



Newsletter – 10 June 2022

Date	Event
13 June	'B' Week
6-24 June	Year 11 GCSE Exams
20 June – 6 July	Year 10 Exams
24 June	Year 11 Prom
1 July	Y8/Y9 HPV Immunisation Catch Up Y9/Y10 TdP/IPV/MenACWY Immunisation Catch Up
4 July	Sports Awards Evening 7-8pm
18 July	Awards Evening 7-8pm
21 July	End of Term (non-uniform day)
22 July – 5 Sept	Summer Holiday
6 September	School Resumes ('A' Week)

Year 11 Exams

Congratulations to our Year 11 students who are now well over half way through their exams. It's not easy to sit one or two exams every day for such a period of time – we are all right behind you and very impressed with your resilience!

Some of our students (and staff) were concerned with some of the content in the Physics exam on Thursday. They were right in being so! Please see below a note we received on Friday from AQA to reassure you, as parents and students, that students will not be disadvantaged by what was clearly an error on the part of the exam board:

For the attention of the Head of Centre, science teachers and the Exams Officer

Dear colleague

I wanted to update you on an issue with the advance information for one of our exam papers – and tell you what we're doing about it.

The final question on our GCSE Physics (8463) Higher Tier Paper 1 on Thursday 9 June 2022 was about energy transfers and circuits.

Energy transfers were listed in the [advance information](#) as being assessed – but circuits were unfortunately listed as not being assessed.

To make sure students aren't disadvantaged, we'll be awarding everyone full marks for all parts of the question, which were worth a total of 9 marks.

We're really sorry this has happened, and we're looking at why our checks didn't pick this up. We're also doing continued extra checks on the advance information and question papers for future exams.

Air Pods

Because students are not allowed to have their phones switched on during the day, they cannot wear air pods during the school day either. We have had a number of occasions where air pods of have gone missing lately. Whilst your child may wish to wear them on the bus to and from school, please could I ask that you balance this desire with the risk of losing what are clearly very expensive items.

Last Day of Term

Please could I clarify that, as per our calendar on our website, the last day of term is Thursday 21 July.

Mat Hunter
Headteacher

Uniform Proposals

Thanks very much to everyone who responded to the request for feedback on our proposed changes to the school uniform. Once these comments have all been considered, further information about the final changes to be implemented will be circulated here.

Vicky Pickford/Robert Legg

Camps International

I will be arranging a lunchtime meeting next week to catch up with all students to find out how their fundraising efforts are progressing.

Camps International have confirmed that they will be looking to book flights for the expedition in December so will be able to confirm dates around this time. It might be helpful to know that I have requested that the trip takes place sometime between 15th July and 23rd August. Camp International have said that they will do their utmost to ensure these dates are adhered to, however there might need to be some flexibility with these dates depending on what airlines are able to offer.

Charlotte Gibson

Year 11 Leavers Day

As you may know, Thursday 23rd June is the final day for the vast amount of Year 11 students. There is a Physics exam in the morning and then the Leavers Day celebrations start from period 3, going on until the end of the school day. An email will be sent to all the students in Year 11 soon by myself, highlighting the format of the day. However, I also wanted to write to you in the newsletter, as parents/carers, highlighting the structure of the day and making a request for some assistance.

Essentially the morning exam will run, as usual, for the first two periods of the day. After break time, for the whole of period 3, Year 11s will be in the main hall for the Leavers Assembly. After period 3, the students will be on the field, where a BBQ, music and games will be provided. We will remain on the field until the buses leave at 3pm. Students must wear full uniform for the exam but are allowed to bring a change of clothes for after the exam is finished (students may wish to wear a white shirt for shirt signing in the afternoon). My two requests are as follows. As students will be on the field for the duration of the afternoon it is nice for them to have picnic blankets to sit on. If your son/daughter is able to bring a picnic blanket for them and their friends to sit on it would be much appreciated. The more blankets we have the better so, if you are able to help, we would welcome it.

My second request is for students and parents to get involved with making cakes/desserts to be consumed as part of the afternoon BBQ. We will have the food tech room open from early morning for anyone able to drop off cakes/desserts and then take them onto the field for the afternoon's celebration. Again, any help here would be greatly appreciated.

I wish your son/daughter a fantastic Leavers' Day and, if they are attending, a wonderful Prom the following night, the 24th June.

Adam Rickard

Maths Problem of the Week

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

Nick Owen

DofE

Congratulations to Hannah A (Physical), Bethan R (Volunteering & Physical) who have uploaded all 3 of their assessors' reports and have completed all 3 of their sections!

Congratulations to Olly R (Skill), Gene G (Volunteering), Lara W (Physical), Esme C (Skill & Physical), Hannah D (Volunteering), Oscar G-S (Physical), who have submitted assessors' reports over the last two weeks!

Please do add your assessors' reports as soon as you finish your sections. Your assessor can write the report online using www.dofe.org/assessor or by completing the report card from your welcome pack. Please ask if you need any help in adding your assessors' reports.

Katie Scane

Consequences of lack of sleep

Teenagers need to be aware of the significance of persistently having difficulty getting to sleep, of waking a lot in the night and having difficulty getting up in the morning. This is especially worrying if they are tired or falling asleep during the day, feel irritable or depressed and have mood swings, as well as difficulty concentrating, remembering things or making decisions properly.

Lack of sleep has a major impact on concentration and experts have identified low attention span, slower thought processes and a drop in IQ as the first signs of tiredness.

The attachment may give you some ideas on how you can help your teenagers.

Heidi Nugent

PE News

In this week's PE News:

- **County Badminton** recognition for some of our students
- **Results** from the **Y8 Rounders** and **U15 Softball tournament**
- The **upcoming fixtures** for next week

Matt Mures

CareersNews

Please find attached a copy of this week's CareersNews which continues to highlight local apprenticeship opportunities for students in Y11. This week I'd also like to draw your attention to two new Careers events which include Thames Valley Police who are hosting a recruitment event on Saturday 11 June between 10.30am – 4pm at the Said Business School in Oxford and also The Army who are hosting a virtual Open event highlighting their Army Foundation College in Harrogate. Full details can be found within the CareersNews.

Helen Richardson

Letters to Parents

The following letters have been sent out this week via ParentMail:

OCC Service Children's Pupil Voice event – 22 Jun 2022 – Selected students

These letters can also be accessed on the school website:

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

Finance Office