

17th July 2020

New Issue no: 49



Headteacher's Welcome Pt. 1

Dear Parent/ Carers,

I am sure you will all agree that it has been a very unusual academic year. We have reached the end of the summer term I would like to extend my thanks to students, staff and parents as we have all navigated the COVID-19 lockdown and the challenges of home schooling. We are now looking forward to reopening our school to all our students in September. As I explained in my last newsletter, we will be writing to parents and carers over the summer break to provide you with additional information regarding our reopening and important dates such as GCSE and A Level Results Days. Although this is the last day of the summer term for students communication will continue over the summer break.

Staffing:

It is always sad at this time of year to say goodbye to colleagues who are leaving us for pastures new. I would like to thank Mr Ampiah, Ms Cavanagh, Mr Neilson, Mr Pearson, Mr Salah, Ms Von Abendorff and Ms Zieba for all the help, support and guidance that they have given our students. I would also like to thank Mr Patrick and Mr Sarpong who have worked at ICHS as locum teachers this year. They will all be missed and we wish them well in their new endeavours.

In July we welcomed: Mr Hampton as Director of Teaching and Learning for the Maths Faculty, Ms Kumpaluge as a specialist science teacher, Mr Naguleswaran as a specialist maths teacher and MsNekiwala as a specialist English teacher. In September we will also welcome: Mr Akhtar as the Director of Student Development for the Falcons House, Mr Evans as Head of Teaching and Learning for Philosophy, Mr Krishanthakumar as a Technology specialist, Ms Khan as Director of Teaching and Learning for the Humanities Faculty, Mr Norley – Director Student Development for the Sixth Form and Dr Shah – a specialist science teacher. Mr Semsch will join us later in the term as Head of Teaching and Learning for the Geography Department. I am sure you will join me in welcoming these new colleagues to our school.

I would like to take this opportunity to acknowledge a member of staff who has given many years of dedicated service to this school. This year was Mrs Hitchcock's 40th year at ICHS! Mrs Hitchcock joined ICHS in 1980 and has shared her expertise and love of Maths with many, many students over the years. I would like to thank her for her incredible service to the school.

Start of Term:

We are putting plans in place to ensure that we can safely welcome back all our students in September. Further details will follow over the summer break. We will have a phased return with staff and students returning to school over the first week of September 2020.

- Tuesday 1st September and Wednesday 2nd September 2020 will be staff training days. This year the focus of our training will be on managing the risks posed by COVID-19 and ensuring the safe return of staff and students to school, supporting students to catch-up on lost learning time in school and preparing students for the challenges of year ahead.
- **Thursday 3rd September 2020 will be the first day of school for students in Year 7, Year 10 and Year 12.**

HEADTEACHERS WELCOME PT. 2

- **Friday 4th September 2020 will be the first day of school for students in Year 8, Year 9, Year 11 and Year 13.** Students in Year 7, Year 10 and Year 12 will return for their second day of school.

I have asked every teacher to begin September's lessons with a brand new topic. This will enable everyone to take part in lessons on an equal footing. Over the first few weeks teachers will be working with classes and individual students to identify gaps in knowledge and skills so that teaching can be adapted and interventions put in place where necessary. We will be adding an additional Progress Check to the calendar next year so that parents receive additional feedback on student progress in the first half-term.

COVID-19 Adaptations:

The management of the risks posed by COVID-19 is presenting a unique set of challenges. As I am sure you will appreciate we are planning for a range of possible scenarios in September and want to ensure that we manage the risks posed by COVID-19 at ICHS in the best way possible. Each school is unique, with different students, staff and buildings. **We will be sharing further information and our full risk assessment with parents over the summer holidays** but the points below will help you and your child prepare for September:

