



Newsletter – 3 December 2021

Date	Event
6 Dec'21	"A" Week
1 -17 Dec'21	Year 11 Exams
9 Dec'21	Year 9 Parents' Evening
17 Dec'21	End of Term (Non-School Uniform Day) – 1.00pm finish
20 Dec'21 – 3 Jan'22	Christmas Holiday
4 Jan'22	Inset Day
5 Jan'22	LFD Covid Testing Day – All Years by Appointment (No School Transport)
6 Jan'22	School Resumes "A" Week

Good luck, Year 11!

Very best of luck to Year 11 students who will be starting their two week Mock Exam window on Monday. As per recent communications from Matt Ford (including the one below), it is really important that students do their very best in these exams just in case they need to be used, as they were last year, as part of an evidence base in the summer should external exams be affected, again, by the pandemic.

Success Stories

Whilst I have not been in school over the past couple of weeks, whilst my family and I have all had COVID, it has been great to hear about lots of good news stories from a distance! Please read about many of them in today's newsletter. I was delighted to hear, in particular, about the significant number of students who auditioned for next year's school production. I understand that we have a cast of 87! Wow! Please see the note from Adam Rowe below...

Matilda Auditions

Following an extremely impressive set of auditions, this week we held a fantastically fun first rehearsal for this year's show, *Matilda*. Everyone seemed to be having a great time (including the staff) as you can tell in the photo. Keep checking the newsletter for further updates from our rehearsals.

Adam Rowe



Year 11 Exams

Having already completed some MFL exams as well as practicals in Art and Food & Nutrition, next week sees the start of the main body of exams taking place. These exams will run up to Thursday 16 December and mark an important point for students, as they prepare to enter the final stretch of their GCSE courses next spring. As I wrote in a letter to parents of Year 11 students last week, this year, these exams take on added significance; if I may take an excerpt from that letter:

'The government intends for exams to take place next summer. But if they cannot go ahead safely or fairly due to the pandemic, contingency arrangements will be in place to ensure that schools and colleges are well prepared to enable students to achieve their qualifications...Following a consultation, Ofqual have confirmed students would receive grades based on a range of their work, similar to that of the summer of 2021...It will also, of course, therefore be important that students are able to be in school to sit these exams, so we strongly advise that they take all steps to avoid being in a position where they are having to isolate from school'

You will see from this that there are contingency plans in place, both at national and school level, should they be required, and we continue to work to ensure that we are putting in place procedures to fully support all of our students. Your support in ensuring that Year 11 students are in school for the exams (unless there are unavoidable reasons of course) is therefore much appreciated.

Students have now received their personalised exams timetables with details of each of the exams that they will be attending, as well as the location of that exam and the seat number they will be occupying. I have also shared with them the attached Exams Briefing and this has also been shared through tutors. Please do take a look at this document, as there are a few new regulations for students to be aware of that have been decided on by *The Joint Council for Qualifications* (JCQ) with one such change that I would bring to your attention being the prohibiting of *all* watches in the examination room. I also share the main timetable again for your reference.

Matt Ford

Year 10 Assessments: Monday 10 January to Friday 14 January

The start of term three sees Year 10 students get their first experience of sitting a number of assessments within the window of one school week. It shows them what it is like to prepare for, complete and then receive feedback on their work at a GCSE level, and this feedback then gives them some areas for development, as they move into the next phase of their learning. We provide a supportive environment for students to complete these assessments, and, with that in mind, we put in place a number of measures to create that encouraging atmosphere: a timetable has been created to provide an even spread of assessments across the week (this will be shared with students next week); assessments are completed in lessons on students' regular timetables and they are managed by their regular class teacher; no assessments are longer than an hour, and we ensure that students have enough time to complete their assessments. We also provide appropriate support to students with regard to exams access arrangements. Students will be prepared by their teachers for these assessments and if they have any questions they should direct them to their teacher so that they can be given subject specific preparation advice. Please note that while most subjects run assessments in the January window, one or two follow a slightly different model and hold their assessments at a different time (English Literature, for example held their assessment in the week just gone).

Matt Ford

Winter Concert

We would like to warmly invite you to our Winter Concert on **Wednesday 15th December at 6.30pm in the Drama Studio**. This will be a wonderfully festive event, showcasing some of our very best musicians. In addition to the music that will be performed, Ms Samuel-Beechey will be presenting some of the Dance Department's best performances. Please do come along and celebrate their talent and kick off the Christmas season in style! We are aware that government guidance may change towards the date of this concert. In the event we are not permitted to perform live, we will make recordings available, so that you can still enjoy the students' performances.

We hope to see you there!

Amy de Sybel, Robert Legg and Taylor Samuel-Beechey

Congratulations

Congratulations to Elliot Seston, 8AD, for being selected for a personal 'Behind the Scenes' tour of the Natural History Museum, London for his outstanding work as a collector. Elliot has written a fantastic account of his day, which you can read as an attachment to this Newsletter.

