



Icknield Community College

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Newsletter – 10 September 2021

Date	Event
wc 13 Sept'21	"B" Week
16 Sept'21	Year 11 Parents Evening
17-20 Sept'21	Year 9 Newquay Trip
30 Sept'21	Open Evening
7 Oct'21	KS4 Information Evening
14 Oct'21	Nasal Flu Innoculations
14 Oct'21	Year 7 Information Evening
22 Oct'21	End of Term (Non-Uniform Day)
25-29 Oct'21	Half Term Holiday
1 Nov'21	Inset Day
2 Nov'21	School Resumes

Welcome Back!

It has been a pleasure to welcome all of our students back this week, in addition to welcoming our new Year 7 students last Friday.

We have enjoyed the relaxation of some of last year's restrictions including, for example, the "bubble" system and transition points. We are also now able to reinstate cross-year group activities and cross-school sporting fixtures, etc (please see the PE News attachment for more details).

It has been great to see students remembering to bring their new chromebooks in every day (charged, of course!) and to see how these are already transforming learning further in classrooms across campus. My thanks to Dr Legg for all that he has done to get us to this stage – this project has huge potential to deliver further improvements at Icknield over the next few weeks, months and years. Thank you also to you, as parents, for supporting the initiative.

Two of our new classrooms have been used all week this week and we are looking forward to three more opening on Tuesday, and one within the next couple of weeks. My thanks to all of the site staff for enabling this to happen so quickly. Students will benefit from learning in new (air conditioned!) classrooms with brand new facilities – all very exciting! Over the next few weeks, we will be having all of the windows in our main block replaced. This will make the classrooms much more pleasant (in terms of regulating temperature) and certainly more aesthetically pleasing!

Thank you so much this week, also, to all of our wonderful volunteers who enabled us to COVID test nearly 800 children twice at the beginning of the academic year. We are very grateful to you all!

Open Evening – Thursday 30 September

Owing to two other local schools arranging their Open Evening on the same night as ours, we have decided to move our Open Evening back one week. Our Open Evening will, therefore, now take place from 6.00-8.00pm on Thursday 30 September.

Fundraising Success!

Congratulations to Katie Purchase, one of our new Year 7 students who has completed an amazing challenge – walking 262 miles in order to raise money for CALM (Campaign Against Living Miserably). You can read more about her story below:

<https://www.raf.mod.uk/our-organisation/stations/raf-benson/news/youngster-completes-calm-challenge-at-raf-benson/>

If you would like to contribute to Katie's justgiving page for this worthy cause, you can do so [here](#).

Mat Hunter
Headteacher

Student Covid-19 test-at-home kits

Today, students will have brought home their own box of 7 test-at home kits. The Government are encouraging all secondary school children to test at home twice weekly throughout September this year. The Government are reviewing whether to continue this beyond September; I will let you know once we have been given more information. Please can the results of the test be recorded both on the [NHS site](#) and the [school Forms survey](#) (apologies for the data duplication – the Government asks that we request records of the test results). Both of these links can be found on our school website [here](#). If anyone tests positive using an LFD test, they will be asked to isolate and then take a confirmatory PCR test. If this is also positive, they would need to isolate for 10 days. There is no longer a requirement for close contacts to isolate as well, however these close contacts would be asked to take PCR tests themselves.

James Barringer

Homework

I am sharing our *Homework Timetables* today for each year group, through the Newsletter and also on our website here: <https://www.icknield.oxon.sch.uk/student-information/homework> .

Effective working outside of lessons has a considerably positive impact on students' achievement, learning and understanding and also builds those vital habits which will serve them well, moving forward. You can read more about the different types of task students may receive, as well as details about the amount of homework students should expect and some guidance regarding how to support students' work beyond the classroom, in our *Homework Policy* here:

<https://www.icknield.oxon.sch.uk/attachments/article/21/ICC%20Homework%20Policy%202020-21.pdf>

We create our *Homework Timetables* to ensure an even spread of homework across the week. Homework is set through the online platform *Show My Homework* (I have already contacted parents of Year 7 students earlier this week with some information about how Year 7 homework will operate for the first fortnight of the school year, as students receive their training on how to use *Show My Homework* through their Computing lessons).

Matt Ford

Clubs

We are pleased to publish our *Clubs Booklet* at <https://www.icknield.oxon.sch.uk/student-information/school-clubs> (also attached to today's Newsletter). We regularly update this information, and I will keep you updated throughout the year whenever we refresh our clubs offering. Unless otherwise specified, clubs are open to all students.

