



## Newsletter – 10 December 2021

Date	Event
13 Dec'21	"B" Week
1 -17 Dec'21	Year 11 Exams
9 Dec'21	Year 9 Parents' Evening
17 Dec'21	End of Term (Non-School Uniform Day) – <b>1.00pm finish</b>
20 Dec'21 – 3 Jan'22	Christmas Holiday
4 Jan'22	Inset Day
5 Jan'22	LFD Covid Testing Day – All Years by Appointment (No School Transport)
6 Jan'22	School Resumes "A" Week

### Merry Christmas

It's certainly been another very challenging term for us all, particularly since October half term. May I take this opportunity to thank so many parents for their ongoing support which has helped us get through it. Thank you, of course, also, to our fantastic students, the vast majority of whom work so hard and are a delight to teach!

There are a number of important notices in this week's newsletter so I will keep my entry short. As this is the last newsletter of the term, may I take this opportunity to wish you all a very restful and enjoyable holiday. Merry Christmas to you all and all the best for 2022.

**Mat Hunter**  
Headteacher

### Positive COVID-19 cases this week

It is pleasing to report that we have had a significant downturn in positive cases in the school this week, reporting only one or two new positive PCR tests per day from Tuesday to Friday, all of which have been in Years 7-9 with the exception of one Year 11 student. However, as is communicated in the national press, we all need to be vigilant and follow the mitigation measures to reduce the risk of spreading this new omicron variant of coronavirus.

**James Barringer**

### Covid-19 testing in school on 5<sup>th</sup> January 2022

Please can I remind you that school is not open for lessons on Wednesday 5<sup>th</sup> January as the teachers will be carrying out student testing. I sent information about how appointments can be booked using School Cloud in a parentmail on Tuesday this week. Please do go ahead and:

- Book appointments for your child(ren)
- Complete the consent form for your child(ren)

**James Barringer**

### Students' toilets

Unfortunately, across this academic year we have seen some vandalism, damage, littering and graffiti in each of our student toilet areas. This has been costing the school valuable money to clean and repair. Having appealed to the students to adapt their behaviour in an assembly earlier this year, continued damage has led to further actions being taken. This really isn't fair on the vast majority of students who use the toilets respectfully on a daily basis. Consequently, we are now in the process of putting CCTV into the lobby areas of some of these toilets. I can assure you these cameras are positioned so that no students' privacy when using the toilet is ever undermined. The purpose of the CCTV is to act as a deterrent for the anti-social behaviour we have seen whilst also to enable us to identify and hold to account any students who behave inappropriately in these areas. There will be a short video message shared with our students in the New Year that will explain these changes.

**James Barringer**

## **Christmas Jumper Day Appeal for Save The Children**

Thank you to those who donned a Christmas Jumper on Friday and donated money to save The Children. As a school, we have raised £455 which will improve the life of children across the UK and in other parts of the world. If anyone would still like to donate, please click on [this link](#) and follow the on-screen instructions.

**James Barringer**

## **CAMHS Parenting Support Online Sessions for next term**

We are all aware that, nationally, there is an increase in the number of young people and adults suffering with their mental health and wellbeing. We want to work together with parents to support our young people and feel that being educated in these areas is a key step in doing this. CAMHS is part of the NHS and is the Children and Adolescent Mental Health Services. Many families may have worked with them before or be waiting for their support currently. We are working with the CAMHS School In-Reach team to offer more support from within school and with families. Next term they are offering a range of sessions for parents of Icknield students to support their young people. All of the sessions will last for around 1 hour with time for questions afterwards and will be delivered on Microsoft Teams. See below the sessions on offer and the dates. If you are interested in joining one of these sessions, please contact Lisa Best ([lisa.best@icknield.oxon.sch.uk](mailto:lisa.best@icknield.oxon.sch.uk)) 2 weeks before the date of the session (if possible) so that we can get an idea of numbers and we will send you the Microsoft Teams invite 1 week in advance of the session.

### **1. Monday 24<sup>th</sup> January 6-7.30pm: Road to Independence**

This presentation will explore some of the common concerns that teenagers and parents face. We will be discussing issues around low-level anxiety or hesitancy and discuss ways of helping your child to become a healthy independent adult.

### **2. Monday 31<sup>st</sup> January 6-7.30pm: Anxiety**

This presentation will explore teenage anxiety and how to talk with young people about this. It highlights the difference between appropriate levels of anxiety and when additional help might be needed. It explores what might keep anxiety going and provides an overview of Cognitive Behavioural Therapy as well as a number of useful techniques which parents can use to support their child.

### **3. Monday 7<sup>th</sup> February 6-7.30pm: Low Mood**

This presentation explores what depression is, how it may present in young people, and how it may differ from "normal" adolescent mood difficulties. The session looks at how low mood and depression may be maintained and explores some useful techniques for young people to use.

Your facilitator for these sessions is Emma Hyde from CAMHS (Child Adolescent and Mental Health) School In-Reach team.

This training is suitable for all parents and carers and is not necessarily reserved just for those with issues around mental health at the moment. We feel that, being informed about how best to support your child so that we can work proactively to improve mental health across the school, is the key here.

