

THE COLLEGE ECHO

IVYBRIDGE COMMUNITY COLLEGE

ISSUE No. 93 Summer 2024



OUTSTANDING EXAM RESULTS

NATIONAL SPORTING SUCCESS

CELEBRATING SCIENCE WEEK



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Welcome to Ivybridge Community College

As the Principal of Ivybridge Community College, it fills me with immense pride to celebrate one of the most successful examination series of our outgoing Year 11 and Year 13 students.

We focus on motivating our students to reach their full potential across a range of subjects from the sciences to humanities, to the arts, technology and sport. Providing this breadth is about allowing every child to flourish finding pathways to support future successes. But while grades matter, they don't tell the whole story. Equally important is nurturing our young people with strength of character who will thrive not just intellectually, but socially in their communities too. Our values of respect, aspiration, integrity and compassion are woven through every student's journey.

Such accolades do not happen without sheer hard work and determination and with the most incredible support from staff and family members. Introducing the 'Finish Line Strategy' has taken teaching and learning at Ivybridge Community College to another level. Ensuring that every hour of every day remains the priority and disruption free learning has simply become the social norm. As a result, the dedicated staff and students have grown with such confidence, becoming a united team that chose not to shy away from hard work and the challenges that they faced. What a fantastic group of role models our Class of 2024 are, which you will also see echoed through the many events shared in this Summer Term edition.

I would like to thank the tremendous support, guidance and encouragement that all parents/carers have provided throughout the last academic year. Your involvement, partnership and feedback with the College have been instrumental. We are so lucky to have a community that cares deeply and wants the very best for all young people, not just their own child.

A huge acknowledgement must go out to our dedicated teachers, staff and volunteers who commit wholeheartedly to supporting the College's vision in striving for academic excellence, developing character and providing exceptional opportunities for all.

Every year, educational professionals use DfE data to acknowledge high performing schools and we are delighted to announce that Ivybridge Community College has been placed in the top 154 most improved schools for our Progress 8 measure for the most disadvantaged students in 2024.

We hope you enjoy reading this latest edition of our College Echo which recognises the many wider opportunities for our students to enable them to pursue their interests, build real-world skills and give back to their community



Rachel Hutchinson
Principal

For further information on any of the news articles please visit our website www.ivybridge.devon.sch.uk



Exam Results Year 11 1

Record Breaking GCSE Results

Ivybridge Community College is celebrated exceptional GCSE results this summer, with a significant increase in students achieving grades 7-9. This Year Group set a new benchmark at the College by earning the highest percentage of students achieving Grade 5 or higher in both English and Mathematics – an increase of 15% from 2023. Moreover, over half of the students attained a Grade 6 or above in a wide range of subjects, including: Mathematics, Biology, Physics, Art, Business, Dance, Drama, Economics, Media, Music, PE, Photography, RE, and Textiles. Impressively, over 40% of students secured a Grade 7 or higher in the English Baccalaureate subjects of Geography, History, French, and Spanish.

Many individuals have achieved remarkable success, with Natasha Cornelius, Sophie Gilvear, Agnes Harding, Jed Hooper Caitlin Loughran and Cara Mears each earning six or more Grade 9. Additionally of note, this year has also celebrated six sets of twins excelling beyond their expected grades including the Borg, Cornelius, Tidd, and Wilson families celebrating with many achieving multiple Grade 7s or higher. Cara and Heather Mears achieved a standout set of results with 17 subjects at Grade 8 or above.



“I am incredibly proud of our students and the dedication and commitment they have all given to achieving such successes. The staff have been instrumental in focusing on high expectations, quality first education and ensuring every student is given the opportunity to give their best. What a great recipe for success and congratulations.”

Rachel Hutchinson,
Principal
Ivybridge Community College



These stellar results reflect an overall progress nearly half a grade higher than in 2023. The Class of 2024 have shown great resilience and personal strength this year and have seized every opportunity to focus on their education. Thank you to all our families and friends who actively supported the Year 11 Finish Line Strategy and many parent/carer events to enable a collective approach.



2 Exam Results Year 11

Due to these impressive outcomes, the majority of students are choosing to continue their studies at Ivybridge Community College with record numbers joining the Sixth Form, pursuing a range of A Levels and vocational courses. Others are taking advantage of apprenticeship opportunities with local providers such as Babcock, whilst recognition must be given to Kian Burch and Tegan Finn who have already embarked on their professional football careers with Plymouth Argyle.

Ivybridge Community College has a proud legacy of academic excellence, and we are eager to see the remarkable achievements of our outgoing Year 11 cohort who will inspire and motivate the next generation of GCSE students as they embark on their own journeys this September.



Year 11 student Chloe Weaver, who achieved 9 Grade 7s or higher, shared her excitement, saying

“I am really pleased with the grades I have achieved today. The support that was on offer with the Finish Line Strategy was incredible. Thank you to the team that put it into place, I'd recommend it to anyone.”





Exam Results Year 11 3



Eddie Willow, College Director for Year 11, commented

“What a privilege it has been to work alongside such a motivated group of young people, their results are a direct reflection of the hard work they have put in. It was amazing to be with them as they opened their envelopes and shared their successes with so many of their teachers.”





