



## Newsletter – 14 January 2022

Date	Event
Wc 17 Jan'22	"A" Week
19 Jan	Year 8 HPV Immunisations
20 Jan	Year 11 Parents Evening
3 Feb	Year 10 Parents Evening
18 Feb	End of Term (Non-Uniform Day)
19-27 Feb	Half Term Holiday
28 Feb	School Resumes – "B" Week

### Vaccinations

There will be an opportunity for students in Year 8 to 11 to have a second covid vaccination in school on **Monday 24<sup>th</sup> January**. This will be carried out by the School Age Immunisation Team (SAIS) and simply be hosted by the school. You should have received a Parentmail today with all of the details you need to know. Please do carry out the actions as described in the letter. In the letter, it states that consent must be given at least two working days before the vaccinations are given. **Therefore, consent forms have to be submitted by the midday on Thursday 20<sup>th</sup> January**. The immunisation team have said they will not allow anyone to receive the vaccination if their deadline for consent is missed.

In the last round of vaccinations, many students weren't aware of whether their parents had given consent for them to have a vaccination (and they are all asked this question). **Please could I ask that you make it very clear with you child as to whether or not you have given consent. Thank you.**

### Change to Covid-19 isolation period

From Monday 17 January, people who are self-isolating with COVID-19 will have the option to reduce their isolation period after 5 full days (**the day that they tested positive counts as day zero** – a few families are misunderstanding this and trying to send children in one day early) should they test negative with a lateral flow device (LFD) test on both day 5 and day 6 and they do not have a temperature. For example, if they test negative on the morning of day 5 and the morning of day 6, they can return to their education or childcare setting immediately on day 6. This would mean this weekend, for example, that if your child tested positive on Tuesday, Sunday is day 5. Providing that their LFT is negative on Sunday, and on Monday morning (Day 6), they can return to school on Monday.

The first test must be taken no earlier than day 5 of the self-isolation period, and the second must be taken the following day. All test results should be reported to NHS Test and Trace.

If the result of either of their tests is positive, they should continue to self-isolate until they get negative results from two LFTs on consecutive days or until they have completed 10 full days of self-isolation, whichever is earliest.

Anyone who is unable to take LFTs or anyone who continues to have a temperature will need to complete the full 10 day period of self-isolation.

### Bank Holiday

To commemorate the Queen's Platinum Jubilee, there is an additional bank holiday on **Friday 3 June 2022**. As this falls in the May/June half term, the DfE have asked schools to reduce the 2021/22 school year by one day to account for this additional bank holiday. **As a result, we will be taking this Bank Holiday on Friday 8 April (the Friday before the Easter Holidays).**

**Mat Hunter**  
Headteacher

## **Consultation around Special Educational Needs and Disabilities in Oxfordshire**

Oxfordshire County Council are currently consulting on Special Educational Needs and Disabilities and are encouraging parents and carers to contribute to this. Please see attached documentation if this is something you would like to do.

**Mat Hunter**

### **Reminder: No PCR tests for those testing positive on LFTs**

As a reminder, those people who are asymptomatic and test positive on an LFT no longer need to take a PCR test. Instead, they should isolate immediately. Please note, anyone with any of the three main covid symptoms should still book a PCR test.

Teachers will offer students Teams lessons when it is reported they have tested positive using an LFT. Please note, this might still take a little while to set up as teachers might not see emails until the end of a day if they are teaching each lesson. Please also recognise that, unlike during Teams lessons in lockdowns, teachers will have a class full of students they need to teach simultaneously so those at home will not have the full attention of the teacher. Remember, as well as Teams lessons, students can also access online learning resources by looking at the relevant pages on the [Working From Home](#) section of the school website.

**James Barringer**

### **Extra-Curricular Clubs**

Just a reminder that you can view our clubs offering on our website here:

<https://www.icknield.oxon.sch.uk/attachments/article/15/Clubs%20Information%202021-22.pdf>

**Matt Ford**

### **Guided Choices 2022**

Parents of our current Year 9 students will no doubt be awaiting news of our upcoming Guided Choices information event. We have taken the decision to use an online model for the process this year, as we did last year, which will take the form of:

- The release of a *Guided Choices Information Video* on Thursday 27 January which will take you through the whole Guided Choices process from start to finish and also include the answers to frequently asked questions as well further information and guidance. It is a comprehensive account of how Guided Choices works, and by watching it with your child, you should be able to gain an understanding of what you need to do, as well as those tips around making the choices that are best suited for your child.
- The simultaneous electronic publication of our *Guided Choices Booklet*: this contains information about all of our courses and also the contact details for our subject leaders. It is where you can read about course content, the different forms of assessment and also read about both the myths and the truths of each subject.
- The *Guided Choices Application Form* itself (an electronic form which is very straightforward to complete online) will also come out to you.