Amy de Sybel

Summer 2021 Certificates

Certificates are now available for collection. They can be collected from the school reception from next Monday 6th December to Thursday 16th December, between the hours of 9:00am – 2:00pm. If the student themselves is unable to collect the certificate(s) and wish to nominate you or someone else to collect them on their behalf, please ask them to complete and return the candidate permission form attached to this Newsletter. Parents / carers are not allowed to collect on behalf of the student without written consent.

Val Coates

Message from the Head Students

Throughout the week of Friday 19th November we helped raised money for Children in Need. We are happy to say that we raised £1078.31 which was over double our £500 goal. A huge thank you to everyone who donated and helped, whether you donated to our Just Giving page or took part in activities at lunch time. We really appreciated all of the support we received.

As it is coming up to Christmas, we are hoping to help out our community by donating food to local food banks to help people who are less fortunate this winter. Suitable donations include:

- Cans and tins (fruit, vegetables, beans and meat)
- Instant Coffee
- Sugar
- Cereal, Pasta, Rice, dried chickpeas and couscous
- Long life milk
- Sweets and chocolates
- Toothpaste, deodorant and other hygiene products
- Washing up liquid, cleaning spray, cleaning cloths

We are running a competition between the tutor groups in the school. The winning tutor group with the most donated food will win a prize for all their efforts. This competition will be between 6th of December to the 10th of December. We wish every tutor good luck in the competition and we can't wait to support another great cause.

Lawrence Wright and Caitlin Hope, Head Students

Maths Problem of the Week

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

Nick Owen

English Update – December

It has been an exciting few weeks in the English Department and I wanted to update you on some of the things that have been happening as well as share some key notices for next term.

Year 7 Accelerated Reader Update

Year 7s have made a phenomenal start to the Accelerated Reader programme which is designed to help students maximise their progress in reading. Since September, students have collectively read **over 20 million words** and a significant number of students have completed in excess of 10 quizzes. On average, students are reading at least one book per week in their own time. This is on top of all the reading they are doing in English lessons and during the Tutor Read Programme. They should all be very proud.

I want to congratulate the following three students who have become our first Word Millionaires of the year, having each read 1 million words on their own.

Congratulations **Adam B (7IS)**, **Millie S (7CT)** and **Fraser P-S (7AG)**.

This week, I launched our Christmas Reading Challenge with students – details can be found on Satchel:One (Show My Homework) – so I look forward to hearing all about what they have read when we return in January.

Year 8 SFD

English and MFL had the pleasure of working with Year 8 for Subject Focus Day on the 15th November. We spent the day visiting Madame Tussaud's in London where students were able to practise their language skills whilst also getting lots of photos with celebrities. Two Year 8s, Paige Wilson and Jessica Purchase, have written a brilliant article about the day and I have attached it to this newsletter for you to look at – it includes some brilliant photos of the day!

Year 9 – Woman in Black Theatre Trip

The Year 9 Woman in Black Theatre Trip (which is running in January) sold out in record time and it reflects the enthusiasm students have shown studying the novel this term. If you missed out on getting a space on the trip, please do get in touch with me or the Finance Office who can add you to the waiting list.

Year 10

Year 10 students sat their first formal assessment on 'An Inspector Calls' and it was brilliant to see the hard work and dedication they showed in the lead up to the assessment.

We are now moving on to study 'Macbeth' and experience tells us that this is the text students would most benefit having their own copy of. I wrote to you at the end of Year 9 suggesting the copies of the text we recommend (along with associated revision guides), but thought it might be a timely reminder in case you wanted to purchase a copy of the text now.

- [Oxford School Shakespeare: Macbeth](#) – ISBN: 978-019-832400-3
- [Oxford Literature Companion: Macbeth](#) – ISBN: 978-019-830482-1
- [Oxford Literature Companion Workbook: Macbeth](#) – ISBN: 978-019-839884-4

As always, there will be copies of the text available for students to use in lessons, but there are many benefits to students having their own copy: mainly, it allows them to re-read key sections when revising for the end of year exams.

Year 11 - English in Action

In last week's newsletter, some of our Year 11s shared their experience of visiting the Emmanuel Centre in London for the annual English in Action trip. It has been so wonderful hearing more about it this week and to see so many students enthused ahead of their mocks which begin next week.

Chris McGinnity

Christmas Dinner – Wednesday 15 December

The canteen will be providing Christmas dinner on Wednesday, 15 December. The cost will be £3, for dinner plus a pudding. To enable the kitchen staff to ensure they provide enough food (and also to ensure they do not waste food), please could students ask for a raffle ticket. This will not be required to be produced on the day, but will assist in catering.

