



Icknield Community College

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Newsletter – 15 October 2021

Date	Event
wc 18 Oct'21	"A" Week
22 Oct'21	End of Term (Non-Uniform Day)
25-29 Oct'21	Half Term Holiday
1 Nov'21	Inset Day
2 Nov'21	School Resumes

Information Evenings

Thank you to all parents/carers who have been able to attend the Year 10/Year 7 Information Evenings over the past two weeks. We hope you have found them useful. We will post the presentations from these evenings on our website next week for those of you who were unable to attend.

Chromebook Review

On Tuesday this week, the Leadership Team spent some time talking with students across Year 7-10, talking with staff and visiting lessons to see how Chromebooks have been used this half term. It was a really insightful day and we have lots of things to share with staff and students moving forwards. Thank you to our students who took part in the student voice activity and did a great job in representing the views of their respective year groups.

Duke of Edinburgh Awards

It was great to be able to welcome back some of our ex-students, as well as congratulate some of our current students, at the Duke of Edinburgh Awards evening on Tuesday. Many thanks to Katie Scane and Jen Hicks for organising the event. Please see Katie Scane's entry below for more detail.

Student Vaccinations

A huge well done to all of our students who were vaccinated yesterday for Flu, COVID or both! The School Immunisation Team were extremely complimentary about how our students conducted themselves over the course of the day. In total, almost 1000 vaccinations were carried out which should result in some improved herd immunity at ICC moving forwards.

Young People Paid Feedback

Please do encourage your child to look at this opportunity below from Sammi Rees from Oxfordshire County Council...

I am contacting you regarding two paid opportunities that might be of interest to any young people that you work with. Both are being offered by Oxfordshire County Council and we are looking for ideas and thoughts from young people aged 14, 15, 16 and 17 years old in Oxfordshire.

The first is "Your Voice Your Views" and we are looking for feedback from young people about the nine new priorities for Oxfordshire introduced by the new cabinet. As a thank you, we'll give the young person £20 and a certificate to add to their portfolio. The link is <https://letstalk.oxfordshire.gov.uk/your-voice-your-views>

The second is "Let's talk digital" and we are looking for feedback from young people interested in helping shape the digital offering of Oxfordshire County Council, such as through websites social media and other online services. The conversation will last 30 minutes and any young people partaking can claim £10. The link is <https://letstalk.oxfordshire.gov.uk/lets-talk-digital-2021>

Please do pass this email onto any young people that you think would be interested!

Sammi Rees, Information and Tracking Worker

Mat Hunter
Headteacher

Covid-19 LFD test kits

As you will be aware, we have requested that students in Year 8 and Year 11 currently test more regularly than twice per week as we have higher numbers of students reporting positive test results in those year groups. If those, or families in other year groups, would like more test kits because they have run out, please email the school reception (Reception@ickniel.d.oxon.sch.uk) clearly indicating the child's name and tutor group; we will then get a box of tests to those students. Please note, depending on when we receive the email, it might be the next school day. We have ordered additional test kits for this purpose.

James Barringer

Please can students test on the last Monday of the half term holiday

The Government are requesting that all students take an LFD test throughout the holiday and immediately prior to return to school on Tuesday 2nd November to reduce the spread of Covid-19. With the large majority of students in Year 8-11 now vaccinated, we are hoping that the number of cases will now reduce but I thank everyone for their ongoing support through regular testing. Most families should have enough tests to cover the holiday period in the box given out this week but, if you need more, please contact the school reception (Reception@ickniel.d.oxon.sch.uk).

James Barringer

Clubs Booklet

I shared details of our lunchtime and after-school clubs offering back at the start of this term, and I just wanted to drop you a line to say that this document can always be viewed on our website here: <https://www.ickniel.d.oxon.sch.uk/student-information/school-clubs> Opportunities for students to attend clubs can be viewed through that webpage in our *Clubs Booklet*, and it is worth checking it periodically as we do update this information as and when new clubs begin and, especially sports clubs, change due to the seasons.

Matt Ford

Non-school uniform day

Friday 22nd October will be a non-school uniform day. We ask all students who wish to take part to bring in a £1 donation which will be shared between the school and a charitable organisation. This term, we will be supporting Stonewall; this charity was selected by our school council as it ties in with one of their foci for this year which is further improving inclusivity and diversity across the school.

Charlotte Gibson

School Council Meeting

We had the first School Council meeting on Wednesday 6th October where we were able to lay out the primary goals and foci for the academic year ahead. We broke off into 4 sub-committees, each of which had the primary focus of either Charity, Environment, Inclusivity and Diversity, and Mental health awareness. Each sub-committee was led by a group of senior students who are responsible for leading and driving forward actions and change, with minimal teacher interaction. It was good to see students from every year group discussing and debating ways to achieve certain targets and coming out of the meeting feeling like they could implement change throughout the school community. As senior students, we look forward to working with this year's School Council to ensure students' voices are heard and to help make a difference.

