

October 2016

Dear Parents, Carers and Students

On behalf of all the staff at Ivybridge Community College, and as the newly appointed Principal I would like to warmly welcome you to the new academic year 2016/17. As an experienced Headteacher and a parent at the College myself, I am passionate about continuing on the road to further excellence and carrying on with the baton of success from former Principal, Mr Rob Haring; which sees the College with GCSE results amongst the highest in Devon and will once again be amongst the top performing schools nationally. I am particularly proud that students of all abilities have made such outstanding progress.

Chair of Governors, Mike Saltern has commented, "We are immensely proud of our students' excellent results and we congratulate all our students and staff who have continued to uphold our ethos of total commitment to outstanding Teaching and Learning. The students now embark on their journey through life with every confidence and I wish them every happiness and success in whatever direction their roads may take them".

As Principal, I firmly believe in continuing to develop the 'Outstanding Ivybridge Legacy' by maintaining a focus on high quality Teaching and Learning for all of our learners and keeping the students at the heart of all our decisions. I very much look forward to meeting with students and parents alike over the coming months and will be offering a range of opportunities for parents to become more involved with life at the College in the near future. In the meantime, please continue to support your son/daughter's attitude to learning and their progress at the College by regularly checking their Planner and ensuring they continue to adhere to the first section which provides a clear outline on the College's expectations, particularly with regard to the:

- Code of Behaviour
- College Uniform / Dress Code
- Rewards and Commendations

We take pride in our excellent College's reputation and I am extremely proud by how hard the staff work to support the high standards that we expect of our students. The staff are always grateful for the support and communication that parents provide on this matter. Working in collaboration is a key ingredient to providing the best educational outcomes for any student and I look forward to developing our partnerships throughout my time at Ivybridge Community College. We shall be launching a new website shortly with many new features that will enable closer parent/College communication. Therefore, I would welcome your parent views on a brief survey which can be accessed via the link below. This will provide an ideal starting point to prepare us going forward and I would be grateful for responses by Monday, 31 October 2016.

[https://docs.google.com/forms/d/1QzIG6mKID-EllRsFYb\\_6b\\_h81CpR3pfRt3P\\_0KJYofA/edit](https://docs.google.com/forms/d/1QzIG6mKID-EllRsFYb_6b_h81CpR3pfRt3P_0KJYofA/edit)

On this note, I would like to hand over to Mrs Shore, Head of Year 7, who is keen to share current developments specific to your Year Group.

I am delighted to introduce myself as Head of Year 7 at Ivybridge Community College. It is my responsibility, along with my Tutor Team, to ensure that your child settles in quickly and has a successful start to their time at the College.

I am proud to let you know how well the students in Year 7 have started the term. The standard of behaviour both in lessons and around the College has been excellent, with many teachers commenting on the good progress being made by students, even at this early stage. It has been particularly encouraging to see how supportive the students have been of each other. Students also look very smart in their uniforms and are proving to be a credit to themselves, to you and to Ivybridge Community College.

Our students have made a very positive start to Year 7 and understand the importance of arriving to lessons on time and being ready to learn, which includes having the correct equipment. To continue with this fantastic start it is important that home and College support each other. To enable this, communication is key. The Planner is essential for you to communicate with Tutors and Teachers. We would appreciate it if you could sign the Planner on a weekly basis.

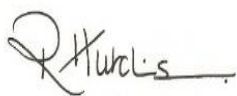
As you are aware the students in Year 7 are part of a Tutor Group and have a designated Tutor, with whom they meet five days a week for fifteen minutes. The role of the Tutor is very important. They are the most frequent point of contact between home and College. They will liaise with me, so that I have an overview of the Year Group. During morning registration students will be reminded of the College expectations, what Clubs are on that day and they will also be following our "Thoughts and Themes" programme, covering key topics relevant to their age group and stage of personal and social development. Once a week, all of Year 7 comes together for an Assembly; our Assemblies are based on a range and variety of issues, drawing from current affairs and key dates in the College year. Throughout the year students will have the opportunity to be Tutor Captains and to be part of the College Council. All students know the importance of these roles and take them very seriously.

There are many opportunities here at Ivybridge Community College for your child to shine and to feel part of the College. We encourage all students to join a variety of Clubs and engage in some of the many extra-curricular activities available. The recent Club Fair was a great success where Year 7 students had a choice of over 200 clubs to join! We at Ivybridge Community College want to encourage our students to become excellent learners. Over the week there are many opportunities for students to go to various Departments to get support with their classwork or homework. Homework Club is run every Wednesday and is already proving to be very popular!

With hard work and a positive attitude comes success and we want to celebrate our wonderful students. We have recently introduced 'Star of the Week'. Students are usually chosen for having a positive attitude, for thinking of others before themselves and being a respectful and well-mannered student. We also award Tutor Groups for the highest amount of Good Notes and this always encourages all of our students to work hard and to be on their best behaviour at all times.

We wish your child every success in the academic year ahead and look forward to the journey.

Yours faithfully



Rachel Hutchinson  
**Principal**



Einir Shore  
**Head of Year 7**