



Newsletter – 18 September 2020

Date	Event
30 September'20	Virtual Open Evening
8 October'20	Virtual KS4 Information Evening
13 October'20	Virtual Year 7 Information Evening
15 October'20	Year 11 Parents Evening (government rules permitting)
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

COVID Tests and Self-Isolation

There has been a lot in the media this week about the difficulty in obtaining COVID tests across the country. This has been the case for students, parents and staff in our area too.

If students are self-isolating whilst waiting for a test, or they are self-isolating while a member of their household takes a test, we will send home work for them to do.

Please do see James Barringer's note below on making decisions about whether you want your child to self-isolate or not.

Planning for a localised lockdown

On a slightly more longer term basis, the Leadership Team has been working hard, this week, on planning for any "tiered" lockdowns that might be enforced this academic year. Essentially, these may well result in us having to have 3 year groups in for a fortnight (whilst two year groups learn remotely from home), rotating to two year groups for the next fortnight (whilst three year groups learn remotely from home). Whilst we hope that this will not happen, the Government has asked schools to ensure plans are in place for another partial school closure should it be required. We have created these plans for Icknield and, as soon as these have been shared with the school's Governing Body at the end of the month, we will share them with you.

Face Coverings on Buses

Please could I ask all parents to remind their children that **the wearing of face coverings is strongly encouraged on school buses**. Whilst we continue to emphasise this message with students in school, please could we ask for your support in doing the same.

Mat Hunter
Headteacher

Identifying our students' strengths and areas for further development

One of the biggest challenges that schools face in the aftermath of five months of remote learning is to identify the things that students can now do really well and the things that require more attention to master; this is not a task that will be achieved overnight! We have taken the decision to not begin the new academic year with a series of tests and assessments to identify learning gaps; instead, we have strived to deliver engaging lessons and introduced new concepts and ideas. This doesn't mean that we aren't looking back to the last academic year and learning from our students all of the time. Teachers are using the mini whiteboards that students carry to tease out knowledge and understanding of previously studied topics, varying the questions that they ask in class to ascertain how much is recalled and talking with students to begin the journey of identifying and tackling those learning gaps. In time, we will re-introduce more formal tests and assessments but, for now, it is really important that students both engage in their lessons and, crucially, that they reflect on any gaps in their own knowledge and work with their teachers to devise strategies to overcome them.

James Barringer

Procedures for managing suspected coronavirus cases

We are entering into a tricky period where many people traditionally develop cold and flu symptoms, some of which are very similar to the three coronavirus symptoms:

- a high temperature
- a new, continuous cough
- a loss or change to your sense of smell or taste

As I am sure you will be aware, having one or more of these three symptoms requires that person and everyone in their household to 'stay at home' at least until the individual has received the results of a coronavirus test (currently, this seems to take several days). Those ramifications mean that the decision regarding whether an individual is symptomatic is a very important one. It is imperative that students and their parents are the decision-makers in this process; school staff cannot be the adjudicators of whether an individual is symptomatic.

We may, on some occasions, feed in information about your child's symptoms that we have witnessed in school.

The following advice and guidance aims to help parents to make informed decisions regarding coronavirus symptoms.

Step 1

Parents keep an open dialogue with their children about how they are feeling, checking with them whether they are at all unwell prior to attending school. Students can attend school with colds, as per usual, but it is helpful if the parent has a good understanding of their child's symptoms prior to attending school. If the parent thinks that their child has any of the three coronavirus symptoms then:

- The child and everyone in their household must stay at home
- The parent should contact 119 or the NHS website to arrange a test
- Nobody should leave the house until they have the results from the test. If the test is negative, providing the individual doesn't any longer have a fever, they can return to school and their household can also return to their normal routines. If the test is positive, they should then follow the instructions of NHS Test and Trace.

Step 2

Whilst we do not normally advocate students calling their parents during the school day, in the current climate, it might be sensible to ask your child to call you during their break or lunchtime if they are feeling unwell and you want an update on their symptoms. Please note, students cannot make or receive calls on their mobile phones during lesson time. This call would help you to determine whether you think your child is developing coronavirus symptoms. If the outcome of the conversation is that you wish for your child to go home, please ensure that your child alerts a teacher to ensure that the proper process is followed.

Step 3

If your child informs an adult that they think they have one or more coronavirus symptom, we will bring them to a holding area at the front of the canteen, as per the school's risk assessment. Then, we will contact you to facilitate a conversation between you and your child so that you can discuss their symptoms with them. We are able to take the student's temperature using an infrared thermometer to help inform your decision.

If you agree with your child that they do not have one or more coronavirus symptoms they will be returned to their lessons. Currently, under the restrictions we face, we do not have an area in school for unwell students without coronavirus symptoms to sit for long periods of time. If they are unwell, they will need to be taken home.

If you agree with your child that they do have one or more coronavirus symptoms, you would then need to collect your child from school. As a precaution against the spread of coronavirus, you will need to also collect any siblings that are in school. When at home, you would then have the opportunity to monitor them closely and, if necessary, seek medical advice (for example by using 111) in order to make an informed decision regarding their symptoms. Please note, only the person with symptoms is required to take a coronavirus test, but everyone in the household must stay at home.

Step 4

Once you have made the decision in Step 3, please notify the school whether your child is going to:

- a) Self-isolate (along with any siblings) and take a coronavirus test
- b) Return to school the following day
- c) Stay at home because they are unwell but not, at this stage, going to take a coronavirus test (as you do not think they have one or more of the three coronavirus symptoms)

Guidance for the work students should complete when they are absent from school due to coronavirus, but well enough to complete school work, will be emailed as soon as any child is absent from school.

