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Dates for 2021 PARENTMEET

• Tuesday, 18 May

PARENT FORUM

• Tuesday, 22 June

5.00pm – 6.15pm

For further information and to book a place on the next meeting please visit the College website
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 9.00-10.00am
 Friday, 30 April 2021

Future events to be confirmed

Teach South West in association with South West Teaching School Alliance (SWTSA) provide School Direct teacher training with an Exeter University PGCE

THE COLLEGE ECHO

IVYBRIDGE COMMUNITY COLLEGE

ISSUE NO. 85 SPRING 2021



THE SMALLEST ACTS OF KINDNESS....

SUPPORTING LATERAL FLOW TESTING





Ivybridge
Community College

The Ivybridge Way

achievement

community

endeavour

excellence

opportunity

challenge

success



Welcome to Ivybridge Community College

College News

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Welcome to this Easter edition of The College Echo. We are delighted to be welcoming back our students who have been away from College since the start of the spring term. We have been highly impressed with their engagement with and commitment to their Remote Learning transition and we include student articles and comments reflecting that in this edition.

Even in these difficult times we are delighted to bring to you in this edition, an abundance of enrichment opportunities and personal development articles celebrating 'The Ivybridge Way' ensuring that our students continue to be able to appreciate high quality moral, social and cultural learning experiences. Our continued outstanding successes in competitions and charity work makes the College a very special place indeed.

We have genuinely felt so supported by our local community throughout the recent months. From parents surprising staff with generous 'thank you' gifts, to the support from Sir Gary Streeter, MP, and representatives from the Army, who visited our Lateral Flow Testing Facility, and took the time to discuss the processes with staff and students.

Hopefully, we are all now beginning to see a light at the end of a very long tunnel. Please continue to stay safe, be kind, be responsible and look after your family, friends and others in our community.

For more information on any of the news articles please visit our website:
www.ivybridge.devon.sch.uk



Very best wishes
Rachel Hutchinson
Principal



Term Dates 2021/22

Please refer to the College website for upcoming events

Summer Term 2021

Monday, 19 April 2021

May Day Monday, 3 May 2021

Half Term

Monday, 31 May 2021 - Friday, 4 June 2021 inc

Term Ends

Friday, 16 July 2021

Wednesday, 21 April
Year 12 Parents' Evening

Tuesday, 18 May
ParentMeet

Tuesday, 22 June
Parent Forum

Autumn Term 2021

Tuesday, 7 September 2021 - **Years 7,11 and 12 only**

Wednesday, 8 September 2021 - **All students**

Half Term

Friday, 22 October 2021 - Friday, 29 October 2021 inc

Term Ends

Friday, 17 December 2021

Spring Term 2022

Tuesday, 4 January 2022

Half Term

Monday, 21 February 2022 - Monday, 28 February 2022 inc

Term Ends

Friday, 8 April 2022



Ivybridge Community College has set the standard with regard to on-site Lateral Flow Tests for its staff and students. It has even been recognised at government level, being mentioned in the DfE daily email (Wednesday, 20 January 2021) informing educational establishments on the government's response to COVID-19.



College News 1

Supporting Lateral Flow Testing

The College was delighted to welcome Sir Gary Streeter MP, on Thursday, 21 January, to visit the Lateral Flow Testing Facility which is now operational. Together with Rob Haring, Chief Executive Officer of Westcountry Schools Trust, and Michael Saltern, Chair of Governors, they met Year 7 students, Oliver, Charlotte and Harriet Hastings, and Lateral Flow Testing Facility College staff, as they were shown the processes involved. The three students were then among the first on site at the College to have their Lateral Flow Tests, with the whole process being explained to the guests by Ray Hennessy, Deputy Principal.

Sir Gary also met with Staff Sargeant Campbell and Private Rai of the Local Response Team from 1st Regiment Royal Horse Artillery, who had also previously attended the pilot testing day and been instrumental in advising on process and organisation.

The pilot testing day was used as an opportunity for both parties to discuss ideas and to refine its operation. They also helped ensure that the centre was fit for purpose in relation to the size and population of the College of approximately 2500 students and 300 staff. More importantly, their knowledge and experience of other schools' systems and their advice and guidance to our Team Leader was invaluable.

Under the watchful eye of the College's Covid Adviser, Jill Chapman, the pilot phase was a great success and the staff involved commented how smoothly the process went. It was a successful day and we thank Staff Sargeant Campbell and his team for their visit. Staff Sargeant Campbell confirmed this was the best site he had seen, having visited many others previously, and he is keen to use the College as a showcase moving forward.



Staff Sargeant Campbell said, "The College has set the standard for the area. The staff have been trained to an excellent standard by the College team and they have all the procedures in place. They should be very proud of what they have achieved and we wish them all the best".

Rachel Hutchinson thanked Sir Gary for visiting and taking the time to support all the hard work that the College is doing. "To receive such incredible support from the Army and our Covid Advisor has been instrumental in ensuring that the Test Facility is ready. To see the external validation of what we are undertaking to ensure the health and wellbeing of our staff and students is really good and has been recognised at government level by the DfE".

To date (19.03.21) the College has completed 8,500 Lateral Flow Tests across the staff and student body, with no 'positive' results reported. As we move to Self-Testing Home Kits the Lateral Flow Test Facility will be reduced to two mornings a week, to continue to support and provide advice.





2 News

The Smallest Acts of Kindness... (Cover story)

On Friday, 12 February, staff at the College were thrilled and delighted to receive a wonderful selection of gifts, delivered by one of our parents, Deanne Hemby.

Our thoughtful parents kindly donated all of the presents, as a means of saying 'thank you' to the wonderful staff at the College. Deanne, mum to Alyssa in Year 9 and Kai in Year 11, originally came up with the idea of parents donating gifts as a way of showing their appreciation. The message inside the card reads "Thank you for all of your support and for keeping our children educated in these strange times. Your hard efforts have not gone unnoticed."

So much thought and time has gone into the selection of the gifts to ensure that there was definitely something special for everybody.

Staff have been overwhelmed by the surprise, commenting, "It is great to be appreciated", "What a surprise! Thank you so much!", "Thank you so much for your thoughtful and considerate gifts" and "Thank you! A great start to the half term break".



"The smallest acts of kindness can make the biggest impacts"



"We would like to wholeheartedly thank each and every parent who has contributed in this amazing act of kindness. Never before has the College had such generosity shown to staff on this scale, and in such a personal way." Rachel Hutchinson, Principal.

"What a wonderful and kind gesture by the parents involved. I know the Principal and staff greatly appreciate the recognition of all they are doing in these immensely difficult times. On behalf of the Governing Board, a very big thank you." Michael Saltern, Chair of the Governing Board.

