



Icknield Community College

Headteacher: Mr Mat Hunter BA (Hons), MSc, NPQH
Love Lane, Watlington, Oxfordshire OX49 5RB



Newsletter: 2 December 2022

| Date | Event |
|-------------------|--|
| 5 December | 'A' Week |
| 30 Nov – 19 Dec | Y11 Mock Exams |
| 15 December | Y7 Parents' Evening |
| 15 December | CAMHS Webinar for Parents – supporting young people with anxiety |
| 20 December | End of Term (non-uniform day) |
| 21 Dec – 3 Jan'23 | Christmas Holiday |
| 4 January | Inset Day |
| 5 January | School Resumes - 'B' Week |

Netball/Tennis Court Fundraising

As per Charlotte Gibson's note in the newsletter last week, we are in desperate need of funding to support our Netball and Tennis courts resurfacing. If you are able to make a donation, however small, please do so by clicking on the link below:

<https://evolve.edufocus.co.uk/shop?IcknieldCommunityCollege>

Our Sports Captains and I will be thanking all donors in this newsletter over the next few weeks (unless you tell us you wish to remain anonymous). How long can we make this list?! Thank you, in advance, if you are able to help us deliver high quality PE and sport here.

Parent/Carer Survey

Many thanks to all of the parents and carers who have already responded to the survey which was hyperlinked to the newsletter last week. We are extending the window until Monday so that any parents/carers who have not responded already can do so over the weekend. Please see Rob Legg's note from last week's newsletter below which contains the survey link:

Knowing how parents and carers perceive the education and pastoral support their children receive at Icknield is a crucial part of our evaluation process. Over the next seven days, please take five minutes to complete our [Parent and Carer Voice Survey](#) online. The survey is designed to give us a clearer picture of what you think we do well and what we need to improve. If you have more than one child at the school, we encourage you to complete the survey once for each of your children, as your experiences of different phases of the school may not be the same. Thank you very much in advance for taking the time to provide us with this very useful information.

Additional Bank Holiday

As you may well be aware already, there will be an additional Bank Holiday in 2023 for the King's coronation. This will take place on Monday 8 May.

Please see our updated Term Dates for 2022-23 attached.

Have a good weekend.

Mat Hunter
Headteacher

Next Thursday is Icknield Community College Christmas Jumper Day 2022 – Thursday 8th December

Please can I remind you that this year we will, again, have a Christmas Jumper Day at school. This time, we are joining the rest of the country and holding ours on Save The Children's National Christmas Jumper Day – **Thursday 8th December**. Therefore, it is time to dig out your favourite Christmas Jumper, or even to treat yourself to a new one, ready to show off to the rest of the school on 8th December. Please note, this is not a non-uniform day. Christmas Jumpers should be worn along with and in addition to normal uniform.

If you wish, you could donate money to Save The Children as part of Christmas Jumper Day. I have set up a Just Giving page that will transfer money directly to the Save The Children charity. I have set us a challenge to raise £500 through our wearing our wonderful winter woollies. Can we get there...? **So far we have raised £135 so there is still a way to go**. The link to our Just Giving page is [here](#):

Many thanks for your support.

James Barringer

Exam certificates 2022

The certificates from last summer's GCSE exams have now arrived, and are awaiting collection from school. I have emailed our former students from Year 11 last year, using the email addresses that they left for us, and asked them to complete this form <https://forms.office.com/r/egmrX5QLh5> in order to let us know how they are going to collect their certificates. If you are the parent of a student who sat their exams last summer, please do ensure that they have done this; from school, they have the option to collect in person or nominate a third party to collect for them, but they must notify us in advance how they would like to do it, so that we can prepare their envelopes appropriately.

Matt Ford

Social Media Round-Up

There's been a lot of dramatic activity across our @IcknieldCC social media channels this week. Year 11s had a great time at the Royal Shakespeare Company's production of *A Christmas Carol* and, back in Watlington, rehearsals for *Little Shop of Horrors*, this year's school production, kicked off with aplomb. The drama continued in PE, with Year 7 girls showing us some excellent balance work in gymnastics, followed by some impressive movement sequences from the Year 7 boys. If you're not already tuned in, search for @IcknieldCC and follow our channels to stay up to date with all the latest.

Robert Legg

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. 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.

15th December 2022 - Supporting Young people with Anxiety: This session will cover a brief overview of the presentation of anxiety in adolescence and how to talk with young people about this. We will cover the difference between appropriate levels of anxiety and when additional help might be needed, what might keep anxiety going and provide an overview of Cognitive Behavioural Therapy (an evidence-based treatment for anxiety) as well as several useful techniques which parents can use to support their child.

