



## Newsletter – 15 September 2017

Date	Event
18 Sept	'A' Week
21 Sept	Open Evening 6pm
29 Sept	Year 9 & 10 Duke of Edinburgh Expedition
5 Oct	Year 7 (6pm) & Year 10 (7pm) Information Evening
10 Oct	Year 7 Tutor Evening 4-7pm
20 Oct	End of term (non-school uniform) – normal 3pm finish

### Y7 and Y10 Information Evenings – Thursday 5 October

We had previously advertised our Information Evenings for KS3 and KS4 on Thursday 10 October.

Having now planned the content of the presentations for that evening, they are only relevant for parents of Year 7 and Year 10 students respectively.

The Year 7 evening will begin at 6.00pm and the Year 10 evening at 7.00pm. We look forward to seeing as many of you there as possible.

### School Photos

Our students were extremely well behaved for our school photo session on Thursday.

As per last week's newsletter, proof packs will be given out shortly and you will be able to order photos of your children should you wish.

### Open Evening

We are looking forward to opening up our school to the wider community from 6.00-8.00pm on Thursday evening. Thank you in advance to the many students who will be helping us on this evening and, inevitably, to the many parents who will be collecting them at the end of the evening! We really do appreciate your support.

### Assemblies

During my assemblies over the last week, I have been encouraging all students to reflect on their achievements last year, as well as thinking about the successes they would like to have over the course of 2017-18. We reflected on the many opportunities we provide at Icknield to develop our students beyond the school day. Please do encourage your children to participate in the many clubs and visits on offer over the course of the year.

### Mat Hunter Headteacher

### Year 11 literature revision guides

We are delighted to have been able to provide our Year 11 students with GCSE Revision Guides for their literature texts. Students have borrowed the books on their library accounts, and may keep them until the end of their GCSE exams, before returning them to us ready for the following year. The guides are the excellent *York Notes GCSE 9-1 series*, and contain huge amounts of information on each of the literature texts studied which are:

- *Jekyll and Hyde* or *Great Expectations*
- *An Inspector Calls*
- *Romeo and Juliet* or *Macbeth*
- *Power and Conflict Poetry* (being studied between now and Christmas)

The guides cover all of the assessment objectives being examined in the summer, and there are masses of tasks and activities for the students to be working on. They mean that none of our Year 11 students will ever be without something to study up on or revise when it comes to literature, and they can already begin to consolidate their knowledge from Year 10. Thank you to the library team for enabling us to lend them out so early in the academic year.

**Matt Ford**



### **GCSE Geography Revision Classes**

Revision of past learning will be of paramount importance in the coming year for our Y11 students so geography revision classes will run every Monday lunchtime in Room 11. An outline of topics is attached to the newsletter this week. Y10 students are also welcome to attend if they would like some extra input.

**Daniel Moden**

### **Recipe of the Week**

Chocolate & Raspberry Macarons. First full week back at school completed could well result in needing a sugar fix! Looking to seeing everyone's bakes this year; please continue to tweet your bakes to us. We look forward to selecting our first champion foodie.

Twitter: @icknielddoodies

**Sophie Koziol**

### **PE News**

By now, all pupils will have been told by their teachers what activities they will be doing in PE and on what days. For Year 7, the paper timetable that each student has is now just a reminder of when their PE lessons are; the groups have changed around and so the teacher and location information may well be incorrect. However, all correct information has been put up on display in the changing rooms and pupils have been reminded several times, so there shouldn't be anyone who doesn't know their new groupings or activity timetable. Here is a little recap about the kit that is needed:

Hockey: reversible outdoor top, black skorts, long black socks, shin pads, studded boots, gum shield.

Rugby: reversible outdoor top, black shorts, long black socks, studded boots, gum shield  
Indoor activity: short sleeved top, black shorts, short white socks, trainers.

Our Year 11 Rugby team turned up to the district league tournament with a regimented game plan... pick and go. Captained by Oli Shaw, the team stuck to our guns and with tries from Harrison 'Hit Man' Todd and a worldy from Harrison Wraight, it almost paid off with narrow defeats to Gillotts and Langtree. With a win over Wheatley Park, we found ourselves in another contest against Gillotts School in 'The Real Final'. It was a close contest and, after camping in the opponents' 22 for

most of the game, the persistence finally paid off with Matthew Ellis driving over the line from a well worked lineout. Victory was ours! Well done, boys!

