



Newsletter – 4 March 2022

Date	Event
7 Mar'22	"A" Week
17 March	Subject Focus Day
23-25 March	School Show
31 March	Year 7 Parents' Evening
7 April	End of Term (non-uniform day)
8-24 April	School holiday
25 April	School Resume – "B" Week

Ukraine and Russia

In Geography lessons this week, students have been learning more about what is happening in Ukraine. This will continue into next week and will also involve some discussions about the many Russian people who do not agree with the actions taken by President Putin. If your child is affected by the events taking place, particularly if they have family members or other connections in Ukraine and Russia, there are staff in school who can support them. Please do contact us if this is the case.

Online Lessons

We are incredibly proud of the fact that we have been able to provide online lessons to students since May 2020 as a result of the pandemic. This started with lessons for the, then, Year 10 students, during the first lockdown period. After the trial days we put in place in October 2020, predicting that we might have another lockdown later in the year, we were in a position to provide a full programme of online lessons immediately from January to March 2021. This was pretty exhausting for staff and students involved (and, I dare say, some parents in the background!), but was nevertheless a great achievement, and certainly not one made by all schools.

After the second lockdown, we have provided online lessons for all students who have been self-isolating at home with Covid. This has been even more challenging than the January-March 2021 lockdown period (and I know have written to you about this already!) as staff have been trying to simultaneously teach students in real-time, as well as those at home. Given, I am delighted to say, that the number of students who are contracting covid has reduced significantly over the past week (into single figures this week), we now feel that the time has come to end online lessons. This will enable teachers to teach students as effectively as they can in class (99%+ of the school population) rather than have to cater for students at home as well. If students in Year 7-10 do have Covid, they can, if they are well enough, learn from home by accessing resources on their chromebooks through their Class Onenotes. Alternatively, they could visit the "[Working from Home](#)" page on our website. Students in Year 11 can work through their personalised revision guidance which is sent out on a weekly basis.

It is worth noting as well that, currently, students are no longer being forced to isolate for the 10 day period that they were before and can, in some cases, come back to school after 5 days.

I do hope you understand our decision to be responsive to the current climate and focus our energies, where we always did in a pre-Covid world, on the students who are physically in lessons.

Mat Hunter
Headteacher

Year 9 Guided Choices

The deadline for Guided Choices to be made via the *Guided Choices Application Form* is Friday 4 March. You can find that document and also the *Guided Choices Booklet* on our website here: <https://www.icknield.oxon.sch.uk/student-information/guided-choices>

Matt Ford

Research Study on Social Media and Mental Health

Please see a note below from the Oxford Institute of Clinical Psychology about a research study they are conducting. They have asked for our help in encouraging 11-15 year olds to contribute to their study. Please do encourage your child to fill out this survey and give your consent for them to do so if you feel able to:

Is your child aged 11-15? Do they use social media? Can they help us?

We are looking for young people to take part in our research study. We want to learn about the positive and negative impact of social media on mood in young people.

This anonymous online study would involve your child filling out questionnaires about their mental health and social media use. This will take about 20 minutes. You will need to give permission for your child to take part. Here is the survey link: <https://tinyurl.com/socialmediastudy11>

Eve Twivy

Trainee Clinical Psychologist

Oxford Institute of Clinical Psychology Training and Research

Oxford Health NHS Foundation Trust

Vicky Pickford

E-Safety at home

Students who log in to their Chromebooks at home, using their school accounts, benefit from a filter that protects them from a variety of unsafe web content and blocks a range of social media platforms. This is a reminder that the school does not actively monitor students' Chromebook activity outside the school day, so parents and carers retain responsibility for checking that their children are using all their electronic devices safely and appropriately at home. The [UK Council for Internet Safety](#) and the [UK Safer Internet Centre](#) provide a range of useful guidance for parents, some of which – for example, [recent advice](#) on supporting children who may be upset by online content about the current events in Ukraine – is highly topical.

Robert Legg

Chromebook loan station – now in Finance Office

The vast majority of students bring their Chromebooks to school, fully charged, every day. For those who don't remember to do so, we are usually able to provide a device from our limited stock. From Monday 7 March, our Chromebook loan station will be located in the Finance Office rather than at IT Services.

Students without a charged laptop should collect a loan device from the Finance Office first thing in the morning. Parents of students loaning a device will receive a letter from me the same day so they can support us at home by emphasising the importance of coming to school with the correct equipment. Please do contact me (robert.legg@ickniel.oxon.sch.uk) if you have any queries about our 1:1 device scheme or about your child's device.

Robert Legg

Damage to Chromebooks

As you know, theft and accidental damage to Chromebooks obtained through our 1:1 device scheme are covered under your contract with Freedom Technology, our provider. Our experience so far is that the very few devices that have been accidentally damaged have been swiftly repaired or replaced by the company without any issues or complaint.

