



3 October 2024

Rachel Hutchinson  
Principal

Dear Parents and Carers

We are delighted to share the success of our recent Year 6 Open Evenings. Both events were fully booked and it was a pleasure to welcome so many prospective students and families to Ivybridge Community College. We were especially proud of our Head Students and Student Leaders, who spoke so eloquently to visitors and acted as excellent ambassadors for the College. Their leadership and maturity set a shining example for younger students and reflected the values at the heart of our community.

### **Aspiring Scholars Programme and Power Up Opportunities**

Looking ahead, we are excited to announce further opportunities for our students through the **Aspiring Scholars Programme**. This initiative reflects our commitment to providing ambitious learners with the skills and character needed to access limitless academic pathways, including Russell Group universities and Oxbridge.

Students who have not yet received an invitation but wish to join should complete the link below by **Wednesday, 8 October 2025**, as the first workshops will begin after half term.

Half-termly workshops will run after College on Wednesdays or Thursdays (3.30 - 4.30 pm), with a full calendar provided at the first session. A sample of workshops includes:

- **Key Stage 3:** Unlocking the World of Universities - Public Speaking and Persuasive Power - Creative Sparks: Arts and Innovation
- **Key Stage 4:** Thinking Like a Scholar: Curiosity and Critical Thinking - Academic Writing Foundations - GCSE to A Level: Choosing Subjects with Purpose
- **Key Stage 5:** Personal Statement Power-Up - Admissions Tests Bootcamp - Interview Masterclass: Thinking Aloud Under Pressure

These workshops are designed to equip students with the knowledge, skills, and confidence to excel academically and personally, while providing a clear pathway towards their future goals.

[Sign up to the Aspiring Scholars Programme here](#)

Alongside this, we are continuing to offer our **Power Up sessions** for Year 6 students. These workshops in Mathematics, Science, and English give a taste of the academic challenge and rigour we are proud to deliver at Ivybridge Community College.

### **Student Leadership**

We are thrilled to welcome all **Student Leaders for 2025 - 2026** into our growing leadership community. Meetings have already begun and are playing a key role in strengthening student voice and driving the College forward on its journey of success.

This half term, Student Leaders will be exploring the power of *My Sentence*, reflecting on their own legacy ambitions and developing ways to use student voice even more effectively.

If your child has not yet joined, please ensure they sign up by **Wednesday, 8 October 2025** so they do not miss our next meeting on **Friday, 17 October 2025 (Break 1, Performance Hall)**.

[Sign up to become a Student Leader here](#)

**Respect ■ Aspiration ■ Integrity ■ Compassion**

Student Leadership provides young people with valuable opportunities to grow their leadership skills, develop their character, connect with like-minded peers, and represent the College in a variety of ways. Most importantly, it enables them to carry the voice of the student body and influence positive change in our community.

### **Health and Safety Updates**

The responsibility and maturity of our students was recently evident during a fire evacuation, where they responded calmly, followed instructions diligently, and worked together to ensure the process was carried out smoothly. We thank all students for their excellent conduct in these important situations.

In the coming weeks, we will also be rehearsing our emergency procedures, including a planned lockdown drill. Regular practice ensures students and staff can respond calmly and confidently in any situation.

We would like to bring to your attention advice regarding student attendance to College due to illness. In accordance with NHS guidance, children with respiratory infections should only not attend if they have a high temperature and are unwell. Students with mild symptoms such as a runny nose and headache who are otherwise well can continue to attend school.

The First Aid Room is closed to non-emergency visits during the first and last lesson Blocks, but trained First Aiders are always available for emergencies. Medication for students with agreed Health or Medication Plans will continue as normal.

You can help by encouraging your child to:

- Use break or lunchtime for minor First Aid needs
- Ensure we have their up-to-date medical information
- Keep hydrated and maintain good hygiene (regular handwashing and use of tissues)

These steps help us manage genuine medical needs while keeping disruption to learning to a minimum.

We are extremely proud of all that our students have achieved so far this term and the positive impact they continue to have on our College community. With so many exciting opportunities ahead, from the Aspiring Scholars Programme to Student Leadership and Power Up workshops, we look forward to seeing them flourish, grow, and continue to make Ivybridge Community College a place where ambition, excellence, and care go hand in hand.

Thank you for your continued support in helping your child make the most of these opportunities.

Yours faithfully

Rachel Hutchinson

**Principal**