



Newsletter – 7 January 2022

Date	Event
Wc 10 Jan'22	"B" Week
10-14 Jan	Year 10 Exams
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

Testing

Thank you to all parents and carers who were able to bring their children into school on Wednesday for a Lateral Flow Test. Thank you also, as always, to the volunteers who gave up their time to support teaching and support staff to administer and process the tests. I'm sorry that there were a small number of students who tested positive and who have not been able to return to school this week. We look forward to seeing you back with us soon!

New Year's Messages

As part of the assembly programme this week, I posted two New Year poems for students to reflect on. The first of these, "[New Day's Lyric](#)", was written by the American Poet, Amanda Gorman, and the second, "[Midnight Moment](#)", by Tomfoolery. Students come across both of these poets during the Key Stage 3 English curriculum. Do take a moment to discuss these poems with your children if you can, as well as any new year's resolutions (school related!) which might be needed for 2022!

Who to contact...

Please find attached a document that Vicky Pickford, Deputy Headteacher, circulated last term showing who to go to for pastoral support. Please note that the Leadership Team line managers for the Progress Managers are:

Year Group	Progress Manager	LT Link
6/7	Marian Carter	Robert Legg
8/9	Kayley McMillan	Matt Ford
10/11	Adam Rickard	Vick Pickford

No PCR tests for those testing positive on LFTs from Tuesday 11th January

As you may have seen in the media, from Tuesday, those people who are asymptomatic and test positive on an LFT no longer need to take a PCR test. Instead, they should isolate immediately. If they test negative using LFTs on the sixth and seventh full days of isolation (the day of the positive test should count as day zero), and these two tests are at least 24 hours apart, they can come out of isolation after the second negative test on day seven. Should they continue to test positive they must complete the full 10 day isolation. Please note, anyone with any of the three main covid symptoms should still book a PCR test.

An implication of this change is that we will now be asking teachers to offer students Teams calls when they report 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](#).

Mat Hunter
Headteacher

Test-at-home LFT kits

We were hoping to be able to receive and distribute a new box of testing kits for all students this week. Unfortunately, the delivery hasn't arrived until today so the boxes will be distributed to class tutors on Monday and will be given to students in school on Tuesday. Thank you for ongoing support with regular two-weekly testing. It enables us all to keep school as safe as possible.

James Barringer

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) 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 24th 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 31st 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 7th 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

Year 10 assessment week: Monday 10 January – Friday 14 January

Our first assessment window for Year 10 students is designed to give an experience of what it is like to sit a number of GCSE type assessments within a controlled period of time, before then receiving teacher feedback that can show them on what they should focus their efforts, moving forward. We recognise that this is the first time that the children will have had this experience, and, as such, we do have a number of supportive strategies that we use to allow students to concentrate on doing their best without feeling anxiety. These include the creation of an assessment timetable (attached) to spread the load of assessment as evenly as possible throughout the week; assessments taking place therefore in regularly timetabled lessons and with the students' normal teacher and assessments focusing only on work completed so far on the course. We look forward to students using this opportunity to gain valuable experience and insight across the next week.

Matt Ford

Maths Problem of the Week

The solution to problem 13 is attached, together with the next problem of the week for you to try.

Nick Owen

Geography GCSE Exam Arrangements for Summer 2022

Paper 1: Living with the physical environment

- There are no changes to 8035/1: Living with the physical environment.

Paper 2: Challenges in the human environment

There will be optionality in Paper 2: Challenges in the human environment.

- Students will answer all questions in Section A: Urban issues, but will then choose either Section B: The changing economic world, or Section C: The challenge of resource management.
- The total time allocation for Paper 2 will be reduced from 1 hour 30 minutes to 1 hour 15 minutes.
- The mark allocation will be reduced from 88 marks to 63 marks (a removal of 25 marks).

Dan Moden

CareersNews

Parents and Carers of Y11 students - Please be mindful that many Sixth Form and Grammar schools are accepting application for students to join them in Y12 from September 2022. Many have application deadlines which are fast approaching. If you haven't already done so, please take some time to chat with your son/daughter and consider applying for a place very soon. Below is a list of deadlines. You can find more details on our CareersNews attached.

Helen Richardson



<u>School</u>	<u>Details</u>	<u>Deadline to apply for entry</u>
Wallingford School <u>Wallingford School</u>	Wallingford School offer A-Levels options together with a select few BTEC courses. Entry requirements differ for each subject chosen so check per subject.	31 January 2022
Wheatley Park School <u>Wheatley Park School - Wheatley Park School</u>	Wheatley Park School offer A-Levels and BTEC courses. Entry requirements is to complete 8GCSE's (or equivalent) achieving a minimum of Grade 4 in five subjects including English & Maths	24 January 2022
Lord Williams School, Thame <u>Sixth Form Lord Williams's School</u>	Lord Williams School offer a selection of A-Levels together with a few BTEC courses. Entry requirements differ for each subject chosen so check per subject.	18 February 2022
Sir William Borlase's, Marlow <u>Home - Sir William Borlase's Grammar School (swbgs.com)</u>	A range of A-Levels and a L3 BTEC in Theatre Production Arts. Entry requirements across all GCSE subjects is an average of 6.4 with a minimum of a Grade 5 in English and Maths. Most subjects require a Grade 7 in GCSE to	1 February 2022

	continue at A-Level. Students are required to write a letter to accompany their application of no more than 300 words.	
Aylesbury Grammar School, Boys <u>Homepage Aylesbury Grammar School</u> <u> (ags.bucks.sch.uk)</u>	A range of A-Levels. Entry requirements are a minimum of 44 points from the best 8 GCSE's including a minimum Grade 5 in English Language and Maths (Grade 9 = 9 points, Grade 8 = 8 points and so on). See individual subject choices for subject entry levels.	15 January 2022
Wycombe High School, Girls <u>Welcome to Wycombe High School for Girls, Buckinghamshire</u> <u> (whs.bucks.sch.uk)</u>	A range of A-Levels. Entry requirements are a minimum of 48+ points from the best 8 GCSE's including a minimum Grade 5 in English Language and Maths (Grade 9 = 9 points, Grade 8 = 8 points and so on). See individual subject choices for subject entry levels	28 January 2022
Aylesbury High School, Girls <u>Aylesbury High School Prepare, Challenge & Inspire</u> <u> (ahs.bucks.sch.uk)</u>	A range of A-Levels. Entry requirements are a minimum of 44 points from the best 8 GCSE's including a minimum Grade 5 in English Language and Maths (Grade 9 = 9 points, Grade 8 = 8 points and so on). See individual subject choices for subject entry levels	17 December 2021

Letters to Parents/Carers

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

Newquay 13-16 Sept 2022 – Year 9

These letters can also be accessed on the school website:

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

Finance Office