

2nd May 2017

New Issue no: 6



Headteacher's Welcome

Dear Parents

I would like to begin my section of the newsletter by congratulating the Music Department and the Music GCSE students of 2016 who have just been awarded the ISM Bronze Certificate in Music. The award recognises the excellent results obtained by the students and celebrates the fact that more than 10% of students in the year group not only studied Music but obtained an excellent pass at GCSE. Congratulations.

As many of you are aware there is a huge funding crisis facing schools today. I joined a group of Redbridge secondary Headteachers, Cllr Elaine Norman and Ilford North MP Wes Streeting to discuss the challenges we are all facing. We spoke about the impact on class sizes, the loss of smaller subjects at A Level, the lack of funds to undertake renovation works and the impact these changes have on the students we teach. Reporters from local newspapers the Guardian and Recorder were both present. The article in the Guardian reports that we've stopped teaching languages, as you will know this is not entirely accurate as all our students in Key Stage Three study two modern foreign languages and GCSE students study at least one. We have however been forced to make some very difficult decisions about small class sizes at AS and A Level which means that unless sufficient numbers of students opt to take a course it can not run. Last year, small numbers opting for languages meant we were unable to run AS/A2 classes in languages in the Sixth Form.

A group of parents who wish to help support the school are meeting in the Learning Resource Centre on Wednesday 3rd May 2017 at 6pm. They are hoping to discuss ways in which they could raise or donate money to support the school. If you would like to come and join us you would be very welcome. A straightforward way in which you could help is by making the voluntary contributions that we ask for to support school visits and trips if you can afford it. Each contribution really does make a difference!

Thank-you again for your support.

Best wishes

Mrs Drysdale

Headteacher

IMPORTANT DATES FOR SUMMER TERM

Tuesday 2nd to Wednesday 3rd May

Tuesday 2nd May

Wednesday 3rd to Friday 5th May

Monday 8th to Tuesday 9th May

Monday 8th May

Tuesday 9th May

Thursday 11th May

Friday 12th May

Friday 12th to Monday 15th May

Monday 15th May

Tuesday 16th May

Friday 19th to Monday 22nd May

Monday 22nd to Friday 26th May

Tuesday 23rd May

Monday 29th May to Friday 2nd June

Monday 5th June

Sixth Form: External Learning Conversations

Yr11 Public Art Exam

AS/A2 Public Art Exam

Sixth Form: External Learning Conversations

Yr8 CC Project: Enterprise

Year 8 Parents Evening

Year 11 Exam Briefing (Assembly)

Years 12&13 Exam Briefing (6th Form Assembly)

Year 9 Practice GCSE RS Exam

Year 8 French Trip to Normandy

Public Exams Begin

Year 11 Off Site Study begins

Year 10 GCSE RS Exam

Year 12 A Level Parents Evening

Year 8 French Trip to Normandy

Year 10 Ecology Trip

Year 8 CC Project: Enterprise

Half Term (Students not in school)

Students return to school

COMMUNITY AWARENESS



To all parents/carers, a gentle reminder regarding parking onsite and around the school:

- ☞ No stopping on the school grounds, in front of the school gates or on the roundabout.
- ☞ Please be mindful when parking in residents only areas, so you don't get a ticket or block other people's cars.
- ☞ Parking is available in local roads like Mossford Lane.

SCHOOL ELECTION 2017

To mark the UK's general election in June, the school is going to hold its own version of this election on 10th May. We will be providing KS3, KS4 and KS5 assemblies to introduce this event, during which the student party leaders will present their point of views. On Monday 8th May we will also be holding a debate in the LRC at lunch time.

By doing this, we hope to increase awareness of the national election and the issues which it has raised. The parties standing for the school election include the Conservatives, Labour, the Liberal Democrats, the Green Party, UKIP and the Scottish National Party. These parties are being led by GCSE and A Level students.

Students who would like to become involved with one of the political parties should see Mr Pearson in the History Office (LRC Corridor).



We would greatly appreciate your support in encouraging your son to think about the election and to be aware of the issues which are being discussed by political parties during the campaign.



The following link is a good source for information as it provides a useful overview of the election: <http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-politics-39631768>.

All students and members of staff will be able to cast their vote on Wednesday 10th May, during which the Old Library will serve as our polling station.

Mr Pearson
(Head of History, Government & Politics)

NEW CYCLE RACKS

The new building work is nearing completion and as part of this work, a secure parking area for staff has been completed on the Mossford Lane side of the school building.

Within this area is a new Bike shelter which offers secure cycle parking in an area out of bounds to students during the day.

If your son would like to cycle to school he can access this through the side gate or by circling around the school building, behind the Sports Hall, via the Fairlop entrance.