Governors' News

Michael Saltern, Chair of the Governing Board, Sir Gary Streeter MP and Ray Hennessy, Deputy Principal, meeting Year 7 students, Oliver, Charlotte and Harriet Hastings, during their visit to the College to see the Lateral Flow Testing Facility.



Pen Portrait - Charles Thornton

Charles Thornton, MBA PhD has worked in commercial banking and Higher Education.

He currently lectures at Plymouth University and is an Associate of the London Institute of Banking and Finance.

Previously a Parent Governor, Charles is now a Co-opted Governor and is a member of the Audit and Risk Committee.

He is passionate about the value of education and believes that high quality education should be available to all. In his spare time, he enjoys being with his family and exploring the South West countryside.

Spirited Arts - Art in Heaven 2020 National Winners

Year 8 students, Emily and George, have won two categories in this year's national Spirited Arts Competition. Together with Edward and William in Year 8 and Mia in Year 9 who were highly commended in three categories. NATRE, who organise this annual competition, received 65,000 entries, a record number from the UK, as well as receiving entries from Indonesia, China and Brazil! The competition has an impact on standards, depth, creativity and enjoyment in Religious Education for students.

Emily, in Year 8 said, "I chose the category 'God's Good Earth'. A mandala is a symbolic picture of the universe. At this time, during the Coronavirus lockdown, my universe has been reduced to my home and garden. I have chosen to decorate my mandala with hundreds of small images from my garden to represent what I have and can be grateful for. During the creation of this artwork, I have been able to recognise the colour and life that surrounds me. My garden has become my comfort blanket during these difficult times."

George, also in Year 8 said, "My Art in Heaven work shows peace and tranquility in a sad and difficult time. Prior to a recent bereavement of a friend we spent some quality and peaceful time at Buckfast Abbey, where we all prayed and found some peace in our hearts. The photos and the poem show the quietness and deep thoughts we all had prior to her passing and allowing us the peace to carry on but always remember our final times with her."

Gail Snodin, Head of Religious Education at the College, said, "I am so proud of the outstanding pieces of work that our students have produced. They were created at home during lockdown which was the inspiration for some of the pieces of work. Yet again Ivybridge Community College students have managed to create thoughtful and imaginative entries which were recognised nationally."

"The whole team at NATRE were impressed with not only the quality of the artwork we received, but also the excellent RE and deep thinking that was evident in the entries sent in to us. We are so pleased that this competition continues to give children and young people the opportunity to explore and express their personal worldview, and showcase their knowledge through creativity."



Spotlight on Laurie

Year 7 student, Laurie Butler, has been awarded the accolade of 'Star of the Year' by his theatre group, LS Drama Workshops.

Laurie has achieved Distinctions for his Grades 1 and 2 LAMDA examinations in Musical Theatre and Drama, and is currently working towards his Grade 3. In recent productions, he has played the leading roles of Fagin in *Oliver* and Harry Wormwood, Matilda's father, in *Matilda*.

Laurie is very much looking forward to a time when he can participate in shows at the College, and said, "My Drama opportunities are very limited during these times in lockdown. I have Zoom workshops with my Theatre School every week, but it's not the same, and I can't wait to start performing on the stage again. My online lessons are going well but it's not as much fun, and I am missing my friends and teachers. I'm looking forward to returning to school. I hope that theatre will be a big part of my future and plan to go to Drama School after my A Levels, however I also want to be a zoologist!"

"Laurie is a well-respected and valued member of our Tutor Group. We would all like to send him our heartfelt congratulations on being awarded Star of the Year by LS Drama Workshops. Laurie deals with challenges face-on with strength, determination and confidence, but greatest of all, with a smile on his face and a lovely sense of humour. This is a well-deserved award and we all look forward to seeing Laurie's achievements grow." Karren Stowe, Tutor.



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News

PTI Leadership Conference



Assistant Principal, Amy Pearce, recently participated in the prestigious PTI Leadership three day virtual conference and engaged in discussions with a variety of speakers on key national issues. This will go towards securing the PTI Leadership Mark for the third year through research in education.

Amy said, "Teachers were delighted to share in Prince Charles' address to PTI teachers thanking them for their efforts, resilience and extraordinary creativity during these unprecedented times. He described how teachers' continued engagement in CPD and subject specific CPD enables them to remain productive and be memorable and compelling for their students."

Please follow this link to hear his speech: <https://www.ptieducation.org/about>

Enhancing the Ivybridge Learning Strategy

Teachers at the College completed a CPD training session in February with Doug Lemov, to further enhance the Ivybridge Learning Strategy; Teach Like A Champion (TLAC).

The session allowed teachers time to consolidate their Remote Learning practices, refine their Ivybridge TLAC techniques and prepare for transferring the skills learnt during lockdown to our 'bricks and mortar' classrooms, such that learning continues to engage students in active participation in their smooth transition back to College.

Alena is shortlisted in World Class Schools' Competition

Year 9 student, Alena, has been shortlisted in the World Class Schools Quality Mark's 'Creativity takes on Covid' competition. Students from schools around the United Kingdom were invited to submit their brilliantly creative pieces entitled 'Lockdown' to convey their individual or group responses to the title, in the format of their choice.

Alena entered the competition on impulse to showcase her inner creative self and describes her feelings during the process of writing her piece, "At first my thought was about the daily life of somebody in lockdown, maybe the loneliness side, and then I had a brainstorming session and made it about a woman who lost all hope until she gets a single piece of hope in writing form. I began to write the edges of the story and just started to fill in the pieces I felt were missing. I added the sentiment of depression, insomnia and paranoia when I implemented that more realistic side of loneliness."

"Alena is a wonderful student who has always been very keen to learn. Her creative side shines through in class, as she is always willing to express her thoughts and opinions. I'm really proud of Alena for getting this far and hope she participates in similar events in the future." Gemma Riley, Alena's Tutor.

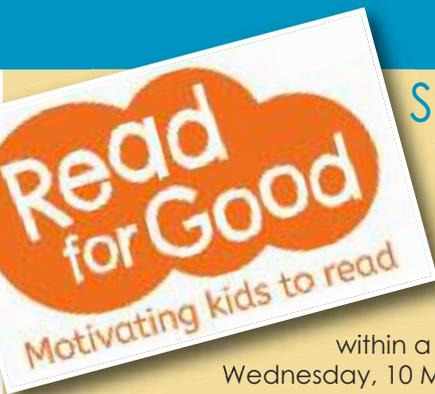


Staff Enjoy Wellbeing Challenge

The 'Wellbeing Challenge' for staff and students was created to bring in a little bit of fun through lockdown and half term, and also to encourage acts of wellbeing in support of Mental Health Awareness week.

