



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

## Newsletter – 23 September 2022

Date	Event
26 September	'B' Week
6 October	Year 10 Information Evening
20 October	Year 7 Information Evening
21 October	End of Term (non uniform day)
24-28 October	Half Term Holiday
31 October	Inset Day
1 November	School Resumes - 'B' Week

### Open Evening

I was very proud, as always, to walk around our site last night at Open Evening to see such a fantastic range of activities taking place across subject areas, as well as to be able to talk to so many prospective parents and students.

A huge thank you to all of our student helpers, speakers, car park attendants – the list goes on! As ever, you helped to make our Open Evening a really enjoyable and successful event.

### Mat Hunter Headteacher

We regularly emphasise to the students ehre that they are completing tasks for themselves and the betterment of their knowledge and skills, as opposed to producing any work for their teachers. As I walked around the school for two hours of lessons this afternoon, it was fantastic to witness the tenacity with which they were grappling with what they were being encouraged to learn. Watching the teachers challenge students' thinking and understanding, it was evident just how much progress they continue to make. At the heart of this future progress, of course, will be an excellent attitude to learning; something in all students' control. Please see Dr Legg's entry, below, for more detail on how we are talking about Attitude to Learning this year.

### James Barringer Senior Deputy Headteacher

### Attitude to Learning

In the week beginning 12 September, in a series of assemblies, students were briefed about some important changes to the way we will be talking about Attitude to Learning from this academic year. Please see the attached guide for parents and carers, which sets out the key information. Please do feel free to contact me ([robert.legg@icknield.oxon.sch.uk](mailto:robert.legg@icknield.oxon.sch.uk)) with any questions you might have.

**Robert Legg**

### Social Media @IcknieldCC

Do you use Facebook, Twitter or Instagram? Do you follow our @IcknieldCC accounts? If not, you're missing out! From this term, we'll be using these three social media platforms to share glimpses into the everyday lives of Icknield students and staff. Starting today, we'll be publishing images and short videos showcasing the learning our students undertake in lessons, the extra-curricular opportunities they experience, and the events they enjoy across the school year. Please do find us, follow us, and then spread the word about @IcknieldCC!

**Robert Legg**

## Chromebooks for New Students

In last week's newsletter I mentioned that Year 7 students who were admitted to Icknield late in the cycle – or whose Chromebook orders, for whatever reason, were unsuccessful – had been temporarily lent a device. Freedom Technology, our provider, has now opened a second portal – the final chance to buy a device for the current academic year – and I have sent the relevant information about how to sign up to those who need it. If your Year 7 child (or your child who has recently joined us in another year) is currently borrowing a computer from us, please check that you have received that message and acted upon that information it contains. Please feel free to contact me ([robert.legg@icknield.oxon.sch.uk](mailto:robert.legg@icknield.oxon.sch.uk)) with any questions you might have.

**Robert Legg**

## Educational visits

As a school, we want to be able to offer students a variety of fun and engaging educational trips that enhance the curriculum, as well as provide opportunities to develop wider skills such as team work, leadership and independence. Below is a table of residential trips that will be coming up across the year (and beyond). In order for these trips to be financially viable, we do ask for a voluntary contribution to cover costs so I hope that sharing this information at the beginning of the year will allow you to make an informed decision on the trips you may choose to support.

Visit	Date of Trip	Year Group	Approximate Cost	Approximate number of places available
Duke of Edinburgh Award	April-June 2023	Year 9, 10 and 11	£100 (bronze) £280 (silver)	Bronze - 60+ Silver - 30+
Slapton Ley (Geography field trip)	April 2023	Year 10	£330	All GCSE geography students
Osmington Bay (Geography field trip)	June 2023	Year 8	£300	30 +
Newquay	June 2023	Year 9	£415	80+
Ski Trip	February 2024	Current Year 7, 8 and 9	£900	60

Whilst I hope this initial information will be helpful, there is a possibility that further opportunities arise throughout the year, however we will always ensure a reasonable time frame is given for the promotion of these more expensive trips.

There will also be a number of day trips that happen across the year which cost far less than the residential ones (between £15 and £50) but we will always endeavour to give parents as much notice once an education visit has been agreed.

**Charlotte Gibson**

## Sustainability

One of our main objectives as a school this year is to become more sustainable – not least to play our part in actively protecting the planet but also mitigate against the rising energy and inflationary costs. In the coming weeks we will be working with the newly-elected school council in signing up for the Eco-Schools Programme but also to be looking to the wider student body for those students who want to actively play their part in schools. These students will champion the school's approach in tackling things like inefficient electrical use and reducing the school's energy footprint. If you are someone who feels passionately about helping to secure a more sustainable future in school then please speak to Mrs Gibson or Dr Miller.

**Dr Miller**

## DofE

Congratulations to Emma G (Volunteering & Skill), Rye H (Skill), Holly G (Physical) for uploading their assessor's reports!

A special congratulations to Ceira N (Volunteering, Physical, Skill), Phoebe S (Physical & Skill), Beau B (Physical & Skill), Milly D (Skill), Issy D (Skill) who have now uploaded all 3 of their assessors' reports and have completed all 3 of their sections!

The Bronze qualifying expedition for year 11, will be held on Saturday 1<sup>st</sup> Oct – Sunday 2<sup>nd</sup> Oct. Each group should check that their route cards are complete and they have organised their food and equipment. Equipment will be available for collection at lunchtime on Wednesday 28<sup>th</sup> Sept. Each group will need their returnable deposit to collect any equipment they may need.

Awards for Bronze and Silver will be held on Tuesday 18<sup>th</sup> October at 6pm. Any students wanting to get their Awards will need to submit their 3 assessors' reports by the 14<sup>th</sup> October so your certificate and badges can be organised.

Your assessor can write the report online using [www.dofe.org/assessor](http://www.dofe.org/assessor) or by completing the report card from your welcome pack. Please ask if you need any help in adding your assessors' reports.

**Katie Scane**

### **Maths Problem of the Week**

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

**Nick Owen**

### **SchoolGrid**

Please check your child's 'spend limit' on their SchoolGrid account. Some students are getting confused when they are refused food. Although the account has an active direct debit or money has been preloaded via a debit/credit card, if the student's spend limit is, for example, £3 per day, the automated system will not allow them to have food/drink over this amount.

**Gill Ward**

### **PE News**

In this week's PE News:

- Read about a visit from the **Royal Marines**
- **Kit Expectations** for this term
- The **Extra-Curricular Club Timetable** for this term
- All **upcoming fixtures** for this Half Term
- The planned **lesson activities** for every single class

**Matt Mures**

### **Newquay**

Last week, we took 117 students to Newquay for 4 days of Watersport activities. To find out more, please read the attached document, which includes a variety of pictures taken (more pictures will be made accessible to students when they have been collated).

**Matt Mures**

### **Letters to Parents**

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

Life of Pi – 17 Nov 2022 – GCSE Drama  
A Christmas Carol – 23 Nov 2022 – Year 11  
Warner Bros. Studios Tour – 25 Jan 2023 – Year 11 Media  
Slapton Ley Launch Letter – March 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

### Improve your child's grades with Maths Tutor Direct!

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**Adrian Thomas**