



Icknield Community College

Headteacher: Mr M Hunter, BA (Hons), MSc, NPQH
Love Lane, Watlington, Oxfordshire, OX49 5RB



Newsletter – 2 October 2020

Date	Event
8 October	Virtual KS4 Information Evening
13 October	Virtual Year 7 Information Evening
15 October	Year 11 Parents Evening
23 October	End of Term – Non Uniform Day
26-30 October	Half Term Holiday
2 November	Inset Day
3 November	School Resumes
3 November	Year 7 Tutor/Parent Calls

Wet Weather Arrangements

Our first “wet weather” day was always going to test our systems! We put some alternative arrangements in place today which, I have to say, your children responded brilliantly to. We are really grateful to all students for being so co-operative and understanding about some of the restrictions they are having to experience as a result of the pandemic.

As previously discussed, **we will require students to wear face masks** in school on wet weather days. This is because we don't want students to stand outside for long periods of time in the rain. Consequently, our meeting points system can't work in the same way which means more bubbles crossing over momentarily. **Please do ensure that your child brings their mask into school. Please also ensure that they are wearing it on the bus too.** As mentioned previously too, they will also need to wear masks in the event of a fire drill (when the whole school goes out to the school field simultaneously).

Open Evening

My thanks to all students and staff involved in producing this week's Virtual Open Evening. Do take a look [here](#). You may well see your child in one of the videos! Do please circulate to anyone you know who is considering applying for a place for their child at Icknield in the near future.

Mat Hunter
Headteacher

Huge Thanks

ICC would like to say a HUGE Thank You to Blanchford Building Supplies, County Construction & Development and Grant & Stone for their kind donations of equipment and building supplies to school. This will enable our small group of Y10 students who are completing a Construction Course to gain real experiences and plenty of practice!





Helen Richardson
Careers Coordinator

Coursework and Non-Examination Assessment information

It is a requirement from JCQ that we share the attached information booklets with all students, containing guidance for coursework and NEA course content.

Matt Ford



GCSEPod—Cameron Parker Webinar

Two weeks ago I wrote about the upcoming GCSEPod webinar hosted by Cameron Parker. If you haven't already signed up, now's the time to do it.

Cameron is a world-class youth coach and motivational speaker. His webinar will take place next **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. Sign up now!

Robert Legg

Using RM Unify and OneDrive to transfer work between school and home

This video links provides a short demonstration of how a student may transfer work from a computer at home to a computer at school. At Icknield we use Office 365 and OneDrive to store documents on the Cloud. Students can easily save school work onto the Cloud at school in order to access it at home. This is an easy for of transporting work that is rarely utilised by out students.

Adam Rickard

Year 11s – RAG rate your Master Revision Guide

One key facility within the Master Revision Guide is the opportunity to RAG rate yourselves against key learning objectives within your GCSE subjects. We are using these in lessons over the next week in order to encourage Year 11 students to reflect on their learning and identify 'weak points' in their respective subjects. I strongly recommend all Year 11s to take responsibility for their RAG rating and complete this page within the MRG – it could make all the difference when planning effective revision sessions.

Adam Rickard

Calling all dancers!

Due to Covid-19, the Great Big Dance Off is unable to hold its annual competition, where schools around the country come together to perform and compete against each other. Instead, they will be holding a virtual solo dance competition!

There are two categories:

- KS3
- KS4

The school will decide which entries to submit to the national competition, where professional judges will decide their favourites. Those that are selected by the judges will be invited to the nearest regional heat, once dates are confirmed.

All genres are welcome. Performances should be no longer than 3minutes 30 seconds and should be submitted by sending to Miss Samuel-Beechey **by Friday 6th November**.

Please email Miss Samuel-Beechey if you are interested and would like to view the judging criteria – taylor.samuel-beechey@ickniel.d.oxon.sch.uk

Taylor Samuel-Beechey

Oxford Science + Ideas Festival

The Oxford Science + Ideas Festival runs from the 1st October to 31st October.

There are over 100 events on an online platform with suggestions for hands on activities at home. Events tackle big questions such as ‘Are humans responsible for natural disasters?’ and look at interesting science such as ‘the surprising science of chocolate’.