The challenge encouraged students and staff to take part and share inspirations, creations and achievements personal to them. Kelly Atkin, Wellbeing Keyworker, said, "It was a real joy to share in putting these together for all to see. Everyone who entered really enjoyed doing it and are looking forward to the next one." The students received praise points and prizes, and their work will be on display to support welcoming our students back to College.

We would like to mention the wonderful staff entries, especially Maria Hale, who created a beautiful written piece entitled 'Lockdown: Silence in the Forest'. Claire Davidson, who shared some wonderful wild swimming photos and Sara Hull, who crafted an amazing life size dress out of newspapers! They were all presented with flowers during our World Book Day celebrations.



Students and Staff Smash Read-a-thon Target!

The Learning Resource Centre has been running a 'Read-a-thon' in association with Read for Good, a charity that funds author visits and books for children in hospital. The Read-a-thon is open to all students and staff and they can log how many minutes they read for.

The Learning Resource Centre began the term with an initial target of reading for 100 hours that they hoped to reach by Thursday, 1 April - that target was smashed within a week! They have now increased the goal to 500 hours of reading, and as of Wednesday, 10 March, they are currently at a whopping 19,565 minutes or 326 hours!

Oliver in Year 8 said, 'It's a good way to get people who wouldn't normally enjoy reading to read through a challenge, I think more people should do it!' Matthew, in Year 7, added, "The reading challenge has given me the extra motivation to read. I am now trying to read a wider range of genres. As well as enjoying the challenge I hope that I am able to read enough to be in the top five readers."

Celebrating World Book Day

Despite the country being in lockdown and children learning from home, nothing will stop the College from celebrating World Book Day! Staff enjoyed a day of fancy dress, with a wonderful variety of book characters across all departments.

The Learning Resource Centre ran a 500 word short story competition for students. There were so many great entries into the World Book Day Short Story Competition this year, it was very hard to choose a winner. The stories ranged from action-packed lion chases, to a utopian city in the trees, and bittersweet tales of love.

The College was very fortunate indeed that children's author, Andy Briggs, was able to help with the judging.

'Starry Night', by Chantal in Year 10, was voted by Andy as his favourite story. He said, "Starry Night is so well written, full of heart, with beautiful descriptions."

"Millie, in Year 8, won the Librarian's Choice for her story, 'My Marigold'. The librarians thought 'My Marigold' was beautiful and heartfelt with a bittersweet ending that will stay with you for a while."



Fine Dining on a Lockdown Budget

Students in Years 7, 8 and 10 have been wonderfully inventive with their Food Studies fun task for Mental Health Awareness week. Students were invited to create a 'fine dining' experience using only a tin of beans (or spaghetti) and some toast. Creativity was key and students could present the dish any way they liked.

Many of the students chose a Valentines theme and created heart-shaped dishes using different finishing techniques.

Kylie Nichols, teacher of Food Studies explained, "I wanted to move students away from College work but remain within my passion of teaching food. Food as a subject is under-rated and it was a way for students to 'think outside the box' and be able to feed themselves too."

As a College, we looked to support students in engaging with Mental Health Awareness week and are thrilled that students took part so enthusiastically in this activity. Finding fun and joy in the small things is incredibly important at the moment and it's great to see our students embracing this.



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Wellbeing at Ivybridge

Sixth Form Team Lead by Example

Sixth Form Team members Heather Lilley, Deputy Principal; Kim Daniel, Personal Development and Welfare Leader and Sharon Terry, Pastoral Leader, decided to lead by example and improve their overall fitness and wellbeing by taking on multiple running challenges over the last couple of terms.

After completing the October Great Run challenge, Heather Lilley gathered the Team to complete the November challenge, the 'Baker's Dozen', signing everyone up to complete at least 13 runs in one month. Sharon Terry put the others to shame by managing to clock up 128 miles to their 44 miles.

Next came the December challenge, which required them to complete 12 runs before Friday, 25 December, which they just managed, fitting in the last run on Christmas Eve!

January's challenge proved the hardest to complete. Sharon Terry aimed to run every day during the month, whilst Heather Lilley, due to work commitments, only managing to get out at the weekends.

Kim Daniel said, "Despite the fact that I average 3 miles every other day, at a relatively slow pace, I can absolutely recommend the experience. Even on a dark, cold, windy and rainy evening a run always improves the mood, gets you out in the fresh air, and most importantly, means that you feel less guilty about any chocolate you have consumed that day!"

Positive Images Promoting Kindness

Anti-Bullying Ambassadors have been working towards the Wellbeing badge from the Diana Award.

The Anti-Bullying Ambassador Team has been meeting remotely and their latest project has been to create positive images displaying anti-bullying messages and quotes promoting kindness. These have been displayed in the windows at the front of their houses to help cheer up those who are currently feeling isolated.

"The Anti-Bullying Ambassadors are a testament to the movement to making the world a better place. As Equality Lead within the College, I have been extremely impressed by the students' creativity and passion in delivering a message of inclusion and respect for all. I cannot wait to continue developing the Ambassador's role and impact on the College with their positivity." Rachel Long, teacher of Drama and Equality Lead.



Raising Awareness of Mental Health

The College continues to put Mental Health at the top of its priorities. Here are some insights into the various activities that the College has been undertaking recently.

Staff at the College created a comprehensive display, which was available to the students who were having their immunisations recently at The Watermark.

To support the delivery of this information, during the week at The Watermark and also at the College, Wellbeing Keyworker, Kelly Atkin, talked to the students and handed out leaflets, wristbands and motivational cards. These were



all well received by the students and many were very keen to talk.

Creative challenges were also set for the students to get involved in with some great prizes available.

Virtual wellbeing enrichment activities via Teams have also been available, such as learning how to do origami and card tricks, led by Karren Stowe, a teacher of Mathematics at the College.



Wellbeing at Ivybridge 7

Supporting Students and Staff

The College organised a special CPSHE (Citizenship, Personal, Social and Health Education) session looking at wellbeing where students were introduced to the 'iheart' programme. This programme aims to improve understanding of our innate wellbeing and the iheart message is one that will be developed further over the coming months.



In addition to this, students watched an assembly aimed at finding the underlying cause of why we sometimes say that 'we are fine' when in fact we are not. Students were given tips on how to have meaningful conversations with friends and family to try to elicit responses that are more authentic.

