



8 September 2023

Rachel Hutchinson  
Principal

Dear Parents and Carers

At Ivybridge Community College, we are committed to becoming the best school in the county, one where our students and staff alike are given every opportunity to realise their true potential and to thrive.

This week, our staff have demonstrated this commitment from the first bell and your children have embraced their first week of the new academic year in such a positive manner. It has been a pleasure welcoming the Ivybridge Community College students back and observing the drive that has been established collectively from the outset. Our new Year 7 and 12 students have settled in well and have added a special buzz to the atmosphere.

Already, staff and students have been commenting about how focused the return to College feels and how excited they are about the year ahead. I would like to take this opportunity to thank you for the overwhelming number of emails, calls and messages that we have received from you. Your support is critical to our journey of continuous improvement and sharing your feedback with our team in staff briefing this morning was a real honour. Thank you.

To gather momentum quickly and to facilitate a sustainable journey of continued improvements, all actions taken by our staff will serve to maximise your child's chance of success in an environment where they feel confident and safe.

Our immediate focus is to establish a disruption-free and distraction-free learning environment where teachers and support staff will deliver exceptional learning experiences for our students. To facilitate the removal of distractions we are committed to ensuring that all students are dressed and presented as per our uniform policy and that behaviour in and between lessons is exemplary. We will not allow your child's education and future life choices to be limited by poor behaviour and we will ensure that all measures afforded to us are employed to give all students the opportunity to engage fully.

Support will be offered from the College gates every morning and throughout the day, so that all students can meet our standards for uniform and dress code before attending lessons. Rest assured that, in cases where financial barriers may exist, we will continue to do all we can to assist all children to wear the required uniform with pride. Our dedicated Pastoral Team are always available to support so please do not hesitate to get in touch.

Excellent attendance to college and prompt arrival to lessons is, of course, essential for a child's success in life. We have introduced additional bells to support calm and purposeful transitions between lessons. College staff will be visible and purposeful in their facilitation of student movements around the College through the day. Our Attendance Team will be ready to respond to cases of absence and will offer interventions of support accordingly so that all children can progress both academically and socially. Please refer to our Attendance Policy on our website.

This week, I have shared the Ivybridge Community College standards, expectations and supporting routines with all staff and students as part of our comprehensive Assembly and Tutor Time programme. Despite the heat, our students sat diligently throughout these events and have already responded in the mature manner we have grown accustomed to. They are a credit to you.

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

All such information, as ever, can be found on our website and we look forward to welcoming you to the College next week to attend a series of Meet the Principal events being held in September and October. Please [click here](#) to reserve your place.

We look forward to working with you this year.

Yours faithfully

Rachel Hutchinson  
**Principal**