- We will be running a system of 'Year Group Bubbles' in school. It is necessary to teach in Year Group Bubbles rather than Class Bubbles to ensure that we can offer breadth of curriculum and specialist teaching.
 - * Students in Year 7 and Year 8 lessons will be taught in consistent class groups of 30 students. Specialist classes such as Technology will be taught in smaller groups of 20 students. All lessons will be delivered within Houses as well as year group.
 - * Students in Year 9 and Year 10 lessons will be taught in consistent class groups of 30 students. The exception will be when students are studying their chosen option subjects. All lessons will be delivered within year group.
 - * Students in Year 11 will be taught in class groups of 30 students. In order to maintain consistency and facilitate rapid consolidation of learning students will be in the same class groups as last year. All lessons will be delivered within year group.
 - * Students in Year 12 and Year 13 will be taught within their own year group. All lessons – including Independent Study will be timetabled with a teacher in groups of 30 students or fewer. All lessons will be delivered in year groups.
- We will be running a system of split breaks and lunches. Each year group will be allocated a playground zone and separate catering facility. Students will not be allowed to mix with students from other year groups in order to maintain the Year Group Bubbles. Students will be spending breaks and lunchtimes outside in the fresh air. When choosing winter clothing I would recommend a warm, waterproof coat and hat.
- We will be operating different entrances to the site for different groups of students. This means that siblings may be asked to enter the school site from different entrance points. This will help us to maintain our Year Group Bubbles.
- The school site will open at 8.15am. Please do not arrive before this time. We will have a staggered end to the school day to allow students to safely leave the premises. This means some students will leave the school site between 3.04pm and 3.15pm.
- If students are taking part in PE during the day they will need to wear their PE kit into school and will wear it throughout the whole day. Students can wear their normal red and black PE top with a red skin underneath if it is cold, or wear the school long sleeved PE top. We appreciate that students may not want to come into school wearing shorts in the colder months so we are introducing a pair of school tracksuit bottoms that students can wear to keep warm if they wish. Further details will be available on the school website shortly.
- A COVID-19 addendum to our Behaviour Policy is attached to this email for your reference.

HEADTEACHERS WELCOME PT. 3

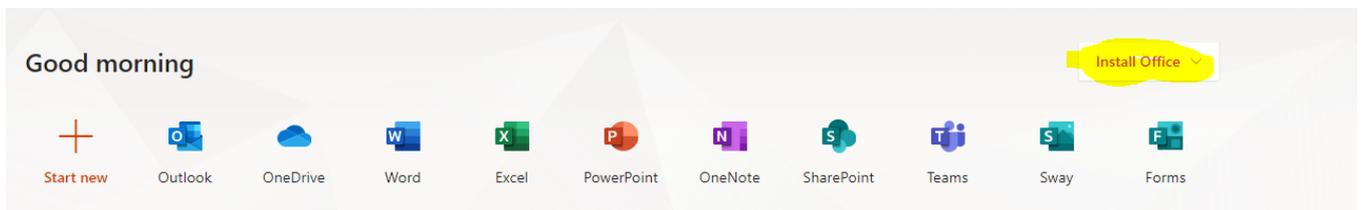
Exam Results

For those of you with children in Year 11 and Year 13, you will be awaiting results for GCSE and A Level Examinations. You will be receiving detailed letters explaining the arrangements for Results Days on Thursday 13th August for A Level and Thursday 20th August for GCSE. We wish all our students all the very best as they await their examination results.

Summer Holiday Building Works

There is a considerable amount of work taking place over the summer holidays. We are having extensive roof repairs and a new heating system installed in the old original school building. This work will certainly enhance the learning environment for our students as we will be able to control the heating system moving forward allowing us to adjust the temperature in each part of the school, an impossibility with the current system which is nearly 100 years old. A number of classrooms are being redecorated, new notice boards are being installed around the school and in some classrooms furniture has been refreshed.

I have been asked by a parent for a guide to illustrate how they can use ClassCharts to see the work set for their son. The guide is attached to this newsletter. I have also attached a copy of a letter sent to all students with advice about what you can do over the summer to help consolidate your learning or catch-up if you have fallen behind. If students wish to they can install an up to date copy of office on their laptops / computers. If students login at www.office.com with their school logins they will come to below page. If they click on install office, it will install to the laptop / computer for free. This will remain active until student leaves the school.



I would like to wish you all a restful summer. Additional information will be published over the summer holidays.

Kind regards,

Mrs Drysdale
Headteacher

MY MENTAL HEALTH MATTERS

Dear Parent/ Carers,

This week will be the final edition, as we close after an eventful academic year. I would like to take this opportunity to praise all students for the ability to manage and comply with all which has been requested from various subject teachers. The future as I am sure you are all aware is uncertain. But we intend to do our utmost in providing students and parents with information and guidance once received from government agencies. Coming back to school will be different and several changes for students will be no doubt difficult for some more than others.

