



11 September 2020

Rachel Hutchinson  
**Principal**

Dear Parent/Carer

I am delighted to have welcomed our Year 9 students back to Ivybridge Community College and have been impressed by the level of responsibility and positivity that they have shown during their two day Induction Programme. This programme has covered all of the changes that we have put in place with two important aims in mind. Firstly to keep all our students safe through the implementation of new health and safety measures and secondly to further enhance the quality of their education here at the College.

Thank you for your support with the process of the wider College re-opening, and for your ongoing support as we move through these challenging times and adapt to a new way of operating. We are optimistic about what this excellent group of students can achieve this year and thereafter, and I am proud to be in the position to oversee and guide them through this journey.

Thank you for the feedback that we have received throughout the week and I very much hope that this letter serves to support the next steps in preparation for the full timetable next week.

### **Student Pastoral and Wellbeing Support**

Please remind your child that we have an experienced and committed team at the College who are here to support and offer ongoing help, especially during this period of transition, as they settle into the new routines. The Tutor, who they register with each morning, will become their main point of contact. Tutors will then liaise accordingly with subject teachers and parents/carers where necessary. Mr Anniss, our dedicated Pastoral Leader for Year 9, works closely with me, as the Academic Performance Leader, to offer further support across the Year Group. Please refer to the College's communication flowchart leaflet [here](#) for other useful contact details.

### **Teaching and Learning**

As part of your child's Induction Programme, they have been introduced to some exciting developments in our curriculum provision such as the introduction to Forensic Reading and developments in the KITE Programme. Please refer to the College website [here](#) for further information on these initiatives and how they are supporting our focus on knowledge, high order vocabulary and academic rigour. As the students have been given a wealth of information during the induction period, we have also made the presentation that was delivered by the Tutors, available on our website. This will allow them to re-visit key points and for you as parents/carers to familiarise yourselves with the key information also.

Additionally, there is further information on our website regarding our College strategy for Remote Learning; this document gives an overview of the government tiered approach and how your child will access and engage with work remotely should the need arise. Further detailed information will be shared with parents/carers over the coming weeks to support this essential part of our new way of working.

Furthermore, to ensure that your child is fully prepared for every lesson we have introduced our **Super 7**. These are key items that each student should have with them every day, which will allow them to fully participate in all lessons. We encourage our students to be organised and to take responsibility for their own learning.

### **Standards and Expectations: uniform and hairstyles guidance**

Thank you to all those students and parents/carers who have adhered to the College guidance on uniform requirements. This is an important aspect to us and the reason why so

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many choose to send their children to Ivybridge Community College. We believe high standards and expectations, and taking pride in our presentation, play a key role in the overall attitude and commitment to learning. We will therefore continue to address those who are not meeting the College's expectations which can be found by following this link: [Uniform](#)

### **Maintaining high standards in order to support learning**

Following consultation with staff and parents/carers throughout the Spring Term, we have made developments to systems across the College to maintain a supportive learning environment for all learners. All students will have received further information as part of their Induction Programme and key information has also been published in the Kite Programme.

From Monday, 14 September, we shall be running a transition week which includes graduated responses to enable students to familiarise themselves with our enhanced expectations and how we will manage and support those students who may struggle to meet our expectations and/or affect the learning of others. Staff will be modelling and sharing the new routines with all their classes and parents/carers will be notified if there are any individual students who need further support.

### **Home College Agreement**

We have published our annual Home College Agreement in the KITE Programme, which has been updated in accordance with the College routines. We kindly request that all parents/carers and students take time to review the agreement (page 12 of the KITE Programme) and sign to show your support of the College systems. Please may I request that this is actioned by Wednesday, 16 September 2020.

