



Newsletter – 8 September 2017

Date	Event
w/c 11 Sept	'B' Week
14 Sept	School Photographs
15 Sept	Year 9 Duke of Edinburgh Expedition
21 Sept	Open Evening 6pm
29 Sept	Year 9 & 10 Duke of Edinburgh Expedition
5 Oct	KS3 (6pm) & KS4 (7pm) Information Evening
10 Oct	Year 7 Tutor Evening 4-7pm
20 Oct	End of term (non-school uniform) – normal 3pm finish

Welcome Back!

It has been a real pleasure to welcome our students back this week – they have returned to school full of energy and optimism as, of course, have our staff! It has been great to welcome them back too. Equally, we feel very privileged to be joined, this year, by some more very talented teachers, leaders and support staff, many of whom you will meet in due course.

Our new Year 7 students, in particular, have settled in particularly well. My thanks to all of the staff involved in their very comprehensive transition programme, Mrs Carter in particular, which culminated in another very successful summer school at the end of the holiday.

It is a long first newsletter this week, with lots of important information and some entries from new members of staff, so I will keep my first entry purposefully short.

I look forward to seeing you all soon over the course of this term.

Mat Hunter
Headteacher

Welcome back from the English Department

A very warm welcome to 2017-18 from the English Department. We have another exciting year ahead of us, full of opportunities for students to explore their love of English. A few things you might be interested in:

New Key Stage Three Homework

Please do read Mrs Wilson's (née McEneaney) entry elsewhere in this newsletter. She has spent a great deal of time listening to feedback from students and parents on the way that we use homework in KS3, and the new, reading focused, homework approach is something that we are very proud of.

Key Stage Four GCSE Revision Booklets

We are nearly ready to be able to lend these to our Year 11 students for this academic year. We have wonderful *York Notes* on each of the literature texts that students have studied, and will be lending them via the library over the next couple of weeks. This is over £25 of texts per student (there are four texts per student available) and a great opportunity for them to start that high quality revision ahead of the summer exams.

Follow us on social media...

... the library is @ICClivesbooks and the English Department @ETeamICC on Twitter.

Matt Ford

Lockers

Lots of students and parents are always very keen to obtain the use of a locker for the academic year, and we do have a limited number available. I thought that it may be useful to give a brief timeline of how the system works:

- We are currently checking all lockers to make sure that they are in good order. We are also still waiting for some keys to be returned from last year, so if your child has yet to do so please make it a priority for this to happen. Those students from last year who have not yet returned their key will have the contents of their locker removed, placed in a bag and they can then pick this up from the Finance Office.
- We aim to be ready to issue lockers for the 2017-18 academic year to students who are interested, on the following dates:
Monday 18 September: Year 7
Tuesday 19 September: Year 8
Wednesday 20 September: Year 9
Thursday 21 September: Year 10
Friday 22 September: Year 11

Students who would like a locker will need to visit the Finance Office during break or lunchtime on their day and pay £10 for the year. £5 will be returned when they return the key at the end of the year.

Matt Ford

Photographs

School photographs will be taking place on Thursday 14th September. All students will have their photographs taken on this day. Shortly after, students will receive a pack with a proof photo and order form which will be handed out in tutor time. If you wish to purchase copies of the photos please return the relevant form and payment to reception.

Reception

Tutor Email addresses

In an attempt to improve the lines of communication between parents and teachers further, we have added the email addresses of each of the school's tutors to the school's website in the 'Contact Us' section. Your child's tutor should be the first line of communication for any pastoral matters that you need to discuss with the school. As you will know, the email addresses for the Leadership Team, subject leaders and Progress Managers are already available in this part of the website.

James Barringer

DofE

The final expeditions are fast approaching and so I would like to remind all students that they must have all assessors reports uploaded before their expedition. Any problems with this, please come and see me as soon as possible.

All equipment that was borrowed for the previous expedition must be returned ASAP as it is needed urgently for the first expedition. Students needing to borrow equipment need to come and speak to me.

Also, can all students on the first expedition (15-16th Sept) attend a short meeting at Wednesday lunchtime for final equipment and route checks.