Step 5

If your child, or any member of their household, is tested for coronavirus then they will need to stay at home pending the results. Please inform the school of the result when you receive it so that we can update our records. Should another member of the household develop one or more of the three symptoms whilst you await the results, they too must then arrange a test and the period of self-isolation for the household must begin again.

James Barringer



GCSEPod—Cameron Parker Webinar

This week I'm really pleased to share some exciting news about an upcoming GCSEPod webinar hosted by Cameron Parker.

Cameron is a world-class youth coach and motivational speaker. In this webinar he shares his experience of going through school without really understanding the importance of education. He had the mentality that learning wasn't for him, and often didn't show much interest. As someone who made positive changes and turned his life around, he's passionate about inspiring others to upgrade their mindsets and improve their lives.

The webinar will take place on **Tuesday 6 October at 6pm**. In this 60-minute session, offered free of charge, you will learn:

- 1) how to make the most of the school year, so that you get the grades you deserve;
- 2) how to get motivated;
- 3) how to bounce back from lockdown with confidence;
- 4) how to use anxiety and stress to your advantage; and
- 5) how to maximise the benefit you get from school, to enable the future you want.

This is the first of a series of GCSEPod webinars coming up. It's online, so you can participate anonymously and from the comfort of your own home. Grasp this opportunity with both hands. Be an action taker and [sign-up now!](#)

Robert Legg

Please could all students wishing to apply for a position on the school council email their nominations to their tutors by Friday 25th September. Students should write no more than 150 words explaining why they think they should be chosen to represent their tutor group on the school council. Remember that what you write will be shared with your tutor group so that they can vote for their representative.

Charlotte Gibson

Why you should apply for the Student Council

DO YOU...

- Have a subject you feel passionately about?
- Want to see change in the school?
- Have a desire to help organise events and raise money for charity?

THEN...



The School Council Needs You!

Nominations needed by 25th September -
Voting on the 28th

Next week, during the school council elections, all students will be given the opportunity to apply for a position on the student council and to represent their tutor group on the issues that are important to them. Having been in the school council for the last two years, I can confirm that it really is an amazing opportunity. Not only do you get to make real changes to the way the school is run but you develop skills that will become vital later in life, such as learning about agendas, minutes and the ways to run a meeting.

Moreover, at the same time as building your confidence, you can make a positive difference in the school and it is a platform to make your voice heard. For example, you would get to influence where the money raised for charity goes and during the termly meetings there is always an opportunity for everyone to talk about any concerns or ideas they have about the school. Students on the school council would also be involved in the organising of important events, such as the eco-fair which was held at the school last year.

Alex Wooster, Head Boy

Earphones

In Music, we are really enjoying exploring our new music software, Focus on Sound. This is excellent music education software which contains thousands of fabulous musical activities designed to support our curriculum. Sadly, some students have not been able to hear the musical examples, because either they are arriving at the lesson with no earphones at all, or they may have earphones with a flat, iPhone adapter, not an universal (traditional) adapter like the one in the picture. We need these ones, as they plug in to both our computers and our keyboards. Please could I ask that your child arrives with the correct equipment, as we really don't want them to miss out and we are not able to lend equipment.

Amy de Sybel



Peripatetic Instrumental Lessons

Next week we will be welcoming back some of our instrumental teachers. The following safety measures will be observed:

- Teachers will maintain a 2m distance
- Rooms will be ventilated and cleaned regularly
- Teachers will not demonstrate on a students' instrument
- Hand sanitizer must be used before and after lessons.

In line with our policy at ICC, peripatetic teachers are not mandated to wear a mask, but may choose to do so. If your child wishes to wear a mask in lessons, they may do so.

Students must maintain social distancing if they see other students out when they are travelling to and from lessons. Please contact me at amy.desybel@ickniel.d.oxon.sch.uk if you have any further queries.

Amy de Sybel

Year 11 Briefings

As Year 11 continue to settle in and focus on the challenge this school year brings, we feel it necessary to hold some Year 11 Briefings over the next few Monday mornings. These will be held in the main hall between 8.30 and 8.45. Next week's briefing will be led by Mr Hunter, with myself leading a Briefing on the following Monday. Please keep an eye out for future notices summing up the key points from these briefings.

Adam Rickard

Maths Problem of the Week

The second Maths Problem of the Week is on the attachment.

The solution to Problem 1 is also attached. Quite a tricky problem to start with - you needed to use Pythagoras a couple of times, the area of a semi-circle and a small amount of algebra (and, of course, perseverance).

Nick Owen

Epipens and Asthma Inhalers

If your child has been prescribed an Epipen or an Inhaler for Asthma, there must be a spare sent into school in case your child needs this and they do not have one with them.

Thank you.

Gill Ward

Parents dropping items to Reception

Please could I ask all parents to ensure their child has packed the relevant materials they need for the day before they leave home. We are still getting parents dropping items into Reception, and in the current climate, with Covid-19, this must be discouraged.

Thank you.

Gill Ward

Sport Leaders Course Update

Students who were completing their Sport Leaders course over the last academic year will resume and complete the course over the next month. This can be completed within school, however, if a student is able to resume volunteering at their chosen club outside of school then their hours will continue to be counted. Hours can be back dated for previous sessions. Student should continue to complete their workbooks at home. We would like to add that any voluntary hours completed after school at our clubs will be run with social distancing rules to ensure the mixing of bubbles does not occur. Any queries please contact.

Jess Hillyer

Letters to Parents/Carers

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

Medical Information - Year 7

Individual Health Care Plan – Selected Students

New online system to reserve library books remotely – All students

These letters can also be accessed on the school website:

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

Finance Office