow the Catholic Social Teachings as we have been learning in Religion. But above all, we must nurture and preserve our support networks because they provide strength and stability to help us through life's most difficult moments.

Maddie
Year 9 Student

Iona Pathways Press



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

Columba Day 2027



Next Friday, 18 September, we are celebrating Columba Day!

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.

Students can look forward to House Music, games, the Dunk Tank, disco, 3v3 basketball, volleyball/pickleball, quiet activities and the much-loved Staff vs Students Footy Game. The Iona Canteen will be available for students to purchase/preorder food using their Iona Student ID card. Hot chocolates will be available from the Iona Cottage, with Year 12s also able to purchase coffees.

A range of food trucks will also be available, offering pizza, dumplings, Mexican, Twisto, churros, bao/pho and burgers. Food trucks accept 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

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

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

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.

A reminder that next Thursday, 17 September, is our Whole School Mass. Students are required to be in full formal uniform. Next week Friday, Term 3 concludes at 2:05 pm.

Thanks for your support.

Damian, Kylie and Melissa