

Ivybridge Community College

Year 12 Weekly Bulletin

Edition 4: 1 May 2020



COVID 19 Update

Hello again from my computer screen to yours, as the lockdown continues. Again, at the time of writing, I'd like to confirm that there is still no update on when schools will reopen.



Don Williams

Bill Gates, writing in *The Economist* this week, notes that 'when historians write the book on the COVID-19 pandemic, what we've lived through so far will probably take up the first third or so'. He quotes Churchill in saying: 'This is not the end. It is not even the beginning of the end. But it is, perhaps, the end of the beginning.' Mr Gates, as numerous other commentators have, cautions that 'humanity will only [beat the

virus] when most of the population is vaccinated'. And although unfortunately this means that life will not return to normal for a long time yet, it focuses attention on the remarkable speed at which the scientific community has responded to the challenge of developing a vaccine. For me, this is a wonderful reflection of what humankind can achieve when uniting around a common purpose. Although we must bear in mind that most vaccines do not make it through all stages of clinical trials, that the likes of the University of Oxford have a COVID-19 vaccine in Phase 1 clinical trials in healthy volunteers, is truly inspiring.

The *Microsoft* co-founder also touches on a parallel with the end of the Second World War, where institutions like the UN were conceived to prevent future conflicts, and how after COVID-19, leaders will prepare institutions to prevent the next pandemic, which must, to be effective, see wealthy nations supporting poorer ones in donating foreign aid to beef up their primary health-care systems, ensuring a greater level of equality in who benefits from scientific advancements. As he says, 'viruses don't obey border laws, and we are all connected biologically by a network of microscopic germs'. The loss of life and impact on families is tragic – and we will not forget those who have suffered – but we will come out stronger the other side!



Good news stories

Thank you to those who shared positive things happening in your lives with me, even if you didn't want to share them with the whole Year Group! Please do continue to share these with me, and let me know if you are happy for me to share them with others.

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Wellbeing

As has been noted in previous editions of this bulletin, changes in circumstances in living under lockdown conditions can affect your wellbeing. I want to be very explicit though, in saying that if you are feeling fine, please do not in any way feel guilty about it. The best way to live through change is to embrace the opportunities it brings, be that spending more quality time with your family, indulging your passions and interests, or just enjoying your own company, and if you are feeling good, that is great!

If you are feeling negatively impacted, though, evidence suggests that there are 5 steps to improve your mental health and wellbeing – connect with other people, be physically active, pay attention to the present moment (take notice), learn new skills, and give to others (NHS, 2019 [<https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/stress-anxiety-depression/improve-mental-wellbeing/>]).

This week, we are asking all students at the College to consider these 5 steps, with some simple wellbeing suggestions from Mrs Ryder and a questionnaire from Mrs Taylor designed to help you gain a clear understanding of your current wellbeing and happiness. If you click on the [Go to this Sway](#) below, you can access the suggestions and the questionnaire.



Improving your wellbeing

Connect | Be active | Take notice | Keep learning | Give

[Go to this Sway](#)

Mr and Mrs Stancombe have also made a family sofa video, reflecting on how they maintain positive wellbeing in their family lives, which you can watch [here](#).

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.

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Home Learning

Diagnostic Assessments and Self-Reflection in June

Viewing figures tell me that most of you have now watched the 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](#).

Remember, Year 12 mock examinations this summer have been 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 2020.**

By now, your teachers should have contacted you with details of what content the assessments will cover, but the exact format of the assessments may not have been decided yet. I said I'd run through the answers to some FAQs in this bulletin, but there have not been many, which I take as a good sign! The biggest source of concern was over content that you are currently being asked to 'self-teach'. Teachers are trying their best to limit the amount of new content delivered during College closure, allowing you to focus on consolidation, but if your teachers have set new content for you to learn, they will have good reason for it, and they will not have taken this decision lightly. Remember, if the learning is ineffective, they'll be the ones teaching it again, so please trust that their interests align with yours!

LRC Home delivery service

I mentioned last week that 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. She has been doing so all week. This is a fantastic service, and it is definitely worth mentioning again!



Extended Project Qualification (EPQ)

Several of you have previously expressed an interest in the EPQ. I can confirm that the EPQ will begin in September. You will be assigned a supervisor, and there will be weekly lessons assigned on your timetable. Although we will look at the list of students who identified that they were interested in the course at the beginning of Year 12, your thoughts may have changed, so **please can you**

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email Ms Daniel (kdaniel@ivybridge.devon.sch.uk) if you are interested (both new and pre-existing expressions of interest) in taking the qualification.

Usefully, the University of Bath has produced a MOOC through FutureLearn, called *How to succeed in your EPQ: The nuts and bolts of completing your Project* (<https://www.futurelearn.com/courses/epq-success>). Ms Daniel asks that you complete this course before the end of the summer term if you are serious about taking the EPQ. It takes 3 weeks, and you can start now, or you can join the course on 11 May or 29 June (see details on the webpage). She asks that you download and save the resources, as well as any work that you do, so that if you go ahead with the EPQ, you can use the resources to help with your Production Log.

