



19 December 2023

Rachel Hutchinson
Principal

Dear Parents and Carers

With the sheer number of Christmas jumpers being worn by our students and colleagues today, it is clear that the Christmas spirit is thriving amongst our community and that everyone is looking forward to a well-deserved break.

I want to take this opportunity to reflect on some of the highlights of the academic year to date and to share with you some headlines of things to look forward to in the New Year. First and foremost, I would like to thank our students for their contribution to the continued improvement of Ivybridge Community College and particularly for continually meeting the high standards expected of them in all aspects of College life. Students look smarter than ever, are excelling in disruption-free lessons and achieving phenomenal accolades on the local and national stages in the arts, sport, innovation and literacy. The recognition for their accomplishments has been a constant throughout this academic year. Their hard work, empathy, and determination provide the foundation of our high-performing culture both in lessons and beyond. They are a credit to you and I am hugely proud of them.

I would like to extend my thanks to my amazing colleagues for their commitment, consistency and passion that drives the high-quality learning experiences, pastoral care and extra-curricular opportunities that we offer our students. I have set extremely high standards to be achieved by them and this academic year is proving to be the most successful for our team to date. Their work ethic, energy and determination are inspiring. Combined with the investment of our students, these unique traits of Ivybridge Community College continue to make it the school of choice for families and a beacon of recruitment for the country's most talented teaching and support staff.

My final thanks are for the support that we have received from parents and carers throughout the academic year so far. We can report record numbers of parents and carers attending various events including information sharing evenings, Year 11 GCSE preparation events, Options Evening and our prestigious Annual Awards Evening. Such engagement and support are a signature of our College community ethos. We are hugely grateful. It has been a real pleasure meeting with so many of you individually to share the trajectory of our College improvement journey. Engagement in this manner has allowed me and my team to give your thoughts, questions and queries, the platform required to facilitate accurate and valuable discussions that have in turn informed our refinements and shaped future planning. It is a privilege to work alongside such a proactive parent and carer body and in 2024, I look forward to extending the invitation to all parents and carers to tour the College with me to experience the remarkable culture that is being fostered here.

The sharing of praise, gratitude and appreciation is a common theme of College life and next year we will launch exciting refinements to our rewards and recognition strategy to acknowledge the hard work, kindness and aspiration demonstrated by our students. To ensure that the power of praise is preserved, we will reward excellence in these areas across all facets of College life and ensure that our students are motivated intrinsically and

Respect ■ Aspiration ■ Integrity ■ Compassion

extrinsically to achieve their personal goals. We have made praise easier to give by streamlining the systems through which praise will be recorded on ClassCharts. We will launch our 'Star Student' initiative which will see one student, every lesson, every day receive 15 Praise Points for exceptional contributions to learning. To mark this launch, we will reset all negative points for all students, giving everyone the opportunity to, 'keep their wheels green' in 2024. We look forward to working alongside our Student Council when we return in January to explore how we can maximise the value of our rewards strategy.

Since September, we have taken significant leaps along our journey and I am immensely grateful for everyone's contributions, support and guidance for making this possible. We have hosted many external visitors from other schools, specialist sectors of education and children's support services and their unanimously positive feedback has been extremely motivational. Whilst we know we still have many lessons to learn, we have confidence that our direction is right for the community that we serve.

I look forward to welcoming our students back on Wednesday, 3 January 2024 and until then, I wish you all a wonderful Christmas and a prosperous New Year.

Yours faithfully

Rachel Hutchinson
Principal