



4 September 2026

Dear Parents and Carers

A very warm welcome to the 2026-27 academic year. We hope you and your family enjoyed a restful summer break.

It has been wonderful to welcome our Year 7, Year 11 and Year 12 students back to College. We have been particularly impressed by the enthusiasm, confidence and positivity shown by our new Year 7 cohort, alongside the excellent attendance across the College, reflecting the strong commitment of our students and families.

As we prepare to welcome all year groups next week, we would like to reinforce the importance of attendance, as every day in College makes a difference to learning and success. In recognition of this commitment, students who achieved 100% attendance during the final three days of last term will receive 30 ClassCharts reward points, with a further 30 points awarded to those who achieve 100% attendance on their first day back. These points will be awarded throughout September.

Celebrating Outstanding Success

The College celebrated another year of exceptional student achievement, with A-level and GCSE results reflecting the hard work, resilience and ambition of the Class of 2026. At Post-16, 46% of students achieved at least one A* or A grade, securing places at leading universities, including Cambridge, alongside competitive apprenticeships and a broad range of exciting destinations. Equally impressive GCSE outcomes continue to place Ivybridge Community College among the highest-performing schools in the region, opening doors to a wide range of future opportunities. These achievements were supported by expert teaching, specialist mentoring, targeted intervention and the College's successful Finish Line strategy. We are immensely proud of every student and wish them every success as they take their next steps.

Free School Meals (FSM) and financial support

We are pleased to confirm that the daily Free School Meal allowance has increased from £2.85 to £3.20, while the meal price has increased to £2.95. We hope this additional support will benefit eligible students and families.

If you would like advice about Free School Meal eligibility, please contact icc@ivybridge.devon.sch.uk. Any enquiries will be treated confidentially. Eligibility may also provide access to additional support with uniform, educational visits and other aspects of College life.

Staff Professional Development

Over the past two days, staff have been engaged in a comprehensive programme of high-quality professional development in preparation for the new Academic Year. The training has focused on strengthening our Teaching and Learning strategies, alongside important educational updates and statutory safeguarding requirements, including the latest *Keeping Children Safe in Education (KCSIE)* guidance. Ensuring the wellbeing and success of every student remains at the heart of everything we do. Through regular training, clear procedures and a strong culture of care, we continue to equip our staff with the knowledge and skills needed to provide a safe, supportive and inclusive environment where every young person can thrive, achieve their potential and feel valued as part of our College community.

Respect ■ Aspiration ■ Integrity ■ Compassion

Looking Ahead

Please find below key dates for upcoming parent/carers events this Autumn Term:

Date and Venue	Title	Intended For
Wednesday, 9 September 2026 3.30pm to various times	Enrichment Programme Commences	Students
Wednesday, 9 September 2026 4.30 - 6.30pm Performance Hall	Year 7 Start Line Strategy Event	Year 7 students and parent/carers <i>Year 7 parents to see separate email</i>
Thursday, 17 September 2026 5.30 – 7.30pm Performance Hall	How to be Successful in Sixth Form	Year 12 students and parent/carers
Thursday, 24 September 2026 5.00 – 5.45pm 6.00 – 6.45pm Performance Hall	Year 11 and 13 EAA Parent Event	Year 11 and 13 parents/carers
Wednesday, 30 September 2026 5.30 - 7.00pm Dining Hall and Performance Hall	Year 6 Open Evening	Year 6 pupils and parents/carers
Thursday, 1 October 2026 Further information to follow	Sixth Form - UCAS Information Parent/Carer Evening	Parents/carers of Year 13 students
Tuesday, 6 October 2026 Further information to follow	Year 6 Open Evening	Year 6 pupils and parents/carers
Thursday, 8 October 2026 Further information to follow	Key Stage 3 Mathematics Event	Parents of years 7, 8 and 9 are invited
Thursday, 15 October 2026 5.30 – 7pm Dining Hall	Safeguarding Parent Event	Parents/carers
Wednesday, 21 October 2026 5.30 – 7pm Dining Hall	Student Leader Launch Event	Parents/carers and students

Thank you once again for your continued support and partnership. Together, we can ensure that the Academic Year 2026–27 is a year of growth, achievement and aspiration for every student.

We are a College that is committed to academic excellence, developing character and providing exceptional opportunities that enable every young person to thrive, succeed and aspire to their very best.

Yours faithfully

Rachel Hutchinson
Principal