



23 May 2025

Rachel Hutchinson
Principal

Dear Parents and Carers

As we approach the Summer May half term, I am delighted to share my pride in our remarkable College community.

Celebrating Success Through Our Values

Our students have truly embodied our core values this term. Their integrity shines through in all that they do at the College, particularly for all those students who have been sitting their Key Stage 3 assessments and formal examinations this term. Our Year 11 and 13 students have been demonstrating outstanding commitment, with an impressive 26 GCSE and 43 A Level papers already completed with impeccable conduct. The compassion within our community is evident in the supportive atmosphere between students of all Year Groups, particularly how our younger students have respected examination spaces and created distraction-free environments. Respect is at the heart of the wonderful camaraderie between staff and students during this challenging period, creating the positive learning environment that makes our College so special. The aspiration of our students is clear through their unprecedented attendance at Booster Sessions and Block 6 lessons, showing their determination to achieve their very best.

Culture Fest

This week, our College came alive with vibrant energy as we celebrated Culture Fest - a joyful and enriching event that brought our community together. All students attended themed Assemblies that explored the importance of cultural understanding, identity and inclusion. During our Culture Fest event, students across the Year Groups participated in a variety of cultural activities, showcasing their creativity, heritage and curiosity about the world. A particular highlight was hearing from several inspirational external speakers who shared powerful stories and insights that sparked thoughtful conversations and encouraged students to embrace diversity and global perspectives. It was a truly memorable celebration of unity and learning the richness of our shared and unique cultural identities.

Looking Ahead to Term 6

When we return, please remember:

- Standard dress code remains in place (blazers, ties, formal shoes) with the exception of formal shorts which are permitted for the Summer Term.
- Mobile phones should remain off and in bags at all times.

We have arranged for whole Year Group official photographs to be taken of Years 7, 11, 12 and 13 on Monday, 2 June 2025. If any student is not able to be part of these group photographs, please let the College know by 9.00am on Monday, 2 June 2025 using icc@ivybridge.devon.sch.uk

As a College, we are in the process of reviewing our Mobile Phone Policy of which we are keen to consider and explore the potential improvements of becoming a "smartphone-free school". A significant change of this kind requires well-informed research and consultation, which includes the students themselves and parents/carers. We know that many national high performing schools are moving towards 'phone free' sites to help combat mental health and wellbeing associated issues from the prolonged use of social media. We are going to invite staff, students, parents/carers and external agencies to have the opportunity to attend a Parent/Carer Hub dedicated to this topic,

Respect ■ Aspiration ■ Integrity ■ Compassion

with a national key note speaker who will share some developments and a survey for all parents/carers to complete.

Thank you for your continued support in making our College community thrive. I wish you all a refreshing half term break and look forward to seeing everyone for our final term of the academic year.

Warmest regards

Rachel Hutchinson

Principal