Katherine Scane

Science revision guides for Year 10 and 11

A reminder that for the new Science GCSEs the exam boards have re-named the courses. The course names are:

- Combined Science (previously Double Science)
- Separate Science (previously Triple Science)

We are using the AQA exam board which have produced two Combined Science courses, one called 'Trilogy' and one called 'Synergy'. We will be delivering the Combined Science Trilogy GCSE.

For more information on the courses please refer back to the Guided Choices booklet or the AQA website <http://www.aqa.org.uk/subjects/science/gcse>.

Revision guides can be purchased from the Oxford University Press website, please find details below.

Combined Science:

Title	Price	Web-link to preview
Biology for GCSE Combined Science: Trilogy	5.50	https://global.oup.com/education/product/9780198359302/?region=uk
Chemistry for GCSE Combined Science: Trilogy	5.50	https://global.oup.com/education/product/9780198359319/?region=uk
Physics for GCSE Combined Science: Trilogy	5.50	https://global.oup.com/education/product/9780198359326/?region=uk

Separate Science:

Title	Price	Web-link to preview
Biology	7.25	https://global.oup.com/education/product/9780198359401/?region=uk
Chemistry	7.25	https://global.oup.com/education/product/9780198359418/?region=uk
Physics	7.25	https://global.oup.com/education/product/9780198359425/?region=uk

Louise Gilkes

KS3 English Homework

In term 6, I conducted some research into the role and purpose of homework set in English throughout KS3. As you are aware, from terms 1-5, we set homework projects and in term 6 we set weekly projects so that we could evaluate the impact of different types of homework on students' engagement and learning. Based on this research, we have made some changes to the way we set homework in English. Below, I have outlined the headlines from the research conducted:

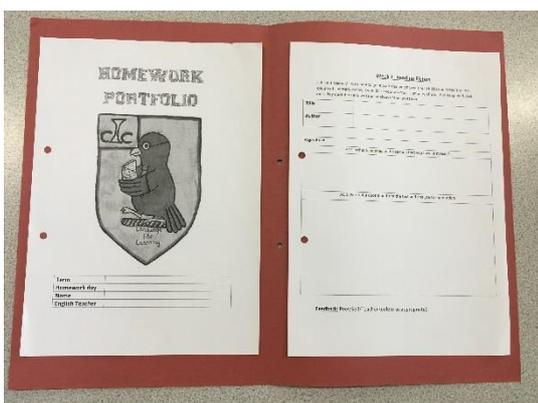
You said...	We did...
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Homework is a crucial part of students' engagement with the material studied in class and their understanding of key concepts. Homework should be completed independently by the student. Homework does not have to be writing based all of the time. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> We have created weekly tasks that are focussed on the assessment objectives that students are assessed on throughout the KS3 curriculum. Also, we have included a range of fiction and non-fiction text types so that we are encouraging students to read a variety of texts to consolidate key skills taught in the classroom. We have provided a list of suggested reading titles to enable students to complete their homework tasks independently. Students will, of course, practise writing skills when completing homework, but all homework tasks will be reading based so

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> On the whole, students engaged with the homework projects but sometimes, the feedback was inconsistent. The weekly tasks set in term 6 were more successful. 	<p>that students are practising a range of skills.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> We have created weekly homework tasks where, when the student hands in their homework, they will receive weekly feedback in the form of self/peer/teacher assessment. At the end of the term, each student will receive brief written feedback from their teacher to compliment the feedback given throughout the term. We have created a 'Homework Portfolio' for each student in KS3 where students will receive weekly homework tasks.
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I have also attached a PowerPoint to the newsletter which offers more detail on the changes that we are making; this will also be shared with students when they are given their homework portfolios.

As outlined in the attached PowerPoint, and in one of the points above, the biggest shift we have made is that we are going to be setting weekly tasks that are reading based. There are many reasons for this, but the principal one is that we would like to emphasise the importance of wider reading; more than ever, students need to be reading to ensure they are meeting the demands of the new curriculum (and, more importantly, it's often a hobby that is forgotten so we would like to remind students of what a fantastic thing reading a text can be!)

So moving forward, at the first opportunity, your child will receive their homework portfolio and the first week's homework (this will be in accordance to the new homework timetable) Your child will then have one week to complete their homework, ready to be handed in on their homework day the following week where they will receive self, peer or teacher feedback. For example, in the first week, you can expect your child to bring home a red folder with the portfolio title page and the first week's homework task. Then, as the term progresses, your child will bring their red homework portfolio home with a new homework sheet for that week.



