



## Newsletter – 5 March 2021

Date	Event
wc 8 March	'B' week
8 March	School Resumes
11 March	Virtual Year 11 Parents Evening
25 March	Virtual Year 7 Parents Evening
31 March	End of Term
1 – 16 April	Easter Holiday
19 April	School Resumes

### Mass Testing – Round 1!

A huge thank you to everyone involved in testing almost the entire school yesterday (Friday 5 March). It was great to see volunteers, support staff and teaching staff pull together for one magnificent team effort. Hats off to one of our students for being dressed so appropriately too!



I recognise that some of our students would have been a little apprehensive coming into school for the testing but they all did an amazing job. They listened really carefully to those staffing the event, followed all instructions perfectly, and helped keep a well-oiled machine moving well. We were all very impressed with and proud of them.

Whilst a huge number of people have been involved in this endeavour, I will like to extend a particular thanks to James Barringer, Janice Ludlow-Lorimer, Jo Brown and Jo Reed for their brilliant organisation, logistical planning and massive commitment to this project. I'm sure Monday and Thursday will be equally as successful.

**Mat Hunter**  
Headteacher

## Year 11 Assembly

On Wednesday this week, I had an online assembly with Year 11 students about the outcomes of the Ofqual consultation. Please find attached a copy of the assembly in case you would like to discuss it with them.

**Mat Hunter**

## Home testing kits to support the return to school

Please see below the following information we received from Oxfordshire County Council this week:

The government has announced that all households with primary and secondary school and college-aged children and young people, including childcare and support bubbles, will be encouraged to start regular twice-weekly rapid lateral flow testing as schools return on 8 March.

Tests are available for **adults in these households** to [order online](#), which can be delivered to their home or collected at a local **symptomatic PCR (polymerase chain reaction) test site**. These PCR sites are where people go to get tested when they have symptoms of COVID-19 and because of that, collection of these home test kits is set for 1pm - 7pm when testing of symptomatic people will not be taking place.

The PCR local testing sites (LTS) and regional testing site (RTS) offering the collection of home testing kits (referred to as LTS-collect and RTS-collect) in Oxfordshire are:

### Regional testing site (drive-through)

- Oxford Parkway, Water Eaton Park & Ride, Oxford Road, Oxford, OX2 8HA

### Local testing sites (walk-through)

- Woodgreen Leisure Centre, Woodgreen Avenue, Banbury, OX16 0HS
- Osney Lane, Oxford, OX1 1NY
- Woodford Way car park, Witney, OX28 6JS

You do not need to make an appointment, but you can [check online](#) if the location is open or busy before you go. A reminder collection is 1pm - 7pm.

In Oxfordshire, home tests kits **cannot currently be collected from the county council's symptom-free testing sites**, which are Spiceball Leisure Centre (Banbury), The Beacon (Wantage), The King's Centre (Oxford). **Please do not go to one of these sites** as the kits they have are not suitable for home use. We will keep you posted if this changes. Please note, students will be given their own home testing kits from the week beginning 15<sup>th</sup> March; these tests would be for the adults in the household if they are not already tested through their own workplace.

**James Barringer**

## Face coverings in lessons

You will have seen in our most recent information video that students will be required to wear face coverings in lessons when they return to campus on 8 March.

This follows the Secretary of State's [advice](#), published on 23 February, which recommends "the use of face coverings in classrooms and other teaching spaces, unless wearing a face covering would impact on the ability to take part in exercise or strenuous activity, for example in PE lessons, or for those who are exempt from wearing a face covering as per government guidance".

If your child has an agreed exemption from wearing a face covering, please email [returningtoschool@ickniel.oxon.sch.uk](mailto:returningtoschool@ickniel.oxon.sch.uk) so that we can ensure that all staff are aware. Please also understand that while teachers will be actively reminding classes of the need for mask wearing, this will not be targeted specifically at children with agreed exemptions.

Teachers will not routinely wear face coverings where they are able to maintain a distance of two metres from their students. We have a number of students with hearing impairments who rely on visual cues for understanding. We will continue to prioritise the needs of these students when determining seating plans.

We have taken a non-confrontational approach to managing mask wearing throughout the pandemic. This approach has worked well so far: students have responded to being trusted and those who are exempt have felt respected. We plan to continue with this approach. This means that we will ask other students and staff not to challenge those exempt from wearing a mask and to respect their privacy, but we will ask everyone else to wear their mask. If a student is not following this new rule and is not exempt, we will contact home to discuss with you the issue of non-compliance with our mask policy.”

**Robert Legg**

### **Uniform as usual!**

Following on from Dr Legg’s note on uniform in the video ready for next week, from Monday, uniform expectations will be back to normal with everyone expected to be in full school uniform. Please do check the policy on the school website if you are unsure of anything. We are in regular weekly contact with Trutex and we aren’t aware of any problems with ordering at this time so there should be no problems here but if you have had to order anything new and have problems, please do let us know. If you send us your order number then there may be things we can do to help support you to get things sorted more quickly. We are looking forward to seeing everyone looking smart and ready for school on Monday morning.

**Vicky Pickford**

### **Extra-Curricular Clubs**

We are delighted that, in line with government guidance and, as per our *Welcome Back* video, we are able to resume our extra-curricular clubs offering from next week. You can always find an up-to-date version of this booklet on our website here: <https://www.icknield.oxon.sch.uk/student-information/school-clubs> and for your convenience I also attach the PDF today.