Deputy Head Students

Maths Problem of the Week

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

Nick Owen

PE News

In this week's PE News, read about:

- A call up for two Y7 students into **County Hockey**
- Two tough matches for our **Y7 Rugby** team
- A battle against Wallingford for our **Y8 Rugby boys**
- The **Y9 Boys** in their **rugby** ties against Gillotts and Wallingford
- A close encounter for our **Y10 Rugby** team
- **Y11 Rugby** team with a fixture heavy week
- A reminder of **next week's fixtures**

Matt Mures

Annabelle's amazing story

The Nasio Trust is a charity that aims to change lives for good by working in Kenya with school aged children and their families to help support, educate, build houses, work with the red cross and help in day centres and community schools. The Nasio Trust provides food, teaches preschool children to a high standard, owns a centre now hosting 134 children who have lost their parents and a 24-hour medical centre.

Children in Kenya are highly susceptible to diseases like malaria, HIV and waterborne diseases. The children of the Nasio Trust have had a fantastic reduction of 85% of waterborne diseases since 2019. I was approached by the Nasio Trust to go to Kenya next summer with a small group of local young people to help with these incredible things as an amazing life changing opportunity for me and for the people I'll be helping. To go to Kenya in August, we as a charity need to raise a lot of money so we have been hosting fundraising events. So far, we have worked for 2 days at the local tea room and have many more ideas currently being put into action.

Any donations via my Just Giving page would be greatly appreciated and all funds will go directly to the Trust. <https://www.justgiving.com/fundraising/annabelle-king2>

Thank you.

Annabelle King, Year 9

English Language A-Level Taster Conference

It is usually around this time that students begin to ask us what studying English at A-Level is really like. This year, an exciting opportunity has arisen for students to find out about some of the topics involved in an A-Level English Language course.

On **Wednesday 24th November**, the English and Media Centre are running a free taster conference aimed at students in **Year 11** who might be interested in studying English Language for A-Levels. The conference begins at 14:00 which, coincidentally, is at the same time as students' English lesson and will provide an insight into the fascinating topics that students will study at A-Level. This includes:

- Language and Identity: who we are and what we do with language.
- How sociolinguists can change your life: class, language, power and creativity
- Language in the News: why language matters and how it hits the headlines
- Forensic Linguistics: how language study can be used to solve crime, uncover identities and open doors to interesting lines of enquiry.

Whilst the conference is scheduled to finish at 15:30, students will be able to leave early to make their way home or they are welcome to stay on for English revision which happens every Wednesday after school.

To help me plan the event, I need students who are interested in attending to sign up in advance by completing [this short form](#). The deadline for signing up is Friday 19th November.

For more information about the conference, visit the English and Media Centre's [website](#).

Chris McGinnity

Duke of Edinburgh

It was great to see so many of our students receiving their Bronze and Silver awards on Tuesday! They had worked so hard and shown great perseverance to earn their awards throughout everything in the last two years! It was lovely to welcome back some of our previous students to be able to congratulate them on their awards.

Any year 10 students who want to enrol on the Bronze Award or year 11 students who want to enrol on the Silver Award should complete their enrolment form and hand it in to the finance office and payments should be made online via parentmail +pay.

Katie Scane



Absence

It is really important for all student absences to be reported to us via the correct channels, so that we can update the registers as quickly as possible each morning and follow up unreported absences. Whilst you may wish to let your child's tutor know that they will not be in, the tutor will automatically have access to this information on the register once it is recorded by us, or you can simply copy the tutor into your e-mail for information. Likewise, absence or Covid-related messages should come direct to the absence team rather than the school office e-mail address, as this also causes additional work and a delay in the attendance team receiving the information.

Reporting student absence

Any absence should be reported as early as possible on the day, preferably before 8.30am, or in advance if known beforehand by e-mailing or calling as follows:

absence@ickniel.d.oxon.sch.uk

01491 612691 (select the absence line to leave a message)

Students who are absent without reason will have their absence recorded as unauthorised and this will be followed up. If you receive a reminder text asking you to notify us of the reason for your child's absence, please contact us as a matter of urgency as any student missing from school without explanation is a safeguarding concern.

Vicky Ashby

CareersNews

This weeks CareersNews has an entry from Ask Apprenticeships who have released their most recent newsletter which features T-Levels, Traineeships and Apprenticeships, as well as a feature on supporting SEN students with their careers. Other new news includes a feature on careers within the Creative Industry, including Animation, AFX or Game Art.

Please can I ask all **Y11** parents to ensure that they reply to the **Henley College taster day** parentmail. The taster day is happening on **Thursday 11 November** and responses **MUST** be submitted by no later than Friday 22 October. This is not a compulsory day but optional. As always, should you have any questions, please do get in touch: helen.richardson@icknield.oxon.sch.uk

Helen Richardson

Oxford Univeristy Maths Opportunities

Please to take a look at a number of opportunities below:

OXFORD MAT LIVESTREAM

Weekly, every Thursday at 17:00 UK time

<https://www.maths.ox.ac.uk/r/matlive>

Are you thinking of applying to study Mathematics at university? The Oxford Maths department are running a weekly livestream this term, talking about maths problems and discussing problem-solving strategies, with a particular focus on Oxford's Mathematics Admissions Test (MAT). The sessions are free and available for everyone; anyone is welcome to join us live at 17:00 on Thursdays, and the sessions will be recorded and available to watch back at any time afterwards. Previous sessions are on <https://www.maths.ox.ac.uk/r/matlive>, but there's no need to catch up before joining us live on Thursday.

