



Headteacher's Welcome

Dear Parents and Carers,

We wholeheartedly understand the government's desire to get children back into school and as leaders and parents ourselves we are craving a return to normality. At such a time of uncertainty we need to balance this desire with ensuring that all appropriate actions have been taken to minimise any risk of infection to any member of our school community.

I would like to thank you, once again for all you are doing to support the school. The challenges of remote learning can not be under estimated. The approach at ICHS has been to set regular pieces of work to be completed independently by individual students. We have used ClassCharts as our vehicle for setting and work and feedback for students has been provided through both ClassCharts and email. We do appreciate that this approach is not perfect - we receive regular feedback from parents and students for which we are very grateful. This feedback suggests, in roughly equal proportions, that we are not setting enough work and that we are setting too much! No matter how well we are delivering home learning, it cannot replace the classroom dynamic where peers collaborate to gain a deeper, shared understanding of the material being covered, and the teacher is able to guide learning efficiently. I would however, like to take this opportunity to thank the staff team at ICHS for their commitment to our student's learning during this time. They have created a workable (not perfect and we 100% accept that) format for remote learning, trying their best to cater for the diverse needs, varied infrastructure and differing capacity of a huge range of families. The approach we have adopted is in keeping with that of schools both nationally and locally, however we continue to strive to improve the balance and quality of work set.

As we move forward with the restrictions put in place for all of us by COVID-19 we would like to move to a wider trial of online teaching. Over the past few weeks we have been undertaking some small trials of different online approaches with very mixed responses. Take-up rates have been very low and the feedback we have received is that access for students to join online sessions at particular times is very difficult for some students. Many students are sharing devices and often have limited access to devices during the day as they are sharing with parents who are home working. Similarly many of our staff are also home working and facing the same daily challenges of internet access that both you and your children face. A number of our staff have undertaken online learning training in recent weeks to help facilitate a widening in our online learning provision. We realise however that despite the challenges the demand for increased interactive 'online teaching' from some parents and children is strong and we would like to move forward with wider trials whilst being aware that not all students will be able to access this provision.

PTO....

HEADTEACHERS WELCOME CONTINUED

Printed in this newsletter is an Online Home Learning Responsible User Agreement. This needs to be read carefully by both students and parents. By logging in to any online sessions provided by the school, students are agreeing to abide by the rules set out in the policy. Over the next few weeks your son may be invited to join online sessions, these could be online tutorial and feedback sessions, mini-lessons or pastoral tutorial sessions. They will be conducted through Microsoft teams. As the trials continue we do as always welcome feedback. Please be aware that not all students will be involved in the trials. As we learn more we will be able to train a wider group of staff to participate in sessions where they prove to be successful and where staff feel comfortable to participate.

Over the half-term break the schools computer systems will be shut down whilst we install a new server and other vital updates. This means that school online systems will not be available for use over this period. Please do not upload work to ClassCharts or email the school as with all our systems down we would not want work or important information to be lost.

You may be aware that on Thursday 14 May 2020 the government published *Actions for Education and Childcare Settings to Prepare for Wider Opening from 1 June 2020* which sets out the expectation on secondary schools that *“From the week commencing 1 June 2020 at the earliest..... We will ask secondary schools, sixth form and further education colleges to offer some face-to-face support to supplement the remote education of year 10 and year 12 students who are due to take key exams next year, alongside the full-time provision they are offering to priority groups.”*

At the moment we have no guidance from the government and the Department for Education as to what this provision might look like or how it will operate. As further information is shared in the coming days and weeks, we will have a greater understanding of what this provision could look like we will be in a position to share plans with you. Whilst we await this guidance we continue to liaise closely with the London Borough of Redbridge.

I can confirm that ICHS will be open for vulnerable students and children of key workers on the 1st June 2020. If your son is entitled to use this service but is not currently doing so, and you would like him to attend school after half-term, please let us know.

Kind regards

Mrs Drysdale

Headteacher

ICHS ONLINE HOME LEARNING RESPONSIBLE USER AGREEMENT

General Guidance:

- ✎ I will only use the online material and technology for school purposes as directed by my teacher.
- ✎ I will not, under any circumstances, record or take photos of my classmates or teachers during a face-to-face session.
- ✎ I will not share any school resources or online materials outside of ICHS.
- ✎ I will not reveal my passwords to anyone.
- ✎ I will be responsible for my behaviour and actions when using technology, this includes the resources I access and the language I use. I understand that language and actions that are not appropriate in school are not appropriate in an online teaching and learning environment.
- ✎ I will make sure that all my communication with students, teachers or others using technology is responsible and sensible.
- ✎ I will speak when I am invited to do so and not otherwise, I understand that this allows all those involved in the session to participate fully. I understand that this may mean that I am asked to mute my microphone or my teacher may mute it for me.
- ✎ I will not deliberately browse, download, upload or forward material that could be considered offensive or illegal. If I accidentally come across any such material I will report it immediately to my teacher or my parent.
- ✎ I understand that when using ClassCharts and other applications provided by the school including email and Microsoft Teams that my use can be monitored and logged and can be made available to my teachers.
- ✎ **I understand that these rules are designed to help keep me, my fellow students and teachers safe and that if they are not followed, school sanctions will be applied and my parent will be contacted.**
- ✎ I will inform my parents of any online sessions I am joining so that they are aware of my online activity and can help to stop other family members accidentally disrupting sessions.

