



27 June 2025

Dear Parents/Carers

I hope this message finds you well.

As we begin preparations for a strong start to the new academic year, I would like to take a moment to reflect on the importance of our shared commitment to upholding the high standards and expectations at Ivybridge Community College.

It is a pleasure to recognise and commend the majority of our students who consistently meet these expectations with pride and purpose (recognised by our most recent Ofsted Inspection, February 2025). Their positive attitude and dedication help to foster the calm, respectful and safe environment that defines our College community. This is an outstanding affirmation of the dedication shown by our students, the tireless support from you, our parents and carers, and the unwavering commitment to our staff. Together, we have cultivated a learning environment where students are empowered to thrive. As we prepare for the new academic year, we remain fully committed to upholding these high standards.

Once again, I want to thank you for the vital role you play in supporting your child and reinforcing the values we hold dear. Your ongoing partnership ensures that students not only meet our expectations, but also understand the reasons behind them. These standards are rooted in our core values: **Respect, Integrity, Aspiration, and Compassion**. Looking ahead, we will continue to work closely with you to ensure every student is ready for success from the very first day of the new academic year.

In the final three weeks of this term, beginning Monday, 30 June 2025, we will be holding Year Group Assemblies to remind students of College expectations, routines and procedures. These assemblies will also be supported by Tutor-based sessions designed to reinforce our Behaviour Curriculum and College-wide standards ahead of the 2025/2026 academic year.

Why do we place such importance on uniform?

Our Uniform Policy supports:

- Building routines, respect for rules and clear expectations
- Fostering teamwork and a sense of collective pride
- Reducing pressure related to fashion trends or brand competition
- Easing financial concerns by creating a level playing field
- Simplifying morning routines, helping students arrive to College confident and prepared
- Enhancing safeguarding by making students easily identifiable
- Supporting our efforts to eliminate bullying by promoting equality in appearance

While most students uphold these standards consistently and with pride, we occasionally need to provide reminders around a few key items. We ask that you spend some time reviewing our Uniform Policy with your child which can be found on our website.

Key reminders include:

- **Hoodies** – not permitted
- **Jewellery** – should remain minimal and appropriate
- **Ear piercings** - small ball stud (gold, silver or pearl) or small colourless gemstone. No larger than 4mm.
- **Blazers/skirts/ties** – must be worn correctly (tucked in/unrolled) and meet uniform standards (five stripes below the knot on ties)
- **Make-up and personal grooming** – including false eyelashes, nail varnish, acrylic nails and extreme hairstyles, which are not part of our policy

Respect ■ Aspiration ■ Integrity ■ Compassion

We understand that young people may occasionally get things wrong. Our "Strong Starts" approach exists not only to maintain high standards but also to support students in understanding and meeting expectations. A practical example is our Uniform Replacement Store in Peverall Hall from 8.30 to 9.10am to resolve any uniform issues quickly.

Toilets and Learning Time

We continue to monitor toilet use to minimise disruptions to learning. We ask parents/carers to speak with their child about using the toilets before College and during Breaks 1 and 2, to ensure that they are ready for learning and maximise their time in lessons.

Hands Off Policy

The "Hands Off" rule, part of our Behaviour Curriculum, was introduced to promote a safe and respectful environment. It aims to educate students about respecting personal boundaries and consent and to prevent inappropriate contact.

Students or staff may make a "Hands Off" request and we expect all students to respect such requests. Failure to do so will result in a warning and/or a consequence.

Conduct to and from College

Lastly, I want to remind all students of their behaviour and conduct while travelling to and from College. Students represent not only the College but also you, their peers, and themselves. We encourage them to respect members of the public and the local community by presenting themselves well, treating others respectfully, and taking care of public and private property.

This applies particularly to bus travel, where the vast majority of students display exemplary behaviour. However, recent incidents have prompted us to reiterate the standards expected for safe and respectful travel. The College, in partnership with Devon Transport, adheres to the following requirements for safe travel:

- 1. 100% disruption-free travel for the driver.**
- 2. Be safe - wear seatbelts and remain seated.**
- 3. Be kind - show respect for staff, other passengers, and property.**
- 4. Be responsible - report unsafe, unkind, or disrespectful behaviour.**

The consequences for poor or unsafe behaviour on the bus are consistent with those applied in College. Additionally, students involved may lose permission to travel on the bus, requiring parents/carers to make their own travel arrangements to and from College.

Our shared goal is to ensure that all students can travel safely. We reinforce this message daily at the Coach Park and work closely with the coach operators to uphold these standards. We kindly ask for your support in sharing this message with your child, highlighting the importance of safe and respectful behaviour during travel.

Thank you once again for your continued support and partnership as we work together to ensure all students are prepared for a successful start to the new academic year.

Yours faithfully

Ray Hennessy

Deputy Principal