



10 February 2023

Rachel Hutchinson
Principal

Dear Parent/Carer

On behalf of the staff please may I thank you for your support and to all those families who have engaged with the many organised events this term. The virtual Parents' Evenings continue to be a real success with increased attendance for all Year Groups due to the efficiency of the online systems. Please contact the College if you were unable to attend a Parents' Evening event as we can still arrange for feedback to take place next term.

Character Education

In true Ivybridge Community College style, we continue to celebrate the vast array of enrichment activities on offer to all of our students. Research suggests that children who actively engage in extracurricular opportunities improve their overall academic progress and as importantly, see physical, social and emotional benefits.

Enrichment activities and successes since September

The focus of our enrichment activities continues to increase students' enjoyment of College life, create an inclusive spirit and help build life-long memories and friendships. This includes exceptional opportunities for our Sports Academies.

Since September, our Netball, Rugby and Football teams have had wonderful success in their respective local, regional and national competitions, while five Year 9 and Year 10 students have been selected for the Devon County Netball Team.

In volleyball, the Under 15 Girls' Team won the South West Volleyball Tournament.

We have also celebrated a number of personal sporting successes, with many students achieving bursaries in their chosen sport. This includes scholarships to the USA, with Exeter City and Plymouth Argyle; players being chosen for the county; and five students being chosen for the England Rugby Development Player Programme.

Within our general enrichment programme, every Year 7 student has taken part in a Dartmoor Discovery Day Project which has been in partnership with the Dartmoor National Park Rangers and many students were involved in an Army Challenge Day.

Ski trips have now returned, with 40 Sixth Form students travelling to the Catalan Pyrenees and 42 Year 8 -11 students heading to Passo Tonale in Italy during February half term.

Over 60 students were involved in the Holocaust Memorial Day; the College held a Remembrance Day service; 39 students visited London to experience Politics and History; and a number of theatre visits, including trips to Othello, Six, Delicate, and Jasmin Vardimon's Dance Company have been organised.

Students have also been involved in a large number of fundraising activities, particularly in our new Festive Week initiative, which included Santa runs, Carols on Tour, a Christmas Carol Concert, mini marathons, gingerbread decorating and photo booths. In total, £996 was raised for Save the Children; £430 for the SW Children's Hospice; and £1,254 for Build our Fitness.

We are also exceptionally proud of sisters Mailli and Tansy Allen-Waldron, who won the awards for Best Trumpet Solo Performance at the Saltash Music Festival.

We are really proud of the successes and achievements of our students and do not underestimate the many challenges our students have faced over the past two years.

Opportunity • Endeavour • Excellence • Achievement at Ivybridge

Champion Every Child

On Tuesday, 3 January 2023 all members of staff undertook specialist training as part of the Trauma Informed Schools with Julie Harmieson, Director of Education and National Strategy. Julie is an ex-parent from Ivybridge Community College and it was heart-warming to see how committed Julie is in supporting our work and for providing an expert eye to ensure all staff have the knowledge, skills and understanding to optimise the wellbeing of both our staff and students across the College. Staff have welcomed interventions to positively impact on the whole College culture and we will continue to place the role of the Tutor at the heart of our Pastoral Programme. If you are interested in participating in future Parent Trauma Informed Workshops, joining a Working Party to develop current strategies, or hearing how we continue to strengthen across this area of provision please contact icc@ivybridge.devon.sch.uk.

SEND Developments

There will be some changes to our Inclusion Department after half term. Both Emily Hull and Stephanie Whitcombe will be leaving our team; we thank them for all that they have done, and we wish them the very best in their new endeavours. We will be completing a thorough recruitment process after half term to ensure that we can continue to provide the right support for our students. In the meantime, our Assistant SENDCos, Morgan Hewings and Kim Luscombe will continue to support our students with SEND. Claire Warne, Assistant Principal for Inclusion, will be in contact with any changes after half term.

As we approach the second half of the Spring Term, we look forward to a number of new developments to support the facilities on offer to the students and staff at the College;

- A new set of student toilets are in the process of being completed adjacent to Peverall Hall. These will be for our Year 7 and 8 students only and will be ideally located alongside their current dining and breaktime spaces.
- Acting on feedback from the most recent parent survey we will be relocating the Year 7 and 8 Pastoral Leaders to the Peverall Hall area to enable our younger students a little more space to access additional pastoral support around their breaktime area. This will support increased visibility for the relevant staff to check in on key students during breaktimes.
- The Vine, a new Sixth Form café will be opening after half term, providing a bespoke menu for our older students. Thank you to Ms Martin, Director of Sixth Form and Mr Harvey, Operations Manager, for working with our Sixth Form students on this exciting development.

We have been extremely grateful for the number of external services who have enabled an increase in capacity to support student welfare and counselling services. We are working in collaboration with Kadus Smith, Targeted Youth Mentor at Argyle Community Trust, to review our current equality and diversity practices as part of our commitment to improving social inclusion, supporting our staff and students' awareness, understanding and skills to promote equality and tackle discrimination.

To enable the Pastoral Team to provide an equitable service to all our children I would like to share the following reminders:

- If you require any further support or advice, please make contact with your child's Tutor in the first instance.
- If you are worried about your child's mental health and wellbeing and the impact that this may be having on their attendance or welfare in College, please let us know and together, we can work in partnership with families and external services to ensure the right support is in place.

Often a medical referral by the GP can enable the College to access additional external specialist services. With parental support and regular communication into the College we will continue to do our best and prioritise the needs of all our students.

Standards and Expectations

We continue to strengthen our processes to ensure we prioritise high standards and expectations at the College, underpinning our key focus of providing high quality teaching and learning in the classroom and embedding a positive community culture. The College staff appreciate the support given by the vast majority of students and families which helps create a positive climate in which all children can thrive.

However, there are a handful of students who are currently failing to support the ethos of the College and this we cannot condone. Please be reassured that we are working hard to reduce such disruptions to your child's education and further action is being taken.

Every child and adult at our College deserves the very best and with your support, we will continue to commit to building a positive culture of excellent behaviour and commitment to learning for all our students supporting The Ivybridge Way.

We wish you a wonderful half term break and we look forward to seeing our students back in College on Tuesday, 21 February 2023.

Yours faithfully

Rachel Hutchinson

Principal