The virtual exhibition hall and auditorium has dozens of free hands on demonstrations and activities. Here on 17th October you can discover the smallest particles in the universe and tour the Oxford labs, that are trying to create a COVID-19 vaccine.

This can all be done from the comfort of home and most are free.

You can find the itinerary at www.if-oxford.com.

A must for all budding scientists.

Dr Ian Masters

An Introduction to Evidence-Based Medicine by Cochrane UK

Cochrane UK has developed a free resource for students: “An Introduction to Evidence-Based Medicine” which is a recorded presentation, available here:

<https://uk.cochrane.org/news/introduction-evidence-based-medicine>

Lasting just over 30 minutes, the video explores the below questions, and more:

- * What is Evidence-Based Medicine and why is it important when making decisions about our health?
- * How can we find out if a treatment is effective and safe?
- * Why is it important to look behind the headlines?

The content is aimed at students across years 10, 11, 12 and 13, hoping to study medical degrees at university. However, it will also be of interest more generally to anyone interested in learning about evidence and critical thinking; particularly, how to critically question health information and advice.

Science Oxford STEM insight Week

Science Oxford will be inspiring year 10 students with a week of thought-provoking insights into local STEM employers, to gain valuable awareness of STEM careers. The STEM Insight Week will run **online** during **October Half Term 26th-30th October 2020** due to the ongoing impact of COVID-19 and will be an exciting virtual experience.

The week is specifically aimed at providing a unique online experience for students in **Year 10 interested in careers in Biomedical sciences and engineering**, where students will virtually visit a number of companies including Abbott Diabetes Care, the Medical Research Council at Harwell, and Vertex.

To find out more and to apply, please use the link below. **Please note that students will need to apply by downloading the application form and the closing date for applications is 14 October.** https://scienceoxford.com/schools/secondary-schools/insight-weeks/?mc_cid=7b3ed505e8&mc_eid=322a8c16f6

Steph Sherwood



I am delighted to announce that Icknield will be once again participating in the annual Book Buzz organised and supported by the Book Trust. This marvellous charity works tirelessly to support reading for all children by subsidising the cost of purchasing books. You can read about their activities [here](#).

Despite the assistance from the Book Trust, there is a significant cost to the school so a warm thanks is due to Mr Hunter and the Leadership team for their support. It means that every Year 8 student will be given a book of their choice as a gift by way of recognising the months of missed time in school as year 7s. Students will be given the opportunity of choosing their book during library lessons. Delivery is expected during November – so an early Christmas present for every lucky child!

Many thanks once again to Mr Hunter and the Book Trust – and to Mrs Eales, our librarian, for organising this year's event.

Jacqui O'Reilly

Online Maths Revision Schedule

In addition to our after school and lunchtime sessions, we are offering Microsoft Teams sessions covering various aspects of the higher and foundation curriculum in maths. The topics have been chosen after extensive analysis of school and national performance in the AQA Maths GCSE in recent years and will target areas that students find difficult historically. Sessions are suitable for either foundation or higher (see below) but some are suitable for both and labelled as "crossover". If your child is interested in joining then please ask them to talk to, or email, their maths teacher or myself for an invite. The sessions this term are on Wednesdays at 4 pm and will run for approximately an hour.

Trudi Speare

Session	Suitability	Day/Time	Date
1. Averages	Foundation	Wednesday 4 pm	30 th September
2. Simplifying Surds	Higher	Wednesday 4 pm	7 th October
3. Comparing Quantities	F/H Crossover	Wednesday 4 pm	14 th October
4. Angles	Foundation	Wednesday 4 pm	4 th November
5. Tree Diagrams	F/H Crossover	Wednesday 4 pm	11 th November
6. Cone Mensuration	Higher	Wednesday 4 pm	18 th November

Maths Problem of the Week

The 4th Maths Problem of the Week and the solution to Problem 3 are attached.

Nick Owen

Special choir rehearsal – 8 October

This week's choir rehearsal will be a special one, taking place from 3.15pm until 5.15pm. The first hour will be sectionals and the second hour will be a full, socially distanced rehearsal in the main hall. We will meet in room 40 at 3.15pm. Please spend a little time before Thursday practising with this rehearsal track. We're looking forward to another great session! It's going to be a long one, so bring snacks and a drink.