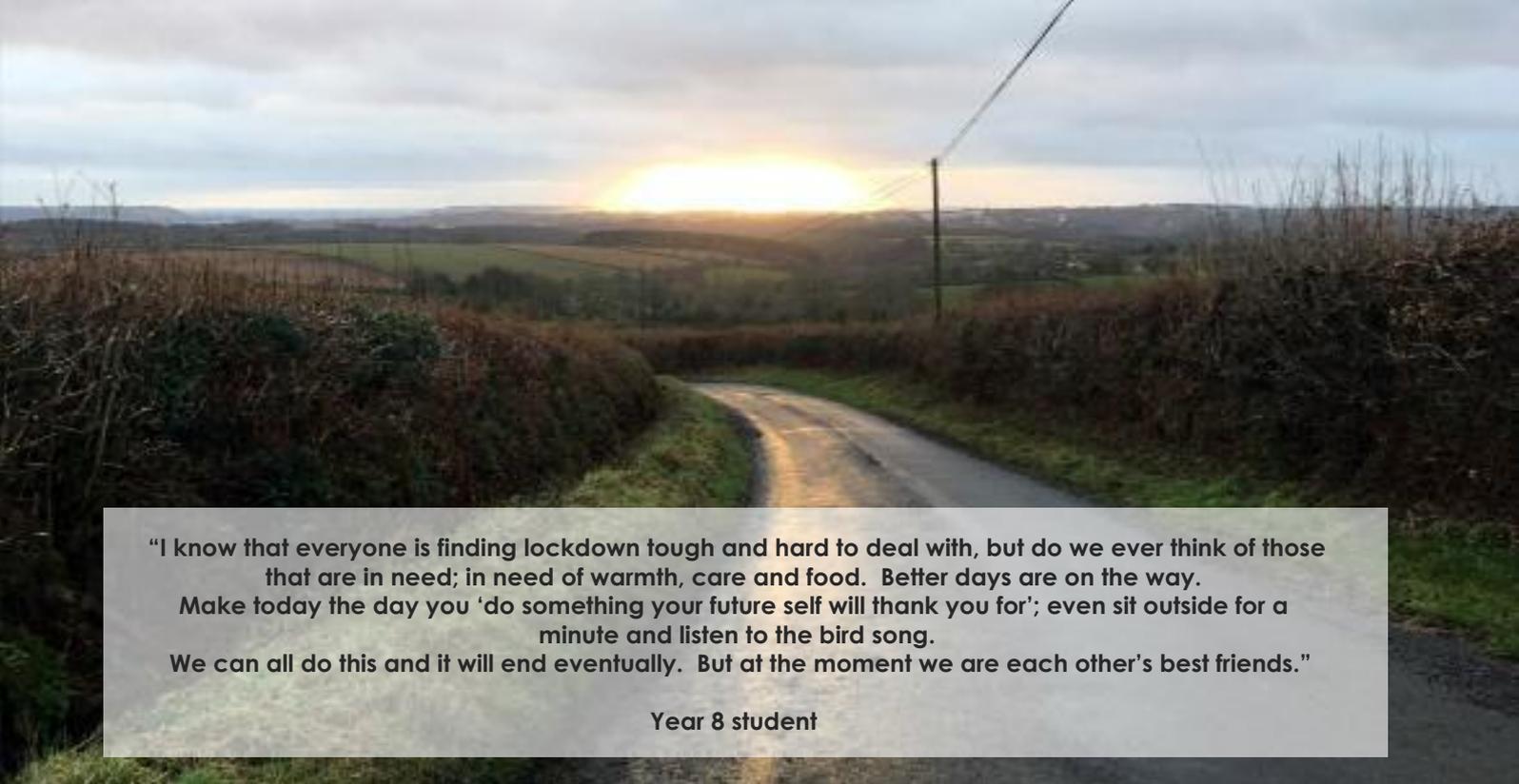
The College also understands and supports the importance of staff wellbeing. A 'Time to Talk' session, led by Helen Ryder, the College's Wellbeing Lead, supported staff and reminded them of simple, yet effective ways to look after their own wellbeing.

Wellbeing is about much more than a 'Wellbeing Week' and we are taking this opportunity to launch the 'Big Devon Challenge for March'. Walking is the simplest and easiest way to fit more activity into our everyday routines and improve our mental health.

We are setting the challenge to see which Tutor Group can walk the greatest distance in March, with some fantastic prizes for the winners.



Caroline Johnson, Associate Leader, said, "We want the wellbeing of our students to be at the heart of everything we do so it has been fantastic to see wellbeing and mental health at the forefront of our conversations over the last few weeks. I am looking forward to seeing where the iheart programme will take us all. It is important for all students to know that if they ever want someone to talk to that their Tutors, teachers and Pastoral Leaders are always around to listen".



"I know that everyone is finding lockdown tough and hard to deal with, but do we ever think of those that are in need; in need of warmth, care and food. Better days are on the way. Make today the day you 'do something your future self will thank you for'; even sit outside for a minute and listen to the bird song. We can all do this and it will end eventually. But at the moment we are each other's best friends."

Year 8 student

8 Character Education

Peter Peaks with his Charity Cycling Challenge

In February, Year 12 student, and keen cyclist, Peter Pugh, undertook an epic personal challenge of completing the 'Everesting Challenge'.

Peter said, "The Everesting Challenge is when you have to ride the total elevation gain of Mount Everest, which is 8848 metres. The total distance of my ride was 215km and I completed it in 8 hours and 18 minutes. I chose to raise money for the 'Keep Me Close' Charity, which supports the Neonatal Intensive Care Unit (NICU) at Derriford Hospital, Plymouth. It is a cause which is close to my family and it also has a big impact on many people.

It was the most challenging ride I've ever done. Luckily the motivation from my family and friends kept me going and had a big impact on me not giving up. This year I was due to race in my first British Cycling National Road Series. However, due to COVID-19 the current race calendar has been affected, but it has given me more time to train and get to the correct fitness level ready for racing."

"This challenge is not for the faint-hearted, and we would like to applaud him for his incredible achievement and wish him the best of luck in his cycling career." Hannah Mattinson, teacher of BTEC Public Services.

If you would like to support Peter in his fundraising efforts, please visit his JustGiving page - https://www.justgiving.com/crowdfunding/peter-pugh?utm_term=kkDyMqnDx



Generously Supporting our Local Community

Students, staff, parents and carers have shown again their outstanding compassion and generosity to the local community.

Helen Ryder, Head of Human Science and Wellbeing Lead at the College, said, "A huge thank you to everyone who has helped to make this the most generous donation of Christmas food, and presents ever! We

were able to make a substantial donation to the Ivybridge Food Bank, and support the Christmas Day activities at the Watermark.

This is a wonderful way to support our local community in these especially hard times, thank you for making it a much more positive Christmas and start to the New Year than it could have been."



Caitlin's Charity Cycle Rides

Year 7 student, Caitlin, has been raising money for charities that are important to her. She has been taking part, with her auntie, in the many races that are organised via virtualracinguk.co.uk. Participants commit to completing a certain distance, by walking, running, swimming or cycling, and submit evidence of their efforts by the deadline date, receiving a medal to celebrate their achievements.

