



Icknield Community College

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Newsletter – 15 July 2022

Date	Event
18 July	'A' Week
20 July	Awards Evening 7-8pm
21 July	End of Term (non-uniform day)
22 July – 5 Sept	Summer Holiday
5 September	Inset Day
6 September	School Resumes 'A' Week
15 September	School Photographs / Year 11 Parents' Evening
22 September	Open Evening

Sports Day

A huge thank you to our PE team, supported by the rest of the staff, for putting on a brilliant sports day yesterday. There were some amazing events to watch and it was wonderful to see our students being so supportive of each other throughout the day. A big thank you, also, to our Sports Leaders, below, who helped throughout the day and were instrumental in its success! This is the last newsletter of the year, but there will be a Sports Day special coming out next week from the PE team.



Staffing News

Congratulations to Dr Miller who will be joining the Leadership Team in September 2022. We are all very much looking forward to working with him in his new role.

We will be saying a fond farewell to three members of staff, all of whom are going on to teach in other schools. A huge thank you to Steph Loomes, Amy de Sybel and Ishanie Sunthareswaran for all that they have done during their time at ICC. We are very grateful and will miss you all!

Please see a note below from Jill Cottee, Chair of Trustees, Acer Trust

With the CEO of Acer Trust, Katherine Ryan, retiring at the end of August 2022, we wanted to provide our school communities with an update on the leadership of the Trust moving forward. As Headteacher of Matthew Arnold School for many years, Katherine was instrumental in setting up the Acer Trust and has since worked tirelessly with the Trust Executive Group to grow and develop the Trust into what we are today: a strong trust of seven schools. Katherine will be greatly missed, but she leaves behind her a strong legacy of thoughtful leadership and keeping children at the centre of all that we do.

The Trust Board is undertaking a robust recruitment process to identify the best possible leader to take the Trust on through its next stage of development, keeping true to our vision and values. It is hoped that the new CEO will be in post by January 2023. In the meantime, two members of our Trust Executive Group, Mat Hunter and Rob Shadbolt will jointly fulfil the role of CEO on an interim basis, alongside their current roles. Both Mat and Rob bring with them significant experience of education leadership, both within their own schools and within collaborative partnerships of schools.

On behalf of Acer Trust, the Trustees would like to take this opportunity to express our thanks to Katherine for her leadership since the Trust began, to Mat and Rob for stepping up at this time, and to all our staff for their hard work and ongoing dedication to ensuring that children in our schools benefit from the best possible education.

Jill Cottee, Chair of Trustees

Next Week

Next week is certainly going to be a final challenge for us this academic year with the severe weather warning in place for Monday and Tuesday. We have already postponed our Duke of Edinburgh Bronze Expedition this weekend and have moved our Annual Awards Evening from Monday to Wednesday.

Students do not need to wear school uniform on Monday or Tuesday. We would advise them to wear loose-fitting light coloured clothing. Please do make sure that students are dressed appropriately for school (please see Mrs Pickford's Parentmail from earlier in the week). Students should bring a refillable drinks bottle with them. There will be opportunities throughout the day to refill drinks bottles.

In addition to this, the teaching staff have been briefed on the steps we need to take to minimise the risk of heat-related illnesses (I have attached the Government's guidance on identifying the symptoms of heat-related illnesses for information). These include steps to keep classrooms as cool as we are able, relocating lessons from those classrooms that we are aware become the hottest and making some changes to the curriculum. For example, students won't be creating hot foods in Food Technology lessons and will be avoiding rigorous physical activity outside in PE lessons. Whilst I am confident there won't be any major issues, we will support all of our students in making sensible decisions to manage the heat.

Last day arrangements

On Thursday 21 July, we finish term at 1.00. As usual for our last day of the summer term, students will attend lessons 1-3 and then go to lunch. Paninis and other snacks will be sold at breaktime on Thursday, but the canteen will not be open at lunchtime. Please do send in a packed lunch for your child should you wish them to eat at school on Thursday.

End of Term

It seems extraordinary that I am writing for a third time about what a challenging year we have had! Whilst we have not, of course, had a lock down during this third year of the pandemic, we have still had a number of challenges to face: mass testing, the vaccination programme, high levels of student and staff absence, cancellation of trips as a result of changing travel rules – the list goes on.

That said, we have had a brilliant year, too, and it has been wonderful to be able to reintroduce activities we have not carried out for two years. As ever, thank you for your support a long the way; it really is very much appreciated.

I wish you all a very enjoyable summer holiday and look forward to seeing you next academic year,

Wish best wishes.

Mat Hunter
Headteacher

Reminder of the Uniform Policy

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 and skirts should be logoed - **stretchy skirts are not allowed**.

