



# Icknield Community College

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



## Newsletter – 25 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
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

### Public Health England Letter

I hope you all received the letter from PHE which was distributed via Parentmail on Thursday morning. Please do try to find 5 minutes to read this over the weekend if you haven't done so already.

### Social Distancing

Whilst we are constantly reinforcing this message in school, please could I ask you to reiterate with your child that they should be keeping a distance of 2m from all staff in school and students in other year groups who are not in their bubbles. Thank you in anticipation for your support here in emphasising the importance of this control.

### Class of 2021

It was great to speak to our current Year 11 students this week on Monday morning about their year ahead and the importance of being organised and prepared for whatever comes their way.

From Monday 5 October, we will be issuing students with weekly personalised revision programmes in the run up to their all important mock exams which take place from Monday 7 December – only 10 weeks away. We hope you, as parents of Year 11, find these as helpful as we know your children will.

As per Adam Rickard's entry in this newsletter, Y11 Revision Classes have now started both at lunchtimes and after school. We have arranged for Year 11 students, who are attending lunchtime revisions classes, to be able to order and pay for their lunch at breaktime. Lunches will be delivered to the classrooms where the revision sessions are taking place. This will be explained to students on Monday morning. Please do encourage your child to attend as many revision sessions as possible.

**Mat Hunter**  
Headteacher

### Icknield Community College – Virtual Open Evening

This year, Icknield Community College will be opening its door to prospective students and parents in a slightly different way. Our Open Evening will be a virtual one, taking place on our website – <https://www.icknield.oxon.sch.uk/> – from 6pm to 8pm on Wednesday 30 September. Visitors will be welcomed by Mat Hunter and will learn about life at Icknield through short talks from senior students and subject leaders. There will also be a chance to ask questions to staff members and to see some of the ways students work at our school. Please share this invitation with anyone who might be considering joining Icknield, and put the date in your diary – we're looking forward to welcoming you!

**Robert Legg**

## **NHS Test and Trace**

As you will have no doubt seen in the media, the Government have now made it law from 28<sup>th</sup> September that individuals must follow instructions given by NHS Test and Trace, for example to self-isolate. People must be willing to:

- Book a test if they or their child are displaying one or more of the three coronavirus symptoms
- Provide details of anyone they or their child have been in close contact with if they happen to test positive for coronavirus (if the child has been in school, we too will engage in this process)
- Self-isolate if they have been in close contact with anyone who has tested positive for coronavirus or if anyone in their household is symptomatic

It is also a requirement that you inform the school at your earliest convenience if your child, or someone in the household, becomes symptomatic as this means that your child cannot come to school. Furthermore, it is then necessary to let us know the outcome of the coronavirus test. If the test result is negative and your child is no longer presenting with coronavirus symptoms, they can then return to school.

Please also be aware that, in working alongside Public Health England, in the event of a positive test within our wider school community, we may be required to send some students home to self-isolate for up to 14 days. If this is the case, the other members of their households will not need to self-isolate as well unless your child too becomes symptomatic (at which point they should seek to obtain a test. In this scenario, even if this test was negative, they would need to complete their 14-day isolation period as they could still develop symptoms from their original close contact with the positive case). We fully appreciate that the guidance and rules are becoming increasingly complex; should you have any questions over a health situation related to coronavirus attendance, please do contact the school by phone or email and someone will get back to you as soon as it is convenient.

**James Barringer**

## **Year 11 Parents' Evening – Thursday 15<sup>th</sup> October 2020**

Having evaluated the risks involved in hosting the Parents' Evening for our Year 11 students on the evening of 15<sup>th</sup> October, we have concluded that it is appropriate that this should be done remotely rather than parents and students attending the school. From your previous experiences of parents' evenings, I am sure you will agree that navigating eight or more individual, five-minute meetings with teachers will be prohibitive to maintaining social distancing guidance. Alternatively, we will carry out each of those individual meetings with your child's teachers by a scheduled call. Details about the booking system, which will be organised through parentmail, will be shared with you early next week.

**James Barringer**

## **Whiteboard pens**

Teachers and students have been making great use of the whiteboards and pens that we have gifted to each student at the beginning of the academic year. We are aware that whiteboard pens do ultimately run out so each student will be issued with a replacement pen at the beginning of each half term; the first replacement will, therefore, be given at the beginning of November. If your child wanted to buy a replacement in the meantime, they are available in many shops or on Amazon. [Here](#) is a link to the cheapest option I could find on Amazon. If your child loses or damages their whiteboard, they should inform their tutor who will help them to get a replacement.

**James Barringer**

## **Critical worker survey**

To prepare for the possibility of partial school closure in 2020-21, the school needs to be aware of any parent that is classified as a critical worker. Next week, we will share a critical worker survey with all parents. Please can I ask that this is completed so that we have accurate information to plan provision.

**James Barringer**

## **Year 7 and Year 10 Information Evenings**

In October, we will be running online, remote information evenings for parents and students in Year 7 and Year 10. Whilst we have provisional plans in place for these, if any Year 7 or Year 10 have specific questions that they would like to be answered in these presentations, please can these be emailed to me at [jamesbarringer@icknield.oxon.sch.uk](mailto:jamesbarringer@icknield.oxon.sch.uk) by Friday 2<sup>nd</sup> October; I will build the responses into the presentation so that all parents can benefit from them.

**James Barringer**

### **Year 7 Half Term 1 Tutor Update**

On Tuesday 3<sup>rd</sup> November, we will hold a Year 7 Tutor Update evening in which Year 7 Tutors will have individual conversations with the parents of each of their tutees to provide an update on how they have settled in during their first half term. Whilst ordinarily, this would take place on the school site, we have evaluated the risks and decided that it is appropriate that these meetings should take place by phone or in on online video call. Year 7 parents met with tutors on 3<sup>rd</sup> September in person so we feel that the priority in this case should be to reduce to reduce the risk of transmission. We will be communicating with Year 7 parents in October inviting them to book appointments; this will be done through Parentmail.