4 Exam Results Sixth Form

Sixth Form success

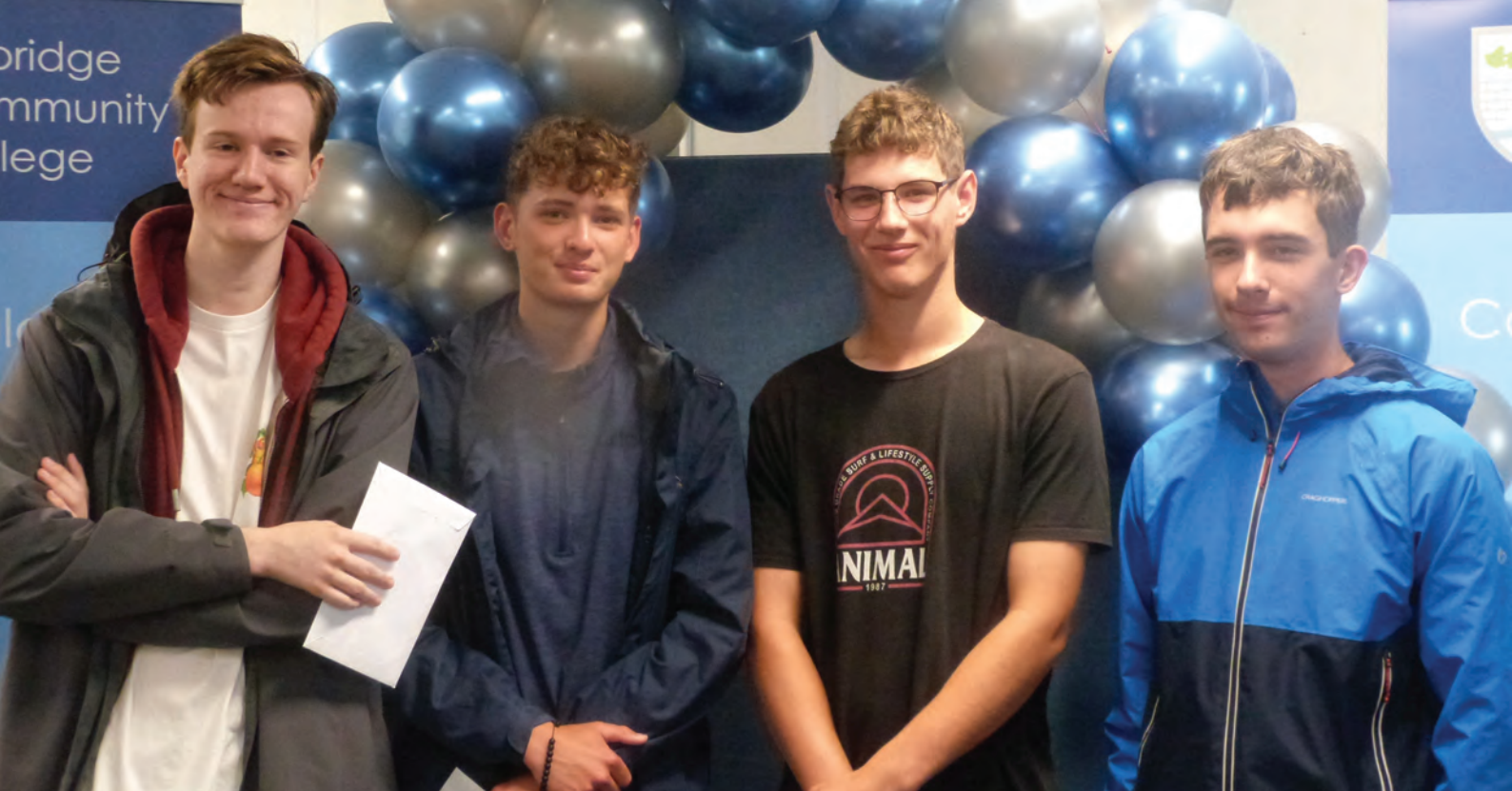
Students and staff at Ivybridge Community College are celebrated as Year 13 students received their A Level and Vocational qualification results. Despite facing significant disruptions during their GCSE years and altered examinations in 2022, this year's cohort has shown remarkable courage, maturity and resilience.

We are immensely proud of their achievements and the determination they have demonstrated throughout their educational journey, which have led to an impressive increase in this year's A Level pass rate. Over 40% of our students achieved at least one A* - A grade, more than 50% of all grades were A* - B, and over 80% were A* - C. We are pleased to announce a 100% pass rate for both A Level Mathematics and English cohorts, and in particular congratulations to our Further Mathematics students who all achieved A* grades. Students studying vocational subjects achieved remarkable success, with 50% earning Distinction* or Distinction grades, and over 80% securing a Merit or higher.

We take great pride in the breadth of subjects offered at Ivybridge Community College with 100% A* - C achievements in the following subjects: Economics, Sociology, Product Design, Dance, Film Studies, Business Studies, Applied Business, Art, Textiles, Music, Spanish and Photography.



Ms Martin, Director of Sixth Form, said, "It has been wonderful to work with this cohort of students. They have risen to the challenge of Level 3 study and have created a wonderful community within our Sixth Form. The whole Sixth Form Team is so proud of their well-earned results and know they will take these results and use them as the stepping stones to fantastic and expansive careers. We cannot wait to see the pathways our 2024 alumni take. The whole team extends the largest congratulations to them all."



Exam Results Sixth Form 5

This year, our students have excelled in their university applications, achieving places that surpass the national average. We are particularly proud to highlight that two of our students have secured places at Oxford University: Ciaran Ricketts will be reading French and Spanish, and Sam Ricketts will be reading Law. Additionally, two students, including James Deacon, have gained admission to Medical School. Overall, our students have outperformed previous years in securing places at prestigious Russell Group Universities, reflecting their hard work and dedication.

Many students achieved multiple A* grades, including Joe Davies, Sam Hargreaves, James Deacon and Ruby Stuber. Other top performers were Ellen Crimp, Ben Firth, Oscar Humphrey, Edie Birnie, Zara Fleming and Lottie Humphrey.

We consistently take great pride in the paths our students choose, and this year is no exception. Our students are embarking on a range of opportunities, including university placements, apprenticeships, and training programmes both nationally and internationally. Lucy Hack and Tianna Campbell have been awarded scholarships to pursue their studies in America. Many of our students have also secured valuable apprenticeships with esteemed employers, including the Land Registry and Babcock. Additionally, several students are embarking on careers in the military and public services, such as law enforcement and nursing.