Fixtures:	Monday 18 <sup>th</sup> September	Year 10 Rugby (Langtree)
	Tuesday 19 <sup>th</sup> September	Year 9 Rugby (H) Year 10 Hockey (Gillotts)
	Wednesday 20 <sup>th</sup> September	Year 8 Rugby (Wallingford)

Please follow our twitter page (@ickniel\_PE) as all information will be put on there prior to fixtures, as well as news of last minute changes and other club related news.

### **Attendance**

A big welcome (back) to all of our students old and new. Each young person started this term with 100% attendance, and should be putting every effort into maintaining this. Please support your child's attendance on every occasion possible. Children who miss school frequently can fall behind with their work and do less well in their exams – 90% attendance may sound a lot, however, it is 19 school days of absence which can reduce performance by 1 grade at GCSE.

To help your child maximise their learning and achieve to their full potential:

- Book holidays during the many school holidays (holidays during term time are rarely authorised and may lead to a fine?)
- Make medical appointments out of school hours whenever possible, or after 2pm to minimise lost learning time
- Minor ailments should not be a reason for absence – particularly those that would not prevent you from going to work
- If your child makes a recovery after a few hours at home, bring them in
- Discuss the importance of good attendance and punctuality
- If there are any issues, medical or other, affecting attendance discuss with your child's tutor in the first instance

Please be aware that the Department for Education consider a child to be a Persistent Absentee when attendance falls below 90%. A letter will be sent to parents/carers when there are concerns about absence, or if it falls below this level and an improvement will be expected and/or medical evidence provided.

The vast majority of our students maintain the expected 95% attendance, and students who achieve 100% attendance are awarded certificates each term and given recognition at the end of the academic year.

**Mel Standage**

### **Clubs**

Please find the clubs booklet attached. Clubs that haven't already started will do so from next week. The clubs booklet can also be found on the school website at

<http://ickniel.oxon.sch.uk/student-information/school-clubs>

**Louise Gilkes**

### **Theatre trip to Matilda**

I have reserved 42 tickets for the 7:30pm performance of Matilda on Wednesday 18 October 2017. These tickets are available to ALL students and are priced at £40. This also includes coach travel to and from the Cambridge theatre, London. If your child would like to come along, please see the letter attached to this newsletter and return a completed reply slip, along with payment, to the Finance Office. For year 7 students, a paper copy of the letter is available from the Finance Office.

**Adam Rowe**

### **Oxford University Lesser Spotted Science Day**

Oxford University are providing an opportunity for Year 11 students who are thinking of going on to do maths and sciences at A level to enrich their current studies and look at degree subjects they could potentially do in the future which aren't commonly taught at school.

The day will take place on Thursday October 5th 2017, 9:30am — 4:30pm. Places must be booked by students and booking is now open.

For more information <http://www.cs.ox.ac.uk/LesserSpottedScienceDay/>

**Louise Gilkes**

### **Uniform and Hair colour**

The uniform is looking really good this year. The students look business like and ready for learning. We have had some queries regarding hair colour this week so I wanted to take a moment to make the position clear. Students are not allowed extreme hair colours. This would cover pink, blue, purple or any other non-natural colour. They are allowed to dye their hair natural colours, like blonde, auburn, brown etc. This extreme hair colour rule does apply to brightly coloured hair braids which need to be removed. They are also not allowed extreme hair styles.

Also bright coloured nail polish and acrylic nails need to be removed. Again neutral and natural colours are fine but not bright colours.

If you could support us by not allowing your children to have these hair colours, styles and nails it would really help them and us avoid conflict.

However, I want to restate that the vast majority of students look great and are in full uniform, so thank you for all your support with this.

**Sara Grierson**

### **Homework**

Thank you to all parents and students for their patience and resilience this week with homework. Show My Homework crashed twice this week due to technical issues at their end meaning that no one could access the site most of Tuesday and Wednesday. Despite this, students still did their diligent best to bring in work they had done at home. Show My Homework have assured me that problems are now resolved so hopefully we won't experience any further difficulties.

