



Newsletter – 24 September 2021

Date	Event
wc 27 Sept'21	"B" Week
30 Sept'21	Open Evening
7 Oct'21	KS4 Information Evening
14 Oct'21	Nasal Flu Innoculations
14 Oct'21	Year 7 Information Evening
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

Newquay

I would like to take this opportunity to thank Matt Mures and all other staff who supported the Newquay Trip last weekend. It has been great to talk to the students about what a fantastic time they had and to hear all about their experiences. Please see some more detail, and some great photos, later on in the newsletter.

Year 10 and Year 7 Information Evenings

As per the calendar above, we have two Information Evenings coming up for Year 10 and Year 7 students on Thursday 7 October and Thursday 14 October respectively. Whilst we have already planned the content for both of these events, we would very much like to ensure that we cover exactly what you would like to know about. Please could I ask you to email the Leadership Team links for Year 10 and Year 7, Vicky Pickford and Robert Legg, with any requests you might have. Their email addresses are vicky.pickford@ickniel.oxon.sch.uk and robert.legg@ickniel.oxon.sch.uk.

I will keep my entry short today as it is a busy newsletter!

I hope you all have a good weekend.

Mat Hunter
Headteacher

Open Evening

We are looking forward to welcoming families of prospective parents to our Open Evening next Thursday 30 September, 6pm to 8pm. Please do encourage your friends and neighbours whose children are considering enrolling at Ickniel to join us for the evening. Additional parking will be made available to the rear of the school – if you are attending Open Evening, please do avoid parking on Love Lane as this causes congestion.

Robert Legg

Covid Management Outbreak Plan

As the global pandemic has continued, rules and expectations regarding how we deal with coronavirus cases has changed regularly. Please find attached to the Newsletter the school's Covid Outbreak Management Plan which aims to identify what would happen if and when we have positive cases in the school community. If you have any questions, please contact Vicky Ashby, our Attendance Manager to seek clarification.

James Barringer

Year 11 Parents' Evening Feedback – the School Cloud system

Last week, we trialled School Cloud, an online system, to hold our Year 11 Parents' Evening. Having requested feedback from those parents, I wanted to share the findings and explain our next steps for future parents' evenings.

- With regards to feedback on the ease of navigating the website, booking appointments and sound and video quality, the scores were very high. There were clearly a minority that faced some difficulties but the large majority gave the highest scores for quality. Should we continue with this system, please do contact the school if you are ever struggling to use the system.
- 90% of parents felt that the advice given beforehand was adequate to navigate the system.
- The pie chart below shows that the majority felt that using School Cloud is preferable to our previous approach of using Microsoft Teams.

[More Details](#)

 [Insights](#)

 School Cloud	43
 Microsoft Teams	16
 Other	14



- Some parents fed back that the calls ended abruptly at the end without an opportunity to say goodbye. This is a part of the system, which manages all video calls by ending one call at the identified time and immediately starting the next one. This undoubtedly led to some abrupt endings but did, on the other hand, mean that appointments began on time. In previous feedback, we have been told about the understandable frustration when teachers do not begin appointments on time because they are still continuing their previous appointment. If we continue to use this system, we will need to learn to manage the timings effectively.
- There was also feedback that the length of appointments. Most teachers have one class in Year 11 so we were able to provide six-minute appointments for their students. The feedback largely said that this was sufficient. Some teachers have more than one class which means they could not see all students if they had six minute appointments. Consequently, the system enabled us to offer 'half appointments' which were only three minutes long. These were undoubtedly a little too short but, as a school community, we have to grapple with whether it is better to offer 60+ appointments of three minutes duration (which may a little brief), or have approximately 36 appointments of six minutes duration (which will mean several families cannot get an appointment). There were some people that wanted parents evening appointments to increase in length and run over two consecutive evenings but, due to the limit in the number of directed hours that we can ask teachers to work across the year, we cannot increase the total number of parents' evenings to 14 from the current position of 7.

We have also asked for feedback from the teachers and, as a wider group of school leaders, we will evaluate this system and make plans for future parents' evenings. Please can I thank everyone for their feedback.

James Barringer

Stylus Recommendations

In last week's newsletter I wrote that we were in the process of road-testing a number of stylus devices for use with the touchscreen Chromebooks (Lenovo 300e). Students got on best with three very affordable devices. [This product](#) is small and very light. It was highly rated in our tests, and can be bought in a pack of ten for £5. [This is a similar stylus](#), currently available in a pack of five for £4.40, which some students preferred because it is a little bit heavier. Finally, a number of students preferred the extra weight of [this much longer stylus](#), which costs £10 for a pack of four. These all use the same technology, and can produce a thinner or thicker line depending on the tool selected in the application itself. Please contact me (robert.legg@icknield.oxon.sch.uk) if you are experiencing financial difficulty and would like the school to provide your child with a stylus.

