



16 January 2026

Rachel Hutchinson  
Principal

Dear Parent/Carer

As we approach the end of our second week this term, we wanted to highlight how impressed we have been by the students' conduct and behaviour across the College. Current ClassCharts are showing an incredible 97% positive points being awarded to date compared to 3% negative. Our weekly lesson observations and the feedback received from our student forums, conducted this week as part of our annual Trust Safeguarding Review, underlined how important our values are in creating a safe and purposeful learning community.

This week has highlighted the strength and compassion of our College community. Yesterday morning's serious bus incident involving two of our College buses was a challenging moment, yet it demonstrated how everyone; students, staff, parents/carers and local community members, came together to ensure safety and support. Thanks to the swift and coordinated actions of our staff, the police and members of the community, all students were quickly taken to safety and parents/carers were kept informed throughout. The College will be working closely with the police and Devon County Council Transport to ensure the necessary review process takes place, reinforcing our commitment to prioritising the safety of our students. I am immensely proud of how calm and mature our students remained, supporting one another until staff arrived. We are also deeply grateful to the Methodist Church for opening its doors and providing a warm, dry space with refreshments; a gesture that truly reflects the kindness within our community. Please contact the College on [icc@ivybridge.devon.sch.uk](mailto:icc@ivybridge.devon.sch.uk) if your child was part of this incident and requires any follow-up support.

We are contending with a number of unforeseen delays with the College buses due to issues such as weather disruption and traffic congestion beyond our control. We apologise for any inconvenience that this causes and will continue to communicate all updates as soon as we are notified by the bus companies.

To further support the safety of all our community, we remind all parents/carers of the importance in our College routines in the dropping off and picking up at the front and back gates.

### **Parent Drop offs and Pickups – Keeping Children Safe**

As a College, we work hard to safely manage over 2,000 students arriving and leaving through our two main entrances. We are experiencing an increase in the number of cars at the front of the College along Harford Road, with a number of parents/carers turning into Mill Meadow to drop off and/or parking on the main driveway and visitor's bays in front of the main entrance. The increase in traffic makes it more challenging to manage student movement and restricts parking for staff and visitors still arriving onto the College campus. We politely request that all parents/carers should remain out of residential parking areas at all times and from the College site during school hours (8.00 – 15.45). If your child has a particular medical need, please continue to liaise with us for individual support. For those students who use the back gate, please continue to follow staff instructions, remaining on the main path at all times (College side) to reduce students overcrowding directly outside the houses adjacent to the College.

**Respect ■ Aspiration ■ Integrity ■ Compassion**

### **Smartphone Free reviews 2026**

Over recent months, we have been carrying out an evidence-informed review of our Mobile Phone Policy. In light of growing national research on smartphones and our ongoing commitment to a calm, focused learning environment, we are inviting parents/carers to share their views through a short survey. Your feedback will help us evaluate and shape any refinements we make to further enhance student safety, wellbeing and learning. We would be very grateful if you could take a few minutes to complete the survey [here](#) or scan the QR code at the bottom of this letter, which is now open and will remain available until Monday, 26, January 2026.

We recognise that much of this letter has necessarily focused on operational matters, particularly in light of the bus incident earlier this week. However, we feel it was important to share these key moments with you, as they reflect both the realities of keeping our community safe and the strength of the partnership we share with families. We are grateful for your continued support, understanding and cooperation and we remain proud of the resilience, care and maturity shown by our students throughout the week.

Together, these moments reinforce the strong, connected community we continue to build.

Yours faithfully

Rachel Hutchinson  
**Principal**

QR code to complete parent/carer questionnaire :

