



Icknield Community College

Headteacher: Mr Mat Hunter BA (Hons), MSc, NPQH
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Newsletter: 3 February 2023

Date	Event
6 February	'A' 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

Just a (very) short note from me this week to try to keep the newsletter a little shorter (as requested by one or two parents in the Parental Survey!)

Mat Hunter
Headteacher

Social Media Round-Up

This week we've seen social media posts featuring Year 11 linguists rehearsing Spanish conversation, Year 9s exploring Shakespeare's use of oxymorons in English, keen coders in Years 8 and 9 showing off their Blender animations, and Year 7 netballers giving us a glimpse of our beautifully resurfaced courts. Thanks very much, again, to everyone who contributed so generously to the fund to bring our multipurpose courts back to a safe condition. Across Facebook, Instagram and Twitter accounts we now have 1,855 followers! If you're not yet one of them, please tune in, sign up, and be first to see what's happening here at @IcknieldCC.

Robert Legg

Children's Mental Health Week 6-10th February 2023

Mental health can mean lots of things, it is not just all about being sad or anxious. It's also about feeling happy, relaxed and able to deal with any situation life throws at us. By learning to connect with what's going on inside our minds, we can turn it into a force for good. This year's theme for Children's Mental Health Week is connection.

The attached information gives you some ideas of how you can connect with your child/children and help them make meaningful connections.

Jane Bellars

Year 10 assessments: Monday 20 – Friday 24 February

In the week following the half term holiday, our Year 10 students will have their first experience of completing a number of GCSE type assessments within a short window of time (one school week). The purpose of these assessments is to give them that experience of preparing for, completing, and then being given valuable feedback on their performance, thus allowing them to set targets moving forward to focus on those areas for development. The assessments will be held in class (during regular subject slots on the timetable) and with their usual teacher: we do this to give students the working environments with which they are already familiar. We also create a timetable (attached) so as to spread the assessments relatively evenly across the week and I release it now, so that students have the opportunity to ask any final questions to their teachers next week about content (in general terms they will be assessed on terms one and two in each subject).

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

Advanced Mathematics Support Programme

Please find attached information from AMSP regarding studying maths beyond 16 and the careers it will be useful for. If you have not yet considered studying maths beyond Year 11, it would be useful for you to have a look at the courses available and who they are suitable for. Maths is used in a wide range of careers, including medicine, construction, engineering, finance, and of course it is useful for anyone studying science at A level or beyond. If you do not want to do Maths as a full A level you may wish to consider AS Core Maths which covers most of the techniques needed in STEM A levels (see link for details).

Your child should talk to their maths teacher if they have any questions about extending their studies in maths.

Trudi Speare

Chromebooks – Read Aloud

If a student struggles to read, or needs help with certain bits of text, their Chromebooks have an inbuilt text to voice tool in the Accessibility options. Google have a step by step guide to activating and using the tool that can be found here: [Hear text read aloud - Chromebook Help \(google.com\)](#). This will help students using Century.

Hazel Carvel

Maths Problem of the Week

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

Nick Owen

SWIFT course for parents of children with Autistic Spectrum Conditions (ASC) – diagnosed and undiagnosed

Following the success of the SWIFT programme over the last 18 months, we are wanting to offer this opportunity again for any parents of children with Autistic Spectrum Conditions. It is an opportunity to discuss and learn about ASC, relating it to your own situation, both at home and our experiences with your children in school, to see if any strategies can be found through our discussions. It is also an opportunity to know that you are not alone in the difficulties that you and your children may be facing at school or at home. The course will run over four consecutive weeks, beginning on Friday 24 February 2023 at 9.00am. Each session will last for approximately 90 minutes, and will be online using Teams. The course will be run by Caroline Gale, from the Communication and Interaction Team in Oxfordshire and myself. We are hoping in the future that a face to face SWIFT course will run if there is a demand for this. If you are interested in attending the February/March online SWIFT course please email SEN@icknield.oxon.sch.uk by Friday 17 February 2023. We will then be in touch with further details and sending out meeting invites during week commencing Monday 20 February on our return from the half term break. We look forward to working with you and if you have any questions about the course, please email the above email address.

