



20 July 2023

Rachel Hutchinson  
Principal

Dear Parents/Carers

As the academic year has swiftly drawn to a close, this marks another successful year for Ivybridge Community College. We have celebrated significant accolades, including an incredible number of regional and national events of which I share a snapshot below:

- The Greenpower Team (Girls in Science programme) reaching the National Finals
- Under 15 girls winning the South West Volleyball tournament
- Future Netball stars playing at county level with three players being selected for the Team Bath Futures Athlete Development Centres
- Year 10 Rugby players being selected for the Exeter Chiefs Academy programme with some being selected for the England Rugby Development Player programme

One of the most memorable experiences from this year that will stay with me forever was the return of our annual production with 'Oliver'. It was an extraordinary achievement, and witnessing our incredible students perform at such an exceptional level was truly awe-inspiring. I could not contain my pride as I watched them on stage, and I can only imagine the overwhelming sense of pride that families and friends must have felt.

As our Year 11 and 13 students completed their final GCSE and A Level examinations, we eagerly anticipate another year of exciting results in the summer and wish them every success as they commence their next exciting ventures.

## **New academic year 2023 - 24**

The College opens for the new academic year in a phased manner, with only **Years 7, 11 and 12 students** returning on **Wednesday, 6 September 2023** for their Induction and Preparation Day. On **Thursday, 7 September 2023** all students return to College. This will be Week A of our timetable. All term dates for the remainder of the academic year have been published on the College website in advance.

As we continue to navigate the many challenges that all young people in society and schools are facing, we continue to ensure we are placing the students at the heart of every decision we make. We have reviewed the College's vision and values and would like to share our developments for the new Academic Year 2023 – 24 with you all.

**Our vision:** We are a College that strives for academic excellence, develops character and provides exceptional opportunities for all.

In the new academic year, the College will be prioritising developing our practices and systems to ensure that we continue to build the character of all Ivybridge Community College students, instilling our **Core Values of Respect, Aspiration, Integrity and Compassion**.

In September, we invite you to our Principal and Tutor Welcome Event for your child's Year Group. This event aims to inform students and parents/carers about new developments to support both academic and personal development. You will have the opportunity to meet your child's Tutor, who plays a crucial role in providing support and communication within the College. Additionally, you can explore key groups such as the Inclusion Team, Catering services, Enrichment leads, and Student Leadership representatives, giving you a better understanding of the College and our commitment to the community. There will be opportunities to sign up for bursaries, enrichment initiatives, and cost-saving schemes to support your child's education.

**Opportunity • Endeavour • Excellence • Achievement at Ivybridge**

<b>Principal and Tutor Welcome Year Group Event</b>				
<b>Date</b>	<b>Time</b>	<b>Year</b>	<b>College Director</b>	<b>Pastoral Leader</b>
Tuesday, 12 September 2023	5.00 – 6.00pm	7	Mr T Brown	Mrs L Setter
Wednesday, 13 September 2023	5.00 – 6.00pm	8	Mr O Elliott-Smith	Ms K Allen
Thursday, 14 September 2023	5.00 – 6.00pm	9	Mr N Beard	Mr C Liddicoat
Friday, 15 September 2023	5.00 – 6.00pm	10	Mr M Kibler	Mrs J Tyrrell
Thursday, 28 September 2023 <i>Year 11 Finish Line Strategy (A bespoke event for Year 11)</i>	5.00 – 6.30pm	11	Mr E Willow	Mr T Wynn
Thursday, 12 October 2023 <i>Year 12 Tutors' Evening</i>	5.00 – 6.00pm	12	Ms I Martin (Assistant Principal, Director of Sixth Form)	
Year 13 students will receive information relevant to their studies through the Sixth Form Tutor programme.				

### **College uniform updates**

At Ivybridge Community College, we firmly believe that our smart, distinctive uniform fosters a profound sense of belonging and plays a central role in building a strong sense of community among students, staff, parents/carers, and the wider Ivybridge community. Our smart uniform is a positive factor in shaping students' behaviour and academic success, both within and outside the classroom. Students will be returning to full formal uniform from the first day of the autumn term. We will be reviewing the Uniform Policy in preparation for the summer term 2024.

From the first induction day in September, we expect all students to return to the correct College uniform.

In this regard, we kindly request your support in ensuring that your child meets the uniform expectations outlined below by exclusively wearing the official Ivybridge Community College uniform. Together, we can uphold our commitment to creating a cohesive and successful learning environment for all our students.

Full details of our uniform requirements are on the school website [www.ivybridge.devon.sch.uk/uniform](http://www.ivybridge.devon.sch.uk/uniform).

We thank you for your support to ensure that your young person has the correct uniform for the start of term.

We would like to highlight some areas that have been a challenge during the summer term due to trends in fashion and thank the vast majority of parents/carers who help us maintain our expected modes of dress.

- Non-conforming shoes. Please do not purchase branded trainers such as Converse or Nike Air Force Ones, as a school shoe
- Non regulation piercings (students may only have one pair of studs in the ear lobe)
- No hooded sweatshirts or fleeces to be worn (including Nike Tech wear)

### **Class Charts**

In order to improve College communication, we are ending our use of the platform epraise and will be providing all students and parents/carers with a log in to our new platform Class Charts from September.

Class Charts enables better integration of our systems to ensure a more inclusive culture and better tracking of students' positive behaviour. We are excited to announce, at our Principal and Tutor events in September, the rewards, privileges and items students will be able to purchase with their Positive Behaviour Points as they earn them throughout the year.

Class Charts has a parent/carer and student app that we would encourage all parents/carers to download and use to celebrate your child's successes, engage with student Home Learning completion and if needed, monitor any negative behaviours.

### **A farewell to our Deputy Principal, Ms Heather Lilley**

Ms Lilley, Deputy Principal, has been successfully appointed as the Principal at Eggbuckland Community College, one of our Westcountry Schools Trust partner schools. Having been our Deputy Principal for the past three years, and a member of the Leadership Team for the past nine as Head of Mathematics and Director of Sixth Form, she will be greatly missed. Ms Lilley possesses exceptional skills and is undoubtedly well-equipped for headship. On behalf of all the staff, students and families, we wish Ms Lilley all the very best of luck in her new appointment.

I would like to express my heartfelt gratitude to all parents and carers for the unwavering support you have provided, not only this year but throughout the past few years. I am immensely proud of our community, and while we may not be perfect, our dedicated staff work tirelessly to ensure we deliver strong academic outcomes while building the character of our students.

As we embark on the upcoming year, our commitment to excellence remains steadfast. We believe firmly in fostering a strong partnership between home and College.

Your ongoing support is hugely appreciated.

Yours faithfully

Rachel Hutchinson  
**Principal**