



Icknield Community College

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



Newsletter: 27 January 2023

Date	Event
30 January	'B' Week
9 February	Year 9 Parents' and Carers' Evening
10 February	Flu Vaccine – Years 7,8,9 Only
13-17 February	Holiday
20 February	School Resumes - 'B' Week
23 February	Year 8 Parents' and Carers' Evening

Year 11 Parents' and Carers' Evening

We had an excellent turnout for the Year 11 Parents' and Carers' Evening on Thursday. As a parent of a Year 11 student myself, I found the constructive feedback from subject staff invaluable and now have a clear idea as to how to support my child over the coming weeks. If you haven't had a chance to look at the exam calendar for this summer yet, please do follow [this link](#) to our website where it is posted. As you will see, the main exam season starts on Monday 15th May – only 12 working weeks away. On that note, the first of the final set of personalised revision plans were circulated to students and parents/carers yesterday morning. If your child follows their plan to the letter, particularly, at this stage, for the application part of their revision, they stand a far greater chance of reaching their full potential.

My Child At School (MCAS)

Following Dr Legg's note in last week's newsletter, you should have, hopefully, received an email on Tuesday inviting you to set up an account with MyChildAtSchool.com. You will also be able to download the MCAS app on your phone in order to be able to view a range of information about your child. If you are having any difficulty doing either of these things, please don't hesitate to contact the school for help.

Parent Code of Conduct

We already have a Student Code of Conduct and a Staff Code of Conduct. On Tuesday, the school governing body reviewed a Parent Code of Conduct written by another one of the Acer Trust schools so that we can adopt something similar. This document will set out the school's expectations of how we work with parents with real clarity. More information will follow on this in due course.

English Speaking Union (ESU)

Congratulations to our two public speaking teams who competed brilliantly in the ESU competition at Wycombe Abbey School on Monday. Please see Mrs O'Reilly's report later in the newsletter for more detail. Some great pictures from this event were circulated via social media, as per Dr Legg's note below.

Mat Hunter
Headteacher

Social Media Round-Up

Our social media outputs this week have shown Icknield students getting out and about! We saw a group of Year 10 students visiting Oxford University's 'It All Adds Up' conference, two public speaking teams competing in the English-Speaking Union, and, over in Hayes, our GCSE dancers took part in the 'Great Big Dance Off' at the Beck Theatre. Back here in Watlington, we marked Holocaust Memorial Day with a sequence of assemblies, kicked off the Tenner Challenge, and shared in some magical happenings with the Harry Potter Book Club. Finally, our Year 11 languages students showed off their speaking skills in a speed-networking event. Tune in to @IcknieldCC on Twitter, Instagram and Facebook to make sure you don't miss out!

Robert Legg

Guided Choices: Year 9 students

Our Year 9 students are reaching the time when they will soon be selecting the subjects that they will be taking into KS4 and studying as GCSEs/BTEC from September 2023. We call this process *Guided Choices*, with the emphasis on a supportive and informed system where subject leaders, teachers, tutors and other staff are all on hand to help parents and students make the best choices for each child. There are a few stages to this:

- Firstly, please take the time to watch our guidance video; it takes you through the process, highlights key dates, answers some Frequently Asked Questions and gives plenty of tips and advice along the way. It's a tight 17 minutes and can be found at [Icknield Community College: Guided Choices 2023 - YouTube](#)
- Then use the Guided Choices Booklet (attached) to research those subjects you are interested in. You will also find contact details for subject leaders there, so you can ask any questions you might have at a subject level.
- The application is made via our Microsoft Form. The link/QR code to this is found on the Guided Choices Application (attached), and this is where you can view the way that we have organised our subjects into three blocks: you simply pick a first and second choice from each block using the electronic form.

The deadline for the choices to be made is Friday 3 March (please do note that, as explained on the video, this is *not* a 'first come, first served' system). This is to give you the time to do that reading and thinking, and ask the questions that you would like to know the answers to. We will be on hand throughout, and will speak to and meet with many of you as, with our knowledge of our students as young people and learners, we will be able to offer our support and guidance.