Using Teams and other online platforms:

When using Teams, remember that this is an extension of the classroom and you should conduct yourself as you would in a classroom. This includes:

- ✎ Participate from an environment that is quiet, safe and free from distractions
- ✎ Be on time for your interactive session
- ✎ Be dressed appropriately for learning
- ✎ Remain attentive during sessions. Concentrate fully on the session. Do not allow yourself to be distracted, this ensures everyone gets the most out of the session.
- ✎ Interact patiently and respectfully with your teachers and peers
- ✎ Try to keep your comments short and purposeful. The most successful virtual lessons are short, focused and purposeful.
- ✎ Turn off your mobile phone (unless you are using it to access the session)
- ✎ You **MUST NOT** record any aspect of each other's online interactions.
- ✎ Make sure you end the session as soon as the teacher indicates to do so.
- ✎ Mute your microphone when asked to so by the teacher; this is because background noise can be disruptive and it also stops everyone speaking over each other

CORONAVIRUS

London Borough of Redbridge have asked us to share these two very important message below with all our our parents, carers and students.

Social distancing is the responsibility of all ages

"We've received a large number of reports that young people are congregating in parks.

Government guidance still says that social distancing is vital to contain Coronavirus.

We would be grateful if you could remind parents that young people still need to maintain social distancing and should not be meeting with groups of friends.

They are only allowed to meet one other person, and they must remain two metres apart. Social distancing is the responsibility of all ages"

Further details at <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/staying-alert-and-safe-social-distancing>

Coronavirus testing

The Government has opened up coronavirus testing to all adults and children over five who have experienced any of the following coronavirus symptoms:

- A new continuous cough
- A high temperature
- A loss of or change in normal sense of smell or taste

It will enable those with symptoms to find out whether they have the virus. To book a test, or for more information visit: <https://www.redbridge.gov.uk/coronavirus-information-hub/coronavirus-testing/>

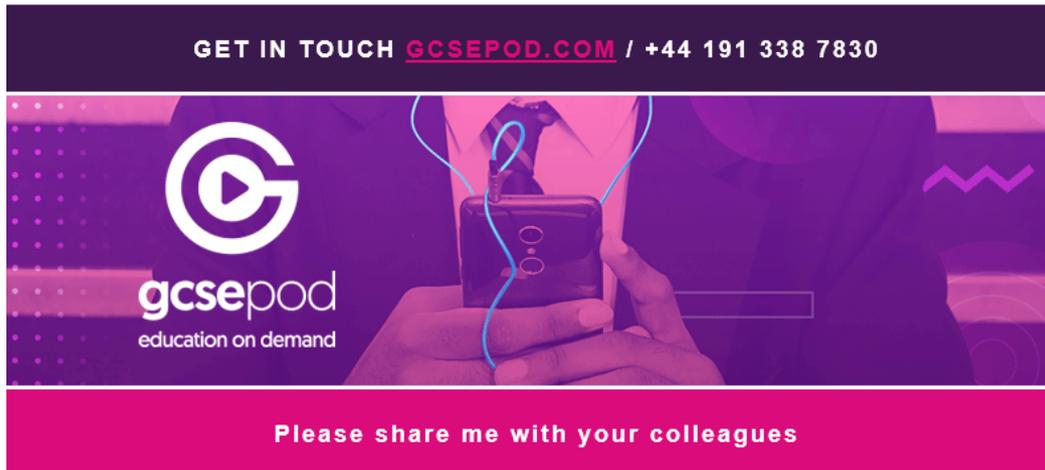
Kind Regards,

Mrs Wray

Headteachers PA

GCSE Pod

Please see a message below intended for the parent of Year 9, 10 and 11 students:



Dear parent/ carers,

As you are aware, the school has paid for your son to have an account with the GCSEPod website and before the lockdown he was shown how to log in and use the system. GCSEPod is an online learning site that supports students and parents to prepare for GCSE examinations. The site is essentially a revision tool and the pods are designed for any device. Pods can be watched live or downloaded to be watched anywhere at anytime.

In order to support you as a parent with GCSEPod and guide you on how you can support your son with his learning during the lockdown and beyond, they are offering a series of parent webinars. During these webinars they will give you top tips for home learning, share how GCSEPod can help your sons avoid any knowledge dips and emphasise how GCSEPod can support the transition to A level for Year 11 students. To register for one of the webinars, please go to: <https://www.gcsepod.com/news-gcse-learning-revision/podup-presents-webinars/>

Currently they have webinars on the following dates: Thursday 28th May 2020 at 12.00, Thursday 4th June at 5.00, Thursday 11th June at 9.30, Monday 15th June at 12.00 and Tuesday 23rd June at 5.30.

Good luck!

Kind regards,

Mrs Foucher

Deputy Headteacher

THE NATIONAL OPEN YOUTH ORCHESTRA

Please see message below from The National Open Youth Orchestra:

Dear parent/ carers,

The National Open Youth Orchestra is looking for talented 11-25 year old disabled and non-disabled musicians to join rehearsals in London, Bristol, Birmingham or Bournemouth from September 2020. They're particularly keen to receive applications from young disabled people with musical potential: musicians on acoustic or electronic instruments, but also young people using EyeGaze or other assistive technology with a degree of control that could translate to playing an electronic instrument.

Joining this high-profile, pioneering inclusive orchestra is free. Rehearsals are run in partnership with Barbican Guildhall Creative Learning, Bristol Music Trust's National Centre for Inclusive Excellence, Bournemouth Symphony Orchestra, Services For Education, Midlands Arts Centre and Town Hall Symphony Hall.

For more information and to apply, visit noyo.org.uk. Deadline is 12 June 2020.

Regards,

Julia Le

Marketing and Communication Manager



National
Open Youth
Orchestra

Call-out for talented 11-25 year-old disabled and non-disabled musicians to join rehearsals in London, Bristol, Bournemouth or Birmingham from September 2020.

Be part of a pioneering, creative orchestra where music is not only played from notation but also learned by ear and improvised.

**Apply for an audition by 12 June 2020.
More information at noyo.org.uk**