To date she has completed a 9 ¼ mile 'Harry Potter' bike ride around Paignton, raising £32 for her chosen charity 'First Light'. Caitlin said, "My charity meant a lot to me and I had so much fun."

Caitlin has also recently completed another 6 mile bike ride raising £15 for the Poppy Appeal charity. She said, "I chose this charity because I appreciate all the soldiers who died in the war for our lives today."

Caitlin added, "I do my bike rides because I love riding and at the same time I can also raise money for charities. I can also do this with my auntie and we raise money together."

"Caitlin's fundraising efforts embody many of the College's 'Character Education' qualities including Charity and Respect. Caitlin is a great peer role model being caring, kind and hugely considerate. Very well done." Claire Northey, Tutor.



Character Education

9

Drumming up Fundraising for Toilet Twinning Charity

Year 9 student, Chris Ballard, has been fundraising for the Toilet Twinning charity - <https://www.toilettwinning.org/>. This charity helps hundreds of people each year by supplying them with clean, working toilets in the places they are needed most.

For every pound donated in December, Chris agreed to play a song on his drum kit once. The song is four minutes long, so by raising £60.00, by Saturday, 12 December, he had to play it for four hours! The money raised is enough to build a toilet in a refugee camp. Please visit the College website for a time-lapse video of Chris' mammoth four hour drumming session.

Chris said, "I think that that the charity event was very helpful in a drumming sense, as it really helped me work on my endurance and helped me learn to play for a long time. It has also raised an amazing amount for charity, and I am incredibly thankful for everyone who has donated and supported me. Thank you so much."

Thom Guy, Chris' Tutor said, "I have been really impressed with Chris's determination to carry out the challenge that he set himself. I was pleased to hear that his arms weren't too sore the day after, although I am sure that it was as much a physical challenge as a mental one! Chris's efforts, together with those from the rest of the Tutor Group, have meant that we have met our donation target on our fundraising site: virginmoneygiving.com/09GUY. Any donations received from now on will be split between the three charities: Toilet Twinning, Dartmoor Zoo and Mind.

Since Year 7 Chris has shown that he is aware of global issues and shown empathy to others. He is a conscientious student who is always willing to help others.

In College Assemblies, Tutor time and CPSHE lessons this year, we have been exploring the Character Values of Charity, Empathy and Resilience. Year 9 have also been learning about the plight of refugees in their Forensic Reading lessons.

Chris has taken a general idea to fundraise for those in need and come up with his own great fundraising plan. I am very proud of my Tutor Group as so many students have been charitable in many different ways this month, from supporting local foodbanks, to checking on neighbours or friends to combat loneliness."



Committed to making Remote Learning a Success

Staff and students alike at the College have embraced the recent challenges with regards to remote learning. For the whole College community it has been one of the most extraordinary and turbulent starts to any New Year, however the College has delivered its Remote Learning Programme to all Year Groups with minimal disruption to planned learning.

Laptops have been provided to students who were in need of additional IT equipment at home and the clear and concise instructions given to students about accessing their lessons has made this as smooth a transition as possible.

The College has received some wonderful emails from parents giving thanks and offering support for the way in which staff and students are managing this unprecedented situation. To read more comments please visit the College website here - www.ivybridge.devon.sch.uk/parentalfeedback

"The communication has been excellent and the organisation of the College as a whole has really impressed me. I have 2 children at your school and they are thoroughly enjoying their remote learning and have had no issues accessing their work etc. The whole process has been made so much easier by the exceptional efforts you have made. I cannot thank you enough. It can't be easy for any of you." Parent of Years 7 and 8 students

Sarah Broom, Associate Leader, said, "The speed at which staff and students have responded to change and developed the skills to use Microsoft Teams as our remote learning platform has been incredible, and shows the commitment of everyone to make remote learning a success at Ivybridge."

10

Remote Learning

"Online learning from my educational perspective is very interesting.

Whilst I was not in school I used it to help with my understanding of my options. I am now able to use more extensive vocabulary for more subjects and I think it is very useful!"

Oliver, Year 9

"What I love about online lessons is that I can learn from the comfort of my own home and still reach the same level of academic learning I would at school.

I try to take time off-screen during my breaks. What I find hard about online lessons is when technical difficulties occur, although I try my hardest to resolve them. But I am so grateful for the ability to still learn from home, also being able to speak to my friends while in this strange time."

Charlotte, Year 8

"I found it useful to find my own workplace and the quiet environment made it easy to concentrate on my work.

It has been nice to catch up with my friends online and great to have the breaks in between classes to get a drink and prepare for the next lesson.

The new routine each day has been easy to adapt to and it has been great to enjoy some more fresh air instead of travelling by bus each day.

Teams has been really simple to navigate while online learning, and easy to join lessons and submit assignments.

Despite the strange situation, school has made it as 'normal' as possible."

Grace, Year 11





Generous Donors Helping to give the Gift of Education

In February, staff and students were delighted to receive ten laptops kindly gifted by the Rotary Club of Ivybridge. Caroline Johnson, Associate Leader, and Year 11 students Lewis and Josh, received the laptops from Paul Fletcher of the Ivybridge Rotary Club's 'Online Learning Project' and Colin Beresford-Jones of The Beresford-Jones Trust.

Rotary Clubs across the country have been collecting refurbished laptops and distributing them to schools since the last lockdown. The ten most recent laptops are a blend of six refurbished devices and four brand new laptops and have been gratefully received by the College.

The brand new laptops were purchased through generous donations from The Beresford-Jones Trust, which is a Plymouth based charity, whose mission is to support the promising young people of Plymouth and the surrounding areas, towards becoming more engaged citizens of the future.

Although the College welcomed students back to face to face learning from Monday, 8 March, it is expected that some form of remote learning will continue for a while longer and these devices will help to support students in the event of them having to self-isolate or learn from home.

Caroline Johnson, said, "We are incredibly grateful to Dr Paul Fletcher and the whole of the Ivybridge Rotary Club. They have worked tirelessly to collect and refurbish these laptops and it was a wonderful surprise to also find that four of these laptops had been purchased brand new for our students, through funding from The Beresford-Jones Trust."

Individual Donations from our Supportive Community

Staff and students at the College have also been overwhelmed by the kindness of individuals within our community in donating laptops, iPads and funds to the College to support our students with remote learning.

Many of our students did not have any access at all to technology to watch and take part in their live lessons and several, who were working from mobile phones, were finding taking part increasingly difficult without a laptop. Many of our donors have wished to remain anonymous but we wanted to share some feedback we have had from grateful parents:

"May I just say a massive thank you for the loan of the laptop for my son; it has been a real godsend and has meant that he has been able to study at the same time as his sisters, while we try to do some work. This was almost impossible before. We have been really impressed by the online live teaching. Many thanks once again."

