



Icknield Community College

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



Newsletter: 21 October 2022

Date	Event
31 October	Inset Day
1 November	School Resumes - 'B' Week
10 November	Y7 Tutor Evening
24 November	CareersFest
30 Nov – 19 Dec	Y11 Mock Exams
15 December	Y7 Parents' Evening
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

Year 7 Information Evening

Thank you to the parents and carers who were able to attend the Year 7 Information Evening last night. Dr Legg will be circulating some of the Year 7 "talking heads" on social media soon. I know Mrs Carter and Dr Legg were very pleased with the feedback some of you were able to share at the end of the evening. We are delighted that so many of your children have made such a positive start to their time with us at Icknield.

What Your Child Learns at School

Please do have a look at our website to find out more about what your child studies across their subject areas. This can be particularly helpful for those of you who are planning trips to cinemas, theatres, museums (particularly during holiday times) to support your child's learning. All of the information you need is on the "subjects" tab on our website.

As I have said previously this term, please do find, if you can, a few minutes to review your child's learning with them from this half term. What have they enjoyed? What have they found challenging? What do they know now that they didn't before September? This is a really useful way to help consolidate your child's understanding of what they have been learning for the last 7 weeks.

Happy Half Term

Thank you for all of your support since the beginning of the academic year. I hope you and your child/ren have a very enjoyable half term break.

Mat Hunter
Headteacher

Social Media: Dangerous Online Challenges

I have been in contact with parents before about concerning online challenges presented on social media platforms. I have been made aware more recently of the latest online trend of holding your breath until you faint/pass out. We have spoken to a couple of students in school who have been talking about doing this. Clearly this is incredibly dangerous and this trend has been linked to fatalities. Please do talk to your children about this and let us know if you have any additional information or concerns regarding this.

Vicky Pickford

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@ickniel.d.oxon.sch.uk). Closer to the event, we will distribute the link for you 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

Protecting Valuable Lesson Time and Tackling Student Punctuality

High quality teaching is crucial to student learning and progress. Each student's time in lessons with their teachers is incredibly valuable and, therefore, a student regularly arriving significantly late to lessons (ie. after the lesson has started) has a negative impact on their progress and also on the progress of others in the class as the teacher needs to stop teaching to deal with this lateness. Research shows that students who arrive on time not only make more progress within lessons but are also more engaged, focussed and positive about their learning. When students leave school and enter further education and employment, having good time management, is a key behaviour needed for success and so teaching our students the virtues of good time keeping is paramount to us achieving excellence for all.

Punctuality to lessons is largely good, but, in an effort to raise the standards of punctuality from some, and maintain good progress for all, we will be monitoring and recording lateness to lessons more carefully.

From the 7th November...

- Students who are marked significantly late (ie. after the lesson has started and with no valid reason) 3 times within a 5-day period will complete a one hour after-school detention on a Friday.
- The detention will be used to catch-up on missed learning or revision.
- Parents/carers will be informed via email or text, giving 24 hours' notice of the detention.
- This lateness will be marked for all lessons, including tutor time.
- Where students do not have control over their punctuality such as being dropped in late either from a parent/carer or the bus, they will not be sanctioned.
- Students who have a detention will, therefore, need collecting from Ickniel at 4pm on a given Friday.

In the week beginning Tuesday 1st November, we will be informing students of this change during assemblies but please do discuss these changes and the importance of arriving at lessons on time with your children before then.

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

PE News

In this week's PE News:

- A **successful trial** for one of our students at **Wycombe Wanderers**
- A reminder about **PE Lesson activity changes** (including the PE timetable)
- **Results** from last week
- All the **fixtures** for the first week back

Matt Mures

Student Council 2022-23

This year at Icknield has got off to a great start creating our Student Council 2022-23 and having our first meeting all together to discuss our plans for the coming months and year as a whole. This year we have the intention and ambition to improve the school's contribution to help put a stop to climate change; our main focus is to make the school an 'Eco School' (a national award awarded to schools who have made changes to the everyday life to improve the environment). Alongside working with our new 'Eco Council' we will be working on reducing the school's energy usage, improving the school's biodiversity, and reducing the school's waste. We will all be helping to get this green mark and we may need your help too. For this, we would like to introduce an November Eco challenge to increase the biodiversity within the school and for this, we need your help. We would love for students and parents to get involved and help by making bug hotels, bird houses and bat boxes that we can put around the school site. If you aren't feeling too creative, we would still accept any materials that could be helpful and would be much appreciated. We hope to achieve that mark by the time we leave and hope this challenge will mark a great start to a great year. Many thanks for your support.

Head Students, Rosie Molloy and Billy Bowerman

Careers News

We have a busy time ahead in Careers. Please be sure to read the attached CareersNews.

Y11 – Please look out for an email inviting your child to attend **The Henley College** for a taster day on **Thursday 10th November**. Please read through the letter and reply by **Friday 28 October** as applicable.

Y10 – Please spend some time over this half term considering options for your son's/daughter's **Work Experience** placement. Students are required to have found a place by **Monday 28 November**. If you haven't already done so, please complete the parental permission form for your child to take part in this exciting event: [Y10 Work Experience Form](#)

Date for your Diary: I would like to invite **ALL** parents/carers to join us at this year's **CareersFest** taking place in the schools' sports hall on **Thursday 24th November from 3-5.30pm**. It is an opportunity for you to come into school and talk to heads of Sixth Forms from surrounding Sixth Form Schools, recruitment teams from various Further Education Colleges, meet representative from The Army, RAF, Royal Navy, NHS, Fire & Rescue Teams and others to chat about apprenticeship opportunities within our front line services, as well as meet various employers from local, national and global businesses all who are looking to recruit the next generation. Further details will follow, but please put the date in your diary.

Any questions, please do get in touch: helen.richardson@icknield.oxon.sch.uk

Helen Richardson

Letters to Parents

Henley College Taster Day – 10 Nov 2022 – Year 11

Update Slapton Ley – 25-28 Mar 2023 – Year 10

These letters can also be accessed on the school website:

<http://www.icknield.oxon.sch.uk/news-and-events/letters-to-parent>

Finance Office

COMMUNITY NEWS

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Adrian Thomas

Do you need any help with GCSE Maths?

If so, come and join us for a FREE TASTER session suitable for anyone needing help on the build up to their GCSE's.

Session open to Year 10s & Year 11s and those taking their GCSE's early!

Come and join us for a live, interactive class whereby you can get a flavour of a typical weekly session. Parents welcome too. Email us to register.

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Adrian Thomas

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