Staff in the Finance Office are currently preparing some recommendations for Chromebook cases and will publish these in next week's newsletter.

Robert Legg

Dance Studio Floor

Students in Years 7, 8 and 9 have been enjoying our fantastic new dance studio, which is equipped with a sprung floor and mirrors. This is a reminder that, in order to keep this space pristine, we are not allowing outdoor footwear to be worn in the studio. Our expectation is that students take part in Dance lessons in bare feet, but if they already have ballet or jazz shoes at home, and prefer to wear those, then they can do so. Non-slip socks, [such as these](#), can also be worn, but ordinary socks are not allowed. Please contact me (robert.legg@ickniel.d.oxon.sch.uk) if you are experiencing financial difficulty and would like the school to provide non-slip socks for your child.

Robert Legg and Taylor Samuel-Beechey

Chromebooks – Logging Off, Connecting to Wi-Fi, and Boxes

Here are three quick notices about Chromebooks. First, please could parents remind their children that it is good practice to log off at the end of the day, before the device is left to charge. If a Chromebook is just closed without being logged off, it won't receive any important software updates. Second, please let us know if your child is experiencing difficulty connecting to your wi-fi network at home by emailing helpdesk@ickniel.d.oxon.sch.uk. Third, please feel free to recycle your Chromebook's cardboard box – we're informed that they no longer need to be kept.

Robert Legg

Stagecoach scholarship

Stagecoach in Thame have very kindly offered two ICC students free scholarships for this academic year. Please see more information below...

We have recently opened a new Main Stages School on a Friday 4.30pm - 7.30pm and would like to offer two Ickniel students full scholarships for the coming academic year.

Stagecoach Thame prides itself on being a place where students can express themselves in a productive and creative way.

Our Main Stages students take part in an hour of Dance, an hour of Drama and an hour of Singing. Within each of these classes we focus on a multitude of skills that are used within that discipline whilst also developing team work and communication skills, building students' confidence and self-esteem whilst making great connections and friendships with other students.

Each term is 12 weeks long and we focus on a different aspect of the performing arts in each term.

If this appeals to you, then please send me an email signalling your interest and names will be added to the list. If we have more than two interested parties (which is highly likely) then names will be randomly selected. If you have any questions, please get in touch via email. The deadline for entries is 1 October 2021.

Adam Rowe

Year 11 Revision Class Timetable

Attached to this week's newsletter is this year's Year 11 Revision Class Timetable. Classes will officially begin from Monday 27th September. Revision classes are a fantastic opportunity for students to consolidate learning, extend understanding of topics and seek further support from GCSE teachers. I recommend that all Year 11's look at the time table and begin attending classes.

Adam Rickard

Invigilators

We are currently recruiting Invigilators to work during our exam seasons. The rate of pay is £10.61 per hour and there could be flexibility on days you are available to work. For further information, please contact Val Coates, Exams Officer – val.coates@ickniel.d.oxon.sch.uk.

Val Coates

An Inspector Calls

Students in Year 10 have been really engaged with our first Literature Set text – An Inspector Calls – and many were fortunate to watch the excellent BBC adaptation of the play in lessons this week. The production is currently available on BBC Iplayer as well as on Amazon Prime and I would encourage as many students to watch it if they haven't managed to cover it in class this week. You can also purchase the DVD version [here](#).

This would also make excellent revision for Year 11 students who will sit an exam on 'An Inspector Calls' for their GCSEs at the end of the year.

Chris McGinnity



Celebrate the European Day of Languages with us!

European Day of Languages 2021: 20 years celebrating linguistic and cultural diversity

Throughout Europe, 800 million Europeans are represented in the Council of Europe's 47 member states and all are encouraged to discover more languages at any age, as part of, or indeed, alongside their studies. This stems from the Council of Europe's conviction that linguistic diversity is a tool for achieving greater intercultural understanding and a key element in the rich cultural heritage of our continent. Therefore, the Council of Europe, in Strasbourg, promotes plurilingualism in the whole of Europe.

At the Council of Europe's initiative, the European Day of Languages has been celebrated every year since 2001 on 26 September - together with the European Commission

So, to join in the celebrations, why not try some of the activities on the website? Here is a link to the EDL Quiz – we've had a go and were quite surprised by some of the answers!

<https://edl.ecml.at/Games/LanguageQuiz/tabid/1873/AreaID/1/language/en-GB/Default.aspx>

When you are out and about, how many times have you overheard people talking in a foreign language and tried to work out which one it is?

Let's do a little training, using this link and next time, you'll be a bit more clued up!

<https://edl.ecml.at/Games/Whichlanguageisit/tabid/3202/Default.aspx>

Finally, if you're into baking, join EDL's 20th Anniversary Great Bake-Off . This year, to commemorate the 20th anniversary of the European Day of Languages' inauguration, the European Centre for Modern Languages invites all of you to participate in our Great Bake-Off. Follow this link to find out more. We'd love to see some of your creations and be able to share them with the school community!

