

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

On this note, I would like to hand over to Mr Bechley, Head of Year 10, who is keen to share current developments specific to your Year Group.

Welcome back to the College, and the start of Year 10. This will be a pivotal year in your child's progress, during which they will expand their knowledge and underpin their learning following the first year of their Key Stage 4 courses.

As a Year Team, we are looking forward to the year ahead with a cohort of talented and motivated students; who all have a huge potential for success and we will support them in their individual learning journeys. As their Head of Year, I have the privilege of being part of all of their journeys, a position in which I feel proud of the Year Group when I see them around the College in lessons and their achievement in a diverse range of extra-curricular activities.

Our students have begun the year with a positive attitude towards their learning and future; this has started with conforming to the College expectations of uniform and behaviour and being equipped with the essential equipment to be a successful learner. I would urge them to continue with these high standards throughout the year.

We have started our pastoral support focus this term with students reviewing the end of year report from Summer 2016; your child will have identified strengths and areas for development in both their effort and attainment. To help prepare them with consolidating their learning, and revising, we have been looking at methods in which they best learn and retain information through exploring personal learning styles, and this theme will be continued throughout the year.

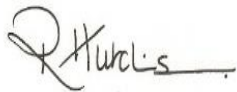
Key dates for this academic year include:

Thursday, 17 November 2016: Year 10 Tutors' Evening

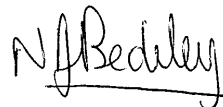
Thursday, 19 January 2017: Year 10 Subject Parents' Evening

I look forward to continuing our partnership in ensuring the best outcomes for our students.

Yours faithfully



Rachel Hutchinson
Principal



Neil Bechley
Head of Year 10