



Icknield Community College

Headteacher: Mr Mat Hunter BA (Hons), MSc, NPQH
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Newsletter: 13 January 2023

Date	Event
16 January	'B' Week
20 January	Year 9 Speed Networking/Year 11 Mock Interviews
26 January	Year 11 Parents'/Carers' Evening
9 February	Year 9 Parents'/Carers' Evening
10 February	Flu Vaccine – Years 7,8,9 Only
13-17 February	Holiday
20 February	School Resumes - 'B' Week

Happy New Year

Happy New Year to all our students and parents. We hope you had a really good break and we look forward to working with you successfully over the course of 2023.

New Website

And with a new year comes a new website! As per Dr Legg's social media communications yesterday, we now have a brand new and much improved website which we have been designing (along with a third party) for the last few weeks and months. Please do familiarise yourself with it so that you know how to access all of the information you will need: www.icknield.oxon.sch.uk

My thanks to Dr Legg for all of his hard work on this project and for improving the website so dramatically.

Parent/Carer Survey Feedback

Thank you, once again, to all of the parents and carers who managed to complete the survey before the Christmas break. As promised, we would like to share the feedback with you. Please find this attached to this week's newsletter.

Student Survey Feedback

We also carried out a student survey before the Christmas break with a fantastic 568 students completing it. During assemblies this week, Dr Legg has been presenting the findings to the student body. Both of these surveys have been really helpful in determining the next stages of our work so thank you to all parties involved.

Woman in Black Theatre Visit

Many thanks to Mr McGinnity and the English team for organising a trip to see the amazing *Woman in Black* production at the Fortune Theatre in London on Wednesday. I understand that our Year 9 students were suitably scared and shaken watching the production!

Privacy Notice

We have an annual statutory requirement to publish a Privacy Notice explaining how we use pupil information. Please see this on the Acer Trust website using the link below:

[Acer Trust Privacy Notice for Parents and Guardians](#)

Mat Hunter
Headteacher

Coming up this year: CAMHS Webinars for Parents

The CAMHS In-Reach service are delivering 3 parent webinars across this year to offer support to parents. Please see dates below for the remaining 2 webinars. The webinars will be delivered from 7-8pm. If you would be interested in attending one of these webinars, please email Lisa Best (lisa.best@icknield.oxon.sch.uk). Closer to the event, we will distribute the link to join the webinar.

23rd of February 2023 - Supporting Young people with low mood and depression: This session will cover a brief overview of what depression is, how it presents in young people and what keeps it going. An introduction into behavioural activation techniques and how to support your teenager

20th April 2023 - Supporting Young people who self-harm: This session will be a chance for parents to gain a greater understanding around self-harm, how to have conversations with young people and strategies for practical support.

Vicky Pickford

Homework timetables

You will see a message from Miss Carvel about Maths homework days now changing to Fridays (for all year groups) in order to give students a week to complete their *Sparx* tasks. I have therefore updated all five year group homework timetables to reflect this, they are attached to the newsletter today.

Matt Ford

Guided Choices

No doubt our Year 9 students are starting to turn their minds towards which subjects they will be choosing for their GCSE studies, from September 2023, through our *Guided Choices* process. Parents of Year 9 students will therefore be interested to note that we will be releasing information about our Guided Choices later on this term. I will communicate with you again within the next couple of weeks with full details.

Matt Ford

Extra-curricular clubs

This term, a number of our clubs have been changed and updated. Please find a table detailing all of the clubs available this term attached to the newsletter. Parents will receive an email from Evolve shortly which will allow you to access club details via the myEVOLVE app.

Charlotte Gibson

Funding Solutions For Education

We are currently working with a company, Funding Solutions For Education, on a presentation folder that will be used in school to distribute information to new parents and contacts over the next few years. A representative, Tammie Ridler, is in the process of contacting local businesses and suppliers to invite them to take part and advertise their services. This is a legitimate partnership with Icknield and a huge help to the school, therefore, if you are interested in this opportunity, please contact Tammie on 01933 303547.

Lindsey Davies

Sparx Maths

Thank you for all the support from parents and carers in helping us as a school have a great start with the launch of Sparx Homework. There is a weekly leader board across the whole country and at the end of last term we were 60th for our completion out of around 1500 schools.

Having looked at evidence and research of other schools using Sparx, completion rate is even higher if all year groups have the same homework deadline day. Therefore, from Friday 13th Maths homework will be set and due on a Friday each week. Students can continue to complete their Maths homework on the same day they have been previously but it will just always be due on a Friday by 3pm.

We are aware that, as parents/carers, Sparx sends a number of emails. We hope that you find these useful prompts and updates. We have no control over the volume of these emails. You do have the option to unsubscribe from them but please be aware this would mean unsubscribing from all communication from Sparx.

Along with the newsletter, there is a top tips for parents document to give a bit more guidance. If you have any feedback or would like any support with Sparx, please do get in touch.

