



Newsletter – 9 July 2021

Date	Event
Wc 12 July	'A' Week
13 July	Sports Day
19 July	Awards Evening – 7pm
19-21 July	School Show
20 July	Year 11 Prom
21 July	End of Term – Non-School Uniform – School finishes at 1pm
22 July – 31 Aug	Summer Holiday
1-3 Sept	Inset Days
6 Sept	School Resumes

Newquay – thank you!

A huge thank you to all of the staff who have made the Newquay Trip a possibility this week – we hope our Year 10 students have had a fantastic time!

Face Masks on Buses

Please could I ask parents/carers to read the attached letter from the Local Authority reminding all students that face mask wearing on buses continues to be compulsory until Monday 19th July. Please do make sure that your child is complying with this expectation. Thank you.

Prime Minister's Announcement

We are now getting a clear sense of what the direction of travel is going to be for the end of this term and for September in terms of the lifting of COVID restrictions. We are currently finalising all of our plans for September in the light of updated DfE guidance and, as we did last year, will be sharing a short video with you, over the summer holidays, summarising them. We hope you will find this helpful.

Mat Hunter Headteacher

On-site testing for students in September

As you may have seen in the media this week, the Government have advised schools that they might want to organise for all students to be tested twice at the school site on their return in September. We are waiting for further guidance but this is likely to be similar to the mass on-site testing that took place in early March this year. Provisionally, we are considering testing most students on Thursday 2nd September and then again on Tuesday 7th September. This would mean that students would only attend school to take their test on the Thursday, but would then return to school as normal on Monday. Given it will be their first experience of secondary school, we might test our new Year 7 students on the afternoon of Wednesday 1st September with their second test on Monday 6th. When we receive more information from the Government, we might need to adapt these plans but I wanted to provide you with an early steer on our thinking. To enable us to manage this on-site testing, we would be reliant on volunteers from our school community to help; the teaching staff are involved on training on the Wednesday and Thursday and will be teaching from Monday onwards. Once plans are finalised, I will make a request for as many volunteers as possible to support the school with this mass-testing. We were blown away by the support from the community earlier in the year and would be very grateful if volunteers were able to donate their time again. Please do look ahead at your diaries to consider whether you might be able to help.

Changes to Covid-19 restrictions – a quick digest

There is a lot of information in the media about changes to Covid-19 restrictions. This [short digest](#) provides a useful summary. We will provide greater detail on how this will affect students nearer the time.

Reminder of the Uniform Policy

Please see attached the school uniform policy. As we approach the summer holidays, I wanted to remind all students and parents of our uniform expectations, particularly around hair and piercings. If your child dyes their hair an unnatural colour or gets a piercing over the holiday please note that this must be corrected before September. Hair must be a natural colour in school and piercings must be replaced with clear plastic retainers so please factor this in to include any time for healing of piercings so that this is not a problem in September. Equally, I am aware of a small number of students who have broken zips on skirts or outgrown some pieces of uniform, including school shoes. It goes without saying that these will also need to be remedied before September if not before. Please note that school shoes should be **completely** black (including laces) with no other colours or logos. We would like a really positive start in September where staff and students can focus on learning and not dealing with uniform issues so we would really appreciate your support with this.

Vicky Pickford

Touch-typing courses

We are sometimes asked by students and parents to recommend a touch-typing course. There are some really good free resources available online, and a number of students have benefited from using them regularly. We warmly recommend [Typing Club](#) (which has a user-friendly interface and offers a placement test at the start) and the [BBC's Dance Mat Typing](#) (which teaches you to type in a game format). Either of these would be a great place to start learning the invaluable skill of using a computer keyboard efficiently.

Robert Legg

Mobile Phones

Many thanks to everyone who responded to our request for feedback on proposed changes to our rules on students' use of mobile phones. Please find attached the agreed version of those changes that will apply from September.

Robert Legg

GCSE Statistics Year 10 (current year 9)

As you may be aware from your son/daughter, we are running a GCSE statistics course next year. Many students signed up for the course during the Guided Choices process but I wanted to give any others one last chance to do so before the course begins. GCSE Statistics will run every Wednesday after school from 15.00-16.00 in room 4 and will be delivered by Dr Owen. As this lesson finishes after the school buses have left, all students would need to organise transport for your child each week.

There is an element of cross-over with the GCSE Mathematics syllabus. This means it will support students with their maths learning and, also, it enables the school to deliver the course in just one hour per week. Dr Owen will not generally set compulsory homework on top of this lesson but, in order to consolidate learning, we would encourage your child to spend some time each week reflecting on what they have learnt and reviewing key concepts.