Sam Walkley

DofE

A reminder that all students were supposed to submit their section details as well as photo evidence that they have started each of their sections by **Jan 31st**. Any student who has not done so far should upload these as soon as possible.

After school training for the Bronze expeditions will start after school on Tuesday 21st February at 3-4pm. Silver expedition training will take place on Thursday 13th April. The expedition information evening will be on Tuesday 28th March at 6pm in the hall.

Well done to Jem B (Volunteering), Archie D (Physical), William L (Volunteering, Physical), Beau B (Volunteering), Nikita S P (Volunteering), Donncha B (Physical, Skill), Holly C (Physical, Skill), Ted P (Physical, Skill), Toby W (Physical, Skill), Aidan B (Skill), Jack A (Volunteering, Skill), Freddie O (Skill) who have submitted some of their section information.

A special well done to Jessica H, William L, Lara W, Thomas M, Alex L, Jack D who have now submitted all of their section information.

Congratulations to Tom W (Physical, Skill), Matteus R (Physical), Jem B (Volunteering), Deacon M (Physical), Cassidy H (Physical, Skill), Nikita S P (Volunteering), Holly C (Volunteering, Skill), Freya C (Physical), Zac P (Physical), Nicholas F (Volunteering), Archie D (Physical, Volunteering), Alice M (Skill), Freya F (Skill) Matthew Y (Volunteering), Donncha B (Skill), Phoebe S (Volunteering, Skill), Alex L (Skill), Zac S (Skill) who have started submitting their evidence for their sections!

A special congratulations to Sway M, William L, James L, Annabelle K, Olive O, Jake C, Kate V, Charlie E, Jack C, Nola H, Beau B, Ewan R, Jenny S, Benjamin C who have submitted evidence for all 3 of their sections!

Katie Scane

Government advice for Covid

We are having an increasing number of cases of Covid in school, so just a reminder of the current Government advice is “to stay at home and avoid contact with other people for three days. This is because children and young people tend to be infectious to other people for less time than adults.” As long as they are feeling well and not running a temperature they should return to school after 3 days – they do not need a negative test.

Attendance Team

PE News

In this week's PE News:

- **Cancelled clubs** for next week (apologies!)
- **Results** from this week
- All of **next week's fixtures**

Matt Mures

Careers News

Next week is **National Apprenticeship Week**. There is so much going on both locally and nationally and for any students who may be wishing to explore the opportunity or an apprenticeship v's full-time education, now is the time to start searching and tuning in to events to learn more. Apprenticeships start at a Level 2 (post GCSE's) and go all the way up to a Level 7 Degree Apprenticeship. The opportunities are vast and available across all sectors. Please take some time to read more in this weeks' CareersNews.

Y11 Students - Deadlines are fast approaching (if not past) for students to apply for Sixth Form places at Secondary School. Please see a list of schools and colleges who have over the years acted as our main feeder schools/colleges and their pending deadlines in this week's CareersNews.

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

Helen Richardson

COMMUNITY NEWS

Help for Families - Household Support Fund

South Oxfordshire District Council has a Household Support Fund, which is now open for new applications. If you are having difficulty affording food, energy bills and other essential expenses you may be eligible for support.

To apply for the fund by completing an online form, please see the council's website:

www.southoxon.gov.uk/household-support-fund

Anyone in need of emergency support or help to fill in the online form can contact the Community Hub on 01235 422600 Monday to Friday.

If you have any questions about the fund, please do not hesitate to contact us.

Kindest regards,

The Community Connector Team

South Oxfordshire and Vale of White Horse District Councils
Abbey House
Abbey Close
Abingdon
OX14 3JE

Contact Centre: 01235 422600

To find out more information on how we can support you, visit our dedicated [South](#) and [Vale](#) web pages.

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Aspire, achieve, gain confidence in maths

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

Adrian Thomas