I would like to take this opportunity to say thank you to those who took part in the survey; your feedback was incredibly helpful. If there are any questions, comment or queries regarding the new homework structure in English, then please do not hesitate to contact me at leanne.wilson@icknield.oxon.sch.uk

Leanne Wilson

PE News

The PE department would like to wish everyone a very welcome back, and to our new Year 7's, welcome to Icknield! PE in this term will consist mostly of hockey and rugby with a variety of other activities. Therefore a reminder about kit:

Hockey: reversible outdoor top, black skorts, long black socks, shin pads, studded boots, gum shield.

Rugby: reversible outdoor top, black shorts, long black socks, studded boots, gum shield

Indoor activity: short sleeved top, black shorts, short white socks, trainers.

Your teachers will have told you what activities you'll be doing and when you'll be doing them so please pay close attention to this in order to bring the correct kit. This is of special importance for hockey and rugby where any lack of the safety equipment will be sanctioned.

With the start of this term, the countdown to Sports Tour 2017 has well and truly begun! More information for those going will follow very soon.

Please find attached the extra-curricular clubs timetable. Just a reminder that these clubs are completely free to attend, however it is up to the pupil to arrange their way of getting home.

Fixtures:	Tuesday 12th September	Year 11 Hockey (Gillotts)
	Thursday 14th September	Year 11 Rugby 10s (Gillotts)

Please follow our twitter page (@ickniel_PE) as all information will be put on there prior to fixtures, as well as news of last minute changes and other club related news.

Matt Mures

PE Uniform

Due to storage issues, we will no longer be holding a large stock of PE uniform at school, but will be ordering stock from our supplier every term to fulfil student orders. Please place any orders for PE kit through SCOPay, and pay on-line, or at the Finance Office, before Friday 15 September. After this date, the next order will not be placed until December.

Gum shields will continue to be stocked in school, however, we will no longer stock black sports socks and shin pads as these can be bought cheaper through sports shops on-line.

ParentMail

The school subscribes to ParentMail, which enables us to send letters and messages direct to parents by email and text.

If you have changed email or mobile phone number over the summer, please let us know. New year 7 parents will be set up with the email address that was provided in the admission forms and an activation message will be sent next week from the email address info@parentmail.co.uk . Please make sure you add this address to your email address book in order to prevent messages being blocked by your SPAM/JUNK filters.

SCOPay

We use a secure on-line payment system for all school trips, PE uniform, revision guides etc, enabling all payments to the school to be made securely by credit/debit cards. Blue letters, with each parents individual log-in details, will be sent out to all Year 7 parents next week, and we would encourage you to sign up.

Finance Office

Creative Arts Faculty and 3D Design launch

It has been a real pleasure for me starting at Ickniel this week as Head of the newly formed Creative Arts faculty. I feel blessed to be working with such a strong, kind and caring team. Thank you to all the staff who have made me feel so welcome here and am thoroughly excited about my future here.

In addition to the launch of the Creative Arts faculty, it was also the launch of 3D Design (which will begin to replace Resistant Materials) as a subject. Massive congratulations to my year 10 class who welcomed me so politely and are fully on board with the challenge ahead. I'm looking forward to sharing regular updates of their work as I am confident they'll impress. Thank you to all the students

who I have taught so far as well. They are wonderful and will make stunning pieces of 3D design. Watch this space.

Barry Kelly

Clubs

Look out for the clubs booklet which will be sent out in next week's newsletter and will also be published on the school website (<http://ickniel.oxon.sch.uk/student-information/school-clubs>). This will contain the location, time, day and staff member running each club. We run a variety of clubs at lunchtimes and some longer clubs that are scheduled afterschool.

Louise Gilkes

Homework

Now that we are fully in the swing of the new academic year, students will be set homework as per the homework timetable and homework policy which will soon be updated on the school website. You will notice that we have slightly reduced the homework in KS3 to ensure that homework is meaningful, useful and not a burden!

As most parents will be aware, homework is set online on a platform called 'Show My Homework'. Students and parents have their own log-ins for this. Students in Year 7 are being shown how to log-in to SMHW using their school computer log-in during their Computing lessons this week. Parent log-in details will be printed and sent home with students over the next couple of days so please do look out for these in your students pockets, bags if they don't hand them straight over!

