



21 October 2022

Rachel Hutchinson
Principal

Dear Parent/Carer

I would like to commence by thanking the students for such a positive start to the new academic year and for the way in which they have fully embraced the transition into their new Year Groups. We have been particularly impressed how our new students have settled into the College routines, establishing positive relationships with their Tutors and amongst their peers, and embracing the many opportunities on offer at Ivybridge Community College. Attendance to our lunchtime and after College enrichment clubs has been extremely positive and we look forward to more students signing up to clubs next term. It is our ambition that every child has an opportunity to experience our fantastic Enrichment Programme. For further information please click [here](#) and also see the Daily Bulletin.

It is wonderful to see the students' enjoyment, thriving in and through their educational opportunities beyond the classroom, such as the Army Challenge Day, Outdoor Education training weekends, Geography fieldwork and Creative Arts students who visited the Eden Project. Such successes alongside the sporting achievements are always shared in Assemblies and as part of our staff weekly briefings. Please do encourage your child to share any community-wide successes with their Tutors so that we can continue to praise and celebrate individual endeavours; be it volunteering, charity work or with community clubs.

I am particularly proud of the way in which many of our students have given up their own time to support our Student Ambassadors programmes, welcoming our primary pupils and their parents/carers to the Year 6 Open Evenings, our newly trained Mental Health Ambassadors and our student leaders across subject areas.

College Site Developments

Following our latest communication (Summer Term 2022), I would like to update you on recent developments to support the upgrading of toilet provision. I am pleased to announce that the work on the first new set of toilets for students commences this half term. We have been informed that it will be a 6 to 8 week project and once completed will provide additional toilets in the Peverall Building for students. If you would like more information about current and future developments across the College site or would like to join a working group to support future improvements please contact Joseph Harvey, Operations Manager, via Contact Us page on the College website. We always welcome feedback on how we can best improve the resources and quality of the learning environment for our students.

Parent/Carer Communication

At Ivybridge Community College our relationships with parents and carers are fundamental to the way we work. Communication between College and home is crucial in supporting your child to achieve their best. If you have not already done so, please download the epraise parent app to monitor your child's attendance, praise points, demerits, and Home Learning. If you do not have a login for epraise, please contact sims@ivybridge.devon.sch.uk.

The best ways to communicate with us are:

- Via your child's KITE Planner (a short note to keep us informed)
- Via telephone (if you require a conversation with a key member of staff)
- Via our 'Message College Staff' facility on the website [here](#) where information will be shared with appropriate members of staff.

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In order to support your child as effectively as possible, we would ask that all parents and carers contact us promptly if they have any queries, comments or concerns using one of the ways above.

- The KITE Planner is the best way to get an immediate message to your child's Tutor or teacher. You can write a note in the Communication page and ask your child to show this to their Tutor or teacher.
- If you have a question or comment about a specific subject, please communicate with the class teacher or the Head of Department.
- If you have a pastoral question or comment, please communicate with your child's Tutor, Pastoral Leader or College Director.

The College will always aim to return a telephone call or email within a timely fashion. We will do our best to ensure messages get to the right person as efficiently as possible. Please remember all staff employed at the College are here to help and support all of our students; this is central to our daily work.

We prioritise safeguarding and welfare at all times and if we feel your child is ever at risk, we will immediately contact the named adult/s. This includes any students who do not attend a lesson without prior authorisation or non-compliance to a given sanction. Please use half term to reiterate with your child the importance of communicating with their Tutor, teachers and staff when they may need additional support from an adult. Please let us know as soon as possible if your child needs support. Should you ever need to contact the Safeguarding Team, you can email them directly on safeguarding@ivybridge.devon.sch.uk.

We promote students' wellbeing in College and are keen to ensure there is space and time to talk with an adult, a mentor or coach. Students make the best possible progress by being in all lessons every day. We are proud of the attendance of our students at the College and thank you for the role you play in supporting our systems and working closely with the College when attendance becomes a challenge. We appreciate that in rare instances children are unable to come into College. Please inform us as soon as possible of their absence, using the 24 hour absence line: 01752 891777.

Have a Voice

So that all staff can continue to improve and we can continue to provide a first-class education, we would welcome your feedback on an Autumn Term Parent Survey [click here](#). This is an opportunity for you to have a voice and help us to continue to grow a World Class Culture, where all students feel included and supported in a positive and effort driven environment. We always welcome the feedback of Ivybridge Community College parents/carers because our mission is to make a difference. The survey will close at 9.00am on Monday, 31 October 2022.

I hope the students have an enjoyable half term break, ready for a productive Term 2, which begins on Tuesday, 1 November 2022. On behalf of all the staff at Ivybridge Community College we thank you for your continued support.

Yours faithfully

Rachel Hutchinson
Principal