We do strongly believe in the process being a guided one, and we offer our support and advice so that you don't feel that you are making an uninformed choice:

- From Thursday 27 January, a window will open (until the end of term on Friday 18 February) where you can contact any of our subject leaders to ask them any questions you may have about the courses that they run. Your children can also, of course, talk to their teachers and tutors about their choices while they are thinking about what they might want to be taking.
- During this time, we will also speak to many of you about your child's choices, and will be available to give our guidance to you.
- The deadline for the Guided Choices Application Form to be completed is then Friday 4 March.

Please do feel free to email me if you have any questions about the process.

**Matt Ford**

## **CAMHS Parenting Support Online Sessions for next term**

We are all aware that, nationally, there is an increase in the number of young people and adults suffering with their mental health and wellbeing. We want to work together with parents to support our young people and feel that being educated in these areas is a key step in doing this. CAMHS is part of the NHS and is the Children and Adolescent Mental Health Services. Many families may have worked with them before or be waiting for their support currently. We are working with the CAMHS School In-Reach team to offer more support from within school and with families. Next term, they are offering a range of sessions for parents of Icknield students to support their young people. All of the sessions will last for around 1 hour with time for questions afterwards and will be delivered on Microsoft Teams. See below the sessions on offer and the dates. If you are interested in joining one of these sessions, please contact Lisa Best ([lisa.best@icknield.oxon.sch.uk](mailto:lisa.best@icknield.oxon.sch.uk)) 2 weeks before the date of the session (if possible) so that we can get an idea of numbers and we will send you the Microsoft Teams invite 1 week in advance of the session.

### **1. Monday 24<sup>th</sup> January 6-7.30pm: Road to Independence**

This presentation will explore some of the common concerns that teenagers and parents face. We will be discussing issues around low-level anxiety or hesitancy and discuss ways of helping your child to become a healthy independent adult.

### **2. Monday 31<sup>st</sup> January 6-7.30pm: Anxiety**

This presentation will explore teenage anxiety and how to talk with young people about this. It highlights the difference between appropriate levels of anxiety and when additional help might be needed. It explores what might keep anxiety going and provides an overview of Cognitive Behavioural Therapy as well as a number of useful techniques which parents can use to support their child.

### **3. Monday 7<sup>th</sup> February 6-7.30pm: Low Mood**

This presentation explores what depression is, how it may present in young people, and how it may differ from “normal” adolescent mood difficulties. The session looks at how low mood and depression may be maintained and explores some useful techniques for young people to use.

Your facilitator for these sessions is Emma Hyde from CAMHS (Child Adolescent and Mental Health) School In-Reach team.

This training is suitable for all parents and carers and is not necessarily reserved just for those with issues around mental health at the moment. We feel being informed about how best to support your child so that we can work proactively to improve mental health across the school is the key here.

**Vicky Pickford**

## **The Chalgrove Brook Film Screening**

On Thursday 10<sup>th</sup> February, Icknield Community College is hosting the premiere of a film about the Chalgrove Brook made by Nicola Schafer. The award-winning film has been made in partnership with The River Thames Conservation Trust and Watlington Climate Action Group, and Icknield's Geography Department also contributed to the filming. The result is a fascinating film which covers environmental issues, history and the culture of the Chalgrove Brook. After the screening there will be a Q&A session with the film's creators.

If you would like to attend tickets can be booked at [www.thechalgrovebrook.uk](http://www.thechalgrovebrook.uk) (see attached flyer). Suggested donations are students £2, adults £4. The doors to the event open at 7:45pm with the screening beginning at 8pm. We hope to see as many of you as possible at the screening.

**Dan Moden**

## **Dance Careers Panel - Dance as an Option?**

One Dance UK, are hosting a free online panel for anyone who is considering Dance as a GCSE option. The event will include case studies from industry professionals, along with the opportunity for you to ask your burning questions about dance careers.

The event will be held on Zoom on Monday 17<sup>th</sup> January 4-5pm. You can register for the event at this link: <https://www.onedanceuk.org/event/free-online-careers-events/>

**Taylor Samuel-Beechey**

## Events at Oxford

### It All Adds Up: A Maths Conference for Girls 15, 16 & 17 March

The Mathematical Institute and Department of Statistics are pleased to welcome girls and non-binary students in Years 9-12 to our annual conference. The event will include

- inspirational talks by female mathematicians
- hands-on workshops
- a chance to meet some of our undergraduate students

15 March: Year 9 (limit 12 per school)

16 March: Years 10-11 (limit 12 per school)

17 March: Year 12

**Applications are now open and will close on 3 February for Year 9-11 and on 24 February for Year 12.** Please see [www.maths.ox.ac.uk/r/ItAllAddsUp](http://www.maths.ox.ac.uk/r/ItAllAddsUp) for more information.

