

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-EIIRsFYb_6b_h81CpR3pfRt3P_0KJYofA/edit

On this note, I would like to hand over to Ms Daniel, Head of Year 13, who is keen to share current developments specific to your Year Group.

Astonishingly, we are now 4 weeks into the Autumn term and time seems to be flying by very quickly. From experience Year 13 itself flashes by, (the Prom has already been booked!) so it is not too early for the students to be thinking about apprenticeship pathways or university course choices - this is a very important time for them as I am sure you already know. Students have been given instructions about how to start these processes, but if in doubt they should ask their Tutor for advice. We have a Mentoring Day on Friday, 4 November, when tutees will be able to meet with their Tutor on a one to one basis in order to gain guidance and support as necessary. A separate letter will follow on about this soon.

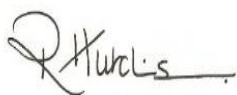
I would like to take the opportunity too, to remind you about Tutors' Evening for Year 13 on Thursday, 3 November - this is an excellent time to gather any information that you yourselves need as a parent about future choices. We are investigating the possibility of running two short sessions on the same evening dealing with apprenticeships/universities to make sure you are as well informed as possible.

A few reminders: we now ask that the students wear lanyards with their identity badges in College as part of our Safeguarding Policy. Students also need these to sign in and out electronically, a process which is essential in terms of health and safety and in any situation where we need to evacuate the building.

I am sure that you are already aware that independent learning in the Sixth Form is the key to fulfilling their academic potential: on average we recommend that A Level students should be putting in two to two and a half hours of work on top of their lesson time every day, and we would be grateful if you could encourage them in this.

Thank you for your continued support, and I look forward to Year 13 achieving their goals at the end of the year.

Yours faithfully



Rachel Hutchinson
Principal



Kim Daniel
Head of Year 13