



July 2019

Rachel Hutchinson
Principal

Dear Parents/Carers

Re: Year 7 End of Term Letter

As the academic year draws to an end, it is time to reflect on the first year of the students' journey at Ivybridge Community College. I have fond memories of meeting them all in their primary school uniforms a year ago and being enthusiastic about the prospect of them joining us as Year 7 students. They have not disappointed, and in many ways, have surpassed our expectations. They have embraced life as Ivybridge learners and made valuable contributions to the College community. As we now move into Year 8, I have seen the students develop maturity and responsibility. I feel privileged to have shared a part of the journey with them.

I am proud to be able to share some of the fantastic opportunities that our students have made the very most of. This year's Sports Day had a fantastic atmosphere where students felt confident as they were supported energetically by staff and peers to do their very best when representing their Tutor groups. The enthusiasm of all the Tutor groups to create banners, posters and even wear team colours added to the sense of community that has developed in Year 7 over the course of the year. The following week, the students embraced the sporting values of competitiveness and integrity at the College Athletics Championships in Tavistock by producing some outstanding individual performances competing against students in Year 7 and Year 8. We have recently completed Enrichment Week, where I was fortunate enough to share the company of many of our students on the camping trip to Falmouth and Dartmouth and the Paignton Zoo Visit. They were both incredibly rewarding experiences and it was a pleasure to see the students show responsibility and resilience in a range of different situations. They were a credit to themselves and the College.

We have such a vast array of talent in the Year Group and it is always encouraging to see so many students taking part in a wide variety of extra-curricular activities whilst balancing their academic studies. There are quite simply too many wonderful achievements to list, but honourable mentions must go to the Football teams, where the Under 13 Girls' team became Devon and National Champions and the Under 12 Boys' became Devon Champions. Moving away from sporting successes, I have been delighted to see our musicians continue to show their talents and make excellent progress in their field. Many of these students have participated in the College concert.

All of our students have also had the privilege of meeting Dan Freedman and were delighted to receive a signed copy of his latest book; *Unstoppable*. In addition to this, some students have continued to pursue their passion for reading, completing the Book Quest Challenge and as a reward met another inspirational author, Andy Briggs, at a Celebration Evening organised and run by the English and LRC team to commend the students for this achievement.

Our students have an exceptional group of Tutors providing pastoral support every step of the way. The end of an Academic Year is also a time where, inevitably, there are some goodbyes to make. Firstly, I would like to thank Mrs Pitcher for the superb job she has done in the team and wish her luck as she moves onto a new role as Director of English in the College. I know that her Tutor group are very grateful for all the support given to them this year. Secondly, I would like to extend a big thank you to Mrs Setter, our Assistant Head of Year, her kind and supportive approach has been greatly appreciated by all students in the Year group. She is always there to listen, advise and guide

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students. Next Year Lisa will be staying in Year 7 and supporting the new Ivybridge students with their transition from Primary School. Finally, I will also be moving into a new position. It is difficult for me to put into words how thoroughly rewarding and enjoyable working with this outstanding group of students has been this year. I have seen the students thrive as they have overcome various challenges throughout the year and feel fortunate to have contributed to the start of their journey here at Ivybridge. I hold them in high regard and close to my heart and will be keeping a keen eye on their successes and progress next year. I hand over to two very capable staff members in Mrs Shore and Mrs Brown.

Most importantly, thank you for the invaluable level of support and the trust that you place in us on a daily basis. I can assure you that this does not go unnoticed as we work together to develop our next generation.

I wish you all a very enjoyable summer.

Yours faithfully

Tom Brown

Head of Year 7