



Newsletter – 6 November 2020

Date	Event
WC 16 November	Year 10 Information Evening
2-18 December	Year 11 Mock Exams
10 December	Year 9 Parents Evening
18 December	School Finishes at 1pm (Non-Uniform Day)
19 Dec–3 Jan'21	Christmas Holiday
4 January'21	Inset Day
5 January	School Resumes

After School Clubs

You may have heard that, in the most recent education guidance circulated to schools on Wednesday afternoon, the government have decided that after school clubs can no longer run. This will be the case from Monday 9 November. We recognise that this may well come as a disappointment to many students who really enjoy participating in a wide range of extra-curricular clubs but, on this occasion, there is little we can do. Fortunately, a small number of lunchtime clubs will still continue to run – a small number because lunchtime clubs are currently difficult to run with students on different lunch sittings. Year 11 after school revision classes will continue as normal.

Positive COVID Cases

As per the parentmail you received from James Barringer this week, we have had our first COVID cases in school this week. We will be talking to all students about the importance of welcoming those who have had the virus, but who are now no longer symptomatic, back into the school community (if, indeed, they are aware of who those students are (most won't!)). Please could I ask all parents to support us by reiterating this message.

Mat Hunter
Headteacher

2 Minute video shared with students this week

As we all try to understand how we can mitigate the risks of spreading coronavirus, I shared this two-minute video with students explaining the [criteria for self-isolation in the event of a positive case](#). Please do find a moment to watch it and help to support us by re-enforcing the need for all children to protect themselves and others by minimising close contacts. Thanks for your ongoing support.

James Barringer

Subject Focus Day

The first subject focus day of the year will be taking place on Friday 13th November. Subject Focus Days are designed to excite and engage students. At Key Stage Four, they give option subject teachers the opportunity to run a variety of activities to deepen students' understanding of what they have been studying in class, or to explore an area of the curriculum that the regular timetable would not allow for. At Key Stage Three, they are designed for the core subject departments to deliver whole-day, inclusive-to-all sessions, that is fun and engaging. There is a document attached to the newsletter that gives an overview of what all year groups will be doing, along with any resources that students will need to bring with them (including if they need to wear any specific clothing) and any preparation they will need to do prior to the day. Subject Focus Day is a non-school uniform day, however, students will need to make sure they are appropriately dressed to take part in all activities and will still need to wear a mask. The structure of the school day will remain the same, with year groups remaining in bubbles, social distancing measures being in place and the canteen being open at lunchtime as usual.

Charlotte Gibson

Good Mental Health – Supporting your Child/Children

As Covid-19 cases continue to rise and we are forced to, once again, adapt to restrictions on our movements and social interaction with others, it can be a confusing and difficult time for all of us, not least our children. Being a young person and navigating adolescence is difficult at the best of times; from trying to figure out who they are as individuals, coping with intense hormonal surges, making sense of the world around them and where they fit within it. Now, throw into this mix a worldwide pandemic, coping with catching up on lost learning during the first lockdown period to being back in school with an increased demand of academic workload, unknown certainty of exams, new rules around social distancing and mask wearing! It is not surprising mental health services, children services and charities are reporting an increased rate of anxiety among children and young people. If your child is experiencing increased levels of anxiety it is important to talk to them about what in particular they're worried about - it may be different to adult concerns, and they need to know that's okay.

Below are links to the Anna Freud National Centre for Children & Families, Youngminds as well as parental advice on 'Supporting children and young people with worries about covid-19' in collaboration from the Universities of Oxford & Reading and endorsed by CAMHS (Children & Adolescent Mental Health Services) all of which offer helpful advice on how to talk to and support your children with their anxieties.

<https://www.annafreud.org/coronavirus-support/support-for-parents-and-carers/>
<https://youngminds.org.uk/resources/school-resources/tips-leaflet-for-parents-supporting-your-child-during-the-coronavirus-pandemic/>

<https://www.annafreud.org/schools-and-colleges/resources/advice-for-parents-and-carers-talking-mental-health-with-young-people-at-secondary-school/>

In addition to the above, if you are worried about your child's mental health and have been unable to access support through your GP and CAMHS and would like some advice and support, please contact Jane Bellars our in-house school counsellor. Alternatively if you feel your child would benefit from some pastoral support our Learning Mentors, Jayne McDonald and Sam Rooks are also available. For referrals for either counselling or pastoral support please email Jane.bellars@icknield.oxon.sch.uk.

Jane Bellars

Maths

There is a free webinar for parents on 'how to build mathematical resilience and reduce maths anxiety in children aged 10-13' on Tuesday 24th November at 8pm. To sign up go to this link-> [webinar](#)

The session will cover:

- What 'maths anxiety' means
- Practical strategies to help your child deal with maths anxiety
- Actionable tips to help your child build up their mathematical resilience

Hazel Carvel

Maths Problem of the Week

The Maths Problem of the Week, which is to do with logical thinking, and the solution to the previous problem are attached.

Also attached are the solutions to the further maths problems that I hoped you tried over the half term.

Nick Owen

Year 11 Revision Sessions

It was great to see a number of Year 11 students take part in either the Lunchtime or the After School English Revision sessions this week and just goes to show how motivated many of them are to succeed in their upcoming mock exams.

As a reminder, we run lunchtime revision sessions every Tuesday lunchtime and after school on a Wednesday for any Year 11 who wants to have extra guidance from an English teacher. Whilst the sessions are planned, students are more than welcome to come along with specific questions or problems and we will be happy to help them.

