

Ivybridge Community College

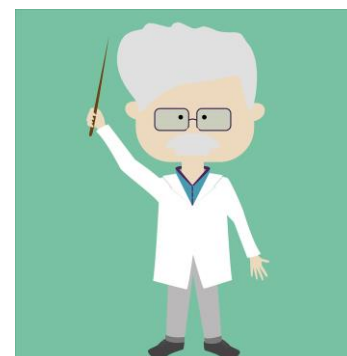
Year 12 Weekly Bulletin

Edition 11: 26 June 2020



COVID 19 Update

Today brings to a close the first cycle of Seminar Days for Year 12, and I hope that in spite of the unfamiliar set-up to the College, you have enjoyed the learning opportunity that this has afforded. Remember, this cycle will repeat over the coming fortnight, and in the final week of term, you will have a Futures Day with your Tutor Group (see schedule below). I will kick off the next fortnightly cycle with a short video on Monday morning shared by email.



What is critical now is that you follow up your face-to-face learning with equally effective home learning. Many of you will have developed formidable independent learning skills over the period of College closure, and you need to continue to exercise these by working every day of the school week. Your priority right now should be addressing the action points from your self-reflections following the Diagnostic Assessments. Your teachers are, as ever, here to support your learning, and communication remains key: you must ensure that you are checking your emails at least once a day. Please follow normal social etiquette and respond to queries from your teachers – a staggering amount of time at the moment is having to be used to chase responses from students, quite often when the response would be in the affirmative and the student just hasn't responded to let the teacher know. If teachers could use this time elsewhere, they could obviously further support your learning.

Week 3		Week 4	
Date	Subject	Date	Subject
Monday, 29 June	Geography Health and Social Care Dance	Monday, 6 July	Photography Applied Psychology Sociology
Tuesday, 30 June	Business English Literature	Tuesday, 7 July	Spanish Economics Applied Business Product Design Music Drama Computer Science
Wednesday, 1 July	Maths PE RSL Music	Wednesday, 8 July	History Applied Science Media
Thursday, 2 July	Psychology Further Maths	Thursday, 9 July	Public Services BTEC Sport ICT Technicals Performing Arts Physics
Friday, 3 July	Biology English Lang Lit French Art BTEC Sport	Friday, 10 July	Criminology RSL Music Textiles Chemistry Public Services

And for the Futures Days, **Monday, 13 July – Friday, 17 July**

Day	Tutor Group
Monday, 13 July	SMH and HTG
Tuesday, 14 July	KWL and STK
Wednesday, 15 July	PRC/AFL and THN/BWN
Thursday, 16 July	PPR/MOS and BKS
Friday, 17 July	MPY/QNN and TMN

Next week, you'll have your second opportunity for a virtual meeting with your Tutor and Tutor Group. Similar to last time, it is very important that you attend this meeting: not only are there

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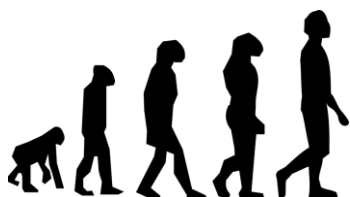


important messages being shared about your education and future, but your participation fosters a sense of community and improves your collective wellbeing. Also, in keeping with my message above, chasing attendance carries a significant time burden, so if you have a reason why you can't attend, please let your Tutor know in advance.

End-of-year reports

Several of you have quite rightly enquired about missing Parents' Evening this year because of the College having to close. Since we cannot currently admit visitors onto College site, regretfully, we will not be able to hold a Parents' Evening this academic year. However, your teachers are currently writing quite thorough subject reports that we use to form the basis of references for university applications and other requests made to the College. We will share these as part of an end-of-year report, alongside a message from your Tutor, so that you and your parents can receive some detailed feedback about your performance this year. Also, if we've been impressed with your effort this year, you'll receive an endeavour certificate – can't say fairer than that!

Wellbeing



The pastoral theme for this week in College has been kindness, and as a biologist by trade, I'm often drawn to THE big idea in biology for understanding human behaviour: that of evolution by natural selection. Evolutionary biology teaches us that we have evolved to be compassionate and to cooperate – being altruistic and kind to one another benefits us all.

Transcending ideas of kin selection (which explains why we might be nice to our close relatives), modern theories of cooperative behaviour suggest that acting selflessly provides a selective advantage to the altruist in the form of some kind of return benefit within a group of genetically relatively unrelated individuals. Cooperation may have begun when humans formed small hunter-gatherer groups, where it was necessary for them to forage together, so each individual had a direct stake in the welfare of his or her partners. Humans evolved special cooperative abilities that other apes do not possess, including dividing foraged food, communicating goals and strategies, and understanding one's role in the joint activity as equivalent to another's. As societies grew in size and complexity, these collaborative skills and impulses were developed on a larger scale, as humans faced competition from other groups and people started to identify with others in their society even if they did not know them personally. This new sense of belonging brought about cultural conventions, norms, and institutions that incentivised and structured feelings of social responsibility. Your predisposition to be kind and cooperative is hard-wired into your very being to enable you to survive in your world! So there is a reason that your body has a reward system for acts of kindness – tap into it and feel better!



June is also Pride Month, a month dedicated to celebrating the LGBTQ+ communities all around the world. You were lucky enough to have an assembly from Mrs Hanton prior to lockdown defining and explaining issues pertinent to the LGBTQ+ community. Ms Thorne has also produced a video

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for use in Year 10 CPSHE sessions, which is just as applicable to Sixth Form students. It can be viewed [here](#).

As ever, please 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 pastoral support available.

Your Learning

As I mentioned above, it is critical that you supplement your Seminar Days with equally effective Home Learning over this period, your priority being addressing the action points from your self-reflections following the Diagnostic Assessments.

If you still haven't, try to check out the [YESPA Mindset course](#) that I shared in my very first bulletin for help on developing those all-important independent learning skills.

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 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

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.

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A new competition for students

Visions of a world after COVID-19



Tell us about your vision for the world after COVID-19 for a chance to win!

www.opendemocracy.net/worldaftercovid

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, 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 July via a Zoom link, which will be sent to registered attendees.

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You can sign up by clicking [here](#).

PwC Virtual Classroom

The professional services firm, PwC, has launched a [Virtual Classroom](#) - a programme open to all students between Years 10 and 13. The programme combines both live and pre-recorded sessions that provide students with an insight into PwC and an opportunity to develop your employability skills. You'll also have the chance to engage with a range of PwC ambassadors through the interactive live sessions, whilst enabling the flexibility to watch and listen to the recorded sessions at a time best suited to you each week.



You can find out more about the session and sign up by clicking [here](#).