Year 7 students have now all been shown how to login in their computing lessons. Their teachers will work with them next week on feeling more comfortable with how the site works and the different features. Parents of Year 7 should all have received a letter (brought home by students last Friday) detailing how they can login. Any further login issues please do email myself at [vicky.pickford@icknield.oxon.sch.uk](mailto:vicky.pickford@icknield.oxon.sch.uk) or our ICT Manager, James Simpson: [james.simpson@icknield.oxon.sch.uk](mailto:james.simpson@icknield.oxon.sch.uk)

I have also attached the homework timetable for all year groups and the homework policy. This is also on the school website.

**Vicky Pickford**

### **Careers Information for Years 9, 10 and 11**

See below the latest careers opportunities available. Please do contact Mrs Pickford or Mrs Richardson if you have any interest in the following:

- Icknield Community College will be continuing this year with our weekly careers appointments with a member from the Adviza team. Appointments will be given as a priority to our Year 11 students and then later in the year to our Year 10 students. Now would be a good time to start discussing with your child where their future aspirations lie. What A-Levels or College courses are they interested in? Where would they like to continue their studies? During their meeting, students will be given access to Eclips. Eclips will guide students to accurate, up to date careers information and labour market information on over 1000 jobs and careers, informing students on grades that they will need, what the job they

are interested in will involve, even giving details on what potential earnings are. Please encourage your child to take the time to log onto their Eclips account, after their meeting.

- **Save The Date!** Following on from last years' successful Further Education Fayre, we will be holding another event on Friday 24 November 2017. The event will take place from 2-4pm at ICC. Parents are invited to join their child from 3-4pm. Further information will follow but please, in the meantime, note the date in your diaries.
- Brunel University, London is ranked among the UK's top 50 universities. They cover a broad subject range from Aerospace Engineering, Computer Science, Film and Television Studies to Politics, Public Health Nursing and Theatre. For any student who may be interested in pursuing their education at Brunel, their next open day is scheduled for Saturday 21 October 2017. To book your place and to find out more, please log onto: [www.brunel.ac.uk](http://www.brunel.ac.uk)
- Students interested in studying Medicine, Dentistry or Veterinary Medicine at University may wish to attend a one day intensive UKCAT and BMAT course, which will be led by Doctors and Medical students currently studying at University. The course is designed to support your application in becoming a medical student and to give speciality training for applicants wishing to become future GP's. Courses are running until October and will cost £150.00 for the day. To register your interest and to find our more, please log onto: [www.blackstonetutors.co.uk](http://www.blackstonetutors.co.uk) or call 0203 3938934
- Abingdon and Witney College have a selection of current apprenticeship vacancies ranging from Accounting, Vehicle Maintenance and Repair to IT and Business Administration. To find our more, please log onto: [www.abingdon-witney.ac.uk/apprenticeship-vacancies/](http://www.abingdon-witney.ac.uk/apprenticeship-vacancies/)

**Helen Richardson**

### **Finance Office**

Lockers are available to rent from Monday 18 September, at a cost of £10 per year with a £5 refundable deposit on return of the key.

These will be allocated in the following order

Year 7 - Monday  
Year 8 - Tuesday  
Year 9 - Wednesday  
Year 10 - Thursday  
Year 11 - Friday

These are available to buy during break and lunchtime from the Finance Office.

**Please can you ensure all cheques are now made payable to Acer Trust.**

### **Letters to Parents/Carers**

The following letters have been sent out this week via ParentMail:  
Snowdon letter – Year 9

These letters can also be accessed on the school website:

<http://www.icknield.oxon.sch.uk/news-and-events/letters-to-parents-carers>

**Finance Office**

### **Cancellation of Friends of Icknield AGM**

Due to unforeseen circumstances, it has been necessary to cancel the Friends of Icknield AGM which was due to take place on Tuesday 19<sup>th</sup> September. This will be now be rescheduled for a later date. Apologies for any inconvenience caused. The new date will be published in the school newsletter.

**Sam Rooks**

**Icknield Community College Car Park**

Our car park gets really congested during the morning 'rush' and when school closes at 3pm. If you are collecting your child from school, by car, please could you not park in the school car park.

We will ask parents to move if cars are blocking the avenue for the bus routes out of the school gate, as this is a health and safety concern too for our students.

Thank you for your co-operation.

**Gill Ward**