



COVID 19 Update



"Water shapes its course according to the nature of the ground over which it flows ... just as water retains no constant shape, so in warfare there are no constant conditions." And so Sun Tzu's words ring true today as we enter a new phase in the nation's response to the coronavirus pandemic. Thankfully, our collective adherence to the lockdown restrictions has resulted in a fall in the infection rate and, most critically, mitigated loss of life. Easing of lockdown restrictions are, tentatively, allowing many of us to gain that interaction with others that we have been craving as inherently social animals, and a glance at the news shows people focusing on

other major issues, from race in the case of the maltreatment of George Floyd, to political oppression in the crushing of dissent in Hong Kong. Crickey, even stock markets are showing a positive rebound! However, as many, including the government, are cautioning, now is not the time to be complacent and risk a second wave of infection, and you have your part to play in this through your safe, partial and phased return to College – but as water does, you must be prepared to change your form and adapt to the new situation.

You will have received notification this week that the College will reopen to students in Years 10 and 12 from 15 June, and very shortly, if you haven't already, you will receive specific details of when and how you will be able to come into College. To be clear, this will not be College as you know it, but I can guarantee that everything in our power has been done to maximise the time that you will have with your teachers, whilst keeping both you and your teachers safe. I mentioned previously that we will be making contact with students who we know will have difficulties returning to College; again, if you think that we are unaware of a situation that might mean your return to College will be complicated, please let us know by e-mailing Year12Support@ivybridge.devon.sch.uk.

You will also have received a formal notification this week that the Work Experience Week in July has had to be cancelled, and details of refunding contributions have been given in the letter that you and your parents will have received. This is regrettable, but it is out of our control.

Wellbeing

My wellbeing message this week is simple: enjoy reconnecting with others. Remember to follow the government guidance, not only to keep yourself safe but to prevent the spreading of the virus in the general population. You are playing your part by following the social distancing rules. We should all bear in mind, though, that different people will have had very different experiences over the past couple of months, ranging from those whose home lives and family situations have been very



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comfortable, to those who have been directly affected by the virus through the health of loved ones and severe financial implications for their family. Try to reflect on where you are on this scale and adapt to the person with whom you are speaking – I am sure they will appreciate it.

On a more academic wellbeing note, the following FutureLearn MOOCs were brought to my attention during the half-term break; these may appeal to those wanting to learn more about their own wellbeing and also for those interested in pursuing an area of healthcare in the future.

- [COVID-19: Psychological Impact and, Wellbeing and Mental Health](#), a course provided by Maudsley Learning and The Tavistock & Portman NHS Foundation Trust. Maudsley Learning is part of one of the world's most renowned mental healthcare organisations.
- [Help Young People Manage Low Mood and Depression](#) delivered by the University of Reading.
- [Manage Mental Health and Stress](#) from Coventry University.

For more resources to help, head to their collection of courses to [Support Your Mental Health In Lockdown](#).

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

Home Learning

By the time you read this, the Diagnostic Assessment week will have drawn to a close. Your task now will be to reflect on your performance. Some subjects will provide mark schemes for you to self-mark your assessment, whereas others will mark them and return them to you. In either case, once you have this feedback, we are asking you to complete a short self-reflection exercise to inform some of the work that you will complete over the remainder of the term. This was all explained in the [video](#) that viewing figures tell me most of you have watched. The self-reflection form (image right) can be found [here](#).

We would like you to complete one of these forms for every subject in which you have taken an assessment, and return it to your teachers AND Tutor by e-mail (or otherwise, if they specify to you) by 5pm on Wednesday, 17 June. This is during the first week that you are back in College. The most important section of the form is the Action to address gaps over the remainder of the summer term box. This is where you set yourself some targets to improve on your areas of relative weakness, and your teachers will feed back on

Year 12 Diagnostic Assessments and Self-Reflection

The purpose of this self-reflection exercise is for you to honestly reflect on your current attainment, as indicated in the diagnostic assessments, and to formulate a subject-specific action plan, drawing on positive aspects of your learning this year and identifying areas for improvement. Your teachers will provide advice and guidance to help you refine your action points.

In terms of the Sixth Form Mindset model, this process is about your Attitude: the best students have a growth mindset, are critically aware of what they do well, and they use mistakes as information to improve their future performance.

Name:	Subject:
Assessment Reflection	
I was most confident on...	
I was most challenged by...	
Revision and independent learning activities I found most useful:	
Teacher tasks/lesson activities that I found most useful:	
Where you made mistakes in your assessment, what type of mistakes were they? (Active, Slip-up or Blackout – see next page):	
Where are the key gaps in my learning?	
Action to address gaps over the remainder of the Summer Term <small>(Initially complete this section yourself, your teacher will provide additional guidance after you submit this form to them.)</small>	

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your initial suggestions and suggest techniques and resources to help over the coming weeks.

In terms of how your courses will look for the remainder of the school year, you will have had some indication of a timetable (from the communication alluded to above), but in short, your learning will consist of a blend of face-to-face seminar-style subject days complemented by online content to work through at home, most likely delivered through the MS Teams platform. When you attend College, it is vital that you bring all of the appropriate materials for the particular subject day: folders, exercise books, textbooks and stationery.