Gill Ward

PE News

In this week's PE News, read about:

- One of our students competing at the **British Gymnastics Championships**
- Our annual **Indoor Rowing** competition
- A reminder about our **Winter Games**, including a rundown of **required kit** and **every fixture**

Matt Mures

Positive LFD Test Results

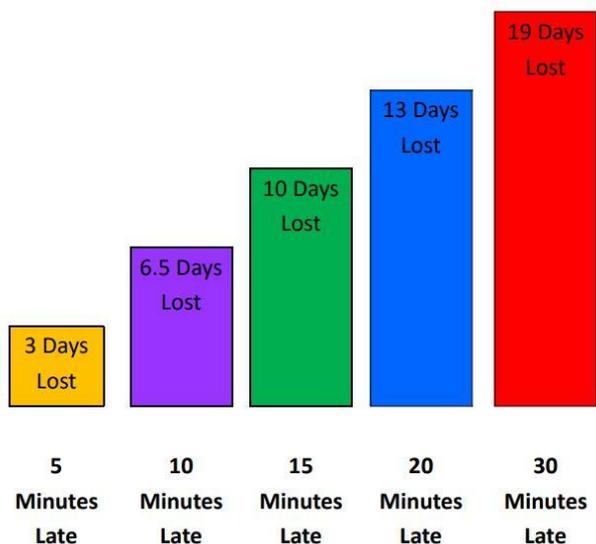
We have been informed by the Local Authority that a PCR test should be taken as soon as possible and within two days of taking a positive LFD test. If the PCR test is not taken within two days, students must isolate for a ten day isolation period (day one being the day after the LFD test was taken), regardless of the test result.

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to e-mail absence@icknield.oxon.sch.uk.

Vicky Ashby

Attendance Matters

Every Minute Counts at ICC!



Students who have good school attendance perform better at school and in their GCSEs than those with poor attendance. The more students are in school, the more likely they are to achieve to their full potential. So, every minute really does count at ICC.

We expect students' attendance to be at least 97%. This allows for absences due to normal childhood illnesses and essential medical appointments that cannot be arranged out of school hours.

As you can see from the charts above and below, just a few minutes lateness each day adds up to several days of lost learning over the academic year and several days of lost learning all adds up to many lost lessons.

If you have any concerns about your child's attendance or would like to discuss your child's attendance, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Missed days = Missed Lessons

Yearly Attendance	No of Days Missed	No of Sessions (AM or PM) Missed	No of Weeks Missed	No of Lessons Missed
95%	10 days	20 sessions	2	50 lessons
90%	20 days	40 sessions	4	100 lessons
85%	30 days	60 sessions	6	150 lessons
80%	40 days	80 sessions	8	200 lessons
75%	50 days	100 sessions	10	250 lessons
70%	60 days	120 sessions	12	300 lessons

Vicky Ashby
Attendance Manager

CareersNews

Y10 Work Experience – Gentle reminder to those that have not yet found themselves a Work Experience placement, please continue to look and if you are struggling, please see Mrs Richardson for some support.

Y11 Sixth Form Applications – Don't forget to keep an eye on your closing dates for Sixth Form Schools. Remember to get your applications in soon. If you need any support in making your choices, please come and see Mrs Richardson

School	Deadline to apply for entry
<u>Wallingford School</u> <u>Wallingford School</u>	31 January 2022
<u>Wheatley Park School</u> <u>Wheatley Park School - Wheatley</u> <u>Park School</u>	24 January 2022
Royal Grammar School, High Wycombe, Boys <u>Royal Grammar School - Home</u> <u>(rgshw.com)</u>	3 December 2021
Lord Williams School, Thame <u>Sixth Form Lord Williams's</u> <u>School</u>	18 February 2022
John Hampden Grammar School, High Wycombe, Boys <u>Welcome to John Hampden</u> <u>Grammar School</u> <u>(jhgs.bucks.sch.uk)</u>	Friday 26 November 2021
Sir William Borlase's, Marlow <u>Home - Sir William Borlase's</u> <u>Grammar School (swbgs.com)</u>	1 February 2022
Aylesbury Grammar School, Boys <u>Homepage Aylesbury Grammar</u> <u>School (ags.bucks.sch.uk)</u>	15 January 2022
Wycombe High School, Girls <u>Welcome to Wycombe High</u> <u>School for Girls, Buckinghamshire</u> <u>(whs.bucks.sch.uk)</u>	28 January 2022
Aylesbury High School, Girls <u>Aylesbury High School Prepare,</u> <u>Challenge & Inspire</u> <u>(ahs.bucks.sch.uk)</u>	17 December 2021

Letters to Parents/Carers

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

HPV Immunisation Letter – Year 8

ENO Puccini – Wed 02 Feb 2022 – Selected students

These letters can also be accessed on the school website:

<https://www.icknield.oxon.sch.uk/news-and-events/letters-to-parents-carers>

Finance Office

COMMUNITY NEWS

Small Group Online Weekly Maths Tuition

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

- Key stage 2: Enrolling for a new class starting on Tuesday 4th Jan at 6pm
- Key stage 3: Thursday at 6pm (3 slots available)
- GCSE Higher Tier: Saturday at 9.30am (1 slot available)
- GCSE Higher Tier: Saturday at 11.30am (2 slots available)
- GCSE Foundation Tier is now fully booked, enrolling for a new class starting Thursday 6thJan each week at 7pm

Please contact: mathstutorchinnor@outlook.com for more information and to reserve your slot. Limited spaces available.

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

Adrian Thomas