



8 May 2026

Dear Parents and Carers

## **A Positive Start to the Term**

It has been wonderful to see the energy, generosity and strong sense of community across the College as we settle into the term. In just ten school days, students and staff have taken part in a wide range of opportunities, including Ten Tors preparation, a regional dance competition in Bath, Devon Cup football success, Year 8 Parents' Evening, Raising Scholars workshops, and preparations for our new build and forthcoming examinations.

This spirit has also been evident in the LRC's Place of Sanctuary Hub, which continues to provide a calm, inclusive space for students to connect and feel a sense of belonging. With a recent focus on Autism and Neurodiversity Awareness, students engaged thoughtfully with resources and shared experiences, helping to build understanding, compassion and respect across our community.

## **Inclusion, SEND and Wellbeing**

As we look ahead, we are continuing to strengthen our support for students with SEND. Since Mr Farrell's appointment as Assistant Principal and Director of SEND, work has been under way with Trust colleagues and external specialists to further develop inclusive practice across the College. SEND will remain a priority this term, with SEND Conferences planned across the Summer Term for all Year Groups. Further details will be shared shortly; in the meantime, please keep the dates Tuesday, 16 to Friday, 19 June 2026 available.

Student wellbeing remains central to life at Ivybridge Community College. Parents and carers of students with identified medical needs will soon be invited to complete a short questionnaire to support our ongoing review of provision and preparations for the introduction of Benedict's Law in September 2026. We are grateful for parents' and carers' continued partnership in this important work.

We have also recently completed improvements to the Year 7 and Year 8 toilet facilities, enhancing privacy and clarity following feedback and a safeguarding review. Self-contained gender-neutral facilities remain available elsewhere on-site, ensuring inclusivity and choice for all students.

## **Uniform and High Expectations**

This term we will also be reviewing our school uniform policy in line with Department for Education guidance. Proposed changes will focus on affordability and sustainability while maintaining the high standards and identity of the College. All changes will be shared for consultation, and families will not be required to purchase new items. Further discussion will take place through the Parent Forum on Wednesday, 13 May 2026.

As the weather improves, we appreciate parents' and carers' continued support in maintaining our uniform expectations, which includes during travel to and from College and ensuring skirts are worn correctly. Any concerns will always be addressed with care, dignity and wellbeing at the forefront.

**Respect ■ Aspiration ■ Integrity ■ Compassion**

Thank you, as always, for your continued support. We value our strong partnership with families, and remain committed to creating a community in which every student feels supported and able to thrive.

Yours faithfully

Rachel Hutchinson  
**Principal**