



Icknield Community College

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Newsletter – 15 January 2021

Date	Event
wc 18 January 2021	'B' week
wc 18 January 2021	Virtual Guided Choices Evening Presentation
11 February 2021	Year 10 Parents' Evening (online)

Dear All

There are lots of important notices in today's newsletter so I will keep my entry short....

Ofqual: Letter from Ofqual's Chief Regulator and Ofqual Consultation

Yesterday, Simon Lebus, Ofqual's Chief Regulator, wrote to the secretary about Year 11 exams. Please see his letter [here](#).

Today, Ofqual have published their [Consultation on how GCSE, AS and A level Grades should be awarded in 2021](#). As a school, we will be responding to this next week. Do please take the time to read this and, like us, please do respond.

Mat Hunter
Headteacher

Guided Choices 2021

Our *Guided Choices* process, where Year 9 students select their subjects ahead of the next academic year, begins on Monday 18 January. All parents of Year 9 students will, therefore, receive our *Guided Choices Booklet*, a link to a video presentation concerning how the process works and the *Guided Choices Form* next week, along with full information on the process and deadlines (the final deadline for choices to be made is Friday 26 February, so please don't worry that you are going to have to make a rushed decision). We will also be speaking to many students and parents about the choices that they are considering between Monday and the end of this term, and we have all of our heads of department and subject leaders available to answer all curriculum questions that people may have as well. We have worked hard to put this support in place to essentially replace the *Guided Choices Evening* that normally takes place in term three, but obviously cannot happen at this time, and to ensure that nobody will be disadvantaged as a result of this.

My key message today is simply to ask parents of Year 9 students to read / watch all of the information that will come out to you next week along with your children, and do communicate with us so that we can support you in the choices that your child makes.

Matt Ford

Safeguarding your child online: Parental Permissions

As we are asking children to spend more time online at home to complete schoolwork, I think it is a good time to double check the settings on your child's device to ensure that they can only access appropriate content. When children are in school, our school security settings ensure that inappropriate websites are blocked and when students attempt to access content we think is concerning, this is flagged up with the safeguarding team and we follow this up with students and/or parents. Whilst at home, students may, potentially, have more freedom online and there is a chance that they could be accessing things you wouldn't want them to be accessing. Please do check the parental controls and security settings on your child's device. This link has some good guidance to help you to do this if you haven't done this already - <https://www.nspcc.org.uk/keeping-children-safe/online-safety/parental-controls/>

Vicky Pickford

Year 8 and 9 HPV Immunisations – 20th and 25th January

As per my parentmail earlier in the week, these immunisations will still be taking place in school from 9am. Parents who have given consent for the immunisation will receive a letter with a timeslot. Parents will need to bring their child(ren) in at the allotted time. Parking will be in the Main School Car Park and the immunisations will take place in Room 27 which is an external room enabling the immunisations to take place without parents or students needing to go into the main building. This room is already currently laid out for covid testing and so will enable immunisations to be done with the right social distancing measures. Immunisers will, of course, be in full PPE. There will be an email address for the immunising team in the letter for any questions that parents may have.

Vicky Pickford

Subject Focus Day

Unfortunately, the Subject Focus Day that was due to take place on Tuesday 26th January will no longer be able to take place. Students will need to continue to access their online lessons as normal, following the usual timings of the day.

A number of Year 11 students who would have been completing IT, PE or Art coursework during this time will still have the opportunity to do so. They will spend the day online with their teacher who will be giving them support and feedback on their coursework throughout the day and will, therefore, not be attending their usual lessons. These students will be given more information about this over the next week.