Until then I would like to offer a few tips and suggest a few activities for students to carry out during the summer break. I also wanted to inform students if they feel the need to contact me at the school for reasons of well-being or mental health, the communication line will continue to be available throughout the summer enquires@ichs.org.uk. Email messages will be picked up and passed on as they were previously.

A few suggestions for summer activities

- Use your photography skills to send an unusual picture during lockdown. Email to my attention using the email address above
- I would really like to read about your experiences during lockdown, but in as few words as possible. Create a poem or spoken word document.
- Although the virtual sports day has come to an end, please continue updating your images completing the challenges set by the PE department.

Summer suggestions

There will be a number of organisations available for ideas over the summer holidays. I have included a few links for ideas during the summer.

<https://youngminds.org.uk/starting-a-conversation-with-your-child/>

<https://www.childline.org.uk/info-advice/home-families/seasonal-events/summer-holidays/>

https://www.nuffieldhealth.com/kidswellbeing?j=334497&sfmc_sub=57055809&l=217_HTML&u=8954382&mid=7234710&jb=675&utm_source=SFMC7234710&utm_content=3344973032020&utm_medium=Email&utm_campaign=20_03_30_ConsumerGymMembers_Steve_Gray_Update_SERVICE

<https://www.childrenscommissioner.gov.uk/coronavirus/>

Suggested Reading material

- **Classics – free to read online:** <https://www.goodreads.com/shelf/show/public-domain>
- **David Walliams reading everyday at 11am:** <https://www.worldofdavidwalliams.com/elevenses/>
- **Angie Thomas podcast:** <https://www.southbankcentre.co.uk/blog/southbank-centre-book-podcast-angie-thomas-come>
- **A Sonnet a day:** https://twitter.com/hashtag/ASonnetADay?src=hashtag_click
- **Book Extracts**

<https://www.lovereading4kids.co.uk/genre/ya/YA-readers.html>

https://stories.audible.com/pdp/B0149LZ5ZK?ref=adbl_ent_anon_ds_pdp_pc_pg-1-cntr-0-3

https://stories.audible.com/pdp/B00HNXV0R4?ref=adbl_ent_anon_ds_pdp_pc_pg-1-cntr-0-2

Kind Regards,

Mr Murdock

Head of Eagles House

SSAT EDUCATIONAL OUTCOMES AWARD

SSAT Educational Outcomes Award 2019 for exceptional student progress

Awarded to

Iford County High School

In recognition of achieving well above average student progress in
the 2019 end of KS4 exams



Sue Williamson
Chief Executive

ssat the schools, students
and teachers network



EDUCATION FOR WELLBEING PROGRAMME

Certificate of Participation

This is to certify that

Iford County High School

participated in the Education for Wellbeing Programme
commissioned by the Department for Education

*Thank you for taking part in the UK's largest randomised controlled research
trial in schools. Your contribution will improve the understanding of children
& young people's mental health & wellbeing throughout England.*

Date: 14.7.2020

EBPU
Evidence Based
Practice Unit

A partnership of



 **Anna Freud**
National Centre for
Children and Families

Funded by



Department
for Education

Anna Freud National Centre for Children and Families is a company limited by guarantee, company number 03819888,
and a registered charity, number 1077106.

GETTING SEPTEMBER READY!

Dear Students,

We understand that the remote learning that you have been carrying out over the last few months has been a very different way of working for you all. We also understand that this independent way of working has suited some students more than it has others. For all students the next 8 weeks, until the beginning of the Autumn term, is a great opportunity to get 'September Ready'! Please read the tips below to help you with this. They have been divided into 2 sections – one for students who may have fallen behind with tasks in some subjects and a second for students who have found that they have been able to keep up with the majority of the set work

Tips for Students who may have fallen behind in some subjects

Working from home has made us all explore new ways of being independent and if you have fallen behind in a subject it can be difficult to get motivated to catch up when it feels like there is too much to do. The following tips could help to get you back on track over the summer break.

- Navigate through ClassCharts and make a list of the tasks you may have missed.
- Catch up with as many as possible, even if the deadline has passed the learning is still valid!
- If you are too behind in a subject to catch up with all the work that has been missed, then write a list of topics instead. Go to BBC Bitesize and look up these topics (this website is suitable for all KS3 and KS4 students). You could read through the revision notes, make notes in your book, complete the quizzes or make spider diagrams of the key points. Any work you complete will be useful to your learning in September.