All staff have been asked to be very lenient with homework for Year 7 for the next couple of weeks and to provide paper copies of any resources needed in case students have difficulties logging on or doing their homework so please do not worry if homework is due in and you have been unable to do it.

If you do have a problem with logging into SMHW please do ask students to speak to their Computing Teacher in that lesson or Mr Simpson the ICT Manager. Any other more general homework related problems, please do contact me vicky.pickford@ickniel.oxon.sch.uk

Vicky Pickford

Choir

The ICC Choir will rehearse every Monday lunchtime in room 40 with Ms de Sybel. You don't have to be a great singer to join us, just come along and have some fun! We will be learning some great pieces for Remembrance, Christmas and lots of other important school events, so please do come and be a part of it.

Amy de Sybel

Oxford Conservation Work Party

On the penultimate day of the 2016-17 term, a hardworking and enthusiastic group of Year 7 and Year 9 students spent a busy morning working on Oxford Preservation Trust's Heyford Meadow nature reserve. The students were selected as they worked really hard in lessons on the Young Geographer of the Year Award; the conservation trip was their reward. The group split into two smaller parties with the Year 7s cutting branches back on overgrown trees to create log piles and the Year 9s clearing scrub and foliage in a wetland area. Despite a rainy start to the day spirits were not dampened. Rachel Saunderson from the Oxford Preservation Trust was really impressed by the attitude and workrate of the students. "We'd be delighted to see you and your students back again another time..." Many thanks to Ellen Kaye for supporting the trip with similar enthusiasm and to James Grimsdale for bringing tasty treats on his birthday!

Daniel Moden



Stadhampton Youth Club

Back to School and back to Youth Club.

Stadhampton Youth Club will continue to run on the first and third Wednesday of the month during term time in the village Hall at St John's in Stadhampton. Subs £1.50/week. Tuck shop available

Before attending, a Membership Form signed by a parent needs to be completed and handed to the Session Leader available on the door or by emailing stadhamptonyouthclub@gmail.com.

There is currently ONE session 18.30 - 19.30 for all age groups Y5 - 9 inc

It may be possible to run two sessions in the future one for Y5-6 and one for Y7+ should we have enough interest - so let us know if you'd like that.

We need more volunteers for the sessions themselves and also for the vacancies on our Management Committee Chairperson and Secretary.

If you are interested then please let us know these roles could be split or shared if that would make things more appealing and we would welcome members of the local community to get involved too you don't need to have a child/grandchild that attends to volunteer.

Any support you can give is greatly appreciated.

Friends of Icknield 50:50 Club

Congratulations to David Marcou winner of the July draw.

The Friends of Icknield 50:50 Club is a simple way to raise funds to support the school. It's a monthly draw with prize money divided equally between the school and a lucky monthly winner.

You can join for as little as £1 per month. An annual 50:50 Club subscription of £12 gains entry to 12 monthly draws. You may subscribe for as many numbers as you like. Amounts won depend on the number of subscriptions.

You can join at any time, with your subscription lasting for the following 12 monthly draws. Contact foi5050@btinternet.com for an entry form.

Friends of Icknield AGM

We will be holding our Friends of Icknield AGM ON Tuesday 19th September at 6pm in the school canteen. We extend a warm welcome to all parents and carers. We are a small friendly group of parents who support the school through providing refreshments at school events and running fundraising events. Refreshments will be provided. For more information please contact samrooks@hotmail.co.uk

Easyfundraising.org.uk

Did you know that whenever you buy anything online – from your weekly shop, finding gifts, to your annual holiday – you could be raising a free donation for Friends of Icknield, Watlington?

There are nearly 3,000 retailers including Amazon, John Lewis, Aviva, thetrainline and Sainsbury's, who will donate a percentage of the amount you spend to Friends of Icknield to say thank you for shopping with them.

It's really simple, and doesn't cost you anything.

All you have to do is:

1. Go to <https://www.easyfundraising.org.uk/causes/friendsoficknield/>
2. Sign up for free
3. Get shopping – your donations will be collected by easyfundraising and automatically sent to Friends of Icknield. It couldn't be easier!

There are no catches or hidden charges and Friends of Icknield will be really grateful for your donations. To date, shopping via this site has raised over £1,800 in donations for Friends of Icknield.

Thank you for your support.