On a final note, Mrs Hutchinson, College Principal, added, "Congratulations to all our students on this momentous occasion. The successes today reflect the work ethic and commitment of our Ivybridge Community College learners. I am hugely proud of all their achievements. The Class of 2024 has been an incredible Year Group and such positive role models to our younger students. I would like to take this opportunity to thank all our hardworking and dedicated staff and to our parents and carers who have supported the College throughout. On behalf of everyone at Westcountry Schools Trust and Ivybridge Community College, may I wish all our students the very best of luck on their next professional chapter."





6 News

Trip to Neasden

As part of their Religious Education studies, Year 12 students took a trip to London to view the stunning Shri Swaminarayan Mandir Temple to learn more about the history of Hinduism. Also referred to as the Neasden Temple, it is one of Europe's oldest traditional Hindu temples and is a place for worship and education.

It was constructed in the early 1990s and took approximately 2 years to build, with much of the structure (over 26,000 pieces) being prepared in India, before being shipped to London.

In 2007, Time Out magazine also named the Temple as one of their Seven Wonders of London.



A creative afternoon



Ivybridge Community College would like to thank students for their help during a recent visit of their younger peers from a neighbouring school.

The College was delighted to receive a visit from The Erme Primary School pupils who took part in a Willy Wonka themed afternoon of activities.

Organised to mark World Book day, our young guests were invited to stretch their imagination and complete some creative challenges.

Willy Wonka would like to introduce a new piece of confectionary – What will it be? What ingredients will be in it? What colour is it?

Our special guests were also challenged to dream up a new character that Roald Dahl would be proud of, as well as invited to take part in a fun, super Oompa Loompa style dance.

The afternoon was part of a wider series of projects that the College is proud to organise with both local and partner primary schools which has involved singing, dance and performances and we cannot wait to offer further community opportunities in the future.

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Year 10 Plymouth University Maths Taster Day

On Wednesday, 27 March 2024, fifty students attended a Mathematics Taster Day at the University of Plymouth. The day was split into several different activities.

Activity 1 Capture and recapture method.

In the session students devised a simple formula to estimate population sizes from samples.

They then put the formula into practice to estimate the number of beads in a jar.

Activity 2 Breaking the Cipher

With codes and ciphers playing an important part in today's world - keeping details safe is even more important. In the session students explored how mathematics unlocked the secrets of a cipher used by British prisoners of war in WW2.

Activity 4 Cyber security

Students investigated how you can look at the hard drive of a computer to establish whether a crime has been committed.

The day finished with a short talk that gave them an insight into mathematics beyond GCSE and some of the benefits of having an A Level in mathematics. The day proved very thought provoking and was enjoyed by all students who attended.

Activity 3 All is not what it seems

Students were shown how mathematics aids magicians to do card tricks.

They investigated some interesting mathematics to reveal the secrets behind the magic.

Ten Tors Success

Ivybridge Community College entered three teams of students in the annual Ten Tors Expedition and all teams successfully completed the course. Ironically, following a wet winter training season, the sun turned up for the weekend. This posed a challenge that most had not experienced. Due to the extreme heat, teams were held at checkpoints, prolonging their time to finish. Despite this, the teams finished in good time on Sunday.

Two teams completed the thirty-five mile challenge and the other team completed the forty-five mile challenge.

The success of the teams celebrates the training and commitment they have received from the many volunteers in the build up to the event and we would like to recognise all that they have done.

Students completing the 35 Mile Challenge included, Isaac Gaches-King, Matthew Gibson, Edryd Hill, Jonah Johnson, Luke Milner, William Patterson-Green, Isla Peters, Emily Rowlands, John Sampson, Max Searle, Matthew Shipton and Henry Studd.

Students completing the 45 Mile Challenge were Noah Gallichan, Max Harris, Molly Harvey, Toby Longworth, Alex Tidd and Angus Wilson.

Congratulations to all the students who participated.





8 Careers

Making the Case

In April, Year 9 students were given an insight into working at the Bar with a Careers Assembly presented by leading criminal Barrister Nigel Hall from Plymouth-based KBG Chambers.

Following the Assembly, Nigel then held a workshop with a Question and Answer session with a group of Year 10 and Sixth Form students who are currently interested in investigating career pathways into law.

Nigel spoke about his own pathway into law, which included working as a social worker and then a psychiatric nurse, before deciding that representing people in court was his passion.

His top tips for working as a barrister included the importance of students:

- Getting the best possible grades in English, Mathematics and other subjects
- Striving to put in extra effort into activities inside and outside of school
- Keeping up to date with world events and current affairs

Nigel also highlighted key qualities that are useful for a career as a barrister, which included being confident, being open to doing new things, having good interpersonal skills, having integrity, the ability to work hard, and the ability to be persistent.

At the end of the session, students put their networking skills into practice and asked an excellent round of quick-fire questions to Nigel, which included:

- What exactly is the Bar?
- How much of your life does being a Barrister take up?
- Have you ever been asked to be part of a Jury?
- Can you refuse to take on a case?

Testing their (Crane)iums



A team of STEM Ambassadors, including two College Alumni apprentices from Babcock, visited the College to host an interactive Lean Manufacturing Challenge (using the manufacturing of Cranes as a backdrop and Case Study). Year 10 students focussed on learning about the lean manufacturing processes which take place at Babcock.

In addition to connecting with a key local employer and enhancing their team building skills, students also learnt the following with regards to the lean manufacturing process:

- Understanding that a systematic review of a process is vital to improve efficiency
- Recognise that some parts of a process add value and others do not
- Developing a good understanding of the financial aspects of business and production.

Our sincere thanks to the Babcock Team for providing our students with such an excellent experience, and congratulations to the winning student team comprising Ben, Lewis, Austin and Reuben!



A Chance in the Army

Lance Corporal John Hill visited the College at the end of May to talk to a group of Year 8 and 9 students about the opportunities that a career in the Army can bring.

Lance Corporal Hill talked to students about his own career pathway in the Coldstream Guards, which has included travel to 15 different countries, elite sports, jungle training in Belize, disaster relief operations, and representing the Forces at State events such as the Queen's funeral.

