



Newsletter – 11 September 2020

Date	Event
14 September'20	Year 9 TDP/Men ACWY Immunisations
30 September'20	Virtual Open Evening
8 October'20	Virtual KS4 Information Evening
15 October'20	Virtual Year 7 Information Evening
22 October'20	Year 11 Parents Evening
23 October'20	End of Term – Non Uniform Day
26-30 October'20	Half Term Holiday
2 November'20	Inset Day
3 November'20	School Resumes

Return to School

We have now, of course, completed our first full week back at school. Students have done a fantastic job following our new routines and systems and it has been a pleasure, everyday, seeing so many of them enjoying their learning and working really hard across subject areas.

It has been a challenging week with the internet down from Monday to Thursday but I'm pleased to report that the problem (which wasn't actually at ICC) has now been fixed.

My online assembly this week, which wasn't seen by many students owing to internet difficulties, was based on the new [Nike advert](#) entitled "You Can't Stop Us". Please do take a moment to watch this with your child, if you can spare a few minutes, and discuss the key messages in the video.

As per previous communication, could I please make a plea to all parents to ensure that uniform and equipment is labelled. With new Year 7 students in particular, we are picking up lost property several times a day and it can often take a while to return it to its rightful owner if it is anonymous!

Have a good weekend, all.

Mat Hunter
Headteacher

Homework

Please find attached to the newsletter the homework timetables for this year; we try hard to spread the homework load across the week, in line with our homework policy. You can also view these documents on our website at: <https://www.icknield.oxon.sch.uk/student-information/homework>

Matt Ford

Year 7 Homework

Over the coming week, we will be issuing Year 7 students with a login for our online homework platform, Show My Homework. This will take place in students' Computing lessons, where there will also be training on how to use the platform.

We strongly recommend parents sign up to the Show My Homework system, so that they can see what homework has been set and when it has been completed. We will be sending a letter home early next week, explaining how to create an account.

Year 7 teachers will be issuing homework using this system from Monday 21 September, following the timetable set out by Mr Ford above, but will be setting light homework in books or on paper in the meantime.

Robert Legg

Water bottles

Please do continue to send your child in to school with a water bottle each day. If that bottle is approximately 1 litre, that should be sufficient for most students across the day. Students can fill their water bottles up from an external tap at the end of break and lunchtime (these taps are in the Year 10 meeting point, but that bubble is the first to leave for lessons at the end of break and lunchtime). Disposable paper cups of water are also available at lunch in the canteen.

James Barringer

Students presenting as being unwell

If a student informs us that they are feeling unwell, we must help them to take an informed decision regarding whether they should go home. The school will now take that child's temperature using an infrared thermometer and inform them of the reading. If that temperature is considered to be high, we would contact you to collect your child. If the temperature is not considered to be high, we would inform them that, on the basis of their temperature alone, we do not require them to go home. It would then be for them to decide whether they feel that they have either:

- A new continuous cough
- A loss or change to their sense of smell or taste

If a child tells us that they are feeling unwell we will routinely contact their parents that they can take the decision whether to bring them home to monitor their wellbeing and decide whether they require a coronavirus test. Should you have any issues with your child's temperature being taken using an infrared thermometer, please let the school office know.

James Barringer

BTEC Construction

This year, we are delivering BTEC Construction in school for the first time. If anyone has any old or spare tools and equipment that would help us to deliver the practical units, they would be very gratefully received. In particular, we require:

- Measuring Tapes
- Gauge Rod
- Spirit Level
- Builders Lines and Pins
- Corner Blocks
- Building Profiles
- Tingle plates
- Walling Trowel
- Pointing Trowel
- Jointing Iron
- Wheeled recessed jointer
- Brick Hammer
- Club Hammer
- Bolster Chisel
- Bricks (different types ie: facing, common, engineering)
- Blocks (different types ie: solid, insulation and fair-faced)
- Cement
- Building Sand
- Lime or Plasticiser
- Wall ties
- Insulation
- Safety Glasses
- High Vis Jackets
- Helmets

If you think you can help us, please do contact me at the school.

James Barringer

Bus travel to and from school

As I am sure that you are aware, whilst we do have some input into the way that Oxford and Bucks Councils operate their bus services, in conjunction with the bus companies, we are only a piece in that jigsaw and, therefore, our influence is limited. It is important, however, that students understand the guidance around face masks which is (to quote OCC): *Recent Government guidance strongly recommends that all children over the age of 11 years should wear a face covering, although some children with specific medical conditions are exempt - see <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/coronavirus-covid-19-safer-travel-guidance-for-passengers#exemptions-face-coverings>*

Students also need to ensure that they follow the procedures in place on each bus for sitting in separate year groups: for a reminder of this, please view our *Travelling to school* video <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=MYx1rB06pOg>

Matt Ford

Lockers

The usual process with lockers is for them to be cleaned out with the key returned at the end of the school year ready for them to be serviced and reallocated in September. Like many things, this was unable to happen in March, so we still currently have a large number of outstanding locker keys which need to be handed in to the Finance Office so that deposits can be returned and essential maintenance work can take place.