Matt Ford

Lockers

As a means to continue to reduce congestion in high traffic areas around the schools, we will no longer be issuing lockers. We found that students managed very well last year without them and were more prompt to lessons. Students who are concerned about carrying multiple bags around school should speak with their tutor.

Charlotte Gibson

Chromebook access to subscription media platforms

A number of students and parents have suggested that the Chromebooks issued through the 1:1 device scheme should be allowed to access subscription media platforms such as Netflix. Having discussed this issue and reviewed the learning benefits these sites potentially offer, we will be changing our settings early next week to allow access to the main subscription streaming services outside school hours. Parents will be able to decide whether or not to add their child's device to their own accounts. As the Chromebooks are primarily intended as tools for learning, however, social media platforms such as Instagram and Facebook will continue to be unavailable.

Robert Legg

Y11 Geography Revision Sessions

The Geography Department is planning to start revision sessions from next week. Each session will run for around 30 minutes every **Tuesday lunchtime** from 1:30pm. They present students with a great opportunity to revise physical geography content covered in Y10 and will help with not only the Christmas Mock Exams but also the final examinations next year. Please see the attachment to for a schedule of topics covered each week. We welcome all Y11 geographers!

Daniel Moden

Well done to Year 10 and Year 11

This week has been a busy one for our Key Stage 4 students. Our Year 11s were welcomed back to school with a 30 minute assembly on Monday morning looking ahead to the school year and discussing the principles that underline our year group culture. In year 10, students have quickly adapted to their new GCSE timetables and for some students, brand new subjects of study. As mentioned in the assembly, and throughout conversations with our Year 10s, it is wonderful to see them back in school and to be working so closely with all of them. They have had a fantastic week and we all cannot wait to see the work they produce this school year.

Well done to all.

Adam Rickard and the Key Stage 4 Tutor Team

New Dance Studio

We're very excited to be opening the new dance studio next week. The studio is fitted with sprung wooden flooring. For both safety reasons and to maintain the standard of the new floor, outdoor shoes will not be permitted in the dance studio. If students have ballet or jazz shoes they are more than welcome to wear these in lessons. I look forward to seeing the students in the new space next week!

Taylor Samuel-Beechey

Chess Club

The first meeting of the Chess Club took place last Wednesday with 20 students from all years turning up to play some games. It was excellent to see a range of abilities, from students just starting to develop their chess skills to some very accomplished players. Students very quickly identified suitable people to play against, often from a different year group, and some good games were played.

Chess Club takes place every Wednesday lunchtime in Room 4 – all welcome.



Maths Problem of the Week

Each week the Maths Department will give a Problem of the Week in the Newsletter. These will be challenging and slightly unusual maths questions for you to try over the coming week. Answers will be given in the following Newsletter. There may be the occasional hint to help you get started. Have a go at the problems and see how you get on. Good luck!

The first Problem of the Week is attached.

Nick Owen

Acer Trust Vacancy

Please see an [advert on our website](#) for an HR Officer for the Acer Trust.

Writing Club Challenge: Enter the Penguin Creative Student Competition

Come along to Writing Club Room 18 Thursday Lunchtime - 16th September for support with your entry.

<https://www.penguin.co.uk/campaigns/lit-in-colour/students/creative-student-prize.html>

Students aged 14-18 have the opportunity to win a Macbook Air, Beats by Dre headphones and Penguin Audiobook prizes by explaining "What place do books have in your world?"

There's no right answer to this question, and you can approach it any way you like. You could think about the role books and stories play at school or in your home, whether they have an impact on your personal life, or how you feel representation in books impacts society and the wider world.

You can also use [these findings](#) from research published by Lit in Colour as a starting point for your submission – for example, under 1% of GCSE students in England study a book by an author of colour, and only 7% study a book by a woman.

How should I submit?

Penguin is accepting submissions in a number of formats:

- Essay (up to 800 words)
- Short story (up to 800 words)
- Poetry (up to 300 words)
- Video or TikTok (mp4 video format, 3 minutes long)
- Illustration, photography or artwork (jpeg, png or PDF format)

They will also ask you to write up a short synopsis to contextualise your application.

If you've read their top tips and are ready to apply, fill out their [application form](#) by Friday 17 September.