He spoke to students about how the Army fully embraces cultural diversity and equality in all areas.

Students discovered that the Army is one of the UK's biggest employers of apprentices, with a wide range of roles available including Engineering, Music, Intelligence and Communications, Medical and Finance

Students also found out about the bursaries and funding available for degree qualifications in areas such as Bioscience, Leadership and Strategic Studies and Environmental Health.

At the end of the session, students engaged in some quick-fire questions, including:

- What fitness level do you need to join the Army?
- What is the difference between the Marines and the Army?
- Is it useful to join the Army Cadets?

Building Plymouth



As part of National Careers Week activities, a group of Year 9 students took part in the Building Plymouth Open Sites event and visited the new construction project at Sherford.

Students listened to a Construction Careers presentation by Morven Maclean from Building Plymouth and staff from Taylor Wimpy gave students an insight into the scale of the Sherford project, emphasising the importance of designing a green infrastructure and legacy landscaping, together with local housing and community facilities.

Students took part in a timed building challenge competition, and then went for a tour of an uncovered house on the site.

A member of the YGS landscaping team was on hand to provide a tour of some of the legacy landscaping projects at Sherford, including dry stone walls, the Bat Bridge and the 10 metre high Green Wall, designed to encourage biodiversity.



10 Highlights of Culture Fest 2024



The College would like to thank everyone who participated in CultureFest week.

Following a successful day of activities in 2023, CultureFest was back for a full week of events and workshops focussing on a range of topics and aspects relating to Multiculturalism and Equality and Diversity.

The inaugural CultureFest was designed in partnership with a Student Voice group and Kadus Smith, a Youth Intervention Worker from Plymouth Argyle Community Trust and was an opportunity to spread awareness of multiculturalism and champion anti-racism and inclusion.

Activities in the week covered a variety of subjects including arts, cookery, social discussions and the Law, and featured a variety of guests and local role models to give students a greater insight into the subject.

Opening our Eyes



We were delighted to be joined by Police Constable Ruth Lee who gave groups of students a seminar on Hate Crime – an exploration of the law and hate speech.

As part of the session, PC Lee gave students an insight into prejudice as a defining characteristic of a hate crime.

The workshop also covered topics including discrimination, including a definition and real life examples.

The groups were also introduced to key aspects such as stereotypes and hostility in a hate crime context, supported by definitions from legal practice.

The sessions also included references to theories and legislation including the Single Equality Act, as well as Daniel Kahneman's famous System 1 and System 2 theories on human thought.

Students were also given practical information, including ways in which they can overcome or respond to a hate incident as well as the process of how a crime is investigated by the police.

We would like to thank Police Constable Ruth Lee for these very informative workshops.



Highlights of Culture Fest 2024 11

Discovering your Identity

Students from Year 9 were invited to an inspiring and culture-based arts workshop led by Azza Gasim, an interdisciplinary artist.

Participants were challenged to put together a piece of artwork linked with the idea of Discovering your Identity.

Students created works, using a variety of techniques, ideas and designs, based on different subjects including: Travel, Sport, Hobbies, Inspirations (covered in the session), Pets, Music/Art and Flowers.

The aim was to create a piece of work that students could look at and remind themselves of the good times of their lives when they are experiencing difficult periods and to remind themselves of the challenges they can do or have taken on and accomplished in the past.

Azza's journeys have taken her around the world including Africa and Dubai as well as the UK. She studied Fashion as her University degree and met people from different countries as part of her studies.

She has also created a variety of artwork, including the Mural in Union Street, Plymouth as well as designing clothing for the musician Alicia Keyes.

We thank Azza for delivering the session as part of CultureFest and are looking forward to welcoming her back soon.

Food and Culture Workshops

Students were in for a variety of tasty treats as part of Culture Fest and we were delighted to give them the opportunity of taking part in a practical cooking session.

We were pleased to welcome Chef Don who delivered several Food and Culture workshops to our students.

Students were guided in making a spicy chicken burger (or bean burger for vegetarians) with a basted salsa made of pineapple, onion and chilis.

Don Spencer is a chef of Jamaican heritage and was Head Chef of the Honky Tonk Wine Library in Plymouth and you may have also seen him on television as part of Come Dine with Me: The Professionals.

We were delighted to welcome Mama Rita's who provided a special variety of Afro Caribbean style food for students to enjoy.

The menu ensured there was something for a variety of culinary tastes including Jerk Chicken, Chicken Curry, Dumplings and Rice, as well as a Vegetable Curry and Rasta Pasta.

Mama Rita's Kitchen is based in Plymouth and offers a variety of meals from African, Caribbean and Seafood cuisine.

Thank you Chef Don and Mama Rita's for offering a delicious menu and we hope that we may be able to invite them back again in the future.





12 Performing Arts

The Big Gig

Year 13 students studying RSL Level 3 Subsidiary Diploma for Music Practitioners (Performance Pathway) were recently tasked with putting together a performance to a brief of Reconciliation as part of their Rehearsal Skills and Live Music Performance studies.

The cohort consisting of talented vocalists, planned and rehearsed the entire event in just twelve weeks, resulting in a phenomenal, professional and high-quality live music event.

The students had performed their final sets to an audience demonstrating courage, authenticity, ambition, versatility and true musicianship as live performers.

The performances included a mixture of solos and band performances and highlighted a wide range of musical styles extending from Rhythm and Blues, Soft Rock, Indie Rock, Pop, Spanish Ballad and Country and were ably accompanied on piano by music teacher Mrs Stephenson, bass guitar by Felix Ayson and drums by Chris Ballard.

The students were very pleased to have had this opportunity to perform at the College, with Megan commenting, "It was a great fun. I have learned a lot from how to construct a set list and deal with obstacles, such as losing my voice."

Liv has also commented on the opportunity to improve her band leadership skills and enjoyed being able to incorporate this skill into her finale I'll Always Remember Us This Way.