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

Maths Problem of the Week

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

Nick Owen

Learning a Language

We all know that learning a language has multiple benefits: improving memory and communication skills, developing creativity and cultural appreciation and our particular favourite - learning a foreign language increases the size of your brain - literally! Who wouldn't want that?!

When learning a language, practising often is the key to success. In 3 hours a week, we cover a lot of ground, but the independent work that students do is equally important so that they have the opportunity to consolidate what they have been learning. We aim to give students a variety of homework tasks – you may see them using Quizlet to practise vocabulary, Kahoot or Blooket to improve vocab recognition, the Language Gym or Active Learn to practise applying their learning.

Do check in with your child and ask them about their language learning in and out of the classroom. We're sure you'll be impressed with what they know!

Alex Hunter

English – Speaking Union Competition

I am delighted to report that two teams from years 9-11 represented the school in the first round of this national public speaking competition on Monday evening. They were up against the highly experienced Wycombe Abbey school but as the head judge remarked, confidently held their own. I could not be prouder of our students. The year 9s were chaired by Eleanor Short with Alexia Tolfts to ask questions and Alexa Deocadez to give an excellent presentation on the rights and wrongs of following fashion. Mollie Horsley and Lily French were on hand to give support. Though this was their first foray into what is a tough competition, the girls did very well and show excellent promise for next year's competition.

However, the more experienced 10/11s were very successful! Evelyn Adamson was a poised and commanding chair, Issy Hector asked insightful questions, Ashley Reyes gave a brilliant speech on how success is measured and the team was ably supported by Liv Carter. This team will go onto the next round of competition which will be in January 2023. Congratulations to everyone who took part – and good luck for next time!

Jacqui O'Reilly

Setting Up Christmas Devices

With Xmas fast approaching some children will be getting new or upgraded devices, older devices may be handed to younger children. This is an ideal time to refresh your memory on how to set up devices with parental controls in relation to the age of the child. Internet Matters covers all devices with very simple, easy-to-understand parental guides which you can find [HERE](#).

James Simpson

PE News

In this week's PE News:

- All of the fixtures for the **Winter Games**
- An addition to **fitness club** for next week
- **Results** from this week
- The single **fixture for next week!**

Matt Mures

CareersFest

A huge thank you to those of you who braved the elements last week on Thursday to join us for our annual CareerFest. The event was well attended and within this week's CareersNews you will see some pictures of our guests exchanging information with our Careers hungry students 😊

Y10 Work Experience

This week I joined Y10 in their assembly and have given them until Friday 16 December to hand in their completed Work Experience Employer/Student Agreement form. If you child has found a placement please encourage them to get their forms signed and return to me as soon as possible. If they still need some help finding themselves a placement, then please tell them to come and see me.

As always, any questions, please let me know: helen.richardson@ickniel.doxon.sch.uk

Helen Richardson

Christmas Dinner

The canteen will be cooking 'Christmas Dinner' on Wednesday 14 December. The cost will be £2.50, which will also include a pudding.

In order for the canteen staff to ensure they cook enough for everyone who would like a dinner, please could students ask for a raffle ticket (they will not need to pay until they buy a dinner on the day) from the canteen staff.

Please note, on 14 December, there will be no other 'hot' meal provided other than Christmas Dinner. Paninis and sandwiches will be available.

Gill Ward

Term Dates 2022-23

Please find attached updated term dates for 2022/23, to include 8 May 2023 as a Bank Holiday, for King Charles III's Coronation.

Acer Trust Vacancies

Icknield Community College is advertising for an Exams Officer.

Watlington Primary School is advertising for a Teaching Assistant.

Full details can be found on our website: <https://www.icknield.oxon.sch.uk/contact-us/vacancies>

Parent communication and payments

ParentMail is no longer in use. myEVOLVE is the new parent portal for school trips, clubs and the online shop. Items such as school ties, calculators, pencil cases etc should be purchased through the online myEVOLVE shop and collected from the Finance Office (no over the counter cash payments please). If you haven't already done so, please create your myEVOLVE account. If you need any assistance, please email finance.office@icknield.oxon.sch.uk who will be happy to help.

Finance Office

COMMUNITY NEWS

Need Support with Maths Tutoring? Look no further!

Engaging maths sessions in the comfort of your own home with **Maths Tutor Direct**.

Invest in online tutoring with an expert maths tutor to release your full potential, earn top grades, make better choices in your career and life.

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Enrol on your first session for FREE by following:

<https://mathstutordirect.class4kids.co.uk/>

www.mathstutordirect.co.uk

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Adrian Thomas