Mrs Botha and Miss Murray

PE News

Please see our attached PE News document for the following information:

- Our **Kit Expectations**, and reminders, for this forthcoming year
- News of a student who got to play at **Wimbledon** over the summer, and be coached by and play with a British Tennis legend!
- Our lunchtime and after-school **Extra-Curricular Timetable**
- Sports for all **PE lessons** up to half term (good for those who want to be organised!)
- A comprehensive list of our **fixtures** for this half term

Newquay

For parents of Y10 students who are attending Newquay, you should have received a Parent Mail from myself in the last couple of days. This included a re-sending of the information video link that was sent out at the end of the summer term, as well as some more recent updates. If you haven't yet read this latest ParentMail, can I please urge you to do so. Any questions about the trip can be sent to me at matt.mures@icknield.oxon.sch.uk

Matt Mures

CareersNews – Y11

We have been approached by the BFI Film Academy at Film Oxford who are inviting our Y11 Students who are interested in a career in Film, TV, Gaming, Sound and Moving Image to take part in a course running over 9 days throughout October (half term and weekends.) Students will have the opportunity to work as part of a production team and make a short film, get hands on experience and develop skills with industry standard equipment, receive a masterclass from industry professionals, develop their critiquing skills and on completion gain a NCFE Level 2 Award in Preparing to Work in the Film Industry. Closing date for applications is Thursday 23 September. Please see link for further details: <https://www.filmothford.org/filmacademy/>

Helen Richardson

Attendance

All students are expected to be in school every day.

Absence or Lateness

If your child is absent or late for any reason at all, it is extremely important that you notify school before the start of the school day or as soon as you are able to. We have a duty of care to keep all our students safe and, to do so, we need to know if they are in school and if not, the reason why.

When a child is absent from school, we use a number of different codes to mark their absence, as required by the Government. These codes are split into authorised and unauthorised codes, which is why we need to know the reason for absence, as well as knowing your child is safe and well. I'm afraid leaving a message to let us know your child won't be in, but failing to give a reason, will result in the absence being recorded as unauthorised and a member of staff will contact you further to find out why. If your child is unwell, please let us know in the message if it is Covid-19 related and provide full details as these absences require a different code.

Lateness and absence should be reported by sending an e-mail or calling to leave a message on the absence voicemail box. Unfortunately, messages to other staff members (including tutors, progress managers, school office) may not reach me until later in the day or the following day, so it's important to use the following methods to report all student absences:

absence@ickniel.d.oxon.sch.uk 01491 612691 (option 1)

I appreciate timing can sometimes be tricky with family and work commitments and it's very easy to forget to let us know. You can however e-mail or leave a voicemail message at any time of the day or night - you do not need to wait until school opens. If your child has an appointment coming up, feel free to e-mail me when you receive the appointment or make the booking and I will mark the absence in advance.

Signing in and out

All students who arrive in school after 8.30am or leave before 3.00pm must sign in and out at Reception and provide Mrs Brown with a reason. Students who have not signed in or out and are missing from lesson registers are flagged up as missing students and, without a message from home, can cause concern. This will often result in considerable staff time taken trying to track them down. Please do speak to your child about the importance of signing in and out and give them a gentle reminder when necessary. Students who arrive late or leave early without good reason or explanation will be recorded as absent (unauthorised). Messages regarding absence delivered by students themselves are not sufficient, we must have contact from a parent/carer.

Attendance Concerns

If you have any concerns regarding your child's attendance or their return to school, please do not hesitate to contact me. The best way to do this is to e-mail victoria.ashby@ickniel.d.oxon.sch.uk and I will get back to you as soon as I can. If you would prefer a telephone conversation, please let me know the best phone number, day and time to contact you, although please note I work between 9.00am and 2.30pm each day.

Vicky Ashby
Attendance Manager

COMMUNITY NEWS

Small group virtual weekly maths Tuition

Looking for additional support with Maths? Look no further! Great quality, well-structured online maths tuition. We are now taking bookings for new classes commencing Sept 2021. Please note due to high demand we are currently focussing on GCSE students only.

Registering new students for GCSE Maths Tutorials.

-GCSE higher tier (new class added due to demand) Saturday at 9.30am. Class starting 25th Sept.

All other sessions now fully booked, with a wait list.

Please contact: mathstutorchinnor@outlook.com for more information and to reserve your slot. Limited spaces available.

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

Adrian Thomas