This is a reminder, however, that deliberate damage is specifically excluded from this cover. We have had two instances in recent weeks of students absent-mindedly pulling multiple keys from the keyboards of their Chromebook devices. We hope that these are isolated incidents, but should emphasise that the cost of repair to devices damaged in this way is likely to be passed by Freedom Technology to the families of the students responsible.

Please do encourage your children to look after their devices.

Robert Legg

Production update

Our rehearsals have been so much fun and everyone has clearly been working very hard at home to learn lines etc. I am delighted to announce that tickets will go on sale at 9am on Monday 14 March priced at £9 each. Please bear in mind that there will be two performances per day with some roles being performed by different students. Please see below for more information on this. All our cast members will take part in each show and will be part of the ensemble when not fulfilling their other roles. Both versions are shaping up to be quite different from one another so you may wish to come and see it more than once.

Part	Cast member	Cast member
Mr Wormwood	Danny Leys-Richardson	Bethan Rogers
Mrs Wormwood	Tilly Carter	Greta Quinn
Matilda Wormwood	Mo Horsley	Sam De Ocera
Lavender	Ashley Reyes	Izzie Hector
Miss Honey	Lily Allenden	Rosie Molloy
Agatha Trunchbull	Caitlin Hope	Billy Bowerman
Performances	Wednesday 7:30pm Thursday 5pm Friday 7:30pm	Wednesday 5pm Thursday 7:30pm Friday 5pm

Mrs Phelps

Wednesday

Poppy Gore-Smith

Freya Fanchi

Thursday

Ella Mathews

Mia Lynn

Friday

Aimee Lewis-Costello

Millie Dawson

Adam Rowe

Oklahoma! at Radley College by Oxfordshire Youth Music

We wanted to pass on the opportunity to attend the dress rehearsal of Oklahoma! at Radley College at the end of March. The show began a new era in American musical theatre and is said to be one of the most influential musicals of all time. The show is on Wednesday 30 March at 7.30 pm at a discounted rate of £7.50 per student. It will be an opportunity for students to see a high quality production performed by Oxfordshire secondary school pupils with professional lighting, sound and set. If you would be interested, please apply using this unique link:

<https://www.wegotickets.com/sct/V9UqYhdb8d>

Although we aren't able to run a trip organised by the school at this time, please do take advantage of the opportunity to take your children if they are interested in seeing this Musical.

Amy de Sybel

Garsington Opera Workshop, May 16th

We are delighted to welcome Garsington Opera to Icknield on Monday 16th May. Students will have the opportunity to take part in workshops given by the company and to attend a performance on Tuesday 12th July at 7.30pm.

If your child loves singing and would like to take part, please let myself or Dr Legg know by email by Friday **8th April**. Your child must be able to attend both the workshop and the evening performance on July 12th.

Amy de Sybel

School Council

The school council are always looking for ways to help support environmental campaigns and raise funds for the school. This term, we are announcing our involvement in the 'Recycle with Michael' campaign, supported by the Salvation Army. The week commencing 14th March 2022, we will be asking for your donation of any unwanted clothing, shoes or any other fabric material that is in a suitable condition so send to the Salvation Army via the Recycle with Michael bin located at the front of the school. As well as diverting unwanted items away from landfill, this scheme also helps to raise money for both the Salvation Army and the school (and it's a great opportunity to de-clutter!). Students will be able to collect 'Recycle with Michael' bags from their tutor or the finance office from next week.

School Council

DofE

Well done to Olly R, Maizie K, Leo H, Georgie R and Lily S who have uploaded all their section details with evidence for each section.

A special congratulations to Rosie M who has uploaded her assessor's report for her volunteering section! If you are close to finishing one of your sections you need to ask your adult assessor to complete the assessor's report. This should be done using either the report card in your welcome pack or by the assessor going to this website www.dofe.org/assessor and filling in all the details. You will need to tell your assessor which section you are completing and your eDofE number. A reminder that your assessor must complete your report and family members cannot be assessors. Please ask if you are unsure.

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

PE News

In this week's PE News:

- A look ahead to **Red Nose Day** sponsorship challenges
- The **Extra-Curricular clubs** on offer this term
- The **PE Lesson Activity Timetable** for each year group for up until Easter
- **Results** from the past week
- The **upcoming fixtures** for next week

Matt Mures

CareersNews

This weeks CareersNews is overflowing with information, including opportunities for our Y11 leavers on real current job and apprenticeships with UniCarriers in Thame and an opportunity to become a Trainee Landscaper. Next week is National Careers Week, click on the link in CareersNews to join the Virtual (National) Careers Fair. There are various events coming up for students interested in a career in Healthcare, Engineering and Women in the Police. There are links available to all events, you just need to register! As always, any questions, please do let me know: helen.richardson@ickniel.doxon.sch.uk

Helen Richardson

Letters to Parents/Carers

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

Slapton Ley Letter - Selected Year 10
Slapton Ley Kit List – Selected Year 10

These letters can also be accessed on the school website:
<http://www.ickniel.doxon.sch.uk/news-and-events/letters-to-parent>

Finance Office