<https://edl.ecml.at/Activities/20thAnniversaryGreatBake-Off/tabid/3230/Default.aspx>

Let your French and Spanish teachers know how you get on!

Bonne chance! ¡Mucha suerte! Good luck!

ICC MFL Team

Earphones

At the beginning of the year, we suggested that it would be beneficial for students to have their own earphones for independent listening work – this is particularly useful in Languages and Music lessons where this sort of work is routine but can, of course, apply across the curriculum. Earphones are available through the Finance Office at £4 per pair.

Alex Hunter

Writing Club Challenge

This week we continue with the challenge to write a poem for the Young Writer's Empowered Poetry Competition for 11-18 year olds (deadline 21st October) - www.youngwriters.co.uk. This will be our focus in writing club until the end of this half term. Support, sharing and encouragement is available at Writing Club on Thursday lunchtimes in Room 18, and final entries should be handed in on the last Writing Club of term (Thursday 21st October).

All writers are welcome at Writing Club, whether or not you are entering the poetry competition.

Jo Botha and Hannah Murray

Maths Problem of the Week

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

Nick Owen

Newquay

Last weekend, we embarked on our long-awaited trip down to Newquay with almost 100 students. Following a lengthy coach journey, the students were eager to get underway with the activities – first up was surfing and body boarding. Everyone got the chance to try each of these out on Fistral Beach, with the waves providing plenty of opportunities to practise. It was amazing to see so many standing up on their first experience of doing this.



Saturday morning saw us travel down to Swanpool, where the day was spent trying a whole host of new activities. Upon arrival, we were greeted by the Elemental team, all of whom were brilliant at instructing our students throughout the weekend. There was a real buzz amongst the students as they could see all of the equipment laid out ready for them.



Across the two days at Swanpool, the students were given lots of opportunities to try out a range of new things. While half the group went coasteering around the point, the other half were turning their hands to paddle boarding, sailing and kayaking. Groups also had the chance to go out on the Mega SUP, which led to not a lot of paddling, but a whole lot of pushing each other in! The staff in their kayaks, and on their paddle boards, were often targeted, though we did get our own back on any student brave enough to try and capsize us! These two days down at Swanpool really were an incredible experience; it was so invigorating to see our students in a whole new light, and witness them doing things that clearly made them so happy.





The weekend evenings consisted of a fish and chip dinner down on Towan Beach on Saturday night, followed by the chance to play some beach games, or socialise with one another. Meanwhile, the group all got to play a game of bowling on Sunday night.



On Monday, the sun finally came out fully and we had a glorious morning down on the beach. We had a group that went into the sea for one final session of surfing and body boarding, while the rest made the most of the last couple of hours to finish off the trip with some more beach games or just chilling out on the sand. Overall, this was a full on 4 days, but a long weekend that gave the students a host of new experiences and opportunities, all of which we fully hope they enjoyed. We as staff were delighted with the manner in which they approached each different activity, and their willingness to get stuck in!



Matt Mures

PE News

In this week's PE news, read about:

- A return to fixtures! Our **hockey** teams got their seasons underway, with matches for **Y8, Y9** and a combined **Y10/11** team
- The **Y11 Boys** faced Cherwell in the first round of the County Cup
- A new **Athletics** PB in the 1500m
- A reminder about **lesson changes** for our **Y7/8** students
- All the information you need about next week's **fixtures**

Matt Mures

CareersNews

Please take some time to read this week's CareersNews. I have left on the dates on the Sixth Form/College Open Events as a reminder. You will also find September's edition of Amazing Apprenticeships as well as some STEM resources. Should you have any questions, please do get in touch: helen.richardson@icknield.oxon.sch.uk

Helen Richardson



Y10 – Work Experience 2022

As per our letter home dated 20 July 21, we are delighted to confirm that our current Y10 cohort will have the exciting opportunity to complete a week's Work Experience in May of next year, Monday 9 – Friday 13 May 2022 incl. On Wednesday of next week Y10 students will be having a presentation on Work Experience during their citizenship lesson. All relevant paperwork and forms that require completion will be sent home by Friday of next week. Please may I encourage you, as parents and carers, to support your child in finding a placement and ensure all necessary paperwork is returned to Mrs Richardson, Careers Coordinator, promptly. All questions re: Work Experience should be directed to Mrs Richardson: helen.richardson@icknield.oxon.sch.uk

Helen Richardson

Letters to Parents/Carers

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

DofE Awards winners letter – 12 Oct 2021 – Selected students
Magic Goes Wrong Theatre tip – 18 Nov 21 – GCSE Drama
English in Action: Writing workshop for GCSE English – 23 Nov 21 – Year 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