



Newsletter – 17 June 2022

Date	Event
20 June	'A' 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)

Friends of Icknield

A huge thank you to the Friends of Icknield for organising the used uniform sale last Saturday morning. Not only were they able to make good use of a wide range of used uniform, they also raised £855 in the process! Many thanks to you all.

Year 6/7 Transition

A big thank you to our Year 10 buddies who have now completed two of their four sessions for our incoming Year 6 students. These have been taking place after school on Wednesdays both at primary schools across our partnership and Icknield for students who are coming from smaller schools or schools further afar. We are looking forward to welcoming all of our new Year 7 students for their transition days on Thursday 30 June and Friday 1 July.

Year 10 Exams

As the Year 11 exam period comes to an end next week, Year 10 students have been busy preparing for their end of year exams which begin on Friday 24th June. As parents, please do make sure that your child has completed all of the bespoke revision guidance which has been sent to them weekly for the last 6 weeks. We have seen lots of students staying behind after school on a daily basis to complete their revision which is fantastic. Those students will be really well prepared going into their exams. Well done to you all...

Year 11 Leavers' Day

After the Physics exam on Thursday, we will be saying farewell to our Year 11 students, firstly, through a more formal leavers' assembly, and, secondly, through refreshments and activities on the field. Mr Rickard, Mrs Pickford and the Year 11 tutors have all put lots of thought into this day to make it a really enjoyable and successful one. Once students have left the school, they become the responsibility of parents. We will be giving out a strong message that any post-school celebrations need to be respectful towards our school community. As parents, please could you reinforce this message too. Many thanks.

Mat Hunter
Headteacher

Year 11 Exam Results and Exam Certificates Collection

Please see this link <https://forms.office.com/r/Z69CR7uM25> for a brief questionnaire that we would like Year 11 students to complete by Monday 4 July at the latest. It is designed for us to gather information as to their intentions regarding the collection of their exam results on Thursday 25 August. It also asks them for contact details so that we can get in touch later this year when the exam boards send us the exam certificates. I would appreciate it if parents of Year 11 students could encourage them to respond as soon as possible.

Matt Ford

Uniform 2023

Many thanks again to everyone who has offered their thoughts on our uniform proposals. The responses were broadly very supportive of our proposed changes. Attached to this week's newsletter is a draft of the uniform specification that we hope will be agreed for implementation **from May 2023**. In addition to the changes that we suggested in our paper, we have adopted a number of ideas from parents and students as follows:

- A number of people suggested that the additional skirts and trousers we list should be illustrative examples of the required specification, rather than a restrictive list of available choices. We agree that this will bring greater flexibility, so have incorporated this suggestion.
- A number of people suggested adding black tailored shorts to the list of acceptable items. We think this will offer more flexibility in warmer weather, and will create a level of choice equivalent to that already offered between the choices of skirt. We have incorporated this suggestion.
- A number of people suggested that the PE shorts/skort should be generic, rather than branded. We agree that this is likely to reduce the overall cost of buying uniform, so have incorporated this suggestion.

Several responses asked whether the proposed changes could be brought forward to the summer of 2022. Unfortunately, our contractual position with our current supplier doesn't permit this. Please note, therefore, that the attached draft uniform specification **will not apply until summer 2023**. The current specification for ICC uniform in 2022-23 can be found [here](#) – all items in this list will continue to be acceptable for a period of time once the new specification takes effect.

Vicky Pickford and Robert Legg

Used-uniform

Thank you to all who attended our used-uniform sale last weekend, and also to *Friends of Icknield* for organising this excellent event. Please do continue to donate any uniform to us that your child has grown out of as it all gets added to our stocks and will be recycled to a new home at some stage in the future. Donations can be made to the Finance Office directly, or students can hand items to their tutor and they will be passed on to me.

Matt Ford

Creative Writing and Book Club

Over the past few weeks, students in the Creative Writing club and Book Club have been compiling a magazine exploring all sorts of mythological writing. Attached to today's newsletter is a copy of the magazine which showcases original stories, book reviews and original artwork from our very talented students. Please do take a read! The next magazine will be about LGBTQ+ content in response to Pride Month.

Hannah Murray

Lights! Camera! Action!

You are invited to the [Young Carers on Tour](#), Creative Summer Residential!

If you are a young carer living in Buckinghamshire, Berkshire, Oxfordshire or Swindon, aged between 13 – 18 years old, come and join us for a FREE, 3 day / 2 night, fun and creative experience!

When: Wednesday 3 August – Friday 5 August 2022

Where: Taking place at **Buckinghamshire New University**, this programme is designed to be informative, engaging and help you develop new skills.

What: This residential will include:

- Staying in your own student room in university halls of residence
- Sampling different creative subjects at [Buckinghamshire New University](#) and [Ravensbourne University](#)
- Going to the theatre in London
- Meeting university students and other young carers

Cost: The residential is **FREE** as transport, meals and activities are all provided and funded by Study Higher. **Spaces are limited so please complete [the registration form](#) by Friday 15th July 2022!**

Jane Bellars

Al Slyvester AKA Antarctica man

In Geography we are currently studying about Antarctica, and as part of this we were fortunate enough to be able to welcome a real-life explorer to come and speak to us about his expedition to Antarctica. Al spoke to year 7s about the challenges of trying to reach the South Pole; working as a team, eating some interesting food, and how to carry out daily routines!!!

Al's motto is 'never give up' and is something that hopefully having listened to Al has/will resonate with the students going through life. Having lost digits to frostbite, and being told he's not allowed to carry out military expeditions again, Al is currently organising another expedition to the South Pole. Students were invited to 'apply' to take part in his next expedition, and the top 25 letters will receive a hand-written response back. The motivation and enthusiasm for this opportunity has been amazing, and we want students to keep that in mind and if this is something they want to achieve in the future, they should 'never give up' that aspiration to go.

Please see some photos of this amazing event below.



Dressing up in about half of the kit needed to travel in minus 35 degrees temperatures!



On Tuesday, an amazing adventurer called Al (also known as the 'Antarctica Man') visited Icknield to give the year 7s an inspiring talk about his trip to Antarctica.

He spoke about his tumultuous journey and how challenging he found it: he told us how he got there (in a cargo plane); he told us about his difficulties including bouts of frostbite, and how one of his team members threw away their first aid kit! Just hearing this made everyone who was listening's hearts stop as we knew how dangerous this could be... Every story kept us on the edge of our seats – they were just as thrilling as his own adventure!

At the end of the presentation a student asked "Where will your next journey be?" He replied with "Well, in a few years' time, hopefully I can take a few students in this room to Antarctica". So, the years sevens were tasked with writing a letter saying why they should go and perhaps one day, we can join Al on an Antarctician adventure!

Katie Purchase

Maths Problem of the Week

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

Nick Owen

PE News

In this week's PE News:

- An opportunity offered by the **Oxfordshire FA** to sign up for their **Leadership Programme**
- **Results** from the **Y7 Quadkids** and **Y9 Cricket 6s**
- The **upcoming fixtures** for next week

Matt Mures

CareersNews

A reminder that Farols of Thame are hosting an Open Morning on Saturday of this week as they have several apprenticeship opportunities available, full details are in this weeks' CareersNews.. The Henley College are hosting an application clinic on Saturday morning, to book your appointment please see details within this weeks' CareersNews. Should you have any Careers or Further Education enquiries please do get in touch: helen.richardson@icknield.oxon.sch.uk

Helen Richardson

Letters to Parents

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

GCSE Dance Workshop – 07 Jul 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