**James Barringer**

### **Face Masks**

Many students come to school by school transport and should have a face mask with them that they can wear and store safely. Please can we ask that all students get used to having a face mask in school in case we need to evacuate school in the case of a fire drill. Although students move around school in a way that means they are kept separate from other students outside their bubble, in the case of a fire drill, they need to exit the building by the nearest exit which may mean that they cross other students from outside their bubble in the corridor. Your help in this would be very much appreciated.

**Luisa Howden**

### **Extra-Curricular Clubs**

We have been working hard behind the scenes to prepare a selection of extra-curricular clubs for students across year groups, and these will be commencing from next week. As I am sure you understand, we have needed to ensure that these clubs work within our wider systems of year group bubbles, but we do feel strongly that we should be offering these opportunities to students and that we are a school who are providing clubs at lunchtime and after school. I therefore share our *Clubs Booklet* today, and this will also be found here:

<https://www.icknield.oxon.sch.uk/student-information/school-clubs>

As always, our clubs offering will change as the year continues, as some of our clubs will be seasonal or based around external events. With the current restrictions out there in the wider world, we are continuing to review all of the available information and I will update you through the newsletter regarding any changes to our *Cubs Booklet* as and when they occur.

Finally, one of our extra-curricular opportunities is our popular choir; there are some very specific guidelines that the Music Department are having to follow in order to make this happen within the rules, and they will be in touch with students to let them know how this is going to work: please, therefore, see Amy De Sybel's item in this newsletter.

**Matt Ford**

### **Locker Keys for Return**

There are still a large number of locker keys yet to be returned. Students will have until Friday the 2<sup>nd</sup> October to return them to the Finance Office to receive their deposit. After this date, the deposit will be retained in order to pay for replacement keys. Please do remind your children to return them as soon as possible.

**Charlotte Gibson**

### **Year 11 Revision Class Timetable**

Year 11 Revision classes started this week. Thank you to all students who have already begun attending the revision sessions. All Year 11s have been emailed their own copy of the timetable and it can be found attached to this week's newsletter. I strongly encourage all year 11s to take advantage of the many revision opportunities happening both during lunchtimes and afterschool with immediate effect.

**Adam Rickard**

### **Choir**

We're looking forward to re-starting the school choir and have ambitious plans for the coming year, including something magical for Christmas... Rehearsals will be a little bit different this term because of the coronavirus controls, and the numbers of singers from each year group will be limited.

If you're in Years 8 to 11, please email Amy de Sybel ([amy.desybel@ickniel.d.oxon.sch.uk](mailto:amy.desybel@ickniel.d.oxon.sch.uk)) with your name and Tutor Group by **Monday 28 September** to express your interest in joining the choir.

**Interested Year 7 students** should come to the music room (Room 40) at **1.20pm on Monday 28 September** to learn more about the opportunity and to sign up. Once we have a list of singers, we'll make contact again with the rehearsal schedule, key dates and more information about how rehearsals will work.

**Amy de Sybel and Robert Legg**

### **3D Design**

Students and parents - If (like me) you are interested in cars and engineering you may be keen to hear about a recent news story involving the Aston Martin 'Bulldog'. Click the link [here](#) for more information.

**Barry Kelly**

### **Y11 GCSE Geography Curriculum Changes**

Our GCSE Geography exam board, AQA, have confirmed changes to final assessment for students sitting exams in 2021:

1. Fieldwork experiences are not required.
2. There will be no questions about students' own fieldwork experiences in the exam.
3. Unfamiliar fieldwork questions remain, worth 16 marks in Paper 3.
4. Paper 3 will be a shorter paper (length to be confirmed).

Rest assured that the Geography Department is already planning how to deliver the curriculum to meet these changing requirements.

**Daniel Moden**

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

The third Maths Problem of the Week and the solution to Problem 2 are attached.

**Nick Owen**

### **Attention Parents of Y10 Students**

As you may be aware, for the past two years, we have planned a week's Work Experience for our Y10 students. Sadly, due to Covid, we had to pull our current Y11 students' placements that were due to go out in April of this year. We are now considering our options for our current Y10 cohort and are keen to ensure that they manage to have some experience in the workplace. From research, we understand that it is highly unlikely our current WE placements will be able to host students again. Therefore, we are considering a 'Work Shadowing' experience and are hopeful that, as parents and carers, you may be able to take your son/daughter to work for a shorter period of time. As yet, we have no fixed date but will be looking at Term 5 post the Easter break. We fully respect and appreciate that your own personal work circumstances may have changed over the past 6 months and would, therefore, like to gauge how possible this would be for our students. Please could you take a minute to complete the attached questionnaire so that we can begin to paint a picture of how this might work. If you are now home based as opposed to office based and think that you could still facilitate this we would be happy for your son/daughter to shadow the way you are now working from home, understanding Microsoft Teams/Zoom meetings, projects worked on from home, phone-calls and emails. I look forward to your responses and support.

<https://forms.office.com/Pages/ResponsePage.aspx?id=sPQtwqfD7UqluLpW4XyUZEC0sfZQ1c5JrMZ3I5z8D7VUMVUzM1pMRkNIQ0ZIS1pHTTZKWE4xWkq0TS4u>

**Helen Richardson**

### **Letters to Parents/Carers**

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

Food & Nutrition Practical Lesson Letter – Selected Students Year 7, 8 & 9  
Flu Immunisation Letter – Year 7

These letters can also be accessed on the school website:

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