



## COVID 19 Update

The Year 11 Leavers' Survey is completed every year and we truly value the feedback provided. We would very much appreciate if you would take the time to answer the questions honestly and provide as much detail as possible. Follow this link to complete it; [survey](#).

### Apprenticeships and alternative post 16 pathways

A huge congratulations to those of you who have secured apprenticeships and places on alternative educational pathways. Thank you for the emails and updates, I have been really pleased to hear this news and wish you all the very best in the future. If you do have news to share, please don't hesitate to email to let me know.

Whilst I am confident that these are secure, I would politely advise that you maintain regular contact with your provider to ensure that your position remains secure due to the financial impact of Covid-19. We always recommend that you have a "Plan B" and this is more important than ever given the current climate.

### Assembly

On Monday I will be releasing an Assembly on Microsoft Streams. I will send the link for this to your College email account on Monday morning. The link will then take you Microsoft Steams, where you will be able to watch the assembly.

This week's assembly is on Empathy. Empathy is one of our College Virtues and, as we begin to move through the different phases of the Governments Covid-19 response plan, it is important that we adapt and show understanding of how people are feeling at this time. Empathy is our ability to show this understanding and helps us to support others, whether that be people within your family, extended family, and friends or in your community. Showing empathy is incredibly important personal skill which will help you and others throughout your life.

### Virtual Tutor

Following the assembly, your Tutor will be emailing you with a time for a virtual tutorial. This will take place next week between Tuesday and Friday. We believe that this is an important part of keeping in contact with you and ensuring we are supporting you as well as we can during extraordinary circumstances. We intend to run 3 Tutor sessions before the end of term.

The Tutorial will be held on Microsoft Teams which you will need to log in using your College email and password. It will last for around half an hour and will contain important information for your next steps, and College updates. *You may not have used Teams before, and if you haven't yet used the application, full details of how to set yourself up can be found [here](#).*



## Home Learning

A message for students who have applied to Ivybridge Sixth Form

Thanks again for your application, prior to starting your studies in September, we would like you to complete some work over the summer for each of the subjects that you will be taking. We further ask that you bring this work along to your first lesson for your teacher to review. This work will help you make the best start to your Sixth Form subjects and whet your appetite for the learning to come. Please note, that if you were a student of the College in Year 11 then this work is distinct from the subject-specific work that was set prior to the half-term break.

A short video showing how to access the summer work can be found [here](#).

We are planning a virtual version of our Sixth Form Induction Day for all students starting in September. This will now be held in the week commencing 13 July; more details will be given over the coming weeks.

### Anti-racism – End Inequality

LAST WEEK, I WROTE ABOUT THE EVENTS THAT HAVE UNFOLDED FOLLOWING THE MURDER OF GEORGE FLOYD IN MINNEAPOLIS, USA;

Over the weekend there were protests for equality around the world, but perhaps the most striking to us were those in London and Bristol. The protests in London were attended by thousands of people at various landmarks around our Capital. It is important to recognise that the vast majority of these protests were peaceful, despite the high emotion, upset and anger held towards inequality. However, in some areas, these protests were violent, with our police bearing the brunt of this. My personal belief is that violence is never the way to convey your point to instigate meaningful change and reform. This also reminded me of two famous quotes by Civil Rights Activist Martin Luther King;

*"In spite of temporary victories, violence never brings permanent peace."*

*"We adopt the means of nonviolence because our end is a community at peace with itself. We will try to persuade with our words, but if our words fail, we will try to persuade with our acts."*

One of the most powerful and perhaps divisive events of the protests happened closer to home, in Bristol, and involved a large group of protestors pulling down the statue of 13<sup>th</sup> Century slave trader Edward Colston. This will remind you of Ozymandias, who you studied in English. He was a tyrant leader whose statue is forgotten about and left to disintegrate. Edward Colston was an incredibly wealthy man who amassed a fortune through the sale of slaves in Britain. The money he made was ultimately donated to the city and used to build hospitals, schools and public buildings. For many though, this money is tainted as blood money and regardless of this, the appalling means of its origin is tragically unforgivable.

It's important to recognise that there are differing opinions and debates around the removal of the statue of Colston and this is a debate which has been going on for many years. Firstly, there is a strong belief that the statue should have been removed, but with differing opinions on how. Were protestors right to pull it down and throw it into the Bristol Docks? Alternatively, should it have been taken down in a non-violent manner and put in a museum to educate people on our past? Finally, should the statue have remained in its place on Colston Avenue, with a new plaque explicitly condemning Colston for his actions, whilst acknowledging what the money he donated provided for the city? I would love to hear your opinion on this and below are two opinion pieces that may help you to form a discussion. Please send these to [tbrown@ivybridge.devon.sch.uk](mailto:tbrown@ivybridge.devon.sch.uk)

[Bland talks about the cathartic effect some people felt when it came down.](#)

[Keir Starmer believes it should have been done differently:](#)

Please also see the Further Learning list below. This can help us to all become more empathic and knowledgeable to help us to become an equal society.



## Wellbeing

When Joe Harkness suffered a breakdown in 2013, he tried all the things his doctor recommended: medication helped, counselling was enlightening, and mindfulness grounded him. But nothing came close to nature, particularly birds. How had he never noticed such beauty before? Soon, every avian encounter took him one step closer to accepting who he is.

The positive change in Joe's wellbeing was so profound that he started a blog to record his experience. Three years later he has become a spokesperson for the benefits of birdwatching, spreading the word everywhere from Radio 4 to Downing Street.

In this ground-breaking book filled with practical advice, Joe explains the impact that birdwatching had on his life, and invites the reader to discover these extraordinary effects for themselves.



Reference: [https://www.amazon.co.uk/dp/B07N912FNY/ref=dp-kindle-redirect?\\_encoding=UTF8&btcr=1](https://www.amazon.co.uk/dp/B07N912FNY/ref=dp-kindle-redirect?_encoding=UTF8&btcr=1)

## Recommended further learning from the Home Learning Section

### Read

WHY I'M NO LONGER TALKING  
THE GOOD IMMIGRANT  
OF MICE AND MEN  
SO, YOU WANT TO TALK ABOUT RACE?  
HOW TO BE AN ANTI-RACIST  
WHITE FRAGILITY  
I'M STILL HER

#### OPINION PIECE

<https://www.independent.co.uk/student/istudents/black-lives-matter-protests-nus-students-uk-london-manchester-whitechapel-demo-march-a7184906.html>

### Watch

WHO KILLED MALCOLM X?  
13TH