

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-EIRsFYb_6b_h81CpR3pfRt3P_0KJYofA/edit

On this note, I would like to hand over to Mr Reynolds, Head of Year 8, who is keen to share current developments specific to your Year Group.

I would like to take this opportunity to congratulate the Year Group on a very positive and enthusiastic start to the Autumn Term and to what will be a very formative year in College.

The students have shown a commitment and pride in the College culture with high academic expectations, positive relationships with staff and sustained high standards of uniform.

With this in mind, I would ask for your continued support with regards to uniform, appearance and punctuality in order to continue the good start to the year and ensure the principles of success. If you seek further clarification with regards to any of these points above, please see the appropriate pages in the Planner, seek advice from the College website or contact your child's Tutor.

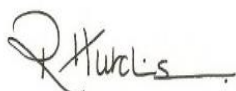
We are only a few weeks into the term and already there have been successes from our sporting teams in Netball and Rugby and I look forward to this year as the students' commitment to extra-curricular activities sees fruition of the time and effort put into their particular interests.

As this is the final year of Key Stage 3, it is a pivotal year in which students make their Option Choices and will make educated decisions with reference to the curriculum each student will be engaging with in Year 9. Please do keep an eye on the College website and correspondence home that will inform you of key dates with this process – it is a procedure that can only work if students, parents and the College are working together.

Our Pastoral focus this year is Active Citizenship and we have focused on the local environment, College Council and the roles and responsibilities available to students this year. We will continue to see our individual impact on the immediate community and look wider after half term. From this focal point a poignant quote that sums up our Year 8 ethos is "Alone we can do so little; together we can do so much".

I am looking forward to leading the Year 8 Team through the next year and wish to thank you for your continuing support of your child.

Yours faithfully



Rachel Hutchinson
Principal



Paul Reynolds
Head of Year 8