Matt Ford

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

Oxfordshire Youth Music Theatre – *Godspell*

Oxfordshire Youth Music Theatre (OYMT) is staging a production of Stephen Schwartz's acclaimed musical *Godspell* at the end of March. If you think that Icknield's production of *Little Shop of Horrors* (22, 23 and 24 March) might whet your appetite for another night of excellent music theatre, you can book tickets for OYMT's show [here](#). We're really proud that former Icknield student Neil McCarthy (star of Icknield's *The Wedding Singer*, *We Will Rock You*, *Bugsy Malone* and *Beauty and the Beast*) will be performing. Buy your tickets now before they sell out!

Robert Legg

Production update

We continue to make fantastic progress towards this year's production. Our rehearsals have gone really well so far and have been really enjoyable. Now is the time for students who wish to be involved in the show as a member of our backstage team to sign up. Please could any interested students send me a short email detailing why they would like to be involved and in what capacity (LFX, SFX, crew etc). The deadline for this is 8:30am on Friday 3 February.

Adam Rowe

The North Wall Theatre, Oxford – Dance Course

The North Wall in Oxford has an exciting dance course for half-term that students can get involved in. Please see details and booking information below.

YouthLab: Dance Masterclass

13 – 15 Feb

10am – 4pm

An action-packed intensive project with James Wilton Dance. Each day will begin with a technique class where participants will learn JWDs unique floor work style which draws influence from martial arts and acrobatics. Work created during this three-day masterclass will be performed as a curtain raiser for the performance of The Four Seasons on 10 March 2023.

For ages 12-17

Tickets: £60 for 3 days (full bursary places available)

Book here: <https://www.thenorthwall.com/whats-on/youthlab-dance-masterclass/>

Taylor Samuel-Beechey

ESU District Public Speaking Competition

I am delighted to report that after a change of heart by the competition organisers, both Icknield A and B teams progressed to the second live round of the competition hosted by Wycombe Abbey School on Monday evening. We were all deeply admiring if somewhat intimidated by the grand surroundings but warmly welcomed by our hosts. Our students were AMAZING! The Year 9 team of Alexa Deocadez, Speaker, Mollie Horsley, Chair and Matthew Driver, Questioner, presented the impact of fast fashion and hosted a discussion on the use of torture in the 21st century. Matthew and Mollie were new to the team but rose to the occasion magnificently. The KS4 team of Tillie Carter, Speaker, Evelyn Adamson, Chair and Issy Hector, Questioner, reprised their discussion on Success and hosted a topical discussion about the Elgin Marbles. Tillie was also new to the team and equally brilliant. The competition was tight but Wycombe Abbey B team will progress to the Regional round.

Year 7s will have the opportunity to take part in the Acer Trust Public Speaking competition during the summer and this may well extend to informal competition with Wycombe Abbey as their teacher expressed an interest in developing a link with ICC. My thanks to Mr McGinnity and Mrs Carter who accompanied us – here's to next year ESU competition and more success!

Jacqui O'Reilly

CareersNews

Firstly and foremost, I would like to say a big "Thank You" to all of our external guests who joined us last week for our Y11 Mock Interviews. The morning was a great success with both the interviewers and our students gaining much from the experience. I would also like to thank our Y11 cohort who conducted themselves in such a professional manner. They are credit to themselves, you as their parents/carers and us as a school. Please take some time to read the article and look at the pictures in this week's CareersNews attached the newsletter.

Please can I also draw your attention to the fact that the **National Apprenticeship Week** is being held from **Monday 6 – Friday 10 February**. I am being inundated with events to share with you. There are so many fantastic and exciting opportunities available for students of all abilities across all industries. I have created a whole section on what's happening, when. Please do take some time to read through the events and register your interest for anything that might appeal. Having gone through this process with my own son over the past two years, I can whole heartedly vouch that these events are a fantastic opportunity to gain an insight into an industry and the apprenticeships available. Very worthwhile.

Finally, can all parents/carers of Y11 students bear in mind that deadlines for making applications to Sixth Form settings are fast approaching. Colleges have longer and more flexible deadline dates but if your child is considering applying for a place at a Sixth Form school, then please check the closing dates for application on CareersNews.

As always, any questions, please do let me know via email: helen.richardson@icknield.oxon.sch.uk

Helen Richardson

Maths Problem of the Week

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

Nick Owen

Letters to Parents

- Class of 23 Prom letter – 23 Jun 2023 – Year 11

These letters can also be accessed on the school website:

[Letters Home - Icknield Community College](#)

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

Maths Tutor Direct

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This is a personal business and has no affiliation with the school.

Adrian Thomas