OXFORD WOMEN IN COMPUTER SCIENCE (OxWoCS) CHALLENGE CLUB

Aimed at: Women in Year 12 (16-17) from UK State schools or equivalent

Date of next event: Nov 2021 - May 2022.

The Oxford Women in Computer Science (OxWoCS) Challenge club is a new initiative created by the Oxford Women in Computer Science society alongside the Oxford Department of Computer Science. It aims to create a community of young women with a passion for mathematics and its applications. The club consists of monthly mathematical and Computer Science related problem sheets which will be sent out for students to solve. These problems are designed to stretch and challenge students. At the end of each month, students will take part in an online discussion lead by an Oxford Computer Science student, to discuss the problems including solutions and techniques. Students who are successful in gaining a place on the programme commit to attending each of the six live sessions. We anticipate that the problem sheet to take about 6-8 hours of work, each month, in your free time, before the live session. Sessions designed to support you in applying to your chosen universities will also form part of the programme. Applications are open and close on October 29, 2021 .

Further information: www.cs.ox.ac.uk/ChallengeClub Please get in touch via challengeclub@cs.ox.ac.uk if you have any questions.

News from elsewhere:

ONLINE WORKSHOP: PYTHON FOR A-LEVEL MATHEMATICS AND BEYOND - WINTER 2022

21 and 22 January 2022, Online Workshop via Zoom

This is a hands-on workshop and will introduce delegates to the freely available, open-source and general-purpose programming language Python - which is one of the most popular programming languages in the world. Python will be used to enhance the teaching and learning of Mathematics at A-Level and beyond. Delegates need no prior knowledge of programming to benefit from this workshop.

<https://ima.org.uk/17070/online-workshop-python-for-a-level-mathematics-and-beyond-winter-2022/>

MATHS MASTERCLASS TUTORIALS

The goal of the Maths Masterclass Tutorials is to enable enthusiastic young mathematicians at state secondary schools to achieve their potential by receiving weekly online hour-long tutorials from experienced tutors that will stretch students and build upon the maths that they are being taught in the classroom.

The programme starts in Year 7, and students can stay on the programme right through to Year 11. Students therefore have the opportunity to receive masterclasses for five years, giving them a huge advantage in terms of preparing for A-Levels and putting them on track to apply for STEM degrees at top universities. <https://www.talent-ed.uk/mmt-teachers>

FLORENCE NIGHTINGALE DAY FOR STATISTICS, 23 OCTOBER 4-8PM BST

The Florence Nightingale Day for Statistics and Data Science Committee is pleased to present the 4th annual event online on October 23, 2021, from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m, in partnership with the Caucus for Women in Statistics, the American Statistical Association, and the Canadian Statistical Sciences Institute. All middle and high school students (pre-college or university) worldwide who are at least 13 years old are welcome.

Florence Nightingale, the day's namesake, was not only the founder of modern nursing, but also a pioneer in data visualization (<https://thisisstatistics.org/florence-nightingale-the-lady-with-the-data/>). She effectively used data in an organized way to fight for better care for wounded soldiers and public health improvements. Her pioneering work lives on – her creation, the pie chart, is commonly used in modern-day data visualization, including in the current pandemic.

The Nightingale Day event is to celebrate the contributions to statistical sciences made by Nightingale and other women across the globe, and to promote the science of data. Women and those from disadvantaged groups are particularly encouraged to participate. Students can discover career opportunities in statistics and data science, take part in fun data-related activities, and meet academic and industry mentors.

Additional information and registration are [available here](#).

Nick Owen

Letters to Parents/Carers

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

SFD Madame Tussaud's – Mon 15 Nov – Year 8
SFD Human Geography Fieldwork – Mon 15 Nov – Year 11
SFD Cinema Trip – Mon 15 Nov – GCSE Media Year 10
Henley College Taster Day – Thu 11 Nov – Year 11

These letters can also be accessed on the school website:

<https://www.ickniel.d.oxon.sch.uk/news-and-events/letters-to-parents-carers>

Finance Office

COMMUNITY NEWS

Small-Group Weekly Online Maths Tuition

Looking for additional support with Maths? Look no further! Great quality, well-structured zoom maths tuition. We are now enrolling new students to start following October half term.

- Key stage 2
- Key stage 3
- GCSE Higher Tier: Saturday at 9.30am (2 slots available)
- GCSE Higher Tier: Saturday at 11.30am (2 slot available)
- GCSE Foundation tier is now fully booked, with a wait list

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 Ickniel Community College.

Adrian Thomas