

Ivybridge Community College

Year 12 Weekly Bulletin

Edition 3: 24 April 2020



COVID 19 Update

Hello to you all reading at home for another week, and apologies if you hadn't been receiving the link to the bulletin. Hopefully this situation has now been resolved.

As the lockdown continues, I'd like to point out that at the time of writing, there is still no update on when schools will reopen. You may have heard discussions in the media (and please don't read too much into these), but the Department for Education has not released an update, and thus we must continue to plan to work remotely for the foreseeable future.

As I previously said, please do let me know about any positive things happening in your lives at the moment: it would be great to share these!

Wellbeing

I really hope that the majority of you have now settled into a daily routine and are coping well. Here's a podcast interview from Thomas Frank (you'll see by now that I quite like this guy) – [Work from Home Without Losing Your Mind](#) – that he did with Matt Reynolds, his lifting coach, over on his podcast, Barbell Logic. It primarily goes over setting up your workspace and planning your day, but it also contains some extra tips that came out naturally in the conversation, which may be relevant to you right now.

As ever, please also feel free to contact Mrs Street (ssstreet@ivybridge.devon.sch.uk) or Ms Daniel (kdaniel@ivybridge.devon.sch.uk) if you would like to discuss support available.

Home Learning

VESPA Home Study Programme

I have previously mentioned the VESPA Home Study Programme (<https://www.vespamindset.co.uk/p/the-vespa-mindset-programme>) as something very worthwhile engaging with at home. I asked that you fed back to me via the link [here](#) if you completed or intend to start this course. I have had very few replies to this, but I have had several messages enquiring about work that can be completed at home. I am very genuine when I say that one good thing that might come out of the current situation is a forced improvement in independent learning skills in the Sixth Form. This sort of course is invaluable, and I urge you all to engage with it to the same extent as the content of your Sixth Form courses.



Diagnostic Assessments and Self-Reflection in June

Earlier in the week I shared a video message on changes to Year 12 mock examinations this year. If you haven't seen it, it can be accessed [here](#) (use your normal Ivybridge IT credentials to access), and a PDF of the presentation material is available [here](#).

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The key message is that the Year 12 mock examinations this summer will be replaced by a **diagnostic assessment and student self-reflection exercise, planned to be completed at home during the week Monday, 1 June – Friday, 5 June.**

LRC Home delivery service

If you are interested in borrowing books from the LRC, email Mrs Hull (shull@ivybridge.devon.sch.uk), and she may be able to drop books off to your doorstep!

Your future



Super-curricular activities

I promised last week some suggestions of super-curricular activities that you can be completing at home, not only for interest, but to improve your understanding of your Sixth Form subjects and make you a more attractive proposition for universities and employers. Ordinarily, I would suggest trying to complete some of these over the summer holidays, but if you feel able to manage these alongside your Home Learning, then you may want to start now.

In case you have never heard the term before, *super-curricular* describes activities that are academic but which go beyond the curriculum, as opposed to *extra-curricular*, which describes those activities outside of and complementary to the curriculum, like Ten Tors and Duke of Edinburgh Awards. Here is a [link](#) to an amended version of an assembly that I usually give detailing sources of super-curricular activities, most of which can be accessed from the comfort of your own bedroom!

EtonX course

And on the subject of super-curricular activities, here is a current opportunity to complete an online course through Eton College. This is free of charge during College closure and would require 7-10 hours of self-study, with certification at the end. The course covers research skills, and you can find more information here: <https://etonx.com/courses/research-skills/>. If you are interested in signing up then please email me by Friday, 1 May.

University Open Days

We will spend a lot of time over this term discussing next steps and, in particular, how to choose universities and university courses, if this is the route you wish to take. One thing to consider right now, though, is that the summer term is the season where a lot of universities will run open days for prospective applicants. Ordinarily, you should be aiming to attend some of these if you are serious about going to university. Because of the current situation though, many universities are now running virtual open days which, for now, will have to suffice.

Most universities run open days again in the autumn term, and I'm guessing there will be more pressure on universities to offer a greater range this autumn. One way to find these virtual open days, in addition to on individual university websites, is via this link: <https://www.ucas.com/ucas/events/find/type/open-day>.