Lockers will need to be clear of personal belongings before the key is handed back as it won't be possible to return items to students retrospectively. In order to do this, whilst maintaining year group bubbles, students will be notified of a time during the school day where they will be escorted by a member of staff to their lockers so that they can empty them. Students will be notified of this procedure within the daily student bulletin and must not attempt to access their lockers outside of their designated time. Once this has been done (or if a student's locker is already empty), they should return the key to the Finance Office at the start of the school day, before lessons commence. Please could I ask you to remind students to bring their locker keys with them to school next week as well as a bag to carry any items from their locker with them so that this process can be managed swiftly.

Students will be unable to use lockers for the foreseeable future due to the need to keep students within their year group bubbles and limit unnecessary movement around the school. Lockers will be reissued as soon as this is no longer necessary with any further updates will be communicated via the Newsletter.

Charlotte Gibson

School Council Elections

Student Council Elections will be taking place over the next couple of weeks, with students being able to apply for this position electronically. This is a great opportunity for students to learn and develop new skills, plan and organise events and have an impact on the wider school community. Students will be notified of this fantastic opportunity, including more information on how to apply via the students bulletin next week. Please do encourage your son or daughter to consider nominating themselves for this chance to represent their tutor group on the school council.

Charlotte Gibson

Lunch Choices

As you know, we are currently operating a staggered lunch break, with specific timings allocated to each year group. The canteen staff are working hard to serve lunch as fast as they can, but the timetable remains quite tight. Please help us by encouraging your child to decide in advance what she or he would like to eat.

The menu from 14 September is available on the school website (Student Information -> Menu).

Thanks in advance for your support.

Robert Legg



'PodUp' – Webinar for Parents and Carers

As you know, Icknield students are currently benefiting from access to an online platform called GCSEPod.

GCSEPod is a website, a collection of apps and more than 6,000 learning 'pods', designed specifically for mobile devices, tablets and PCs. It presents content from a wide range of subjects in digestible 3- to 5-minute chunks, helping students engage with their learning, homework and revision.

At the end of last term, James Barringer and I suggested a variety of ways to build students' familiarity with GCSEPod. This week, I'd like to draw your attention to a [webinar designed specifically for parents and carers](#). I encourage you to sign up now to find out more about how you can support your child's learning using this fantastic new facility.

Robert Legg

Peripatetic Instrumental Teachers

From the week beginning 21st September, we will be welcoming back some of our peripatetic instrumental teachers to Icknield. Staff will be working at least 2 metres from their students and will use hand sanitizer before and after lessons. Lessons will take place in the practise rooms, which will be cleaned regularly. Staff will not demonstrate on student instruments and the rooms will be ventilated at all times. If you have any queries please don't hesitate to email me at amy.desybel@icknield.oxon.sch.uk.

Amy De Sybel

Car Parking

Whilst we realise car parking on the school site can be challenging, please ensure you do not park in The Chequers Public House car park. This is a car park for patrons of The Chequers only. Thank you.

Gill Ward

To parents of year 11 students

We have just had confirmation from our exam board (AQA) that students will no longer need to be assessed on their understanding of a 19th Century text (Novel); this confirms our initial thoughts communicated to parents of year 11's previously. This removal of course content is to account for any potential loss of learning over the previous academic year.

Please see below the table which explains what the exam papers themselves will contain.

Paper 1 (1 hour 45)	Paper 2 (1 hour 45)
Section A – compulsory core Shakespeare 30 marks + 4 marks (AO4)	Section A – compulsory core Poetry anthology 30 marks + 4 marks (AO4)
Section B Modern text 30 marks	Section B – compulsory core Unseen poetry 32 marks
Total marks = 64	Total marks = 66

Please do not hesitate to contact me if you have any further queries regarding this.

Fraser Prince

Maths Problem of the Week

Each week the Maths Department will be giving a Problem of the Week. 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!

Nick Owen

Reading for Pleasure.

It has been lovely during this past week to hear about students' reading experiences during the summer. Many of you have read a wide variety of books which is fantastic. Some of you who haven't read regularly for a while have rekindled the habit which is brilliant!

If you completed the reading challenge or created a reading journal, please do hand it to your tutor, your English teacher or hand directly to me by the close of next week. I will be awarding kudos points and Amazon vouchers.

Please be sure to return all books borrowed from the start of lockdown so that others may check them out. You will find a drop box outside the library for returns. Years 7-9 have timetabled library lessons but it is possible for years 10-11 to visit the library during their English lessons if they speak to their teacher. We hope to be able to organise online reserving of library books as soon as practical. You still have access to the e library – you will find the login details attached to this newsletter in case you have mislaid them.

Do keep up your reading habit. Stuck for ideas about what to read next? Ask your English teacher or speak to Mrs Eales the librarian.

Jacqui O'Reilly