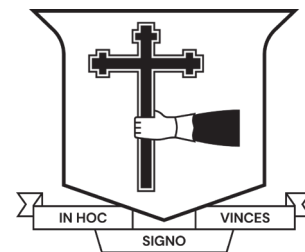


IONA COLLEGE

A Catholic Boys' College conducted by The Missionary Oblates of Mary Immaculate



22 November 2023

Dear families of Iona,

With 2024 almost upon us, it is important to have honest, clear and positive communication around school fees for next year.

We at the College are acutely aware that our families face decisions about finances and that pressures are felt in a variety of ways.

We are aware and appreciative of your investment into your son's education, and we highly value the trust you place in us. We genuinely believe that an Iona education values your contribution and that you have, and will continue to receive, value for your investment.

Like every family of the College, we also face significant challenges in a range of areas outlined below.

It is important to the Oblates, the College Board and the leadership of the College that Iona always remains accessible to local families. Historically, we have achieved this by ours being among the lowest fees for boys' schools in Brisbane, and certainly the lowest in our region. This will continue.

We have worked extremely hard for this record to again be maintained, while at the same time providing the outstanding facilities, academic standards and wellbeing care the equal of any school in the state.

College Fees 2024

As a result of an almost 8 per cent rise in inflation in the Brisbane education sector, and an effective reduction of approximately 2 per cent in State and Federal Government funding, the College is required to raise the fees by \$21.92 a week for 2024 – translating to \$1140 for the year.

Even with this increase, Iona's fees will remain significantly lower than local independent and Catholic secondary schools for boys, with the care, community, facilities, and resources our families believe offer outstanding value for money.

That said, we understand that any increase can place strain on family budgets.

As always, being available and accessible to assist families in financial difficulty remains one of the highest priorities of Iona College.

Where your contribution goes

- Iona College's investment into the safety and wellbeing of the boys, staff and families remains our highest priority. The provision of psychologists, counsellors, social workers, nurses, Heads of Wellbeing and committed teaching and non-teaching staff needs to be sustained during these challenging times faced by our community.
- The College has invested heavily into facilities over the past five years with The Provence Centre, classroom upgrades, shading, safety initiatives and safe car-parking options all providing benefits to the school community. Higher interest rates, and the sharp increase in the costs of cyber security required to protect sensitive student and family data has also impacted the College.

- Inflationary pressure, including salary increases under the Enterprise Bargaining Agreement, and dramatic increases in insurance, utilities and other operational costs have significantly impacted the College. This is alongside government funding levels that fall below the current inflation rates.

We are sharing these fee increases with you now, in the spirit of honesty with our families, and to enable you to plan your own budgets, in accordance with the table below.

We are very aware that fee increases will affect some families more than others and, where genuine hardship may arise due to the increase, the College will be open to providing support. The College has a 65-year history of supporting families in need. This era will maintain that commitment.

It is hoped that this increase does not become a barrier to any student's continued enrolment. However, if you face genuine hardship and need support, please contact fees@iona.qld.edu.au.

The 2024 fees and associated documents required can be found by clicking on the link below:

[2024 Fees Schedule and Policy](#)

Enrolment numbers for 2024, and the future

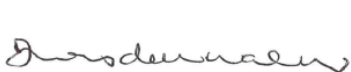
Our enrolment numbers for next year are strong, sitting at approximately 1920, meaning the College is at near capacity. In some year levels, there are considerable waiting lists to join our community.

The leadership of Iona College has worked incredibly hard to keep fee increases to the lowest-possible level – mindful of our responsibilities to serve our families facing financial pressures of their own, and the College's own financial wellbeing.

Your investment in your son's education will equip him for life, and hopefully continue to bring him meaning and purpose. While we have been able to keep the necessary fee increase to a minimum, we understand it has differing impacts on families.

It is always our goal to support every family fairly in these matters. We have a range of financial circumstances within our community and our goal is to remain accessible to them all, as we have done so since 1958.

Yours faithfully,



Ms Deborah Lonsdale-Walker
Board Chair



Mr Trevor Goodwin
Principal



Fr Michael Twigg OMI
Rector



Mrs Susan Boban
**Manager
Corporate Services**