



30 January 2026

Rachel Hutchinson
Principal

Dear Parent/Carer

Recognising Our Students' Success

On Monday, 26 January 2026, I was delighted to receive a letter from the Rt Hon Bridget Phillipson, Secretary of State for Education, recognising the College's strong attainment outcomes for disadvantaged pupils. She wrote:

"Congratulations to you and your team on the excellent outcomes the disadvantaged pupils at your school achieved at the end of the 2024 – 2025 academic year. Your school's performance places it among the very best nationally and this is a significant achievement. The success reflects the dedication of your staff and the hard work of your pupils..."

Thank you for everything you do to give children the best possible opportunities to succeed."

This recognition is a testament to the collective effort of our whole community, our students, families and our staff. Every member of 'Team ICC' plays a vital role: from our caretakers who open and close the site each day, to our cleaners and support staff who help create the conditions in which our teachers can focus on supporting each child to thrive. Your continued engagement as parents and carers has made a significant difference and we are deeply grateful.

Learning with Purpose: An update from Mr Cresswell, Deputy Principal

This week, it has been a real privilege to see just how hard our students are working. As we move towards the Year 11 sprint-finish examinations, their focus and determination have been exceptional. Equally, we have been hugely impressed by the resilience, knowledge and attitude shown by our Year 13 students and by our Key Stage 3 learners as they have approached their examination series and mid-term assessments with maturity and purpose.

As senior leaders, we are fortunate to be present in lessons every day, supporting students and staff so that classrooms remain calm, purposeful and disruption-free. That consistency matters: it ensures every child can learn, every teacher can teach and every lesson delivers the very best deal for our young people. You have our full commitment to academic excellence every day.

We are also incredibly proud of the dedication our staff show to improving their practice. Through high-quality professional learning, colleagues are continually refining the small but crucial details, sharpening explanations, anticipating misconceptions and ensuring that the resources students use to practise, analyse and think deeply are of the highest standard. Our bespoke exercise books, written by subject experts to align precisely with our curriculum, are one example. Praised by external visitors, they reduce time spent on sticking and gluing and maximise time spent on what really counts: reading, writing, thinking and learning.

We continue to welcome visitors to Ivybridge Community College who come specifically to see our calm, focused lessons in action and to take ideas back to their own settings. We call these visits our Excellence Days and without exception, leaders from across the country comment on our students' willingness to learn, the calm and orderly environment and our teachers' consistent, collegiate commitment to achieving academic excellence.

Respect ■ Aspiration ■ Integrity ■ Compassion

If you would like to know more about our Teaching and Learning philosophy, strategies and approach, we are currently developing a Teaching and Learning Handbook for parents and carers, to support a shared understanding of how we help every student succeed. If you would like a conversation about this, please feel free to contact Mr Tim Cresswell (Deputy Principal and Quality of Education Leader) via the College email address.

We recognise that there is always more we can do to ensure our learning strategies enable every student to thrive and we remain committed to strengthening our provision for those with additional needs. This term, we are delighted to welcome Mr Declan Farrell, our newly appointed Assistant Principal and Director of SEND, whose expertise is already enhancing our capacity to support students effectively. In addition, we will be inviting all parents and carers to join us for our inaugural Inclusion Conference on Wednesday, 1 April 2026, where we look forward to sharing our vision, celebrating progress and working together to shape an even more inclusive future for all learners.

Please continue to contact the College using our icc@ivybridge.devon.sch.uk for further information or if you query any further advice or guidance to support your child's education.

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