As you might imagine, I need to plan carefully to ensure the course is fully resourced for September. In order to have the correct number of teaching resources, which we will purchase for all individuals taking the course, please can you complete this [Microsoft Form](#) by **Monday 12 July 3pm** if you would now like your child to take part. Please note, this is a significant commitment so it is essential that the students are keen to be involved.

Should you wish to discuss this further, or require more details about the course itself, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Hazel Carvel

Maths Problem of the Week

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

Nick Owen

SWIFT programme for parents of children with a diagnosis of Autism or children that have autistic traits

What is it?

SWIFT is a training programme for schools and parents developed by the Communication and Interaction Service (C&I). SWIFT provides the opportunity for parents/carers to:

- Learn more about autism and how it may affect their child
- Promote a consistent approach across home and school
- Learn about practical strategies they can use with their children
- Direct parents/carers to relevant resources
- Give parents/carers the opportunity to meet with other parents who have had similar experiences and to gain support and learn from each other

Who is it for?

Parents/carers who have a child with a diagnosis of autism or that has autistic tendencies

What does it cover?

SWIFT consists of four Modules that explore key aspects of autism, development and learning. Each Module has activities, films, key resources and strategies.

Module One: Understanding Autism

Module Two: Communication and Interaction

Module Three: Sensory Processing

Module Four: Emotional Wellbeing

If any of you as parents/carers are interested in taking up this opportunity, then please can you email me to register your interest sam.walkley@icknield.oxon.sch.uk

I am planning to run the programme in small groups throughout the academic year, one group a term, lasting for 4 consecutive weeks.

If you have any further questions then please ask.

Sam Walkley

DofE

Congratulations to Marcus E, Leo B, Nat F, Alex W, Max M, Neil M, Mia B, Megan G & Maddie J for completing their Silver Awards by submitting their presentations on the types of trees they encountered and how different people have been using the countryside.

Any more presentations that need completing please send to Miss Scane and ask if you need any help.

Congratulations to Elliot H, (expedition), Annabelle L (expedition), Sophy M (expedition), Tilly S (expedition) and Ollie E (volunteering) for completing your section by uploading your assessors' reports. Please do continue to submit assessors reports for any sections as you complete your sections.

A reminder that the Bronze qualifying expedition is held on the 17th and 18th July where students will be walking to school for both days and will need to carry all their equipment and cook once they get to school, although students will not be camping overnight.

Katie Scane

CareersNews

Please take a moment to look through the attached CareersNews. Many colleges and further education settings are beginning to open their doors for 'real' tours throughout the summer months. If you would like to visit, places must be booked. Simply follow the links within the CareersNews to book your place.

Helen Richardson

Friends of Icknield

School Production – Refreshments

The Friends of Icknield committee consists of just 6 members and we are, therefore, in need of volunteers to help us set up, serve and pack away our refreshment stall for the school production please.

We need extra help on:

Monday 19th July 4.00-6.00pm
Tuesday 20th July 3.30-5.30pm and/or 6.30pm-8.30pm
Wednesday 21st July 4.00-6.00pm and/or 6.30-8.30pm

Unfortunately, helpers won't be able to watch the production if volunteering, as that is when we will be tidying up/clearing away.

Please let me know if you are able to help at any of the above times by e-mailing friendsoficpta@gmail.com. Any help, will be very much appreciated.

Garden Party Invite!

We are holding a garden party, which is open to any Friends of Icknield supporters as well as anyone who may be interested in joining our committee in the next academic year. If you are free and would like to find out more about what we do or would just like to be sociable, please do come along... we're a friendly bunch!



Friends of Icknield Garden Party!

All FOI supporters, volunteers and future helpers are invited to our end of year get together on the

17th of July from 7pm till 9pm.

No need to RSVP just turn up!

14 Gorwell, Watlington
07711941376

Vicky Ashby

COMMUNITY NEWS

Summer Maths Small group virtual Tuition

Looking for Maths support over the Summer holidays? Wanting to keep your brain in gear. Look no further! Great quality, well-structured zoom maths tuition, held each Wednesday over 5 weeks of the Summers holidays.

Key Stage 2
Key Stage 3
GCSE Foundation Tier
GCSE Higher Tier

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

How to support Friends of Icknield...



www.easyfundraising.org.uk/causes/friendsoficknield



Support our lottery by buying a ticket (or two) and encouraging friends and family to do so too!



smile.amazon.co.uk
Search for 'Friends of Icknield'



Support our events 😊



Treat yourself to refreshments from our stall at school events!



friendsoficcpta@gmail.com



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