"We would like to thank the College for the kind loan of a laptop. It will make a considerable difference to my daughter's education."



Online Musical Masterpiece

Ivybridge Community College and Ivybridge Music Centre are delighted to present their Online Orchestra musical collaboration.

The Online Orchestra started during the first lockdown and includes students from Years 7 to 13 and Years 5 and 6 from our partner primary schools.

Ivybridge Music Centre is grateful for funding from Devon Music Education Hub, without which this project would not have been possible. Please visit the College website to view the wonderful performance of Rondeau from Abdelazer, by Henry Purcell.

After the huge success of the Online Orchestra, the College has now started to rehearse its Big Band online too.

The Music Department can't wait for both bands to be able to rehearse for real, in person, once conditions allow. In addition to these music ensembles, the College also has other groups that are now rehearsing online; Musical Theatre Group, Spotlight Theatre Company, Technical Theatre Group and Dance Company.

"A wonderful and uplifting piece of orchestral music professionally delivered and demonstrating the strength of students and staff to continue to learn and perform virtually, in spite of lockdown measures. We are immensely proud of your continued diligence and passion for the arts." Amy Pearce, Assistant Principal.

12 Performing Arts

Virtual Singing Competition Winners

The College's Performing Arts Department hosted two music competitions over the autumn term.

The competitions gave students the opportunity to show off their vocal range by recording songs at home in two categories; A Performance of Your Choice and Once in Royal David's City, and then sending them in to be judged by the Performing Arts Department's panel of experts.



Year 7 student, Lilah, took the top spot with her version of On My Own from Les Miserables. Year 9 students, Naomi and Iris, took second and third places respectively.

The performances in the Once in Royal David's City category were so good that the judges named two winners, Toby in Year 8 and Anna-Mae in Year 7.

All three winning performers, Lilah, Toby and Anna, won the chance to record their songs in the College's recording studio, perform their song on stage and have it filmed. All three final winning performances were shown in the Principal's end-of-term festive briefing to staff and can be viewed on the College website here.



Helen Reddy, Head of Performing Arts, said, "Like many other activities this year, the Performing Arts have relied on innovation to reinvent the way they interact with audiences.

Despite the many restrictions teachers, students and technical support staff have risen to this challenge by continuing to perform in different ways, learning new skills and making the best use of technology.

The virtual music competition this year has replaced the Performing Arts Show and Carol Concert, which will hopefully be back next year.

Many thanks to the College's Music Department for running and judging the competitions, and thanks also to Mr Whitehorn for his invaluable technical support."



Performing Arts

13

Performances Showcase Students' Musicianship

Year 12 RSL Music students, as part of one of their assignments for their course, were tasked with putting together a 10 -15 minute performance which highlighted themselves as lead performers. As part of their assignment, they were also responsible for the organising and planning of the event and for the logistics and set up on the day.

They were fortunate to be able run these as a live performance at the College, but due to Covid-19 restrictions, they were unable to invite in an audience, so their performances were recorded instead. The performances included a mixture of solos and band performances and highlighted a wide range of musical styles featuring Imogen on the piano, Billy and Casper on the guitar, Jacob on the bass guitar and saxophone and Nathan and Lewis on the drums.

The students were very pleased to have had this opportunity to perform at the College, with Billy commenting, "It was valuable experience which will be useful for upcoming performances," and Nathan adding, "It was a fun and useful day. Great practice for future performances." "I found it very enjoyable playing music with other musicians, and it was also really helpful for my concentration in general", said Jacob.

It was a great opportunity for the students to gain experience and understanding of the planning and logistics that are involved in putting on live music events as well as an opportunity for them to showcase themselves as musicians in a live performance environment.

Students Get Creative with Online Music Workshops

Year 13 RSL Music students were given the task, as part of one of their course assignments, of planning and running a music-making workshop of their choice. In their initial planning stages, they had hoped to run their workshops face-to-face, however, as Covid -19 restrictions continued they had to adapt their plans to run these workshops virtually.

Students led a variety of workshops, including Dani, who led a Piano Interpretation Workshop. Dani explained, "Having the opportunity to teach the instrument you have practised for years was both rewarding and insightful. Understanding your own progress and changing perspectives on how to approach and communicate music efficiently to others was invaluable."

Following his 'Introduction to Jazz' Drumming Workshop with Finlay, Phil commented that, "The workshops were a productive and an enjoyable insight into music tutoring."

Jenny Hardy, Music teacher at the College said, "I was very proud of how well the students approached and adapted to these challenges. With careful planning and trialling of ideas, they all went on to lead successful workshops that still had practical music making as their focus. The workshops were greatly enjoyed by their participants from the younger years in the College."





Year 8 have been exploring creative careers, learning about the vast opportunities this area of employment can offer. Students created their own fact page about a chosen creative career learning about the different roles.

Year 8 – Creative Careers

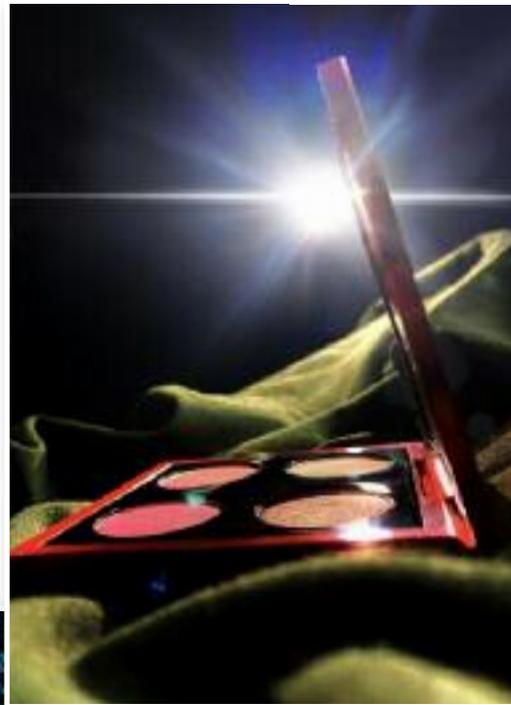
14 Creative Arts

Year 12 – A Level Photography



Eden

Students have been creating inspiring photography based on recent mini projects. They have explored a variety of themes such as nature, commercial and abstract.



