



## Newsletter – 22 October 2021

Date	Event
1 Nov'21	Inset Day
2 Nov'21	School Resumes - "B" Week
15 Nov'21	Subject Focus Day
1 -17 Dec'21	Year 11 Exams
9 Dec'21	Year 9 Parents Evening
17 Dec'21	End of Term (Non-School Uniform Day)
20 Dec'21 – 3 Jan'22	Christmas Holiday
4 Jan'22	Inset Day
5 Jan'22	School Resumes "A" Week

### Vaccinations

I was very pleased to discover, this week, that the percentage of 12-15 year olds vaccinated for COVID at ICC is more than double that of the percentage across Oxfordshire. As I said in last week's newsletter, I hope this brings us some school herd immunity after the half term break.

### Remote Learning for Students with COVID

I would really like to ask for empathy and understanding here. As parents, you were overwhelmingly supportive of our remote provision during the lockdown in the earlier part of this year, not least for the fact that our students received almost 25 hours (other than core PE, etc) of high quality learning via Teams each week.

During this time, staff were teaching in front of their laptop, focusing exclusively on students who had joined their call. This was not an easy task, a brand new challenge for the teaching profession, yet one to which I think ICC colleagues rose admirably.

At the latter part of last year, when we had a small number of COVID cases, we still had transition points between every lesson which meant that staff were able to "hook" students in to Teams calls before students arrived to their "real" rather than "virtual" classrooms.

As you will know, there have been a higher number of COVID cases this term, and staff are regularly emailed to inform them when students have received a positive PCR test. Please bear in mind, in the first instance, that, when staff are teaching all day, they don't always get a chance to read their emails until the end of the school day. This means that they aren't able to invite students to calls until, at least, the next day. They no longer have transition points which means that they have no time between lessons to call students to calls – their focus is on dismissing 30 children and welcoming 30 more children into their next lesson (this requires a certain level of skill and attention several times a day!). This will, inevitably, sometimes result in staff calling students a little later to join their lessons.

Staff are also now, rightly, circulating around their rooms, to help students in their classes, as well as diagnosing what they can and can't do. They are no longer sitting at their desks talking into their laptops. Inevitably, this results in issues with sound quality, etc, for the child who has joined the Teams call at home.

Whilst we are doing our very best to provide remote learning to students who have COVID and, most unfortunately, have to stay at home, please be mindful that they are usually 1 child out of 30 and the other 29 really do require the majority of the teacher's attention!!

### Attitude to Learning Information

Information has been sent out to parents of students in Year 10 (on Monday) and Year 7 (today). Please do check your junk/spam folders if you haven't received this as it can, occasionally, find itself there!

## **Year 11 Personalised Revision Guidance**

As parents, you should also have received personalised revision guidance for your child leading up to the Year 11 Mock Exams in December. This is also emailed to all Year 11 students directly. Again, please do check your junk/spam folders for this if you are yet to see it.

Revision Guidance 1 came out on Friday 8 October, with 2 and 3 coming out on Friday 15 October and today respectively. Your child will know that they will get their 4<sup>th</sup> set of revision on Friday 29 October during half term. Please do make sure that they are looking out for this one too!

I hope you all have a restful and enjoyable half term.

**Mat Hunter**  
**Headteacher**

## **Performance of 'Macbeth' – a KS4 Set Text**

A brand-new production of Shakespeare's Macbeth is currently being formed at the Almeida Theatre, London. We did try to get tickets and organise a trip for Year 10 and 11 students, but unfortunately the performance sold out within minutes. However, I was informed this week that there will be a few live-streamed performances for you to watch from the comfort of your own home and I would encourage as many Year 10 and Year 11 students to watch it if they can.

The live-streamed performances are being shown between 27<sup>th</sup> to 30<sup>th</sup> October and you can purchase tickets for just £15.

Not only would this make excellent revision for one of the GCSE set texts, it is always brilliant seeing a live performance of Shakespeare. This production, in particular, has been met with rave reviews and I am looking forward to seeing it during half term.