Coronavirus Tutoring

The Coronavirus Tutoring Initiative (CTI) was set up upon the announcement of school closures in March by several Oxbridge students in connection with Project Access (<https://projectaccess.org>). They aim to ensure that no student misses out on their education over the coming months by connecting young people who need free tutoring with university students. So far, they are averaging a new sign-up every 10 minutes, and they have thousands of fully-safeguarding trained tutors already teaching, but they want this to increase. More information can be found on their website: <https://coronavirustutoring.co.uk/about>. This facility is free to anyone, although it is aimed at students who cannot afford private tuition. So, if you feel like you'd benefit from a free tutor, take a look!

Weekly news quiz

The weekly quiz continues to be available on Socrative at <https://b.socrative.com/login/student>. Enter the Room named **SIXTHFORMQUIZ**.

Weekly reading – *The Internet is Making Your Brain Lazy*

Here's a link to an [article](#) written by Ransom Patterson, which covers the dangers of cognitive offloading in the age of the internet and the Google search, along with ways to remedy the situation. It's worth five minutes, if you have them spare.

The Oxford Union Podcast Series

As you may know, the Oxford Union is the debating society at the University of Oxford and the largest student society in the world. Each term, they host visits from world leaders and celebrities in their prestigious debating chamber: Presidents Nixon, Carter, and Reagan; the leaders of the March for our Lives movement; and the journalists who broke the Harvey Weinstein story have all engaged with the union. They also host debates on some of the key issues of our times, from President Trump's impeachment, the rise of authoritarianism, to solving Climate Change.



the OXFORD UNION

This term, they have put together the Oxford Union podcast series, since business as usual is impossible. This has two advantages: their speakers come from an even more international background, and their content is now available freely to anyone who might be interested as podcasts.

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Between 27 April and 20 June, their podcasts play host to leading politicians, journalists, activists and actors. This includes Gina Miller, Ted Cruz, Katya Adler, Brian O'Driscoll, Loretta Lynch, Christina Lamb, Jeb Bush, the Executive Director of UNAIDS, Jane Goodall, and the Chief Scientist of WHO.

They also host debate style roundtable discussions, on issues ranging from Afghanistan, Russia and the future of the Democratic Party, to the Refugee Crisis. Four of these sixteen podcasts are part of a special series on the COVID-19 crisis, in addition to which they have four further weekend specials such as our most recent book club episode.

Linked here is their online [termcard](#), which contains the full line up of podcasts, including release dates and timings. These would be well worth a listen for interest or as a super-curricular activity.

Your future

We are now hoping that we will be able to provide our Higher Education and Apprenticeship Day in some form in the final week of the summer term, including face-to-face time with your Tutor and an ability to discuss your future individually, and for those who wish to apply, initial registration with UCAS, the Universities and Colleges Admissions Service. Until then, I will continue to post useful resources related to investigating your future in these bulletins and in a fortnightly address to the year group via video.

Weekly university guidance webinars

There are lots of great Virtual Open Days out there - but how do you even know which ones to go to? The UK University & Apprenticeship Search is there to help.



They have brought together over ninety universities and colleges from across the UK for a virtual fair on Wednesday, 17 June to allow you to easily explore all your choices in one place. Register for free [here](#).

Marjon Live

I have mentioned Marjon Live before – a series of live talks and question-and-answer sessions about study and life on campus at Marjon. Their Explore your course talks are taking place next week. These talks are the equivalent to what you may have enjoyed at an on-campus Open Day at Marjon. Talks can be booked on to at the following [link](#).

Discover University – University of Exeter

The University of Exeter's programme continues this month – details of all of their events are below.

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

Coming up in June

Date	Platform	Title	Time	Suitable for:
1st - 5th	Facebook	Climate Change - numerous lectures delivered throughout the week	Various	Years 9-13 students
2nd	Facebook	Student Life Presentation	2pm	Year 12 students, teachers, parents/guardians
4th	Facebook	UCAS Process	2pm	Year 12 students, teachers, parents/guardians
8th - 12th	Facebook	Living Prospectus Week - Live Q&A with current students	12-1pm & 4-5pm	Years 9-13 students
10th	Zoom	Planning your next steps Conference - Universities of Bath, Cardiff & Exeter - www.ex.ac.uk/flagconferences	1-3pm	Year 12 students
10th	Facebook	Parents/Guardians Q&A	6pm	Parents/Guardians
15th - 19th	Facebook	Don't forget about Brexit - numerous lectures delivered throughout the week	Various	Years 9-13 students
16th	Facebook	Considering the University of Exeter	2pm	Year 12 students, teachers, parents/guardians
18th	Facebook	Writing a personal statement	2pm	Year 12 students, teachers, parents/guardians
23rd	Facebook	UCAS Process	2pm	Year 12 students, teachers, parents/guardians
24th	Zoom	Accessing new subjects Conference - Universities of Bath, Cardiff & Exeter - www.ex.ac.uk/flagconferences	1-3pm	Year 12 students
24th	Facebook	Parents/Guardians Q&A	6pm	Parents/Guardians
25th	Facebook	Student Life Presentation	2pm	Year 12 students, teachers, parents/guardians
30th	Facebook	Writing a Personal Statement	2pm	Year 12 students, teachers, parents/guardians



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