



3 July 2026

Dear Parents and Carers

Extreme Heat Forecasted

Given the current weather forecast, the College has decided to return to the two uniform options for the remainder of the summer term. If your child chooses to wear PE uniform, they must wear navy blue shorts; **Nike Pros and short 'hot pant-style' shorts are not permitted.** All students must continue to wear their lanyards. Please also ensure your child brings a water bottle each day, has applied sunscreen and brings a hat where needed. Please see the attached information for further details.

Extending Our Family

We were delighted to welcome all our new Year 7 families to our Meet the Tutor evening at the beginning of the week and would like to thank all our Student Leaders being such brilliant hosts. It was wonderful to see so many parents and carers beginning to build relationships with our Tutors and take their first steps into our College community. Yesterday, we were equally excited to welcome our incoming Year 7 students for their Transition Day, giving them the opportunity to experience life at College, meet new friends and staff, and start to feel at home ahead of September.

Developing Character Through Our New Co-Curriculum Programme

At Ivybridge Community College, we believe education is about far more than examination results. As a member of the Association for Character Education, the College aims to help every student achieve academic success while developing the confidence, compassion and resilience to thrive in life.

To support this vision, we are delighted to introduce our new Co-Curriculum Programme, launching in September 2026 as part of our Personal Development and Well-being provision.

Every Wednesday afternoon, Block 5 is dedicated to Personal Development and Well-being. During Week A, students will continue with their CPSHE programme. During Week B, they will take part in our new Co-Curriculum Programme, with opportunities tailored to each stage of their education.

Year 7 students will participate in a structured Outdoor Education programme, developing resilience, teamwork, independence and confidence as they settle into secondary school. This programme has been purposefully planned for all students in Tutor-based Groups, which means no students will need to select choices or worry unnecessary about activity choices throughout their first year.

Students in **Years 8, 9 and 10** will choose from a wide range of activities in which will be shared early next week in our Co-Curriculum Booklet. The activities are designed to

Respect ■ Aspiration ■ Integrity ■ Compassion

broaden horizons, develop new skills and encourage leadership, teamwork and personal growth. Opportunities will include creative, sporting, STEM, service and qualification-based activities, enabling students to explore new interests and discover their strengths. We encourage you to discuss these exciting opportunities with your child and support them in choosing activities that inspire and challenge them.

As a College we have reflected on previous experiences and will use this learning to ensure our new Co-Curricular Programme is supportive and inclusive. We recognise that selecting activities can involve a range of considerations for students and families, including friendships, parental work commitments and financial factors. Clear guidance and support will be provided throughout and no student will be disadvantaged by the process. To ensure fairness, activities will not be allocated on a first-come, first-served basis. Families will have a set period to consider the options before making their choices.

Staff will be supporting key students in person and we will be offering a drop-in service in Peverall Hall between 4.00 - 5.00pm on Tuesday, 7 July and Thursday, 9 July 2026 for those parents/carers who would welcome some additional support. If you require assistance, please contact us at icc@ivybridge.devon.sch.uk to arrange support or ask any questions.

Year 11 students will follow a programme focused on well-being, effective revision strategies and targeted academic support as they prepare for their GCSE examinations.

Students in **Years 12 and 13** will continue to develop leadership and character through service and volunteering opportunities within the College and wider community. We are excited to launch this next stage of our Character Education journey and thank you for your continued support.

Celebrating Creativity, Collaboration and College Success

There are moments in College life when the curtain rises and we are reminded just how brightly our young people can shine. Our production of *Aladdin* was one of those moments, full of colour, joy, ambition and extraordinary student talent. Congratulations to all the cast, our primary students and the wonderful staff who made the production such a memorable celebration of creativity and collaboration.

As always, it has been a busy and purposeful week at Ivybridge Community College. One important professional visit was our Excellence Day: Character Education Review, which involved schools from across the Trust. This was a valuable opportunity to reflect on our strengths and further develop how we support students' character, confidence and personal growth across the College.

We were particularly proud to receive such positive and complimentary feedback from our visitors, who recognised the strength of our College community and the commitment shown by our students and staff every day. It is a fitting way to end the week and a reminder of all that makes Ivybridge such a special place to learn, work and grow.

Yours faithfully

Rachel Hutchinson
Principal