### **Health and Safety**

Please can students be reminded of the expectations whilst in College, and the importance of them continuing to abide by the social distancing guidelines that they will have been introduced to over their induction period. We do expect all students to provide their own face coverings, as they would for use in the wider community. Please can you ensure that they have one ready to use; this should be plain fabric, or a subtle patterned covering. We would ask that they do not contain any overt logos or potentially offensive cartoons/slogans.

Wearing a mask in outside communal areas and at the various transition points (for example, moving between lessons) within College is imperative in terms of reducing the risk. They can be removed once your child is seated and facing the front in their classroom, but we would encourage your child to have a clear and labelled plastic bag or similar, for them to store their mask in safely whilst the lesson is taking place.

A reminder that all students need to wear their Year Group lanyard each day, as part of their College uniform. This will help us identify Year Group Hubs during lesson changeovers.

### **Buses**

Students travelling on any College transport will be expected to wear a mask at all times, and they will be asked to sit in Year Group order on the bus - with Year 7 students sitting at the front and Year 13 students at the back of the bus. May we also take this opportunity to remind students and parents/carers of the Bus Code of Conduct, which can be found on the College website. Please support and highlight the importance of your child wearing their seat belts whilst on the bus if this is their means of transport to the College.

### **Catering facilities and water fountains**

Each Year Group has been allocated a designated dining space and recreational zone area. The College Dining Rooms will be open for the purchase of limited packaged, hot and cold food from Monday, 14 September 2020, for all Year Group breaks. Students will be given two breaks in which they will be able to visit a dedicated dining space to either purchase or use the facilities in which to eat their own packed lunch.

Students will be asked to consume any purchased food in their respective dining room prior to leaving. There will be clear entry and exit points from the dining room, which will link with the current one-way systems at the College.

The water fountains across the College will be accessible for the refilling of water bottles only. Please encourage your child to bring an appropriate bottle in which they can refill throughout the day. Additional drinks may also be purchased through the catering services.

### **Breaktimes**

In order to minimise risk, student breaktimes have been adjusted to ensure Year Group Hubs do not mix. The College day has been planned with split breaks to ensure that only two Year Groups are on break at any one time, but in separate areas of the College.

### **Physical Education: Core PE**

For the foreseeable future, in line with Public Health England advice and the subsequent WeST Risk Assessment, students will attend College **in their PE uniform on their timetabled PE days.**

This is College PE kit only and full details can be found in the uniform brochure on the College's website.

Students will require:

- Shorts/plain navy tracksuit bottoms/leggings – not branded
- College tee shirt
- College tracksuit top or Rugby top
- White sports socks or College sports socks
- Trainers

**No student is permitted to wear any hoody or non-College issued PE attire.**

All students will need to arrive for their PE lessons at the Sports Hall following the one-way system where they will be met and registered by their teachers. Wet weather lessons will be adjusted to inside provision.

### **Physical Education: GCSE PE practical lessons only and GCSE Dance**

All GCSE and A Level dancers should attend College in their Dance attire on their timetabled practical days/lessons. This must be College Dance kit only.

Dancers will require:

- Black leggings
- Black dance tee shirt
- Black dance hoodie
- White socks or dance shoes

Dancers may wear:

- Black leotards
- Dance tights and shorts

Please ensure a tee shirt and leggings are worn over the leotard into College.

Students must also wear trainers with their dance attire and hair must be tied back.

### **Monday, 14 September 2020**

When we return after the weekend, it is important that on arrival, students go straight to their Tutor bases without delay, arriving by 8.50am. Tutor time starts at 8.55am. Please could you remind your child not to wait around in corridors or block pathways, so that students can arrive at their Tutor base safely and on time, while maintaining social distancing. At break times students should remain in their Year Groups, and they will not be able to mix with other Year Groups during these times. Please remind your child that we have endeavoured to minimise the risk of this occurring with staggered break times, however your support with this as a reminder would be greatly appreciated.

We very much look forward to seeing your child on Monday, 14 September.

Yours faithfully

Tom Brown

**Year 9 Academic Performance Leader**