An audience member, vocalist and current Year 11 GCSE Music student, Kaydon Bullock praised the unique voices and levels of talent the performers showcased in this event, and he is now hoping to take the course in the

Head of Music Katya Padlyevs'Ka praised the performers who participated:

"The students have worked extremely hard to put on such an incredible live music performance, showing real craftsmanship and musicianship. It was done with accuracy, artistic flair and to a professional standard, setting themselves up for a career in music."

"This was a breath-taking graduation performance highlighting their performance skills and stage presence. The audience were hypnotised. Really well done!"

The College would also like to thank students Felix Ayson and Chris Ballard for their help with backing music including Bass Guitar and Drums during the evening.

We would also like to congratulate Felix and Chris, along with their band member River Cole who recently rocked the competition and won the opening heat of the Metal to the Masses rock band competition.

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Music Concert

Performing Arts 13

A huge thank you to all of our budding musical maestros who entertained audiences at the Music Ensembles concert.

Students from different Year Groups came together to deliver a variety of superb pieces of music.

This concert was the culmination of a series of Performing Arts concerts, including the Appreciation of Dance show, The Big Gig (a special concert organised by some the students themselves as part of their studies) as well as the Ivybridge Community Big Band show.



One of the best Gigs

The people of Modbury were entertained with a stunning performance by student Summer Nelson.

Summer gave an acoustic performance as part of the Get Wicked show, a charity concert featuring music from original live bands and singers from the Region.

Proceeds raised were to be donated to the local Scouts, Cubs and Brownies group.

Summer stormed the show and was very grateful for the opportunity to perform, saying she thought it had been one of her favourite gigs.

Variety-the Spice of Life

The College Variety Pperformance featured pupils (including BTEC Performing Arts students and the Elite Dance Team) treated audiences to an upbeat and atmospheric collection of song and dance acts.

These included songs from a variety of popular musicals including The Greatest Showman, Hamilton, The Lion King, Annie and Hairspray, as well as a plenty of dance performances and excerpts from the upcoming Spotlight Theatre production of Second Person Narrative.

The performance delighted the audience with members commenting:

"Brilliant night, well done to everyone involved"

"Ivybridge Community College has some huge talent, great show"

"What a fabulous evening, well done to all the performers."

A huge congratulations to all students who were involved and thank you to Miss Stepheson for the valuable accompaniment on the piano as well as the Performing Arts team for organising.





14 British Science Week



The College hosted another brilliant **British Science Week** recently and a big thanks to all who were involved.

During Science Week, students at the College took part in a variety of activities including **Marvellous Microscopes**, **Colourful Chemistry** and **Super Science Domes**.

Can you use Chemistry to create art? It would appear that yes you can!

During Science week students tried this as part of the Colourful Chemistry sessions with Miss Shaw.

Technically minded students had an opportunity to participate in a Robotics Workshop led by Mr Kerswell, whilst others had the opportunity to meet some exotic creatures courtesy of **Animal Encounters** (led by Chris Johnson) and others braved the Rat Dissection.

For those looking for something a little more relaxed, there was an opportunity to enjoy a cinematic experience within a special Science Dome.

Topics covered included Dinosaurs, Super Volcanoes and Evolution, as well as a quick trip through the galaxy.

A big thank you to Mrs Peters, who once again, gave a talk to students regarding the resident Axolotls who live on site.

Students also had a chance to see a variety of scientific items of interest close up through the Microscopes workshops led by Miss Wright and Mr Sewell.

In addition, we also welcomed our School Employee Partner, Plessey, who presented an escape room style challenge to students based on their MicroLED activities.

This week's British Science Week has been another great success and we look forward to offering more opportunities for students very soon.





British Science Week 15





16 Sixth Form

MP Q and A

The College Sixth Form welcomed members of Parliament, Luke Pollard and Sir Gary Streeter to participate in a Question and Answer session with some of their students. Mr Streeter was also joined by Cllr Rebecca Smith, the Conservative Party Candidate for the South West Devon Constituency.

Across the two visits, the College's Parliamentary guests and students both engaged in a comprehensive variety of political topics including the NHS, the electoral voting system, university tuition fees and Further/Higher Education, Brexit, Immigration and the Environment, based on questions the students had submitted themselves.

Both MPs also emphasised to students the importance of casting their vote.

Rebecca Smith spoke of local housing and tackling violence against women and girls as some of her motivations to getting involved in politics, whilst Mr Pollard spoke about the campaign he was involved with to stop the releasing of raw sewage into Devil's Point as well as also highlighting the need for more housing.

Following the sessions, Mr Pollard said on twitter, "I want to see more young people involved in politics."

Luke Pollard has been the Member of Parliament for Plymouth Sutton and Devonport since 2017 and has also served as Shadow Environment Minister as well as Shadow Armed Forces Minister currently.

Sir Gary Streeter was the Member of Parliament for Plymouth Sutton from 1992 – 1997 and MP for South West Devon since 1997 as well as a former Parliamentary Secretary in the Lord Chancellor's Department, Shadow Minister in the Foreign Office and International Development Department as well as a member of Parliamentary committees.

Cllr Rebecca Smith is currently a representative for Plymstock Radford for Plymouth City Council and is the Conservative Prospective Parliamentary Candidate for South West Devon.

The College would like to thank Cllr Rebecca Smith, Sir Gary Streeter MP and Luke Pollard MP for visiting and they hope to organise more events like this for their students very soon.



"Thank you to Ivybridge Community College for a really enjoyable hour this morning. Great to hear the questions and views of Year 12 and to chat with some of the students after. Looking forward to meeting again to hear students' views and share my experiences on women in politics and how we tackle violence against women and girls."

Rebecca Smith



Sixth Form 17

This is Cambridge Calling

The College would like to thank a member of their student alumni following a recent, return visit.

Former student and current Cambridge University student Thomas Chapman spent a session speaking with current Sixth Form Students about life in an Oxbridge University.