### PROMYS Europe – Applications now open

Applications are now open for PROMYS Europe, an exciting six-week residential summer programme for super-keen young mathematicians from across Europe. Suitable for students age 16+ (and pre-university) who are mathematically ambitious and who would relish spending part of their summer in a supportive mathematical community, thinking deeply about number theory and getting a flavour of mathematical research. Participants live at Wadham College, Oxford during the programme, and the teaching is in the Andrew Wiles Building (home of the Oxford Mathematical Institute). The programme is dedicated to the principle that no one should be unable to attend for financial reasons, and full and financial assistance is available.

The deadline for applications is 13 March, and applicants will need to start working on the application problems well in advance. Full details at <https://promys-europe.org/>.

### UNIQ Oxford - Applications close 7 February

Every year, Oxford's flagship access programme, [UNIQ](#), helps students from diverse backgrounds to make successful applications to Oxford.

We know that the past two years have been difficult for many students, especially those from disadvantaged backgrounds, so we have updated UNIQ to better meet the needs of this particular year group.

UNIQ 2022 offers UK state school students both an academic residential in Oxford and a sustained online support programme. There are places for 1600 students on UNIQ 2022 and it only takes about ten minutes to apply.

Find out more about UNIQ at [www.uniq.ox.ac.uk](http://www.uniq.ox.ac.uk). #UNIQ2022

### Oxford Online Maths Club

Every Thursday at 17:00, we'll be livestreaming one hour of maths problems, puzzles, mini-lectures, and Q&A. It's free, interactive, casual, and relaxed, with an emphasis on solving problems, building fluency, and looking ahead at links to university maths. The livestream is aimed at students aged 16-18. The sessions are recorded so that anyone can watch them back afterwards if they can't make it to the live broadcast on Thursday afternoons.

Our regular host is Dr James Munro (Admissions Coordinator for Maths at Oxford), and we often have current Oxford students or lecturers on the livestream as guests. Previous topics have included the pigeonhole principle, complex prime numbers, topology, tiling, and graphs; there are over 25 previous episodes on the club website to stream at any time.

More information: <https://www.maths.ox.ac.uk/r/club>

## Events outside Oxford

### Quantum on the Clock competition

And your three minutes start... now! Physicist Richard Feynman once said "I can safely say that nobody really understands quantum mechanics" - can you help us prove him wrong? The Institute of Physics QQQ group "Quantum on the Clock" competition challenges UK and Ireland High School students to create a three-minute video about any aspect of quantum science or technology. Entries can be individual or in teams of up to four students, and there are loads of prizes up for grabs. Find out more on the competition webpage: [Quantum on the Clock](#) or watch our [video summary](#).

**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**

### School Council News

At the end of last term, we asked you for donations for our local foodbank and ended up collecting over 1000 items! These items were sent to the Trussell Trust who support foodbanks all over England in the race against hunger.

This food may have only been a small addition to the shopping basket for you, but it has helped people who are struggling and given meals to those who would otherwise go hungry.

Of course, some friendly competition is only natural. Congratulations to our winning tutor group 8JM who donated an impressive 126 items. You can find more photos on the school Instagram account @icc.awareness where we post about important events in the school and outside of it.

An extended thanks to the senior prefects who gave up their time collecting and organising all the donations; your efforts were much appreciated.

This term the school council is discussing how we can reduce our impact on the environment, in the next few weeks we will be pushing more people to put old clothes in the *Recycle with Michael* clothes bank, instead of going in the bin they will be reused to help the environment. We will be sharing more information on this in the coming weeks.

**Caitlin Hope and Lawrence Wright, Head Students**

### DofE

Please can I remind all Bronze and Silver students that they need to submit the information about all 3 of their sections onto their eDofE accounts by 31<sup>st</sup> January. They will also need at least one piece of evidence for each section to show you have started each activity.

Congratulations to Hannah A, Taya A, Liv C, Oscar G-S and Jack D who have already added a piece of evidence to all 3 of their sections!

Please ask if you are unsure or are having problems uploading your section information.

The DofE charity are running information sessions on teams for parents and carers to help them with how to support their young people with the DofE award. Please see the link to the flyer for more information about this free service.

<https://www.dofe.org/wp-content/uploads/2019/06/Parent-Support-session-Flyer-2.pdf>

**Katie Scane**

### Gold DofE

We are collaborating with Wallingford School to offer Gold Award to former Icknield Community College students. Last year's Silver students will be receiving a letter with more information. But any former student aged between 16-24 are eligible to join the group, even if they have not completed the Silver award. Please do let anyone who would be interested know about this opportunity and ask that they contact Mr Harpin at Wallingford school ([dofe@wallingfordschool.com](mailto:dofe@wallingfordschool.com)) for more information. I attach the Gold information letter from Wallingford school which contains some more details such as costs and dates. Please ask Miss Scane if you have any questions.