Charlotte Gibson

Increasing data allowances on mobile devices to support students learning

The Government has launched a scheme to temporarily increase data allowance for mobile phone users on certain networks. This is so that students can access remote education if their face to face learning has been disrupted. The school can request an increase in data on your behalf if all of the following criteria are met:

- There is no fixed broadband connection at home
- You are unable to afford additional data
- Your child is experiencing disruption to face to face learning

Currently, only those with the following providers are eligible (although this might change and more providers may be added in the future)

- EE
- O2
- Sky Mobile
- SMARTY
- Tesco Mobile
- Three
- Virgin Mobile
- Vodafone

If you feel that your child would benefit from this scheme and that the above criteria are met, please contact Lindsey Davies on lindsey.davies@ickniel.d.oxon.sch.uk

Please visit the Government website if you would like further information.

Charlotte Gibson

Supporting your child's remote learning with Satchel:One

In last week's newsletter I mentioned that the 'Classwork' function included in Satchel:One is proving to be a really useful and tidy way to set and respond to students' work. In some subjects, teachers have been providing feedback and awarding Kudos points on this platform. One of its benefits is that parents can see their children's feedback and can check to see whether work has been submitted, using the parental login function. If you are not yet in the routine of engaging with your child's classwork and homework in this way, I strongly encourage you to give it a try. To activate your account, as a parent, [follow this link](#). You will need an activation code. Codes were emailed to parents of Year 7 students in a message with the heading 'Welcome to Satchel One'. Parents of students in other year groups can email helpdesk@ickniel.d.oxon.sch.uk to be reminded of their activation codes.

Robert Legg

Laptops

James Simpson, our Network Manager, and I have been working hard to ensure that Icknield has offered laptops or Chromebooks to any students struggling to access our Teams lessons. As of Thursday 14 January, I'm pleased that we have been able to loan a device to everyone who has requested one. If your child is experiencing difficulties – where a device has to be shared, for example, or where a smartphone is the primary means of accessing Teams – please contact me at robert.legg@icknield.oxon.sch.uk. We have recently received an additional small delivery of Chromebooks from the Department for Education, and would like to use these devices to improve the remote learning experience of those whose current technology is unsatisfactory.

Robert Legg

Using Cameras in MS Teams for Year 11's

Following Mr Hunter's letter last week requesting that all students, wherever possible, turned their cameras on for Teams calls, I wanted to thank the many students who have been doing this routinely over the past two weeks. Doing so really does help as teachers for the following reasons:

- Your teachers know that you are present and can see that you are engaged in the lesson
- We can read your facial expressions and work out whether you are finding the learning challenging enough or too difficult
- Supporting whiteboard work; by having your camera turned on and showing your whiteboard, we can work out what you can and can't do and plan what we need to teach you next (or go over again) as a result

It will also help you in the future. Many post-16 choices and work places may also require students and employees to engage through camera and, practising such a medium of communication, while still at school, with people with whom you are already very familiar, is a great way to prepare for future studies and employment.

I do recognise that turning on cameras can be daunting for some of you. When I first started conducting meetings and lessons on Teams, having my camera on was a new obstacle that I was not used to, but I overcame the temptation to keep my face hidden!

May I also remind all students that nearly all mobile phones have front facing cameras and therefore students should not need to rely on a computer having a web-cam.

Finally, please be aware that myself or a member of the Year 11 tutor team may be communicating with individual students and parents in the future weeks to discuss camera options for specific students. If you have any difficulties that we can help you with, please do not hesitate to contact us so that we can do so.

Adam Rickard

Maths Problem of the Week

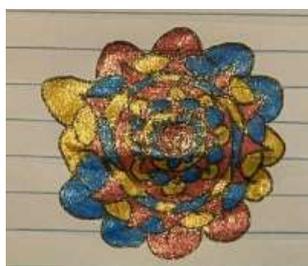
The Maths Problem of the Week and the solution to the previous problem are attached. Thanks to Mr Thomas for supplying this week's problem.

Nick Owen

RE creations

In Year 8 RE, students are currently studying Buddhism. As well as learning about the central teachings of Buddhism, such as the Eightfold Path and Five Precepts, students have been exploring the day-to-day lives of Buddhists, and reflecting on whether everyone would benefit from spending some time meditating. Students created these stunning mandalas as part of this work. These examples are from Freya Fanchi, Freya Clapton and Skye-Lily Scott.