He outlined what it was like to study at the University and gave a frank account of the challenges involved, including high workloads and having classes on a Saturday!

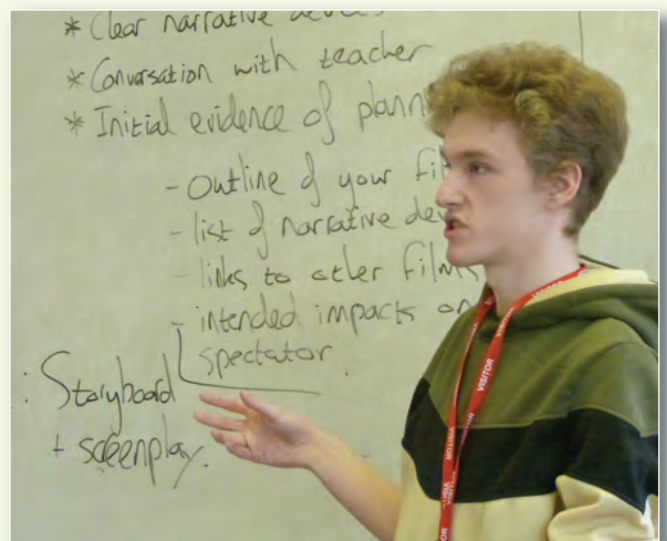
Thomas explained the application process, including the pooling system, giving students an opportunity to study at a different College should they be unsuccessful in securing a place at their preferred choice and the flexibility with regards to course studies and the opportunity to be awarded a Masters.

He also outlined the amazing facilities that the University offered including their 140 libraries and access to 8 million books (or every book that has been published since 1920). Apparently, one of the libraries was designed by the same man who designed the Classic British Red Telephone box.

For those looking to complement their hard work and studies with a social life, Thomas shared that there were nearly 1000 student run clubs and societies with the opportunity to start your own if you cannot find one in line with your interests.

The 93% Club is a special society made up of students from a state education background, as well as the Cambridge Union, which has welcomed speakers such as Margaret Thatcher, to Michael van Gerwen, to Bill Gates.

Despite the high workload, Mr Chapman acknowledged the privilege of having the opportunity to study at Cambridge University and walk in the footsteps of some amazing people who have contributed to wider society.



Giving their thoughts as to the benefits of studying at Cambridge University, he also quoted the views of students who said amongst other things, 'living independently, but with plenty of support' and 'being around like minded people' even if he gets annoyed by some people saying one of the Colleges 'looks like Hogwarts'.

This session, followed two informative sessions by Mr Chapman and former student Jasmine Clarke towards the end of the previous academic year, where students had the opportunity to learn about life in an Oxbridge and Russell Group University.

Miss Clarke also spoke about the high timetable demands as well as having a 'need for a drive' in order to get the best out of studying but also of the social aspect and suggestions to students regarding the application process.

The College would like to thank Mr Chapman for sharing a very detailed information session with students.



18 World Book Day

Read all about it!

Ivybridge Community College would like to thank students and staff for their participation in World Book Day.

The day saw many activities take place including competitions, fancy dress and primary school visits.

Students were encouraged to complete a variety of creative, treasure - hunt style and literary challenges in the hope of winning some special prizes. These included:

- Golden Ticket Hunt
- Design a College Badge for a literary Character
- Design a Fictional Character Face Mask
- Who is this reading the book?
- What is my favourite book?
- Creative Writing Competition

The College would also like to thank local author Rachel Elliott and Matt Steele (owner of the Ivybridge Bookshop) for agreeing to be judges for the Creative Writing Competition.

In what turned out to be an especially competitive contest, students were challenged to write a 500 word piece on Imaginative Inventions.

The work was so imaginative that it was difficult to choose a first place finisher so three winners were chosen based on Miss Elliott's choice, Mr Steele's choice and the Librarian's Choice.

We would like to congratulate Jessica-May, Frankie and Caitlin as our winners, whose work has also been put on display at the local bookshop.



Meanwhile, we were also delighted to welcome students from The Erme Primary School (see page 6) for a visit to enjoy a creative Willy Wonka inspired afternoon of activities.

Students were also put into a raffle for successfully completing some of the many challenges (mentioned above) to win some literary gifts.

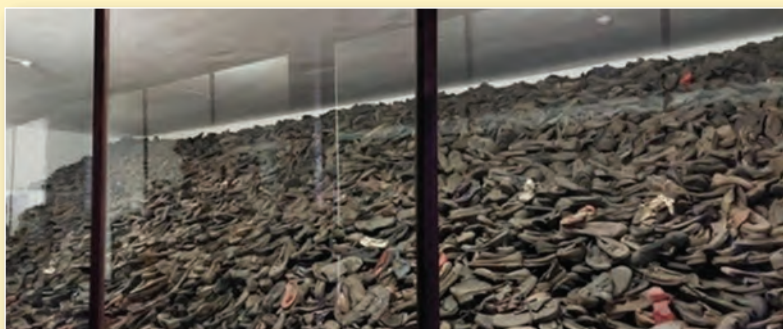
Special mention to Zara who was in the draw and first out of the hat having entered four competitions as well as Charlie who took part in the Golden Ticket Treasure Hunt and the Who is Reading the Book competition.

Finally, the College would like to say thank you to all staff who entered into the spirit of the day, dressing up as an eclectic collection of characters as well as to all the students who helped or participated.

Lessons from Auschwitz trip 2024



History 19



On Wednesday the 26th of March, I, Arabella Faulkner, along with Evie Sleeman, Maia Phippen, Sophia Grinnell and Mr Hayward travelled to Poland to visit the camps of Auschwitz and the town of Oświęcim. This trip was organised by the Holocaust Educational Trust as part of the Lessons from Auschwitz project which gives two, sometimes four, places to schools across the country. To gain a place on the trip we all had to take part in an essay competition open to all History students in Year 12.

