



20 October 2023

Rachel Hutchinson
Principal

Dear Parent/Carers

Autumn Term 1 News

I would like to thank you for the excellent communication and the support so many of you have afforded to the College in the first half term of this new academic year.

Collectively, staff and students across the College have been instrumental in setting the right tone in providing an excellent learning environment by establishing effective standards of routines both in and outside of the classrooms. We have received a number of high-profile visitors to the College, as well as parents and prospective Year 6 students who have been extremely impressed by the conduct and respect shown by our students. The standard of uniform is exemplary and lateness to lessons has been significantly reduced. Introducing our weekly standard operational procedures to the Tutor Programme every Tuesday enables students to understand the core routines that will improve their learning experiences. We look forward to sharing these resources on a weekly basis via our website after half term and will be offering open workshops to support family engagement.

During the first half term, I have seen an extremely settled start to lessons with students taking their learning seriously, working hard, completing quality work and demonstrating excellent relationships with their teachers. I have also had the pleasure of seeing the wider curricular offer commence and it is wonderful to see so many students participating in so much already. In classrooms, teachers have been focusing on high standards and high engagement and I can see staff's appetite to support every student to achieve.

Year 7 students have been awesome!

It has been an excellent start to the College year and I could not be more impressed with our Year 7 students. Watching Emily Kirk and Manus Affourtit take to the stage and talk about their own experiences with such pride and enthusiasm at the Year 6 Parents' Event, alongside Year 12 student Ayden Cutland. On this note, I would also like to congratulate our amazing Year 10 mentors who have shown such compassion in supporting our Year 7 students and volunteering their time to act as tour guides for our Open Evening events.

Positive points to celebrate success

As part of the Class Charts launch, we are encouraging a new and exciting positive praise initiative for all students at the College. Every time your child gets 100 points they will receive a golden ticket, be entered for a prize draw and work towards milestones, wherein they will be entered for additional prizes. Your child will receive these for demonstrating our values around College and in lessons. The year has started well; we have reached a record high in terms of positive points and have handed over 1000 golden tickets to students.

We will be continuing to develop our positive behaviour charter next term and will be offering plenty of opportunities for students to engage in individual, Tutor and Year Team challenges to celebrate our values.

Sixth Form

Year 12 have had a fantastic start to the year and have successfully adjusted to Sixth Form life, alongside our Year 13 students.

Year 13 have already hit the ground running completing their first set of internal examinations. Achieving 100% attendance across all examinations has been a really excellent start to the year and reflects the commitment shown to their studies.

Respect ■ Aspiration ■ Integrity ■ Compassion

The New Inclusion Hub

The start of the academic year saw the exciting launch of our Inclusion Hub a bespoke and fully inclusive learning centre, designed for small group and 1:1 intervention sessions for those students with additional needs. The Inclusion Hub is home to our highly trained and committed SEND team who will be hosting a number of coffee afternoons throughout the year. This will be an opportunity for parents/carers to meet staff and Trust representatives, as well as their child's keyworker.

Student Attendance

At Ivybridge Community College, we wish to work in partnership with families to ensure that your child attends school on time every day. Encouraging regular school attendance is one of the most powerful ways you can prepare your child for success, both in school and in life. When school attendance and punctuality is a priority, a child will make better progress, developing important social skills and friendships, avoid dangerous behaviour, and maximise the opportunity for them to achieve their full potential.

The target attendance figure for all students is a minimum of 97% attendance. Students should aspire to have an attendance of 97 – 100% which is classified as Excellent Attendance and we will continue to celebrate those students who work hard to achieve this goal. To help encourage good attendance, the College will be promoting a number of family initiatives to help support all families.

Enrichment Opportunities

We are very proud of our enrichment offer here at Ivybridge Community College and strive to offer fantastic opportunities that broaden students' experiences and support their pursuit of areas of interest and strength. So far this year, we have been building an enrichment offer that we are confident caters for all our students and has something for everyone to enjoy and commit to outside of the timetabled curriculum. We will be carefully monitoring students' attendance and commitment to enrichment activities in order to celebrate successes and improve the offer we have.

We have had some incredible highlights this term, including the Year 6 and Year 7 Transition Music Project and our GreenPower Team (a group of inspiring girls in Science, who represented the College in the Castle Coombe Electric Car Endurance Race and featured on the radio and BBC Spotlight). We launched the Camps International Project, held a Dance Sharing Evening, hosted careers presentations from Kawasaki, and students visited a Careers Fair at Plymouth Argyle. Languages Week celebrated the diversity of languages our students learn, Geography field trips took place, and students took part in numerous charity events. The Outdoor Education Department organised a challenging 23-mile checkpointed walk, and the History Department organised a Year 11 History trip to Berlin.

In the sporting arena, we have continued to encourage active participation and development, with achievements including our swimming team qualifying for the national relay championship finals and a runner-up place in the tennis county finals. Georgie Knott signed with Plymouth Argyle Women's Squad, Sapphire Langdon and Gemma Bennet made their Senior Regional League 2 debut in Netball, Lucie Carwardine was selected to represent the U15 Devon Cricket Team in Sri Lanka, and Freya Weeks was selected for an U15 England Football Camp. It's been an exciting start to the year, and we look forward to an even more thrilling year ahead for our Sports Academy teams.

On behalf of all the staff at the College, thank you for your continued support, enabling us to prioritise the quality of education for all our children at Ivybridge Community College.

Yours faithfully

Rachel Hutchinson
Principal