Jen Hicks and Kayley McMillan



What a wonderful word...

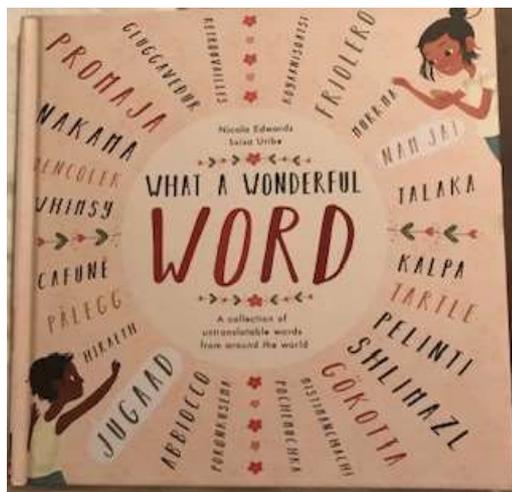
Having been someone who has always suffered from the cold, I was delighted to find that, in Spanish, at least, there is a word to describe me. Reading through this fab new book, 'What a Wonderful Word', I have found that I can now refer to myself officially as 'un friolero', or in fact, 'una friolera' (if you're unsure why I have changed the ending of the word, please feel free to ask your children why endings of adjectives change in French or Spanish)!

This delightful publication, by Nicola Edwards and illustrated by Luisa Uribe, is a fantastic collection of what can only be determined as **untranslatable** words from around the world. Are there really words that are untranslatable? Well, we can often translate single words or phrases from one language to another, or indeed, find an idiomatic phrase which gets across a similar point, but sometimes there just isn't one word, in our own language, for what we may wish to describe.

For example, I am sure many of us have felt 'abbiocco' (Italian) – drowsiness at the end of a big meal, managed a 'pochemuchka' (Russian) – someone who persistently asks, 'Why?' or been lucky enough to have close friends who you would describe as family - 'nakama' (Japanese).

We may not have that word we are searching for in our own native tongue but isn't it interesting to think that somewhere, someone has had the same experience as us, and given it a name of its own?

As I said, this is just a collection of some of these words. Why not hunt for some more and share them with us?



Letters to Parents/Carers

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

Year 8 and 9 HPV Immunisations – 20th & 25th January
HPV1 Parent Consent Letter Jan 2021 – Year 8
Hegarty Maths Term 1 Tracking – Year 7
Hegarty Maths Term 2 Tracking – Year 7
Hegarty Maths Term 1 Tracking – Year 8
Hegarty Maths Term 2 Tracking – Year 8
Hegarty Maths Term 1 Tracking – Year 9
Hegarty Maths Term 2 Tracking – Year 9
Hegarty Maths Foundation Term 1 Tracking – Year 10
Hegarty Maths Foundation Term 2 Tracking – Year 10
Hegarty Maths Higher Term 1 Tracking – Year 10
Hegarty Maths Higher Term 2 Tracking – Year 10
Hegarty Maths Foundation Term 1 Tracking – Year 11
Hegarty Maths Foundation Term 2 Tracking – Year 11
Hegarty Maths Higher Term 1 Tracking – Year 11
Hegarty Maths Higher Term 2 Tracking – Year 11

These letters can also be accessed on the school website:

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

COMMUNITY NEWS

Virtual weekly Maths Tuition - GCSE Foundation

Great quality, well-structured zoom maths tuition specifically aimed at GCSE foundation students. Due to demand, Adrian is opening one further slot for small group weekly virtual GCSE foundation sessions commencing each Saturday starting 6th Feb 2021.

Please contact: mathstutorchinnor@outlook.com for more information and to reserve a slot, limited spots available.

All other small group sessions fully booked. Wishing you all a very Happy New Year!

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

Adrian Thomas