For more information, and to book tickets, please visit the Almeida Website ([here](#))

**Chris McGinnity**

## **Year 11 Language Conference**

Last week, I wrote to provide information about an exciting opportunity for Year 11 students to take part in an English Language A-Level conference and I'd like to encourage anyone who is interested in studying English Language as an A-Level to sign up in advance using [this link](#).

As a reminder, the conference will cover fascinating topics such as:

- How our language creates our identity
- Why does language matter in news reporting?
- How can language help catch criminals? Exploring the intriguing world of forensic linguistics.

Please encourage Year 11 students to speak to their English teacher if they want more information.

**Chris McGinnity**

## **Year 8 Subject Focus Day: Madame Tussaud's Trip**

Last week, a letter was sent via ParentMail to all Year 8 students informing them of our plans for Subject Focus Day (November 15<sup>th</sup>). We will be visiting Madame Tussaud's in London for an English/Media and Languages day exploring celebrity culture and news.

Please can all year 8s sign up to the trip and make payment as soon as possible to assist me with planning for the day.

Signed consent forms **and** payment needs to be with us by Monday 1<sup>st</sup> November.

If you have any questions, please do let me know.

**Chris McGinnity**

## Half term opportunity to meet Alice in Wonderland!



Amal Meets Alice is part of 'The Walk', produced by Good Chance, Stephen Daltry, David Lan and Tracey Seaward in association with Handspring Puppet Company. Presented in Oxford by The Story Museum and partners.  
Read the story of Amal Meets Alice by Nadine Kaadan online at [www.storymuseum.org.uk/amal](http://www.storymuseum.org.uk/amal)

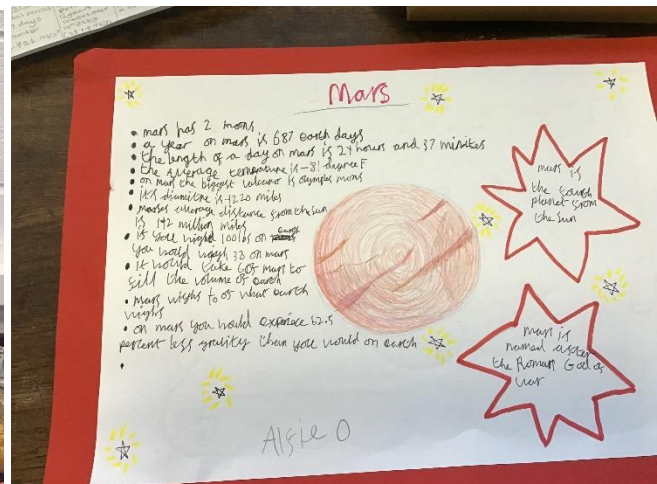
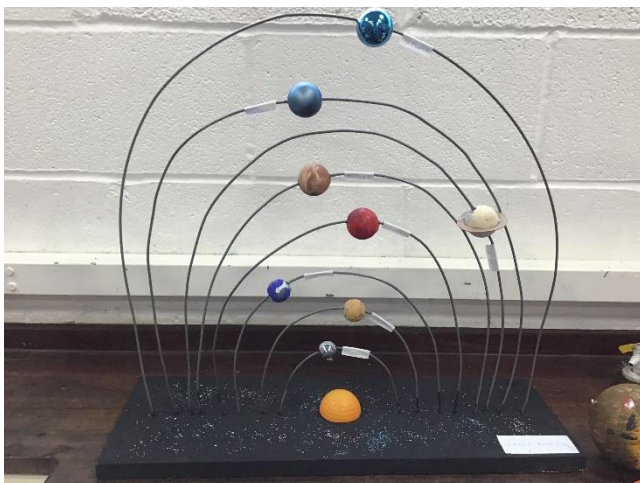
As you may have heard in the news, Little Amal, the giant puppet of a young refugee girl, is coming to Oxford to meet Alice of *Alice in Wonderland* fame. Representing all displaced children, Little Amal is travelling over 8,000km across Europe from the Syria-Turkey border to Manchester on an epic journey entitled *The Walk*.