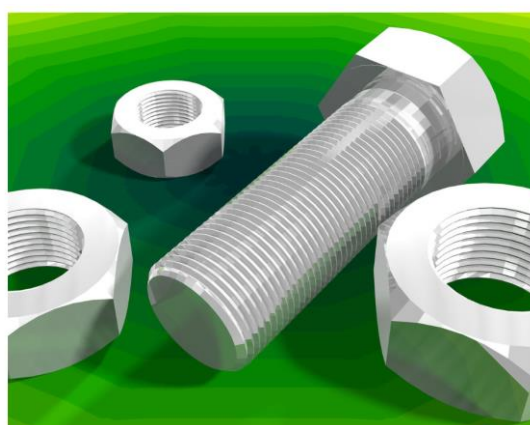
Online Courses / Study Skills



How to Succeed in Your EPQ: the Nuts and Bolts of Completing Your Project

A short course designed to help students prepare for EPQ qualifications

[Join course for free](#)



Your future

Thanks to those students who identified themselves as wanting to take part in the *EtonX* research course. I hope to have some more information for you soon.

University applications

I know that some of you are getting a bit anxious about university applications, and you may be seeing that universities are putting a lot of energy into advertising their virtual open days and online taster courses. As I said last week, 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>. Please rest assured that we will spend a lot of time discussing the university application process, but I will leave the bulk of this discussion until after the Diagnostic Assessments at the start of June, and hopefully we will be back at College and able to run our Higher Education and Apprenticeships Day in some form in July, as we usually do.

If you are really keen, though, the University of Exeter is running a *Discover University* online programme throughout May on Facebook (<https://www.facebook.com/DiscoverUniExe>). The programme session details are listed below. Of particular note is the session on 7 May, *Studying a Degree Apprenticeship*, where Exeter is becoming a bit of an industry leader.

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The University of Exeter will be supporting students, parents/guardians, teachers and advisors over the coming months through various digital platforms. Join us in supporting students to make informed decisions about their future.

Coming up in May:

Date	Platform	Title	Time	Suitable for:
5th	Facebook	Choosing a course	14:00	Year 12 students, teachers, parents/guardians
wk commencing 6th	Facebook	STEAM real world lecture series - Mental Health and Wellbeing - numerous lectures delivered throughout the week	Various	Years 9-13 students
7th	Facebook	Studying a Degree Apprenticeship	14:00	Year 12 students, teachers, parents/guardians
11th - 15th	Facebook	Living prospectus week	16:00 - 17:00	Years 9 - 13 students
12th	Facebook	Choosing a course	14:00	Year 12 students, teachers, parents/guardians
14th	Facebook	Studying a Degree Apprenticeship	14:00	Year 12 students, teachers, parents/guardians
wk commencing 18th	Facebook	STEAM real world lecture series - Research to brighten your day - numerous lectures delivered throughout the week	Various	Years 9-13 students
19th	Facebook	Student Life	14:00	Students, teachers, parents/guardians
21st	Facebook	Making the most of the Online Open Day	14:00	Year 12 Students, teachers, parents/guardians
End of May	Online Open Day platform	Online Open Day	Various	Year 12 Students, teachers, parents/guardians
All month	University website	Questions about our courses? Talk to a current student and find out more - www.exeter.ac.uk/undergraduate/courses/	All day	Students, parents/guardians

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Post-College Pathways

What would be really useful for planning what to deliver to you as a Year Group in terms of support for future pathways, is to have an accurate handle on exactly what your intended post-College pathways are. As such, please could you make sure that you have an up-to-date Plan A and Plan B for your Post-18 Intention in *Unifrog*. The intentions may be very tentative at the moment – don't worry about this!

Making applications

Post 18 Intentions

- ✗ Plan A: UK University
Application not yet submitted.
- ✗ Plan B: Apprenticeship
Application not yet submitted.

[Start >](#)

Locker

You have 1 student item and 1 teacher item saved so far

[View locker items](#)

[Go to tool >](#)

Applications list

You have 5 applications

[View applications](#)

[Go to tool >](#)

Add in details if you can, but at a minimum, choose a pathway for Plan A and Plan B from the dropdown menus. This will allow me to best plan the sessions we deliver in College.

Plan A Pathway

Your first choice

Plan B Pathway

Your backup

? What is your Plan A Pathway?

UK University

---- select a pathway ----

UK University

Apprenticeship

FE Course

Job

Non-UK University

Other

I don't know

? What is your Plan B Pathway?

Apprenticeship

Save

Early entry students – Oxbridge, Medics, Vets and Dentists

The other thing I need to know, because applications for these courses go off earlier than for other university courses, are those students who are considering Oxbridge, Medicine, Dentistry or Veterinary Medicine/Science. **Please could you let me know by email**, so that I can compile a list.

Continue to stay safe and well!