**Matt Ford**

### **Homework**

You will have seen from Dr Legg’s video that homework will also resume as per our homework calendars from Monday. These can be viewed here: <https://www.icknield.oxon.sch.uk/student-information/homework> or on the attached documents. You can read our Homework policy at any time here: <https://www.icknield.oxon.sch.uk/school-information/policies>

**Matt Ford**

### **The late RAF Minibus**

The late RAF bus will operate as normal on Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday, from 9<sup>th</sup> March, leaving promptly at 4.45. This is available for all year groups and, as with the other school buses, will require students to wear face masks and to sit in year groups. This is a great opportunity to take part in after school clubs.

**Ian Masters**

### **DofE**

Congratulations to the following students who have completed their sections. Each student has put lots of work into completing their sections and assessors’ reports during term time and holidays as well as a national lockdown.

Congratulations to Nat F (Physical), Ciaran R (Physical), Dan G (Skill), Sian C (Volunteering),

A special congratulations to Ciaran and Dan who have now completed their volunteering, physical and skill sections, and will receive a special certificate emailed to them by the Duke of Edinburgh Award.

Can I encourage any participant who has not uploaded their assessors’ reports to upload them as soon as they can and let me know if you are having any problems with their section.

**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**

## Citizenship campaigns

In Citizenship, Year 9s have been thinking about issues such as global warming, and have been investigating environmental campaign movements. Here you can see some of the very creative and thought-provoking campaign posters that they have designed to help us all reflect on the importance of making sustainable choices in order to look after our planet.

Jen Hicks



## Biological Art

I wanted to share with you an amazing art piece made by Y9 student, Elliott Baker. The piece, made for his Dad's new laboratory space, illustrates the different components of the blood and has been entered into an art competition! Elliott inventively uses old paint and re-purposed objects found around the house and garden to paint with. You can hear more about the piece and Elliott by following [this link](#). I'm sure you will join me in wishing Elliott the best of luck in his competition.



Jack Miller

## Autism Family Support Oxfordshire

AFSO provide ongoing support for families of children with Autistic Spectrum Conditions. Please find attached a newsletter advertising Easter activities that you may wish to book your child on to that are running from 6 – 15 April 2021. There are virtual activity days as well as face to face activity days for young people aged between 8 and 17 years old. The deadline for places is 15 March 2021.

Samantha Walkley

## **Attendance**

As you are aware, as of 8<sup>th</sup> March, all students are expected to be back in school.

## **Absence or Lateness**

If your child is absent or late for any reason at all, it is extremely important that you notify school before the start of the school day or as soon as you are able to. We have a duty of care to keep all our students safe and, to do so, we need to know if they are in school and, if not, the reason why.

When a child is absent from school, we use a number of different codes to mark their absence, as required by the Government. These codes are split into authorised and unauthorised codes, which is why we need to know the reason for absence, as well as knowing your child is safe and well. I'm afraid leaving message to let us know your child won't be in but failing to give a reason will result in a member of staff contacting you further to find out the reason. Also, if your child is unwell, please let us know in the message if they are unwell with any Covid-19 symptoms as these absences require a different code.

It is very easy to let us know that your child will be absent or late by sending us an e-mail or calling to leave a message on the absence voicemail box:

[absence@ickniel.d.oxon.sch.uk](mailto:absence@ickniel.d.oxon.sch.uk)      01491 612691 (option 1)

I appreciate timing can sometimes be tricky with family and work commitments and it's very easy to forget to let us know. You can, however, e-mail or leave a voicemail message at any time of the day or night; you do not need to wait until school opens. If your child has an appointment coming up, feel free to e-mail me when you receive the appointment or make the booking and I will mark the absence in advance.

## **Covid-19 relate absence**

If your child or a member of your household has Covid-19 symptoms, it's important that you notify school immediately. We will need to know who has symptoms, if you are arranging a test and the last day of the isolation period (if known), so we know when to expect your child back in school. When you receive the test result, you should communicate the result to us straight away **before** returning your child to school, even if the result is negative, so we can update our records which will prevent us needing to contact you for the results. If a student receives a positive test, we obviously need to know as a matter of urgency so we can isolate any close contacts.

## **Signing in and out**

It is important that all students who arrive in school after 8.30am or leave before 3.00pm sign in and out at Reception and provide Mrs Browne with a reason. Students who have not signed in or out and are missing from lesson registers are flagged up as missing students and, without a message from home, can cause concern and considerable staff time taken trying to track them down. Please do speak to your child about the importance of signing in and out and give them a gentle reminder when necessary. Students who arrive late or leave early without good reason or explanation will be recorded as absent (unauthorised).

## **Attendance Concerns**

If you have any concerns regarding your child's attendance or their return to school, please do not hesitate to contact me. The best way to do this is to e-mail [victoria.ashby@ickniel.d.oxon.sch.uk](mailto:victoria.ashby@ickniel.d.oxon.sch.uk) and I will get back to you as soon as I can. If you would prefer a telephone conversation, please let me know the best phone number, day and time to contact you, although please note I work between 9.00am and 2.30pm each day.

**Vicky Ashby**

## **Letters to Parents/Carers**

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

Sex & Education Letter – Selected Year 9  
Tdp/Men ACWY Immunisations 26 Apr 2021 – Year 9  
PE Department – Return To School – All students  
GCSE PE After School Club – Selected Year 10

These letters can also be accessed on the school website:

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

**Finance Office**