

# Ivybridge Community College

## Year 12 Weekly Bulletin

### Edition 10: 19 June 2020



#### COVID 19 Update

In Wednesday's Government Coronavirus briefing, the Culture Secretary, Oliver Dowden, announced the return of Premier League football that evening, extolling the virtues of the game in bringing the country together and raising morale in very strange times. In a similar way, I would hope that your return to College under the conditions of the 'new normal' will help to bring us together more as a community and raise our collective spirits. The theme of the week, as delivered by Ms Daniel's activities in the mornings, has been resilience, and we've seen it in bucket-loads from you all this week, as you have returned to College eager to learn and understanding of the measures we have had to put in place to keep you safe. Thank-you for this!



If you have returned to College this week, we hope that you have found your Seminar Days a really valuable experience; feedback on the day has been really positive. We would be really grateful if you could complete the feedback questions via the link in the email this bulletin was attached to!

I hope that you have also enjoyed meeting, virtually at least, with your Tutor and Tutor Group. It is important that you aim to attend this meeting (next one in w/b 29 June): not only are there important messages being shared about your education and future, but your participation fosters that sense of community and your collective wellbeing.

Again, if you have any questions or require further support, please e-mail [Year12Support@ivybridge.devon.sch.uk](mailto:Year12Support@ivybridge.devon.sch.uk).

#### Wellbeing

I am sure that you have enjoyed reconnecting with others in College this week. Again, we must all 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.

Although attendance has been high, please do, though, spare a thought for those who have been unable to make it into College for numerous reasons. I am sure that they would appreciate a quick message to let them know that you are thinking of them, or even to discuss the work you've been set!

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

# Ivybridge Community College

## Year 12 Weekly Bulletin

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#### Your Learning

By now, you should have completed the self-reflection process following the Diagnostic Assessments. Your teachers will be feeding back to you on your action points and making suggestions to help you. As I wrote last week, it is crucial that you take this process seriously.

Moreover, it is crucial that you are honest with yourself about how you have worked during this period of College closure. Firstly, remember that every student in Year 12 in the country is in the same boat. Thus, although the situation is far from ideal with regards to your learning, you are at no relative disadvantage, and you'll hopefully have noticed this week that your teachers are not panicking about where you are within the syllabuses of your courses or that you are 'behind'. Indeed, to reiterate our teaching and learning strategy, we principally asked you to consolidate your prior learning while at home, with the Diagnostic Assessments as a focus. We chose this approach, as no matter how hard we tried, the teaching would never be as effective when delivered remotely. If you have followed our advice, the foundations on which you will now be building your new learning in a face-to-face context on your seminar days will be very strong, and you will finish the year in great shape – and, dare I say, better than other students in the country who have followed a different learning path.

What will be different this year, though, I feel, will be the size of the gap between the highest and lowest performing students. It's simple: those students who had developed the independent learning skills and resilience required for this period of College closure have thrived under these conditions, and those who were more reliant upon teacher input have struggled. This is no different to normal in that the former will always outperform the latter, except this in this situation, the effect has been amplified. So, here's where the honesty comes in: Where are you on this spectrum and what's the game-plan moving forward? If you've managed to maintain your focus and independent learning, give yourself a pat on the back, enjoy the next few weeks of learning and have a well-deserved break for a lot of the summer. If you haven't, then this is the time where you aim to do something about it. How many of you checked out the [YESPA Mindset course](#) that I shared in my very first bulletin, for example? Use your teachers for advice and guidance, with the action points in the self-reflection sheets as a starting point, but remember, you have to set the agenda yourself – it may be that some of you will have to put a significant portion of summer aside for remedial work, but you'll only subscribe to this if you set the work yourself, rather than it being set for you by teachers. The good thing is, you have time on your side, so there's no need to panic.

#### *Coronavirus Tutoring*

I have put this message in the bulletin for the last couple of weeks, but I am continuing to advertise it because a couple of you have reported really positive experiences using it, and I'd like to get a few more of you on board.

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

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## Year 12 Weekly Bulletin

### Edition 10: 19 June 2020



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 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**.

#### Your future

Currently, I would say focus on the present to ensure your future is rosy. Remember, in the final week of term, you'll have a Futures Day with your Tutor Group, and if you are wanting to apply to university, we'll get the formal ball rolling then. There is absolutely no harm in searching for courses in advance on *Unifrog*, but please don't worry about the actual UCAS application.

Below, I have included some super- and extra-curricular activities that may be of interest to some.



#### Visions of a world after COVID-19

This [competition](#), run by UCL openDemocracy, launched this week, and is open to school and university students (aged 14 and up) to share their vision of the future, with prizes of £200, £100 or £50 in book tokens plus the chance for personal mentoring from the panel of some of the world's foremost thinkers and some fantastic work experience with either UCL or openDemocracy.

Entrants can submit either a written article, short video or image that describes their vision for the world after the coronavirus crisis has passed. [FIND OUT MORE](#)

#### Uni Taster Tuesdays

The popular series of *UniTaster Tuesday* events will continue for the rest of the year.

During these events, different guest universities deliver impartial sessions on important aspects of university guidance,



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## Year 12 Weekly Bulletin

### Edition 10: 19 June 2020

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alongside a moderated Q&A. Events are up to an hour in length and are hosted at 9.30am, 12pm and 3pm every Tuesday, with different topics and subjects each week. Bookings for future webinars, as well as recordings and resources from events previously hosted are now available on the new *UniTaster Tuesday* event hub at: <https://www.unitasterdays.com/tuesdays>

In addition to general university guidance topics such as personal statements and student finance, subject specific events are available here too, including an introduction to studying Medicine, Law and Engineering.

#### *University of Plymouth Artificial Intelligence Webinar*

At the University of Plymouth, the Faculty of Science and Engineering is hosting a series of webinars aimed at A Level students to help with revision and to inspire further study. On 3 July, they will be hosting an Artificial Intelligence webinar with David Walker, Lecturer in Computer Science.

The webinar will focus on Artificial Intelligence. Giving an overview of what it is, where you may have used it without realising and why it is challenging. Throughout the webinar, David will refer to our own teaching and research at the University.

The webinar will run from 1pm – 2pm on the 3<sup>rd</sup> of July via a Zoom link, which will be sent to registered attendees.

You can sign up through this link:

[https://plymouthuniversity.secure.force.com/pmtx/evt\\_Conf\\_Detail?id=a130X00000WHNJ2](https://plymouthuniversity.secure.force.com/pmtx/evt_Conf_Detail?id=a130X00000WHNJ2)

#### *Discover University – University of Exeter*

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

# Ivybridge Community College

## Year 12 Weekly Bulletin

### Edition 10: 19 June 2020



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 - <a href="http://www.ex.ac.uk/iagconferences">www.ex.ac.uk/iagconferences</a>	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 - <a href="http://www.ex.ac.uk/iagconferences">www.ex.ac.uk/iagconferences</a>	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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