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 on this.

Vicky Pickford

Discounted Shorts and Skorts

The school has obtained from Trutex a limited quantity of Icknield-branded PE shorts and skorts in various sizes. These are no longer required items in the current uniform specification – plain black shorts/skorts are now listed instead – but they will remain acceptable for the foreseeable future. These will be sold through our Parentmail +Pay portal at a discount, and you will receive a ParentMail letting you know when they are available.

Vicky Pickford and Robert Legg

Online Safety – SNAPCHAT

We have been made aware of a new feature in SNAPCHAT called 'Meet Up'. This feature pairs up with Apple or Google maps and gives exact directions to a person as long as they are snapchat friends. This could be potentially dangerous if privacy settings are not set correctly. If your child uses snapchat, please do check their privacy settings to ensure they are safe. Please see this [website](#) and [safety card](#) for help with how to do this.

Vicky Pickford

Exam Results Day

Exam results can be collected from school on Thursday 25 August between 9.30-11am.

Please can you also check that your child has completed the brief form at <https://forms.office.com/r/Z69CR7uM25> which provides us with details about how they will be collecting their results (there are three options: from school in person; from school by a third party who must be named to us in advance and bring ID on the day; or via their school email address).

Matt Ford

Maths Problem of the Week

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

Nick Owen

ICC School Meals

Dolce, our school meals provider, are introducing a price increase of 8-10% across the menu to come into effect as of 1st September 2022. This is the first increase in their retail price since September 2019. The increase is due to inflating food prices, fuel costs and the increase in the National Living Wage. Bought in items, such as bottled water and juices cartons are increasing in line with the supplier costs (some will be an additional 20 %) and we will always provide tap water as a free alternative and encourage students to bring in water bottles to fill-up.

An example:

Current Main meal £2.05	New Price £2.25
Current Pasta Pot £1.94	New price £2.10

If you have set a daily limit for your child you may need to increase this in line with the new prices.

Lindsey Davies, Finance Manager

Garsington Opera Performance

Twenty-eight students in Years 7 to 10 attended Garsington Opera's production of *Così fan tutte* last Tuesday 12 July. We had a really enjoyable evening in the beautiful setting of the Wormsley Estate. Many thanks to Amy de Sybel and Jacqui O'Reilly for accompanying this visit.

Robert Legg



Mental health and creating your own self-care plan

As a follow up to Mr Barringer's assembly last week, it is important that we all find our individual ways of showing ourselves compassion and self-care. The summer holidays can be an ideal time to do this and attached link has some really helpful resources and ideas.

<https://www.annafreud.org/schools-and-colleges/resources/my-self-care-plan-secondary/>

Jane Bellars

DofE

Congratulations to Taya A (Skill), Poppy A (Volunteering, Physical & Skill), Ciaran R (Physical & Skill), Issy S (Volunteering), Ellie S (Physical & Volunteering), Maizie K (Volunteering, Physical & Skill), Lily S (Volunteering, Physical, Skill) who have uploaded all 3 of their assessors' reports and have completed all 3 of their sections!

Congratulations to Oliver S (Volunteering & Physical) Nikita S P (Physical & Skill), Gene G (Physical), Rose U (Physical), Issy (Volunteering), Cerys F (Volunteering), Joseph R (Volunteering) who have submitted assessors' reports over the last two weeks!

Please do add your assessors' reports as soon as you finish your sections. Your assessor can write the report online using www.dofe.org/assessor or by completing the report card from your welcome pack. Please ask if you need any help in adding your assessors' reports.

A huge congratulations to our year 11 Silver students who completed their Qualifying expedition last week!

Please note that this weekend's Bronze Qualifying expedition has been postponed to 1st-2nd October due to the weather warnings.

Katie Scane



KS3 Acer Trust Public Speaking Competition.

I am thrilled to report that the Year 7s representing Icknield were outstanding ambassadors for the school! The ten students involved went across to Wood Green School on Wednesday 13th to take part in English Speaking Union (ESU) style debating. The six motions included 'Art and Music are a waste of time in school', 'Kindness is the most important character trait and 'School Uniform is a relic of a bygone age and should be abolished.' This latter motion was most ably put forward by Leticia S-P, Libby K and Hannah H – looking absolutely immaculate in their uniform!

I am delighted to say that Zach H and Nathan W won the best Chair role for Icknield. The best Speaker team went to Matthew Arnold school, Wood Green won best Questioner whilst the overall trophy went to Icknield. Those involved are keen to continue so do look out for the Public Speaking Club in September for years 8 and 9.

Congratulations to all who took part and to Liv C whose support was extremely valuable.



COMMUNITY NEWS

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Adrian Thomas