



## Icknield Community College

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### Newsletter: 25 November 2022

Date	Event
28 November	'B' 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

### Parent and Carer Voice Survey

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. You can respond to the survey from today until midnight on Friday 2 December. Thank you very much in advance for taking the time to provide us with this very useful information.

### Parent Governor Elections

We have a vacancy for a Parent Governor coming up this month. Please see a letter attached from David Marcou, Chair of Governors and myself. This also includes a nomination form. All parents can nominate someone for election and can vote in the election. You can also volunteer yourself to stand for election. For more information about being a Governor here at Icknield Community College please get in touch with our current Chair of the Governing Body, David Marcou, by contacting our Clerk, Judith Geddes - [jgeddes@acertrust.org.uk](mailto:jgeddes@acertrust.org.uk). All nominations should be emailed to the Governing Body Clerk by 4pm on 5 December 2022, using the nomination form. Please think about taking on the role, or suggesting someone who would be interested. We would like to increase the diversity of our Governing Body to better reflect the school and local communities which it serves and make the governing body as effective as it can be.

### Acer Trust Trustee Vacancy

The Acer Trust is looking to recruit a new Trustee to add capacity to our Board of Trustees. Please see attached advert.

### The Stokenchurch Educational Charity

Please see attached some information on the Stokenchurch Education Charity. Please note that applications need to be made by 30<sup>th</sup> November.

### CareersFest

Many thanks to Helen Richardson, Careers Manager, for organising a fantastic CareersFest this Thursday which was attended by students (and parents) from all year groups. Thank you, also, to the many local employers and institutions who attended the event.

**Mat Hunter**  
Headteacher

## **Year 11 exams: Wednesday 30 November – Friday 16 December**

As per my post of last week, the important Year 11 exams commence on Wednesday with a Maths exam. Exams will mostly take place in the Sports Hall (there are some taking place in classrooms due to them needing audio/video as part of the exam) where students will occupy the same seat for each exam, although some students will be in different locations – they have been informed of this by us.

I sent out a pre-exam video briefing for students in the week, but parents might find it useful too; it would certainly be really supportive if parents could make sure that students have seen it at [Year 11 exams briefing for November/ December exams 2022 - YouTube](#) (the answer to the quiz question at the 6:20 minute mark is, of course, *Trainspotting*). One of my key messages, and I would appreciate your support in this, is for students to attend each exam with the right equipment, especially calculators (for the relevant exams). We have a small team of invigilators, and handing out large amounts of equipment is not something that we will be able to do, students mustn't therefore be relying on this to happen.

**Matt Ford**

## **Children in Need update**

Thank you so much for all of your support last week to make Children in Need such a great success. Our senior student team did a fantastic job organising and running all of the different fundraising activities across the week, raising a total of £1163.70!

As a school, we have always appreciated how lucky we are to have such a generous community, allowing us to support a range of different charities and good causes. As part of their Christmas Appeal, the senior students are looking to raise donations for our local food bank to help provide hampers for those in need across the festive season. Some items identified by the food bank as being urgently needed are highlighted below, but any contribution of food (not fresh), cleaning products or hygiene items are welcome.

- Long life milk
- Sugar
- Bottles of squash
- Tinned meat for hot meals
- Instant coffee
- Cleaning spray
- Dried chickpeas and couscous

The last day for donations will be Thursday 8<sup>th</sup> December.

On a similar note of generosity, we need your support for a cause closer to home. It has been over ten years since our playing courts have been resurfaced, and in that time they have provided our students with the opportunity to take part in a range of sports from Tennis and Netball, through to Handball and Tchoukball. They are not only used in lessons, but are utilised during break and lunchtime as well as afterschool as a hub for clubs and fixtures. Whilst we have worked hard to maintain this area, we are now at a point where there is no other option but to resurface the courts in order to continue to deliver high quality PE and sport. To ensure longevity and to provide the best playing surface possible, we are looking to raise funds towards the task of resurfacing, painting and lining of this area which doesn't come cheaply! We would be really grateful for any contribution that you are able to make to help us to reach our target of £10,000. Thank you for your support.

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

**Charlotte Gibson**

## **Icknield Community College Christmas Jumper Day 2022 – Thursday 8<sup>th</sup> 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 8<sup>th</sup> 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 8<sup>th</sup> 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...? The link to our Just Giving page is [here](#):

Many thanks for your support.

**James Barringer**

### **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](mailto:lisa.best@icknield.oxon.sch.uk)). Closer to the event, we will distribute the link to join the webinar.

**15<sup>th</sup> 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.

**23<sup>rd</sup> 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

**20<sup>th</sup> 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**

### **Chromebook Loans**

Staff in the Finance Office have reported an increase in the number of students borrowing Chromebooks over recent weeks. Can I please remind everyone that students *must* bring their Chromebooks to school every day, and that they *must* be charged every night. As long as the devices are brought to school with a full charge, they should last the full day without difficulty. If, exceptionally, students need to borrow a device – having forgotten to bring their own – they should collect a loan Chromebook from the Finance Office *between 8.30am and 8.45am*. Members of Finance Office staff are not likely to be available throughout the school day to loan devices, and it is the responsibility of the student to come to school properly equipped. Thanks very much in advance for supporting your child to come to school ready to learn.

**Robert Legg**

### **Little Shop of Horrors – update**

Dr Legg, Ms Elgood, Mrs Parker, Mrs Hunter and I were all hugely impressed with the standard of auditions we saw on Wednesday evening. It was obvious just how much work had gone into preparing for these and it has left us with the very tricky job of casting the show. Many thanks to everyone who was there and to everyone at home who had helped with any preparations. Watch this space for further updates in the next few weeks.

**Adam Rowe**

### **History Belgium Trip 2023**

The History department are offering the opportunity of a two-day residential trip to visit the battlefields, cemeteries and museums in Belgium in July. This trip develops students' understanding of Medicine on the Western Front, which they study during GCSE History, and has proved a really enjoyable and memorable experience for past students. The trip will be open to the current year 10 History students. The cost of the trip at this stage is looking like it will come in at £235 per student. More details will be shared shortly with parents.

**Jen Hicks**

### **PE News**

In this week's PE News:

- **Results** from this week
- Another plea for **Sports tour tops!**
- All the **fixtures for next week**

**Matt Mures**

## Maths Problem of the Week

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

**Nick Owen**

## 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.

**Gill Ward**

## MyEVOLVE update

ParentMail will cease to operate on **Friday 25 November**. On this date, will officially switch over to **myEVOLVE** the new parent portal which allows parents to manage all aspects of school trips, activities, after school clubs:

- Consent forms
- Payments
- Bookings
- What's On

It also includes the Shop to allow parents to browse and purchase items such as uniform, equipment, and fundraisers etc. Whilst it's not mandatory to have a myEVOLVE account in order to grant consent, make payments or bookings, this enables you to review all outstanding forms and review all previous activities in one central place and the school would recommend creating an account and downloading the myEVOLVE app.

## myEVOLVE Shop

Items can be purchased from the online shop. Any orders placed online should be collected by students from the Finance Office during the next working day. **We would like to discourage students purchasing items with cash over the counter.**

## Reduced price Shop

In the myEVOLVE shop, we have a limited number of school branded black PE shorts and black PE skirts available to purchase at a **heavily discounted price**. Various sizes still available whilst stocks last.

**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.

We support students from **Key Stage 1,2, 11+, Key Stage 3 & GCSE maths**.

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[www.mathstutordirect.co.uk](http://www.mathstutordirect.co.uk)

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**Adrian Thomas**