Jocelyn



Ellie

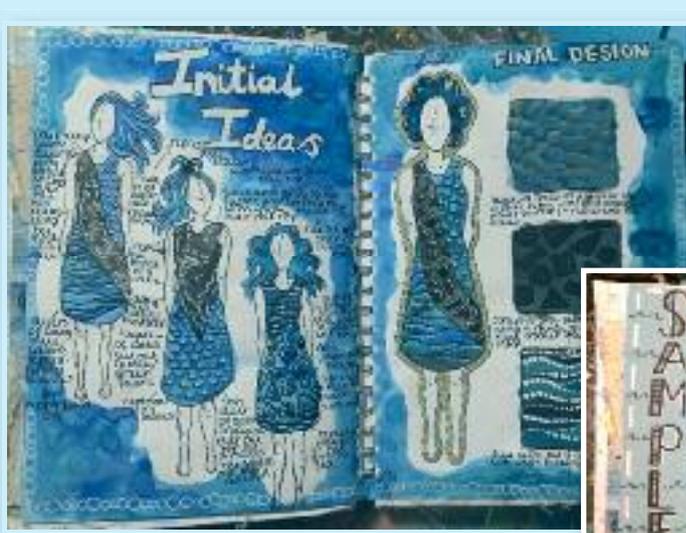


James



Ethan

Year 11 – Fashion and Textiles



Year 11 students have been exploring the artists associated with the St. Ives School of Art to develop ideas for fashion outcomes. They have undertaken some fantastic samples and surface designs before making and creating against all the challenges we have experienced with lockdown.

Creative Arts



Students in Year 9 have been researching Kate Malone, and her fantastic nature inspired pots, in preparation for designing their own clay work. They have produced creative sketchbook pages which include in-depth analysis of their work and processes.

Year 9 – Artist Research

Cornwood Cricket Club

We're searching out lady cricketers for the forthcoming cricket season.

Girls from Year 9 upwards can play in open age cricket.

Fancy stepping out of lockdown and trying something new, which will keep you fit and get you involved in a team sport, set in an idyllic country surroundings ...

No experience necessary, just an eye for the ball and at least a mildly competitive mindset, then we'll do the rest !!

More details to follow once we know when we can start training , but if you'd like to find out more or express an interest, then please feel free to contact Ladies coach, Luci Atkins:

phone 07800 990639
email cornwoodcc@live.com

New men players also welcome

www.cornwoodcc.co

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Why learn Karate?

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Supporting our Local Community

Due to COVID-19, we have been unable to offer our Community Sports and Performing Arts facilities to local clubs.

In the spirit of supporting the local community, we include here a selection of organisations that are the foundation of our locality.

We look forward to when they will be able to open fully. In the meantime please contact them to find out more information.

Dance Classes in Ivybridge

Parent and Toddler Ballet, Pre-School Ballet, 15TD Grades in Ballet, Modern and Tap, Street Dance, Contemporary and Lyrical.

Ballaré School of Performing Arts

Contact: 07812577773
ballareschoolofperformingarts@gmail.com
www.ballaredance.co.uk

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The ultimate way to keep fit and reduce fat while increasing your confidence.

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WITH SHIBUHAPE TRAINING & J
KICKBOX CHAMPION & GB TEAM
JAMES MEEKIN

Full course: just £30 per household

Ivybridge Shotokan Karate Club (Tsutahashi SKC)

- When? Where? How much?**
- Tuesdays and Fridays in the old school gym at Ivybridge Community College from 6.30-8.00pm.
 - £4 per session, with family discounts also available. The first three sessions are free!



What is
able to do.

Who?

- Part of the Karate Union of Great Britain - the largest organisation in the U.K.
- Traditional karate for all ages and abilities.
- Fully qualified, first-aid trained, DBS checked instructors.

Contacts?

Sensei Neil Rowley: 07561892461
Sensei Dave Hore: 07381259389
Aidy Bennett, Club Secretary:
01866234281
<http://www.ivybridgekarateclub.co.uk/>



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Local Netball Clubs in Ivybridge

IVYBRIDGE SHOOTING STARS – NETBALL HIGH 5 CLUB FOR 5 – 10 YEARS

Training on Saturday mornings 0930 – 1030 hrs at Ivybridge Community College

IVYBRIDGE JUNIOR NETBALL CLUB – NETBALL FOR 11 – 16 YEARS

Training on Saturday mornings 1030 – 1200 hrs at Ivybridge Community College

BOTH CLUBS ARE ENGLAND NETBALL REGISTERED AND COACHED BY AN EXPERIENCED LEVEL 2 ENGLAND NETBALL COACH

IF THIS IS SOMETHING THAT WOULD INTEREST YOU PLEASE CONTACT GAYNOR BARTLETT VIA EMAIL AT gaynb@sky.com



IVYBRIDGE TOWN BOXING CLUB



THE CLUBS AIM IS TO PROVIDE THE TOWN WITH A FULLY FUNCTIONAL CLUB FOR ALL TO USE EITHER FOR FUN AND FITNESS OR FOR THOSE WHO WISH TO REPRESENT THE TOWN IN ABAL ENGLAND AMATEUR BOXING. WHATEVER THE AIM THAT'S WHAT I'M HOPING TO PROVIDE.

AS A FULLY QUALIFIED ABAL ENGLAND COACH I WORK ALSO WITH FAYSTOCK ABC AND HAVE SEEN THE SUCCESS THEIR TOWN IS HAVING SO LAST YEAR I DECIDED 'WHY CAN'T IVYBRIDGE HAVE THAT AS WELL?'

WE ALREADY HAVE MANY KEEN BOXERS ENJOYING THE CLUB LEARNING SKILLS AND IMPROVING FITNESS. WE HAVE 1 STUDENT ALREADY VERY CLOSE TO COMPETING AT AMATEUR LEVEL. ALL WOULD NOT HAVE BEEN POSSIBLE IF NOT FOR IVYBRIDGE BOXING CLUB

TRAINING IS MONDAY'S 5.30 - 6.30 AT IVYBRIDGE COMMUNITY COLLEGE (MORE CLASSES SOON). BOTH BOYS AND GIRLS ARE WELCOME AGES 10 - 15 YEARS. ONLY £3.50 A SESSION. FIRST SESSION IS FREE.

ANY QUESTIONS PLEASE GET IN TOUCH. IVYBRIDGETOWNBOXING@OUTLOOK.COM 07932839682



ANTHONY JOSHUA WAS A SUCCESSFUL AMATEUR BOXER WHO SAYS THE NEXT CHAMP ISN'T LIVING HERE WAITING TO BE DISCOVERED?



FIND ME ON FACEBOOK AND INSTAGRAM IVYBRIDGE TOWN BOXING



ERME VALLEY HARRIERS

Hopefully you may have tried athletics in school?

If you enjoyed it, you may like to do more of it outside of school time! If so, come along to your local Ivybridge based club, Erme Valley Harriers, and do even more with the help of British Athletic qualified coaches.

We train at Ivybridge Community College on Thursday evenings from 5.45 – 7.00pm (primary school pupils aged 8+) and then from 7.00 – 8.00pm for the older athletes.