**Katie Scane**

## Art Department - 2021 GCSE Art, Craft and Design Online Exhibition

Given that we have been unable to have our usual end of GCSE Art Exhibition due to restrictions we have created an online event presentation of all the students wonderful work. We are incredibly proud of how the students created such exciting, varied and creative portfolios throughout their course and it is our pleasure to share a glimpse of their work with you. Please do take a little time to 'walk through' their exhibition using the link below and share this with family and friends. We really hope that you enjoy looking at it. Congratulations to all of 2021 artists!

<https://www.emaze.com/@ALRRZZCQI/gcse-art--design-2021>



**Jessica Parker**

### Young Carers

Does your child play a caring role at home either all of the time or some of the time and what is meant by being a Young Carer?

You're a young carer if you're under 18 and help to look after a relative with a disability, illness, mental health condition, or sibling with autism and or ADHD.

If you're a young carer, you probably look after one of your parents or care for a brother or sister. You may do extra jobs in and around the home, such as cooking, cleaning or helping someone get dressed and move around. You may also give a lot of physical help to a parent, brother or sister who's disabled or ill. Along with doing things to help your brother or sister, you may be giving them and your parents emotional support, too.

Study Higher are organising a series of free on-campus events which is open to our students. Please see their information below along with their flyer. If you or your child/children would be interested in attending please apply to Study Higher through the link below.

**Jane Bellars**

## Young Carers on Tour!

Study Higher are running a series of free on-campus events and visits for young and young adult carers across the year. Our second event is on **Saturday 19th February** at University of Reading and is open to young carers aged 13-18 within our regions - Swindon, Oxfordshire, Buckinghamshire and Berkshire.

We are happy to take new young people to this next event as well as giving those who attended November's event the opportunity to come to all future events too. More info can be found on our website: [www.studyhigher.ac.uk/youngcarers](http://www.studyhigher.ac.uk/youngcarers)

Transport will be free and arranged by us at Study Higher and lunch will be provided. Please see the flyer attached for more info and please do share with your young carers - **the deadline for them to register is 28th January 2022.**

To help with admin we have put together a blurb for you to share with your young carers:

Do you want to meet other Young Carers? Have you ever wondered what it is like at University?

Then come along to a free, fun & informative day with Study Higher at the University of Reading.

You'll be introduced to Young Adult Carer university student ambassadors, go on a campus tour (it's always good to have a look!) and fun activities will be on offer in the afternoon!

All refreshments, lunch and transport will be provided.

If you have any friends who are young carers and would also be interested, please share this with them too.

Take a look at the flyer attached to find out more and register your place before January 28th 2022!

## PE News

In this week's PE News, read about:

- A first **Football** fixture for our **Year 7 Girls**
- An opportunity for **Boys Hockey** at Thame Hockey Club
- The **Extra-Curricular clubs** on offer this term
- The **PE Lesson Activity Timetable** for each year group

**Matt Mures**

## CareersNews – Important notice for Parents of Y11 students

Please could I urge any student who is interested or considering applying for a Sixth Form place at Lord Williams School, Thame to do so by Friday 28 January. Whilst I appreciate this is ahead of their deadline, we have organised for Mr Johnny Hammond, Head of Sixth Form at LWS to come into ICC on Friday 4 February for the morning to conduct interviews with those students who have already applied. Please note their deadline for applications is not until Friday 18 February, any student who applies after the in-school interview date will be invited to an interview at a later date either virtually or on LWS School site (Covid permitting). The aim of hosting in-school interviews is to minimise the amount of time our students miss school and removes the inconvenience to parents of having to collect a child for an interview during their working day. As always, any questions, please do get in touch: [helen.richardson@icknield.oxon.sch.uk](mailto:helen.richardson@icknield.oxon.sch.uk)

**Helen Richardson**

## Letters to Parents/Carers

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

Mock Interviews – 21 Jan 2022 – Year 11  
GCSE PE Camera Rental Letter – Year 10  
GCSE PE Guidance for Videoing Practical – Year 10  
GCSE PE Specification – Year 10  
Parent Info Pack 12-15 Covid 19 – Year 7-11  
Parent Letter Covid 19 Dose 2 – Year 8-11

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

**Finance Office**

## **COMMUNITY NEWS**

### **Small-Group Online Maths Tuition**

Looking for additional support with maths? Look no further! Great quality, well-structured Zoom Maths Tuition.

- Key stage 3: Thursday at 6pm (2 slots available)
- GCSE Foundation tier enrolling for a new class starting after Feb half term each Thursday at 7pm
- GCSE Higher Tier: Saturday at 9.30am (3 slots available)
- GCSE Higher Tier: Saturday at 11.30am (2 slots available)

Please contact: [mathstutorchinnor@outlook.com](mailto: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**