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

GCSE Media

As a part of the GCSE Media course, the students have been studying a couple of the James Bond movies: *Man with the Golden Gun* and *No Time to Die* for the year 10 cohort, and *Man with the Golden Gun* and *Spectre* for the year 11 cohort. While the students are mainly studying the industries behind the movies and the movie posters, we would really recommend that they watch the movies too, as historically, students who have seen the movies have a broader understanding of the franchise overall and, as a result, perform better in their exams. In light of this, we're going to be showing the movies at various points after school throughout this term, starting with *No Time to Die* on **Friday 20th January** from 3pm, in Room 18. This is a long movie, around 3 hours, so hopefully we can make a quick start at 3 and finish up by around 6pm. As there are limited seats in Room 18, please let us know if you plan to attend ahead of time, so we can sort out any extra seating that's needed.

Hannah Murray/Chris McGinnity

School Magazine

Congratulations to all students who either helped edit or who contributed to the new school magazine - The Icknield Issue - last term. You can find a copy via the school Instagram or attached to this Newsletter.

Our aim is for the magazine to become an entirely student-led publication, with journalistic and creative contributions welcomed from a wide range of Icknield students.

The next Icknield Issue will be The Icknield Easter Issue. Students can sign up in the library, or email Mrs Botha to be a contributor.

Jo Botha

DofE

Well done to Nikita S P (Physical, Skill), Isobel S (Volunteering, Skill), Summer M (Physical) Alex L (Volunteering), Jack D (Volunteering, Physical), Joseph R (Physical, Skill) who have submitted some of their section information.

A special well done to Nola H, Isabella G-H, Sam F, Tom W, Faye M, Matthew Y, Ewan R, Matteus R, Deacon M, Casper C, Olive O, Alex I who have submitted all of their section information.

Congratulations to Sway M (Physical), Charlie E (Skill, Physical), Faye M (Skill), Freya F (Volunteering), Annabelle K (Skill, Physical), Zac S (Physical), Kate V (Physical), Benjamin C (Physical, Skill), Ewan R (Skill), Nikita S P (Skill), Matthew Y (Physical), Deacon M (Skill), Isabella G-H (Volunteering, Physical), Isobel S (Skill), Alice M (Volunteering, Physical), Jack D (Volunteering), Sam F (Skill), Joseph R (Skill) who have started submitting their evidence for their sections!

A special congratulations to Olly R & Lara W who have submitted evidence for all 3 of their sections!

All students need to submit their section details as well as photo evidence that they have started each of their sections by **Jan 31st**. After school training for the Bronze expeditions will start after school on Tuesday 21st February. Silver expedition training will take place on Thursday 13th April.

Katie Scane

3D Department

We are happy to accept donations of any hardwood offcuts to use for GCSE student 3D Design projects. If you can help please contact warren.ward@icknield.oxon.sch.uk

Warren Ward

When do I need to submit a leave of absence request?

If your child will be absent, other than for standard medical, dental, orthodontist appointments or musical instrument examinations, you must request a leave of absence, rather than just informing the school that your child will be absent. This should be done at least 4 weeks in advance and not on the day of the absence.

The leave of absence request must be in writing and must be from a parent/legal guardian, not from a third party, e.g. a Scout Leader, External Sports Coach. An email to the absence@icknield.oxon.sch.uk is sufficient. The absence will then be considered by a member of the senior leadership team and you will be informed of the outcome within 5 school days.

Leave of absence taken without authorisation may result in prosecution proceedings or a Fixed Penalty Notice.

The Attendance Team

PE News

In this week's PE News:

- The final standings for the **KS3 Winter Games**
- **PE Lesson Timetable** for this term
- **Extra-Curricular Club** for this term
- **Results** from last week
- All of **next week's fixtures**

Matt Mures

Careers News

Please find attached a copy of this week's Careers News. There are numerous opportunities for students to visit businesses or attend webinars to learn more about apprenticeship opportunities from September, including **GSK, Lloyds Banking Group, UKAEA and Jaguar Land Rover**. There are also several new apprenticeships that can be applied for which will start in September including a **Level 2 Healthcare Science apprenticeship with the NHS**.

Y11 will be having a **Mock Interview** in school next week on Friday, details on this can be found in CareersNews.

Y10 Work Experience. If students are still trying to find a placement they must speak to either myself or their tutor to gain some support.

Y11 College/Sixth Form Applications – Deadline dates are fast approaching. Please look in CareersNews for a full list.

Any questions, please feel free to email me: helen.richardson@ickniel.oxon.sch.uk

Helen Richardson

Letters to Parents

Ski Trip letter – Easter 24 – Year 8, 9 & 10

GCSE Health & Social Care Trip – 02 Feb 2023 – Year 11

GCSE Art Exam – Year 11

GCSE Art Exam Unit Wk by WK Student Calendar – Year 11

These letters can also be accessed on the school website:

<https://www.ickniel.oxon.sch.uk/parents/letters-home>

Finance Office

COMMUNITY NEWS

Snowdrop Teas

Please see attached a flyer for a Snowdrop Teas event in Swyncombe for three weekends in February. This involves a lovely walk through beautiful scenery, a historic church and some tasty cakes!

James Barringer

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Aspire, achieve, gain confidence in maths.

Adrian Thomas