



5 February 2026

Dear Parent/Carer

As part of our ongoing commitment to clear and supportive communication with parents and carers, I am pleased to share that the Principal's Newsletter will now be sent every Thursday. This change is designed to reduce the volume of emails at the end of the week and to give families time to contact the College with any questions before the weekend begins.

Your views play an essential role in helping us strengthen and continually improve communication between home and College. We want to ensure that our updates, events and messages genuinely support your child's learning and reflect what families find most helpful. Would you find more or fewer updates useful? Are there particular parent and carer events you would like to see throughout the year?

Your feedback matters and we warmly encourage you to share your thoughts with us at [icc@ivybridge.devon.sch.uk](mailto:icc@ivybridge.devon.sch.uk).

## **Celebrating Student Success and the Power of Enrichment**

Last week, we were incredibly proud to celebrate the outstanding talent of our students who performed in our annual Key Stage 4 production, Little Shop of Horrors. The entire cast demonstrated exceptional dedication and creativity, bringing the performance to life under the superb direction of Sophie Hocking, residential artist. Their professionalism, teamwork and theatrical energy captivated the audience through a rich blend of drama, music and dance.

We are grateful for the many thoughtful messages of support from parents and carers, particularly those who shared how valuable this opportunity was for our Year 11 students, offering a joyful, confidence boosting experience in the midst of a demanding examination year. Moments like these create lasting memories and promote a strong sense of belonging within the College community, something we know is central to student wellbeing and motivation.

These enrichment opportunities go far beyond the performance itself. They help students develop a wide range of skills, confidence, leadership, teamwork, resilience, creativity and oracy that support them both academically and personally. Research continues to show that students who take part in creative arts, sports and wider enrichment activities not only demonstrate more positive attitudes to learning but also tend to achieve stronger academic outcomes and maintain excellent attendance.

With this in mind, we warmly encourage parents and carers to support their child in getting involved in the wide range of enrichment opportunities available at the College. Whether on stage, on the sports field, in a club or as part of a creative project. Please following the link to view enrichment opportunities [here](#).

## **Professional Visitors**

On Friday, 30 January 2026 we were delighted to welcome Alice McShane, Head of Education, Quality and Inclusion (South West), and Julie Norman, Head of Services from Devon County Council. During their visit, they spent time meeting staff, observing lessons and speaking with students about their experiences at the College. It is always a privilege to host external professionals and we greatly value their insight.

**Respect ■ Aspiration ■ Integrity ■ Compassion**

Both visitors were particularly impressed by the high levels of student engagement in lessons, the targeted intervention and support offered within our Inclusion Hub and the strength of our student-led initiatives such as My Sentence. We are incredibly proud to share staff and student sentences each day and we encourage parents and carers to continue the conversation at home, exploring how their young person is living out their sentence to support their personal goals and aspirations.

And finally, as we approach the end of our first week of Year 11 Sprint Finish examination series, congratulations on all the achievements this week. Senior Leaders have been carefully observing student participation and engagement levels in the examination venues. Feedback is being shared with parents and carers to ensure every opportunity to further support any improvements strengthen practices for the real examinations in the Summer Term. The attendance to the pre-warm up examination sessions and Block 6 has been extremely positive and we strongly recommend that all parents and carers support the College in helping to encourage your child to attend all these additional sessions.

Please continue to contact the College using our [icc@ivybridge.devon.sch.uk](mailto:icc@ivybridge.devon.sch.uk) for further information or if you require 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**