I look forward to seeing even more students join us next week.

Christopher McGinnity

Newquay 2021 information for current year 9 students

As you may be aware, each year we aim to run a trip for the whole of Year 9 to Newquay. This trip has been very successful over the years that it has been running and we are aware that students (and parents) are aware of this trip and look forward to it.

As you can appreciate at the moment there are still many great unknowns, and a constantly changing climate that we are working with. Currently, the situation is that residential trips are not allowed, however, come next summer, the picture could, we hope, be very different, and so we wanted to make sure that we were trying to be as pro-active as possible in our planning, looking at opportunities that we can offer students outside of the normal classroom experience.

The Newquay trip is something we are currently working on to see if there is a possibility we can run this for our current year 9 students. As you can imagine this involves an even larger amount of logistical work at present and so we are nowhere near being able to 'launch' this trip at present. However, we wanted to make you aware of it so that if it is something we are able to offer, the cost of the trip, and how quickly we may require payment, isn't a limiting factor. To give a rough idea, the cost of the trip last year was £415 per student. We are currently not sure how much the trip would be this year, if it is able to run, but we felt some indication of price was better than none.

We will keep you updated with developments of the trip and if we feel we'll be able to offer this as an opportunity for our students.

Georgia Hamilton and Matt Mures

Children in Need - Message from Head Girl and Head Boy

We are asking all students, parents, carers, teachers, friends and family to help us raise money for this year's Children in Need by running a number of different events across the week.

Run, walk or cycle 3km and donating £3 whilst also nominating 3 more people to do the same as part of the #hoorayfor3k campaign. Follow to school council Instagram page and upload a photo showing you completing your 3km. Don't forget to tag us in your efforts @icc.awareness, add the #hoorayfor3k and donate on our Just Giving page <https://www.justgiving.com/fundraising/icknieldcc>. Please also let us know if you manage to walk, run or cycle further than the 3km so that we can keep a tally of how far we are able to go as a school.

As well as #hoorayfor3k, the Senior Studnets will be hosting a virtual family quiz evening on Thursday 12th Novmeber from 18.00-19.00. If you would like to take part, please email Mrs Gibson on charlotte.gibson@ickniel.oxon.sch.uk who will then send you an invite via Teams to access the quiz. Entry fee is £5 per family, payable via our just giving page

<https://www.justgiving.com/fundraising/icknieldcc> (when donating, please leave a note referencing the quiz). The prize for the winning team is £50 amazon voucher.

Lastly, we will be running a classic fundraising favourite "guess the sweets in the jar". If students would like a chance to win a jar full of sweets, all they need to do is bring a £1 into school next week and submit their guess to their form tutor. Thank you in advance for your support.

Charlotte Gibson

Icknield Community College GCSE Art and Design Exhibition 2020

We would usually have held a very special event to showcase the wonderful work of our talented Yr11 GCSE Art students back in the Summer but this has, of course, not been possible and so we are delighted to invite you to view the 2020 GCSE Art & Design exhibition of students work by following this link to the virtual Art Gallery.

<https://www.artsteps.com/view/5f68601ab5b80e19d78e57e9>

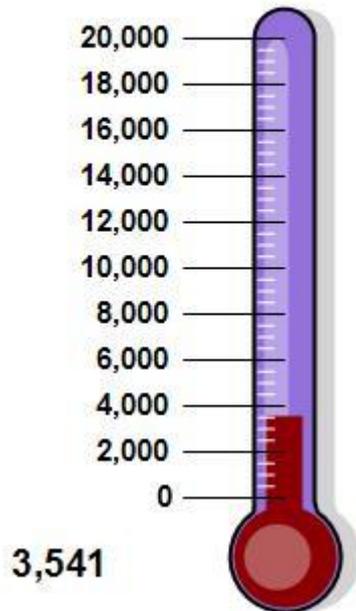


Please enjoy navigating your way around the Gallery and click on any work to find out a little more about how the students created their pieces.

We are immensely proud of all of the students and the exhibition reflects the enormous and exceptional hard work which the students put in to creating this year's portfolios.

Jessica Parker

GCSEPod-o-meter



Podvember Challenge

We've made a really good start to the year with GCSEPod, our online revision platform. The Icknield GCSEPod-o-meter is showing that 3,541 'Pods have been downloaded or streamed so far this academic year – a fantastic first step towards our annual target of 20,000. This is an excellent sign that students are engaging with this technology and making the most of what it has to offer. For the rest of this month, we're running our Podvember Challenge – a chance to win one of twenty vouchers while consolidating your learning through worthwhile revision. On 1 December, the top twenty most active GCSEPodders will each earn a £5 voucher – so now's the time to get on the site, download the app, stream some 'Pods, and make a difference to your exam results!

Robert Legg

Letters to Parents/Carers

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

Sex and Relationships Education Letter – Selected Year 10
Childhood Flu Programme Thu 12 Nov – Year 7

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

COMMUNITY NEWS

Virtual Maths Tuition - last few slots available!

Great quality, well-structured zoom maths tuition for students at all levels. Small group weekly virtual sessions. Limited spaces left for: Key Stage 2, Key Stage 3 alongside GCSE foundation. GCSE higher tier is fully booked.

Please contact: mathstutorchinnor@outlook.com for more information and to book your first session today.

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

Adrian Thomas