Hosted by the **Story Museum of Oxford**, Alice and Amal will be processing through Oxford on **Tuesday 26<sup>th</sup> October**. Starting in Oxford's Botanic Garden and ending in Christ Church Meadows, this will be a wonderful opportunity to discover more about Amal, the plight of displaced children and explore Alice's connection with Oxford. To find out more, click [here](#)

## Science – Solar system

This week 7CT have been learning about the solar system and the movement of the planets. Please see 3 examples of the excellent homeworks created by our budding scientists. Some students created travel brochures or presentations and some students made 3D models of all the planets in the solar system. Very creative!

Katie Scane





### **Maths Problem of the Week**

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

**Nick Owen**

### **Music Ambassadors**

It was wonderful to get so many applications for our new leadership programme, Music Ambassadors. We were delighted to read your many ideas for how to contribute to Music at Icknield. I am pleased to announce that the following students have been selected:

#### **Year 11**

Ella Mathews  
Tyler Chivers

#### **Year 10**

Rosie Molloy  
Zac Nethersole  
Ana Cokanasiga  
Harry Nicholson  
Joseph Ramskill  
Charles Reid

#### **Year 9**

Noah Clarke  
Hudson Dalton  
Skye Lily Scott  
Holly Chorley

#### **Year 8**

Connie Goscombe  
Fearne Fraser  
Daisy Bowler  
Mo Horsley  
Matthew Driver  
Jack Kromer-Brown  
Joss Madle  
Alice Masters

#### **Year 7**

Leo Bonnet  
Honor White  
Ziah Jay  
Andre Nayacakalou

Please do come and see me if you would like feedback, and please remember that all students are welcome to join choir, djembe club, keyboard club or band.

**Amy de Sybel**

### **Fancy a different viewing experience?**

Have you exhausted your English speaking series and film viewing and are searching for something different to watch with the family? Why not dip into the Spanish and French offerings on our most-frequented digital platforms and enjoy an alternative viewing experience?! Are you a family of Bake Off aficionados? Why not tap into 'C'est du gâteau' or the Spanish version, 'Nailed It! Spain'?

Or, for a gripping crime series, 'Lupin' comes highly recommended. Based on the early 20th century novels of Maurice LeBlanc, who created fictional thief and master of disguise Arsène Lupin, it stars Omar Sy, who is compelling in the title role and bound to draw you in for the second series!

It is, of course, sensible to check out certificates for all shows, before watching as a family but please do let us know what you find so we can spread the word.

We'd love to know which new words and phrases family members have learned over the holiday!

**Alex Hunter**

## **Earphones Plea!**

At the beginning of the year and a few weeks ago, we reminded parents and carers that it would be beneficial for students to have their own earphones for independent listening work – this is particularly useful in Languages and Music lessons where this sort of work is routine but can, of course, apply across the curriculum. Earphones are available through the Finance Office at £4 per pair.

**Alex Hunter**

## **PE News**

In this week's PE News, read about:

- An update on our **October 2022 Sports Tour**
- A big term for **club participation!**
- Next half term's **Club Timetable**
- A big win for our **Y7 Rugby** team
- A final league fixture for our **Y8 Rugby boys**
- The **Y9 Boys** in their **rugby** tie against Chiltern Edge
- A dominating performance from the **Y11 Rugby** team
- A reminder of **fixtures for the first week back**

**Matt Mures**

## **CareersNews**

Firstly, a reminder to **Y10** students to spend some of the half term looking for a Work Experience opportunity. Your deadline to find a placement is Monday 15 November. Thank you to those of you who have already submitted your placement forms.

This week's CareersNews has a fantastic opportunity for students aged 12-21 to apply to join the Oxfordshire Youth Board which is designed to 'Improve Health & Wellbeing Services for Young People'. This is a great opportunity for students to share their ideas and help design Mental Health & Wellbeing events of the future. If you are interested in working for the NHS or following a career pathway towards supporting people with Mental Health concerns, joining the Youth Board would give you a fabulous insight into how the local Health Service support this and would look great on your CV! See the attached poster and read more in this week's CareersNews.

**Helen Richardson**