After we had completed online learning modules and a seminar on pre-war Jewish life we prepared for the visit. At 3:30am we left for Exeter airport with our flight due to leave at 7:00am. By 10:30am we were in Krakow where we got on a coach to Oświęcim with another 200 students. Despite only getting 20 minutes here we were still able to gauge a rough idea of what the town would have looked like when the vibrant and diverse Jewish community had once occupied it. Once back on the coach we went straight to Auschwitz 1. Here we walked through the 'Arbeit Macht Frei' gate which translates to 'Work will set you free'.

Something that we had so often encountered online when researching the Holocaust very quickly became reality. Some of the most memorable aspects of this camp were the gas chambers and exhibitions containing rooms full of shoes,

hair, glasses, suitcases and other personal possessions taken from the Jewish people as they entered the camp.

After two hours at Auschwitz 1 we returned to the coach to visit Auschwitz- Birkenau. By now it was getting darker, colder and damper. This created an eerie atmosphere to the camp which forced us to imagine the conditions when it also had to occupy thousands of people. Birkenau had 170 Barracks each holding 744 people. We entered some of the lasting barracks and the washing areas the prisoners were provided. The scale struck us all particularly; we couldn't even see from one side of the camp to the other. Before we left all the participants came together at the memorial site to take part in a service led by Rabbi Shaw who we were lucky to have accompany us throughout the day. We lit candles and listened to a Jewish prayer being sung by the Rabbi. By the time we left the camp it was dark. We landed back in Exeter at 11:00pm. We were all exhausted and had a lot to process. Now we are all making our 'next steps' which aims to spread what we have learnt into the community.

Overall, we believe this experience provided by the Holocaust Educational Trust to be indispensable and something that will stay with us forever. It has given us a deeper understanding of what was lost during the Holocaust and why learning about it is so relevant to contemporary society.

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20 Sport

We're off to Twickenham!

Earlier this year the Under 18 Rugby Team had the honour to play at the home of English rugby in the final of the RFU Continental Schools Vase Competition. The team won a comprehensive victory in the semi-final.

Having won against a team from the College once attended by Johnny Wilkinson to make it to this stage of the Competition, this match had the potential to be a challenge for the Ivybridge side, given their North London opponents had won 17 of their 22 matches this season and only lost three.

However, despite the windy conditions and with both sides displaying a very good defence, the Ivybridge boys overcame the hurdles and won the match taking place at Aylesbury Rugby Club by 23 points to zero.

In a match that was very heavy on scrums and placed a high emphasis on defence, the Ivybridge team took an early lead with two penalty kicks putting them six points to nil in-front after 12 minutes.

The contest remained a very tight affair with only six points separating the two teams for approximately half the match.

However, just before the fifty-minute point, the Ivybridge team broke through with a try from Diego Lerro.

At around the hour mark, despite the ball being stolen and the Ivybridge team having to run back from the other half of the field, Will Lane scored a second try for the Devon side with a beautiful assist from Louie Tout.

A final penalty kick at the 64-minute point, completed the 23-0 score and sent Ivybridge Community College through to the final at Twickenham.

Special mention must also be given to Harry Sadler – at one point early on, the contest was described by the match commentator as the ‘Harry Sadler show’ – who contributed 13 points to the score by successfully kicking five out of his six penalty and conversion attempts.

The College is thrilled at this result and wishes the team well for the Final at Twickenham.

The squad for the day included:

Jake Bracher
 Ed Lauri
 Ben Winters
 Fin Hamilton
 Jake Mackenzie
 Joe Roberts
 Ollie Lane
 Max Bryan
 Charlie Moody
 Harry Sadler
 Charlie Earnshaw
 Charlie Bosanko
 Jamie Campbell
 James Pullan
 Jack Guyver

Replacements:

Diego Lerro
 Kian Hopper
 Louis Tout
 James Cantin
 Will Lane



Girls back on Top!

Congratulations to our Under 16 Girls Rugby team following another stellar performance and returning to the top spot as the Rosslyn Park National Rugby Sevens Championships.

In a tournament featuring 49 teams from Schools in England and Wales (but also a couple of teams from Dubai), the girls stormed through the 'qualifying round final 64' and group games, whitewashing the first two of these teams and only allowing five points to their opponents in the other.

The team continued to command their matches in the quarter and semi finals to set up a final against a school that has been named the number one sports school multiple times.

Despite the challenge, the Ivybridge Community College Girls' Team were not phased, winning the match by 34 points to five.

Overall, the Girls team played brilliantly from their qualifying round final 64 to the final, winning every of these 6 matches by at least 19 points, and on one occasion, by as many as 40 points in their Semi Final.

This achievement is part of a wider success for the College at the Rosslyn Park Rugby tournament, with the Under 16 Girls Team picking up a Silver Medal in their competition in 2023, whilst our Girls 15 Team won their competition in 2022.

We would like to congratulate the team in taking Ivybridge Community College back up to the top spot.



A big 'thumbs up' to all the girls who took part in the Touch2Twickenham programme.

The students behaved amazingly and were runners up in the event.

Well done to the teams.





22 Sport

From Apprentice to Master

Following another terrific year on the Rugby field, Sixth Form students at Ivybridge Community College swapped studying for teaching and took part in an altogether different activity.

We were delighted to welcome Wayne Reed and Tim Pickard from England Rugby who presented to our students a course on Rugby Coaching.

Our Rugby players had an opportunity to take part in a detailed and practical course over two days, learning skills and knowledge required to be able to pass their expertise and the wisdom of their experience on to younger budding sports stars.

The cohort included high achievers within the College Rugby Teams including James, who ran nearly half the Twickenham field and scored a sensational try at the Final of the National Schools Vase.

The students were complimented by Wayne Reed for their respectful behaviour.

This year has seen a variety of victories and top achievements by our Rugby Teams including our Year 10 Boys' Team winning the West Devon

Tournament, Under 16 Girls' Team winning their Rugby Sevens Tournament at Roslyn Park as well as the Elite Boys Team reaching the final of the RFU Schools Vase Competition and winning a prize at a Schools Rugby Festival in Portugal.