There is a small annual membership charge plus training fees, payable three times per year. (There are reductions for siblings.)

The club participates in the Devon Sports Hall League as well as Cross Country in the winter, and Track and Field events in the summer. We also have a road running section for seniors.

Why not come along and have a free two week trial. Just bring this advert to a Thursday evening session.

We would like to see you, and we can promise you an enjoyable experience at Erme Valley Harriers.

For more details please contact Keith or Jayne Reed on 01752 893673

or by e-mail on reedy41c@googiemail.com

Please visit our website www.ermevalleyharriers.co.uk





18 Sporting Achievements

National Fun 'Santa Dash'

College Netball, Football and Rugby students joined in the National Fun Santa Dash during their PE lessons.

In December the students, wearing their Christmas jumpers and hats, took time out from their PE lessons to join in with the 'Santa Dash' organised by Jeanette Green, the local School Games Organiser. They joined thousands of other young people across the country who were all also taking part.

Jeanette said, "As the School Games Organiser for South Hams and West Devon, and a member of staff at Ivybridge Community College, it is fantastic to see students from the College joining thousands of schools from across the country in the School Games National Santa Dash 2020.

This year has seen unprecedented change to all our lives and I hope that by students joining in this National Santa Dash it will provide some fun and light-hearted exercise whilst wearing their Christmas hats and jumpers."



Football Academy Fundraising Challenge

Football Academy students and staff took on a lockdown fundraising challenge to raise money for Cancer Research UK. Throughout February, they aimed to travel to all 92 Football League Stadiums, starting at Plymouth Argyle's Home Park, before finishing at Hull City's ground on Sunday, 28 February. This 'virtual' journey would see them, if successful, travel by walking, running or cycling over 4375km in order to reach their target distance.

The Academy did successfully travel the required distance in February, but would still like your help to raise even more money for Cancer Research UK by visiting their JustGiving page - www.justgiving.com/fundraising/iccfootballacademystadiumjourney.

Head of Football, Mr Leonard, said, "We set a challenge to our Football Academy students to maintain their physical fitness; giving them a challenging activity in order to continue their focus during this lockdown. It makes it even better that we are able to do it for an amazing charity, who do so much for everyone suffering with cancer. Your support will be much appreciated!"





Sporting Achievements 19

Jake Wins in Horse Show Qualifier Classes

Year 12 student, Jake Myers, competed at the Winter Premier at Hartpury just before Christmas, where he excelled in the competitions and picked up wins in two major qualifier classes.

Jake won the Royal International Horse Show Grade B and C qualifiers on his horse Sam W. Jake said, "I haven't jumped many jump-offs on him yet, as I haven't had the chance (because of Covid)." He added, "I thought I might as well have a go and we ended up pretty fast! We've been trying to jump some bigger classes and the aim is to try for Junior Teams with him next year."

He also won the Winter Grade C qualifier on his horse, Alice (who goes under the competing name of Calcourt Qualvados), qualifying him for the Winter Championships. Jake commented, "I know her very well and we were drawn slightly later in the jump-off, so I was able to watch a few go. All the routes you could take were quite similar, so I was trying to get the smoothest round possible; a lot of the courses this weekend have been about how much you could risk it across the ground."

Competitions have stopped again for the moment but Jake is continuing to train and keep the horses fit due to the uncertainty of when things will start again. He is hoping that he will be able to compete in Belgium at half term, and then go out to Italy in March to compete in some Under 18 Junior classes. All of this is dependent on how the Covid situation develops, and also Brexit may have implications regarding the transportation of horses to Europe.

Caroline Johnson, Associate Leader at the College said, "Well done to Jake for his achievements at the Royal International Horse Show, it's fantastic to see the success he had on both of his horses. We sincerely hope he will be able to compete in Belgium and Italy and wish him best of luck with the upcoming competitions."

Donkey Hoaty - Birdwatching at Saltram

Due to the ongoing COVID-19 situation, Donkey Hoaty has been staying closer to home this term and can be seen enjoying a spot of birdwatching at Saltram House.

The National Trust location of Blaxton Meadow is an important wildlife conservation area for feeding and roosting native birds. The Rangers carry out regular surveys to see what species of birds use the meadows, and in what numbers.

Can you name three different birds regularly spotted at this location?



Photography credit - Reuben Hocking, Year 9



Alumni in Royal Marines Atlantic Success

Former student, Sam Edwards, is a member of a four-man crew who recently successfully completed an unsupported row across the Atlantic Ocean from Gran Canaria to Barbados.

The team had been at sea since Saturday, 5 December and they arrived in Barbados on Saturday, 23 January. Their aim was to cover the 3000 miles whilst raising awareness for Royal Marines Charity 'The Cockleshell Endeavour'.

Sam grew up in Ugborough, Devon, and attended the College from 2003-2008. After leaving, he worked as a stonemason in the local area for six years and joined the Royal Marines in 2014.

Speaking part way through the row across the Atlantic Ocean, Sam said, "It's been a really tough process getting to the start line of this row with all the challenges of Covid, but rowing with some great mates on such a fantastic adventure has made all the hard work worth it." On arrival at Barbados he said, "I am so chuffed to have crossed the Atlantic with three great lads. We crossed the Atlantic in 49 days, 19 hours and 45 minutes."

Caroline Johnson, Associate Leader, said, "What a fantastic achievement for Sam and his team. This is a wonderful initiative supporting recovering veterans and we are really proud of Sam's involvement."



20 College Alumni

Former Student Graduates as Corporal in the Royal Air Force Police

On Wednesday, 3 February 2021, former student, Thomas Sandle, graduated as a Corporal in the Royal Air Force Police from the Defence School of Policing and Guarding, Southwick Park. This followed an intensive 22 week Initial Police Training at DSPG Southwick Park and 10 weeks of Basic Recruit Training at RAF Halton, which Tom began in March 2020.

It has been Tom's lifelong dream to become a policeman and graduating was the culmination of hard work and dedication over the past few years at College, Police and Air Cadets. Tom has now been posted to RAF Brize Norton on the Aviation Security Flight (ASF), where he will be regularly travelling worldwide on a variety of air transport security tasks.

Tom said, "Graduating into the RAF Police has been one of the proudest moments of my life. The skills and knowledge I gained whilst studying Public Services at the College undoubtedly assisted me throughout my Military and Police training. For anyone thinking about a career in the Armed Forces, I would recommend it 100%!"

"Whilst at the College, Tom was a diligent and committed student, who always showed strong leadership throughout his Public Services Diploma studies. We always knew he would be successful and this outstanding achievement by Tom is one that I and the PE Department are very proud of. Congratulations Tom, we wish you every success in the future".
Claire Mitchell, Physical Education Deputy Team Lead and Public Services Teacher.