**Vicky Pickford**

## **Chromebooks**

Please [click here](#) to see an assembly I shared with students this week on *The Seven Habits of the Highly Effective Chromebook User*. As I said in my assembly, observations and interviews recently undertaken by the leadership team have showed just how well most our students have adjusted to their new Chromebook technology. Our evaluation has also pointed towards a number of really good strategies that can make things even better.

Over the holidays, please encourage your children to revisit the work that's accumulating in their OneNote class notebooks, and to engage in wider reading and exploration of the topics they've studied. Students' internet access over the break will continue to be filtered to prevent access to harmful categories of material. Please note, however, that it remains the responsibility of parents to ensure that students' internet browsing outside school hours is appropriate and safe.

**Robert Legg**

### **Non-school uniform day**

Friday 17<sup>th</sup> December will be a non-school uniform day and, this term, the student council have identified Rosie's Rainbow Fund as the charity that they would like to support. Please see the statement below from our head students.

*Rosie's Rainbow Fund is a charity that supports vulnerable and disabled children in hospital and the local community, including special needs schools. They run music therapy sessions for the children and aromatherapy massages for their parents at local hospitals like the John Radcliffe Children's Hospital in Oxford. Music helps crucial communication between parents and their children and brings joy at a difficult time.*

*Rosie's Rainbow Fund provide support to the children and their families in long hospital stays and treatment. Donating just £40 can provide a one hour music session for a seriously-ill child in the hospital.*

*Rosie's Rainbow Fund's caring and warm-hearted support for not just patients, but also family, is the reason why we have chosen to donate money raised from Christmas non-school uniform day to the fund. Please help us raise as much money as possible by bringing in your £1 for the last day of term.*

**Charlotte Gibson**

### **Foodbank Christmas Appeal**

Thank you to everyone who has supported the School Council's Christmas Appeal. At the time of writing this, donations are still being collected, so the school council will provide an accurate update of how much we were able to raise in the New Year. That said, there is already a sizeable pile of shopping bags full of donations ready to take to the foodbank next week. Thank you again for your generosity.

**Charlotte Gibson**

### **Winter Concert**

We are looking forward to welcoming you to our Winter Concert next week which will take place in the Main Hall at 6.30 pm and not in the Drama Studio as announced last week. We do hope you will join us for an evening celebrating our dedicated students.

**Amy de Sybel, Robert Legg and Taylor Samuel-Beechey**

### **Maths Problem of the Week**

The Maths Problem of the Week and the solution to last week's problem are attached.

**Nick Owen**

### **PE News**

#### **Extra-Curricular Clubs**

A reminder that our extra-curricular clubs do not run in the final week before Christmas, meaning there will be no sports clubs after school next week.

Next term's extra-curricular club timetable will be shared at the beginning of next term, with clubs resuming from Monday 10<sup>th</sup> January.

#### **Club Participation**

As we approach the end of the first big term, we have been reviewing the number of pupils who have come to our extra-curricular clubs. At the end of October, 40% of all Icknield students had attended one of our clubs, and we are pleased that this has since risen to 49% (so close to half!).

Since the beginning of September, a total of 375 students have attended the extra-curricular clubs, with badminton proving very popular (254 student have given up their lunchtime to come and play!). All of KS3 has seen over half the students attend, while a special mention should again go to Year 8 who top the leaderboard – in particular the boys, of whom 70% have attended clubs!

Thank you to the ongoing commitment of all our students, we hope these numbers continue to rise as we move from Rugby and Hockey, onto Football and Netball after Christmas.

**Matt Mures**

## **CareersNews**

Please find attached this week's CareersNews. If your son/daughter is interested in looking for an Apprenticeship, please take some time to look through the link Amazing Apprenticeships have sent to us. It highlights a whole array of apprenticeship opportunities for students.

**Y10 Work Experience** – Any students who have not yet found themselves a placement need to see either their tutor, their Citizenship Teacher or Mrs Richardson next week in order to gain support in finding a suitable place.

**Helen Richardson**

## **Christmas Dinner – Wednesday 15 December**

The canteen will be providing Christmas dinner on Wednesday, 15 December. The cost will be £3, for dinner plus a pudding. To enable the kitchen staff to ensure they provide enough food (and also to ensure they do not waste food), please could students ask for a raffle ticket. This will not be required to be produced on the day, but will assist in catering.

**Gill Ward**

## **COMMUNITY NEWS**

### **Small Group Online Weekly Maths Tuition**

Looking for additional support with Maths? Look no further! Great quality, well-structured Zoom maths tuition.

- Key stage 2: Enrolling for a new class starting on Tuesday 4<sup>th</sup> Jan at 6pm
- Key stage 3: Thursday at 6pm (3 slots available)
- GCSE Higher Tier: Saturday at 9.30am (1 slot available)
- GCSE Higher Tier: Saturday at 11.30am (2 slots available)
- GCSE Foundation Tier is now fully booked, enrolling for a new class starting Thursday 6<sup>th</sup>Jan each week at 7pm

Please contact: [mathstutorchinnor@outlook.com](mailto:mathstutorchinnor@outlook.com) for more information and to reserve your slot. Limited spaces available.

*This is a personal business and has no affiliation with Icknield Community College.*

**Adrian Thomas**