



Newsletter – 29 April 2022

Date	Event
2 May	Bank Holiday
3 May	School Resumes – “A” Week
5 May	Year 8 Parents Evening
19 May	New Parents Information Evening
27 May	End of Term (non-uniform day)
20 May – 3 June	Half Term Holiday
6 June	School Resumes

Welcome Back to the Summer Term

I hope you all managed to have some downtime and enjoyable holidays this Easter and that you are, like us, looking forward to the summer term.

The summer term is always an enjoyable one with the promise of improved weather, being able to spend more time outside, sports days, you name it!

Of course, our Year 11 students will be working incredibly hard to do their very best in their GCSE exams – some practical exams, Food and Nutrition, for example, have already taken place, and French and Spanish Speaking Exams take place next week. We wish all of our students the very best of luck for their written exams which, other than Health and Social Care, which takes place on the 11th May, begin on Monday 16th May. On that note, please see two important announcements about the exam season from Matt Ford, Deputy Headteacher, below.

Mat Hunter Headteacher

Exam Season: Pre-exam Revision Sessions

Parents of Year 11 students will no doubt be aware (!) that the exam season is nearly upon us. Starting on Wednesday 11 May (and with half-term in the middle) there will be five weeks of examinations for our students; you can view the timetable here:

<https://www.icknield.oxon.sch.uk/attachments/article/109/ICC%20Summer%20timetable%202022.pdf>

We work hard to ensure that our students have all of the support that they need in advance of the exams, and this leads me to give you information today about the *Year 11 Revision Sessions* that run during the 2022 exam season. These sessions take three forms:

- Pre-exam breakfasts (held in the canteen from 7.30 on the day of all morning exams)
- Sessions that happen during the school day (they replace students' timetabled lessons for that particular time slot)
- After school sessions (these replace the revision sessions that have run throughout the year so far)

We have carefully timetabled these sessions so that they take place as near to the relevant exam as possible so, for example, there might be a couple of hours of revision in the morning for an exam that takes place in the afternoon of that day. Sessions are organised by subject leaders and often (but not always) timetable students to be with their regular subject teachers (sometimes larger, whole year group or carousel based sessions might take place instead).

The attached information will also be emailed to Year 11 students shortly (many thanks to the parent who requested a *Word* version as well as the PDF, so that students and parents could personalise their versions to highlight only the relevant sessions for them: you know who you are!)

Matt Ford

Travel arrangements during exams period

We have received the following communication from *Allyson Milward*, Head of Access to Learning at Oxfordshire County Council:

Unfortunately, Covid continues to have an impact on driver shortages within the taxi and coach/bus industry. Transport providers have been operating as best they can but most have experienced difficulties in covering school routes which has unfortunately meant home to school transport services have not been as reliable this academic year.

With the May/June examination period fast approaching, this communication is to suggest that as a school, you may wish to make parents/carers aware of the difficulties mentioned above. Parent/carers may wish to make alternative arrangements as a back up to guarantee that their young person arrives at school on time on the days they need to attend exams.

As GCSEs are external examinations (ie, they are run under rules set out by the national *Joint Council for Qualifications* and not the school), we have only limited options available to us on the occasion of a student / students arriving late to the start of the exam; while we will of course do everything we can if those circumstances arise to support any such student, your awareness of the council's message and, if you able to facilitate it, having your own 'Plan B' in place in case of transport disruption, would certainly be advisable.

Matt Ford

Slapton Ley, Geography Fieldtrip

After a three year Covid-induced hiatus, Icknield's Geography Department embarked on another residential fieldtrip to a traditional favourite location, Slapton Ley.

From 1-4th April, students were involved in a range of fieldwork activities taking in Devon's diverse environments and beautiful landscapes. The first of the two big, whole-day studies was an examination of how the River Lemon changes as it flows downstream. We started up at the source in Dartmoor, near the iconic granite outcrops of Haytor, then worked our way downstream, taking measurements all the way. The data collected by the students was 'textbook', showing all the changes you'd expect as a river makes it way from highland to lowland areas. The second whole-day study was a comparison of two regeneration schemes in Plymouth. Blessed with good weather, we enjoyed a good day completing a range of surveys and just taking in the sights of the city. A major focus of the day for many students was exploring what food options were on offer. On the final day, we had a few spots of rain, the first of the whole weekend, but it didn't stop us going down to the beach for some sediment studies and stone skimming. Aside from all the fieldwork, students had downtime at the centre, opportunities for evening bat walks and copious amounts of food served for breakfast and dinner. The trip was a great success and we're already booked in for next year.

Dan Moden





Readathon 2022 – UPDATE!