Robert Legg and Amy de Sybel

History GCSE 2021

Edexcel have recently released more detailed guidance about the arrangements for the 2021 History papers, and we are now able to confirm that our students will be examined on three units. These units will be: Anglo-Saxon & Norman England; Weimar & Nazi Germany; Medicine in Britain *and* The British sector of the Western Front.

The History mock exams in December will cover just Weimar & Nazi Germany, and Medicine in Britain.

Jen Hicks

GCSE PE (Year 11 ONLY - this note is also in PE news)

While the students have been informed of the following information, we wanted to make parents aware of some recent changes too. This year, GCSE PE students will only be assessed in 2 practical sports – this is dropping down from 3. We have still not been advised on the difference this makes to the weighting of the practical side of the course.

In addition, we have been told that there will be a change in the filming criteria. However, no specific details have been released as to what this will entail. We advise anyone who is still able to play their sport outside of school to get footage while they can. Any questions about the filming criteria can be sent to any member of the PE team.

Lastly, the Year 11s have been working on their coursework over the last few weeks, and their first deadline approaches. Part 1, where they analyse their 2 strengths and 2 weaknesses, is due on Friday 16th October. This needs to be either uploaded onto the Coursework OneNote, or emailed to Mr Mures (matt.mures@icknield.oxon.sch.uk). We would appreciate parental support in ensuring this is submitted on time.

Duke of Edinburgh

Congratulations to the following students who continue to work toward their Duke of Edinburgh award by completing their volunteering, physical and skill sections! Congratulations to Louis B (Physical), Letty C (Skill), Alfie C (Physical), Jack D (Physical), Isabella D (Volunteering, Physical), Daniel E (Physical), Ella G (Physical), Phoebe Y (Skill), Max M (Physical, Skill), Ruby B (Volunteering, Physical), Ellen W (Volunteering), Johanna W (Volunteering).

A massive congratulations to the following students who have now completed all 3 sections and will be awarded with their certificate of achievement! This will be emailed to you from the DofE award so do check your junk folder. Congratulations to Louis B, Alfie C, Jack D, Daniel E, Ella G who have all now earned their certificates! We are planning to print these out to present to you after half term so plenty of time to get your assessors' reports in!

Katie Scane

Letters to Parents/Carers

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

Critical Worker Survey September 2020 – All year groups

NHS Covid-19 App – Year 11

Parents' Evening Group A 15 October 2020 – Year 11

Parents' Evening Group B 15 October 2020 – 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

Watlington Nature Festival

Watlington Nature Festival, which is organised by the Watlington Climate Action Group are running a number of events throughout October . All are outdoor events for which places need to be booked in advance and are of course Covid compliant.

Walks around Watlington all guided by experts

1. Kim, an archeologist, will talk about the chalk pit but also about the Watlington Viking Hoard found 5 years ago - 45 mins and **highly suitable for families - free**
2. Nature walk exploring birdlife and wildlife - £3 per participant
3. The Christmas Common loop - free

Well Being Workshop for teenagers and young adults in the Paddock (Watlington) - 1 hour - free - an event run by Frances Ackland-Snow who is a trained psychotherapist and art teacher

Additionally, we have a unique opportunity for a couple of students to help with two guided walks that will take place on Saturday 17th October in the Chalk Pits on Watlington Hill at 1:30pm and 2:30pm. The walks are identical and will focus on the Watlington Viking Hoard and on the Chalk Pits therefore combining local history and nature.

The event will be run by Kim Biddulph, an archaeologist, who does a lot of work with schools and museums and her approach to the walks will be very family oriented. Kim is DBS checked and this means that the volunteers will be dropped off and won't need parental supervision whilst helping during the event (although will need parental permission to take part). The walks will attract up to 15 people each and it would be desirable if the volunteers have an interest in archaeology and /or history but equally someone with great enthusiasm for nature and people would be very welcome. Given the nature of the event, it would be best for the students to be in year 11. Anyone interested can email Sophie Nelson at watlingtonnaturefestival@gmail.com.

These walks have been organised by the Chilterns Conservation Board in association with the Watlington Climate Action Group and are therefore highly praised for their quality. For more details please visit <https://www.visitchilterns.co.uk/walkingfest/event-details/738/viking-silver-and-chilterns-chalk-1101>

Please see the attached posters for more information.
Many Thanks.

Sophie Nelson