The College would like to thank Wayne Reed and Tim Pickard and is looking forward to offering more opportunities and experiences to its students.

Off to Oxford for Daisy's Football Call-up



We would like to mention our budding footballer Daisy Luke who was called up by Plymouth Argyle to play in their Under 15 First Team.

Daisy then took a trip to Oxford to for a match against Wycombe Wanderers.

She follows in the footsteps of other budding sports students who have been selected to play in different teams for professional clubs, both for matches and/or training sessions, with some playing matches for the main squads.

We congratulate Daisy, hope that she benefitted from a brilliant learning experience and wish her well for her footballing future.



Follow us





Cycling Season



Congratulations to Willow Peters following her success at a recent Cycling event.

To kick off the early South West XC Series, Willow along with other keen cyclists took a trip to the grounds of Grammarcombe in Exeter where she took first place for the Under 12 category for the first race of the season.

According to the organisers, the children's races were slightly tougher than previous ones and the courses covered a mix of man made and natural features to tests the riders' skills should they wish to.

A very well done to Willow and we wish her well in her upcoming cycling escapades.



Boxing Champion

Following his success earlier in the Year Zac Eccles had another successful boxing campaign in the Capital.

Zac Eccles took part in the London ABA Boxing Tournament securing another big prize.

As a result, this made him a National Champion in his weight and age category, winning him an impressive champions belt and two very proud parents.

Zac has already shone earlier this year with a Gold belt in the Alliance Boxing Association's Schools Championships, earning praise from his boxing club as being a credit to the College and his club.

Congratulations to Zac and we wish him well in his future boxing endeavours.

Zac also took part in the Alliance Boxing Association National Schools Championships in Bristol and boxed his way to the Gold belt position.

Speaking on behalf of Carl's Boxing Stable (Zak's club), Vernon Penprase said:

"Zak boxed really well and was a clear winner on points. He is a credit to your school and to our club."

A very well done to Zac and all the best for future tournaments.



24 Sport

A Wonderful Performance

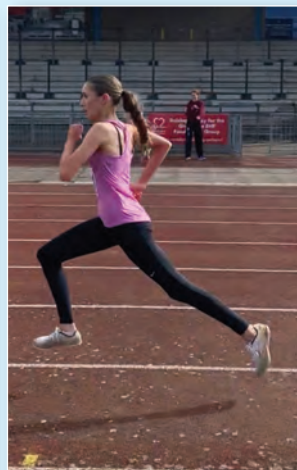
More congratulations to Eliza Melvin for her recent performance at the Pony Club National Winter Triathlon Championships.

Eliza reflected on a brilliant trip to Grantham in Lincolnshire, having qualified to represent her area at the National Championships for the first time as a brilliant competition to close the year.

Eliza had a great swim and run and despite being hampered by a gun malfunction, she helped her team to a magnificent 7th place overall, in a competition including senior and adult teams.

Eliza is looking forward to the next year of competition and heads into the season with excitement and a proud parent too.

We wish her well for the new season ahead.



Madeleine's hopes didn't take a dive!

Our congratulations to sixth form student Madeleine following her achievements in the air and in the pool.

Madeleine took part in the 2024 Armada Cup, a National Diving Competition, winning her event.

Having come out on top ahead of 17 others in the preliminary stages, she triumphed and took home the Gold medal for her age group for her platform performance, performing 10 dives in total across the preliminary round and the final.

And if that wasn't enough, Madeleine's hard work and commitment was rewarded by Plymouth Diving, with the Diver of the Month honour, a month later.

We congratulate Madeleine on her diving endeavours and wish her well in her future sporting ventures.



Term Dates 2024/5

Please refer to the College website for upcoming events

Spring Term 2025

Non Pupil Days	Monday, 6 Jan 2025
Spring Term Starts	Tuesday, 7 January 2025
Half Term	Monday, 17 February 2025 - Friday, 21 February 2025
Term Ends	Friday, 4 April 2025

Summer Term 2025

Summer Term Starts	Tuesday, 22 Apr 2025
May Day	Monday, 5 May 2025
Half Term	Monday, 26 May 2025 - Friday, 30 May 2025
Non Pupil Day	Friday, 27 June 2025
Term Ends	Friday, 18 July 2025

Autumn Term 2025

Non Pupil Days	Wednesday 3 September / Thursday, 4 September 2025
Autumn Term Starts	Friday, 5 Sept 2025 (Years 7, 11 and 12 only) Monday, 8 September 2025 (All Year Groups)
Non Pupil Day	Friday, 24 October 2025
Half Term	Monday, 27 October 2025 - Friday, 31 October 2025
Term Ends	Friday, 19 December 2025

If you have an article celebrating a student's achievement, please complete the 'Submit a News Article' form located on the College website under the **Contact Us** tab <https://www.ivybridge.devon.sch.uk/>





Ivybridge Community College Community Sport



Join in January!



New Gym Membership



Kickstart your New Year Stay Active
Get Fit in a Supportive Environment!

Four Months for the Price of Three

£96/£60*

Pay as You Go April Fools
January - March 50% off
(£32/£20 each*) (£16/£10*)

*Premium Membership £32 (Includes all Classes) *Standard Membership £20 (Includes Fitness Classes Tapout Team Sign Sessions)

For more information, please contact the Community Sport team on:
01752 698315

www.ivybridge.devon.sch.uk/communitysport
comsport@ivybridge.devon.sch.uk

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Ivybridge Community College
presents



Book by
David Greig

Music by
Marc Shaiman

Lyrics by
Scott Wittman
Marc Shaiman

Based on the novel by ROALD DAHL

Songs from the Motion Picture by LESLIE BRICUSSE and ANTHONY NEWLEY

This amateur production is presented by arrangement with Music Theatre International

Thursday 16 to Saturday 18 January 2025

The college's productions are fundraising activities and all funds raised from performances are used to fund our programme of exhibitions, performances and events.