Tips for Students who are up to date with class tasks

Firstly, congratulations for keeping up to date. We understand how hard you must have been working in order to achieve this. Please see the tips below to help you to make the most of the summer.

1. Complete all tasks set up to the end of term.
2. Complete any homework tasks that are set for you over the summer by planning your time carefully and not leaving it all for the end of the holiday.
3. Use the summer to catch up on your reading. There are links to help you to decide what to read on the website.
4. Read more about your favourite subject – there are links to get you started on the website.
5. Use websites such as BBC Bitesize, MathsGenie or Seneca to review your learning based on the work you have covered inside and outside of school this year.

I hope you find this information helpful.

Best Wishes,

Mrs R Drysdale

Headteacher

FRIENDS OF ICHS

Dear Year 11 and 13 Students and Parents,



Now that you have finished Year 11 or 13, The Friends of ICHS group would like to ask that before you burn your GCSE or A Level textbooks or throw them away please consider donating them to Ilford County High School. Friends of ICHS are asking all the GCSE and A Level students to donate their old GCSE and A Level books that they have bought themselves, relating to their course they have just completed, such as revision guide books, reference books and any books that maybe useful. These books are not the ones the school have already provided, those will also have to be returned.

We intend to sell the donated books on to next year students at affordable prices and the proceeds will go towards Ilford County High School. The money raised will provide students with additional educational resources. If your son is continuing to study A Levels at Ilford County High 6th form, he will also benefit from the A Level books donated. It's a great way for the students to give back to the school and extend learning to fellow students.

Please can you hold on to the books that you wish to donate. The school will give you specific details about when to return all your textbooks and Library books. Your books can be donated at the same time.

Thank you in advance

Kind regards,

Friends of ICHS



THANKS FOR BEING
A HERO PROJECT

LIFESAVING SCHOOL

You've helped educate your students about blood, organ and stem cell donation and shown them that they have the potential to save a life.

You've helped encourage new potential donors to join the Anthony Nolan stem cell register. Almost 200 have gone on to donate their stem cells and help save the lives of people with blood cancer.

Anthony Nolan really couldn't continue its vital work without the amazing support from schools like yours and your involvement has, and will, continue to inspire others to become lifesavers too.

Thank you.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'H Braund'.

Henny Braund, Chief Executive

July 2020

Date

Reg charity no 803716/SC038827

1549CM/0618



SWI SCHOOL UNIFORM INFORMATION

Dear Parent/ Carers,

Please see below information on how to order your sons school uniform from SWI. You can also find additional information regarding specific items your sons will need on our website on the parent info tab.

SWI

Parent School Uniform Information

How to purchase your uniform

ONLINE



To order online, visit swischoolwear.co.uk

PHONE



Call us on 01928 752 610 to place your uniform and PE kit order today.

CUT OFF DATE



We recommend you place your 'Back to School' order on or before **06/06/2020**.

Website Ordering - swischoolwear.co.uk

We know that shopping for school uniform, sportswear and accessories can be difficult and often stressful. Now that the all-important time has come to get organised for the new school year, we want to make sure that you're prepared.

Here are our top tips to make this year's uniform shop that little bit easier!

Shop early

One Stop Shop

Free returns

Online offers and deals

3 things we need you to do

- 1. Order early at swischoolwear.co.uk**
To help our total capacity for back to school and ensure you're well prepared in advance.
- 2. Don't purchase multiple sizes of the same garment**
This is to help with our stock levels and to ensure we have enough sizes for all parents.
- 3. Sign up to our updates**
Get all our latest information, deals and offers. swischoolwear.co.uk/welcome

How we are staying Covid-19 secure

We know this time of uncertainty is having a huge impact on all our lives, and we want to let you know what we are doing to help you shop safely for your school uniform.

We have followed government guidance to ensure we are COVID-19 secure allowing you to shop online safely.

- 1. All of our operations have had a professional Covid-19 secure risk assessment completed**
- 2. All returning garments are quarantined and steamed 72 hours before processing back into stock**
- 3. We are carrying out hourly cleaning of high touch areas**
- 4. We are undertaking daily deep cleaning throughout our business.**

SWI

Head Office: Tel: 01928 752 610 | Email: customerservice@swi.co.uk | Web: swischoolwear.co.uk



We're on the web:

<http://www.ichs.org.uk/>

Phone: 020 8551 6496

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Email: enquiries@ichs.org.uk