



23 January 2026

Dear Parent/Carer

More to give...

As we reach the end of another busy week, I continue to be inspired by the enthusiasm and commitment shown by students across the College. Whether they are representing us with pride in their sporting disciplines or finding creative and purposeful ways to spend their wet-weather breaks in the Library (Learning Resource Centre), our students truly make the most of every opportunity.

This week alone, I have seen students playing chess, crocheting, drawing, reading and completing the student phone survey with great maturity and thoughtfulness. Each day, as I walk around the College, I am reminded of the positive and supportive community we are building together. Staff continue to highlight and recognise students working hard and it has been wonderful to celebrate so many examples of kindness, effort and readiness to learn. One of the wonderful ways that we celebrate students each week, is through staff nominations to our 'Proud Table'. Staff share photos, videos, examples of work and stories of the incredible ways students are taking advantage of exceptional opportunities to develop their character and achieve academic success. Submissions this week have included the great recipes cooked by Year 10 GCSE students and impressive artwork in Photography.

Congratulations to all our students, for their successes achieved this week. A few highlights include: the under 14 and under 18 Girls' Rugby teams, who beat Millfield School and, our Year 9 Boys' squad made it through to the quarter finals of the National Cup. Equally pleasing was celebrating our Year 7 students who enjoyed hot chocolate and cookies with the Principal, to celebrate their outstanding fundraising efforts for a number of local charities. I am incredibly proud of the compassion our students show in giving their time to support the wider community.

Co-curricular opportunities

As outlined in the Principal's recent letter, on 13 December 2025, we will be moving away from a full week of enrichment at the end of the Summer Term. As the final week of term is only three days long, students will instead take part in a three-day co-curricular programme. This will include on-site activities designed to build character, teach new skills and create lasting memories. Further details about the programme will be shared shortly after half term. Where day trips are included, costs will be reduced compared to previous years to help lessen financial pressure on families, while still ensuring students can have fun and experience new opportunities.

Respect ■ Aspiration ■ Integrity ■ Compassion

Looking ahead to 2025 - 2026, we are also developing a wider range of co-curricular opportunities for students to engage in throughout the week. This will provide more regular opportunities rather than concentrating activities into one end-of-year week, offering greater flexibility, a simpler sign-up process and a fairer, more equitable experience for all students. To support the whole process, we will be hosting optional parent and carer events in the Spring and Summer terms to ensure you have all the information you need to support your child's choices for their co-curriculum offer.

Finish Line Successes

A particular highlight this week has been the continued commitment from our Year 11 and Year 13 students. The Year 13 examination series has been going extremely well, with 100% attendance in the majority of examinations. Students' attitude and dedication to independent study have been outstanding.

Year 11 students are now in their second week of Block 6 after-College Tutoring sessions and are setting a fantastic example, with more than 80% attendance. Since the start of Term, Block 6 has delivered over 1,000 extra hours of learning to students who have attended all eight sessions. This investment of time and effort is already building confidence ahead of the Sprint Finish examinations, which begin on Monday, 2 February 2026.

Being prepared and taking responsibility

As shared in the Principal's letter two weeks ago, we have been reminding all students of the importance of being prepared and taking responsibility for their learning. Students are expected to bring the following equipment to College each day:

- Black pen
- Purple pen
- Pencil
- Rubber
- Ruler
- Whiteboard pen
- Calculator
- Lanyard and ID card
- My Sentence
- My Timetable

Tutors have been supporting students to ensure they are fully prepared each morning. Spare resources are always available in Peverall Hall to help students make a strong start every day. If your child forgets their calculator, temporary replacements can be collected from Peverall Hall. If students do require a temporary calculator, they will be expected to exchange this item with their mobile phone to ensure the calculators are returned at the end of the day to support financial costs across the College.

If your child is entitled to additional financial support, please contact the College on iccmil@ivybridge.devon.sch.uk and colleagues will make sure all the equipment is provided for them.

Recruiting for Elected Parent/Carer Members

As we move towards the newly formed governance under the WeST Community Council structure, we are actively seeking to recruit parents/carers who would be interested in supporting the College as a Community Council member. If you would like to be part of our Community Council, please refer to the accompanying letter for full details.

We are extremely fortunate to have Alison Evans, as our Chair and we look forward to welcoming additional parents/carers who share our passion for providing the very best education for our children.

We are a College that strives for academic excellence, develops character, and provides exceptional opportunities for all.

Thank you for your ongoing support and enjoy the weekend when it arrives.

Yours faithfully

Rachel Hutchinson

Principal