A HUGE thank you to all of you who have supported your children in this year's Readathon. We have managed to raise an astonishing **£1012.50**, an outstanding amount. Thank you so much. This is a significant donation for a very worthwhile cause and incidentally means that the library will have around £200 to spend with Scholastic. THANK YOU!

Jacqui O'Reilly

Maths Problem of the Week

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

Nick Owen

DofE

Congratulations to Rosie M (physical), Georgie W-S (skill), Willow K-L (physical), Hannah D (physical), Hannah A (volunteering) Ewan G (skill), Natalie F (physical) and Bebe M (physical), who have submitted assessors' reports over the Easter holidays or during the first week of term! Please do add your assessors' reports as you finish your sections. Please ask if you need any help in adding your assessors' reports.

On Thursday, we welcomed our current year 10 Bronze participants and parents to school for more information about the expeditions. The information PowerPoint is attached, there is more information in the notes section of each slide. The suggested kit list is added as a guide. The practice expedition will take place on Saturday 21st May. There is one more after school training session to allow students time to prepare on Tuesday 17th May from 3-4:15pm. In this session, we will distribute tents and stoves.

Katie Scane

PE News

In this week's PE News:

- News of some incredible **Hockey** achievements for two **Year 7s**
- A review on our **Extra-Curricular clubs**, as well as this terms **Club Timetable**
- The **PE Lesson Activity Timetable** for each year group for up until the end of term
- Introduction to the new **Play your way to Wimbledon** tennis competition
- **Result** from the **Y10 Netball fixture**
- The **upcoming fixtures** for next week

Matt Mures

Y10 Work Experience - The countdown is on!

All the months of planning are coming to a head – Year 10 students will be going out on Work Experience from Monday 9 – Friday 13 May. All Parents/Carers should have received a letter by now confirming all the details of the work placement your child will be attending. Should you have any questions, please do get in touch next week as I will be out of office the following week visiting all of the students (or as many as I can!) Please remember if your child is not well enough to attend their placement, you MUST call the placement and let them know and then call school and let us know. All of our students will be given a Work Experience Log to complete during their placement. Please could you gently remind students to take this with them every day.

We have had a few students who have already completed their Work Experience. Congratulations to Alex Ingram who had a fabulous week during the Easter Holidays at Williams F1 and this week to Joel Brand, Aimee Lewis-Costello, Samantha De Ocera, Sophie Lewin and Billy Bowerman who have enjoyed a week at The Oxford Playhouse.

We wish all of students an exciting week and look forward to hearing all of their news when they are back in school.

Helen Richardson

Alex Ingram looking the part at Williams F1



Joel, Sophie, Sam, Aimee and Billy working hard on their project at The Oxford Playhouse



CareersNews

Please find attached to this week's Newsletter our CareersNews. I would like to draw your attention to an apprenticeship opportunity for a Year 11 student who is interested in having an apprenticeship within the Business Sector. DAF Trucks have a fantastic opportunity for a student to start an apprenticeship with them early July, based at their Haddenham offices. The successful candidate will enjoy an 18 month apprenticeship programme working within their Financial Asset Management Department. Please click on the link within the newsletter to learn more and to apply.

Helen Richardson

Acer Trust – Vacancy for Deputy Communications Team Manager at Matthew Arnold School, Oxford.

Please visit our website [Icknield Community College - Vacancies](#) for full details.

COMMUNITY NEWS

Watlington Parish Council Youth Club Survey

As part of our review of facilities at the Recreation Area, we are looking at attendance at Youth Club and what could help attract a higher attendance and also meet the needs of the young people attending. Please find a link below to our Youth Club Survey.

<https://www.surveymonkey.co.uk/r/5JSBMV3>

Rachel Gill

Assistant Clerk to Watlington Parish Council

Small-Group Online Maths Tuition

Looking for additional support with maths? Look no further! Great quality, well-structured Zoom Maths Tuition.

-Key Stage 3: Sessions held at 6pm or 7pm each Thursday

-GCSE Foundation Tier: Tuesday at 4.45pm or 7pm or Saturday at 10.30am

GCSE Higher Tier: Wednesday at 4.45pm or Saturday at 9.30am or 11.30am

Walking Talking Mock 2 hour course

We will be offering students the chance to sit a walking talking mock for each paper (non calculator and 2 non calculator), which should mirror the topics that will feature on the real exam.

Students will work through the exam question by question in test conditions, before the tutor talks them through a model answer. After the session they will also receive a list of topics they should brush up on before the real exam, with optional additional resources if they require this.

The first session for the non calculator paper will take place **on Sunday 15th May**, at the following times:

Foundation Tier 10-12.30pm or Higher Tier 1-3pm

This is a personal business and has no affiliation with Icknield Community College.

Adrian Thomas