Mrs C Hitchcock
(Travel Plan Coordinator)



PHILOSOPHER OF THE MONTH

"She inspired some of the most important male scientists of the next generation while also serving as a public example of a woman shaping the nature of knowledge in an era in which few women could imagine playing such a role." Paula Findlen, a Stanford history professor

Laura Bassi was an Italian scientist and the first woman professor to be appointed at a European university. Her father, a wealthy lawyer, decided she should be fully educated at home, and she was tutored for seven years. Bassi developed an interest in science, and was encouraged by her family and friends to seek an academic post. At the age of 21, in 1732, she was appointed Professor of Anatomy at the University of Bologna. Two years later she was given a position in philosophy.

Bassi taught a course on Newtonian physics for 28 years, and was one of the key figures in introducing Newton's physics and philosophy to Italy. She wrote 28 published articles, mainly on physics and hydraulics. In 1745 she was appointed to an elite group of academics known as the Benedettini. In 1776, aged 65, she was appointed to a professorship in experimental physics at the Institute of Sciences. Her influence on Italian physics, and her long career, helped break new ground for female academics.



1711 - 1778

Ms Capin (Head of Philosophy and Ethics)

BEAT EXAM STRESS

Childline is a free, private and confidential service provided by NSPCC that offers information and advice for children and their carers on how to keep them safe.



As the Public Exam season approaches, our students will start to feel the stress inherent to it. Please check Childline guide to cope with Exam Stress on the following link:

<https://www.nspcc.org.uk/globalassets/documents/advice-and-info/beat-exam-stress.pdf>

Mr Streatfield (Deputy Head)

THE ECONOMICS DEPARTMENT'S AS ECONOMICS REVISION CONFERENCE 2017

On Monday 20th March, the Economics department hosted its first AS Economics Revision Conference. Held in the LRC, the event brought together Year 12 Economics students from Ilford County and Mayfield High School to hone in on their exam techniques and revision practices in the run up to their AS Economics exams. Led by Mrs Patel, Mr Tiller and a team of Year 13 Economics Mentors, the event aimed to equip students from both schools with the necessary techniques to maximise their chances of both reaching and exceeding their minimum target grades, through both interactive workshops and exam question practice. All students were provided with two thorough revision booklets, consisting of many past paper questions with step-by-step guides on how to answer them. They were also made aware of common exam mistakes and how to best avoid them, as well as being given a whole host of evaluative vocabulary to use in their 25-mark essays.

The day consisted of numerous walkthroughs of exam questions by Mrs Patel and Mr Tiller, with particular focus on defining key terms, using calculations, drawing subject-specific diagrams, and finally answering 10-mark and 25-mark essays. These walkthroughs were supplemented with students attempting the past paper questions provided in their booklets, practicing what they had learned throughout the day. The Year 13 Mentors, assigned a group of approximately 5 students each, were always on hand to support students with answering the questions and providing general exam and revision advice. Students from both schools found this considerably useful, being able to speak with others who had recently gone through the AS exam process.

The event had a primary focus of improving students' general economic knowledge, equipping them with the skills to be able to apply this in an exam situation, analysing data and news sources from exam questions, and enhancing their evaluative and essay skills. Students from both schools were very grateful to have been given the opportunity to hone in on these skills, which they may not have otherwise been taught. They found the booklets to be excellent revision aids and certainly aim to make use of them in their preparation for the exam.

A big thank you must go to Mrs Patel and Mr Tiller for organising and hosting the revision conference, as well as to all of the Year 13 Mentors who supported the department in hosting the event. The Year 12 students proved to be very well-behaved and engaging with the Ilford boys setting a good example to others. All in all, the event was thoroughly enjoyable and useful, and it is hoped that this Economics Revision Conference will be the first of many at ICHS.

Rohit Khosla (13H2)



CHEMISTRY MENTORING

GCSE students from Years 9 to 11 are encouraged to take this remarkable opportunity in which A-level students are selected to support students who may find some chemistry topics challenging. Overseen by Dr Appiah-Kusi, this support usually take place outside of lesson between 1.30pm and 2:00 pm.

WHY TAKE PART?

These support activities are mutually beneficial to both GCSE and A level students. Whilst the GCSE students improve their confidence and knowledge in chemistry, the A-level students gain the opportunity to developed their communication and organisational skills, which are highly useful for their UCAS application.



HOW DOES THIS WORK?

Both GCSE as well as A-level students will have to contact Dr Appiah who will pair up them with students that he judges to be the most suited to working together. Textbooks, worksheets as well as verbal communication are a number of ways in which GCSE school students will be able to maximise their potential and learn from every aspect of the session. Dr Appiah will also inform mentors and students of the place of each session in advance.

WHAT DAY WILL IT BE ON?

Although the session is specifically between A-level mentors and their corresponding students, a teacher will be present in the room in order to make sure that high standards are upheld. Although students are accustomed to following the teachers' guidance, this time, it is the students themselves who need to organise their time. The students will need to consistent at organising these meetings in order to demonstrate their initiative and enthusiasm for improving their skills. Although this may not happen every week, it is important for both mentor and mentee to make arrangements to cover for any time lost.

Harminder Channa (12F2)

BUS ROUTE 677

Dear Head Teacher

From Tuesday 18 April 2017 we are changing the morning timetable of bus route 677, which runs on schooldays between Ilford and schools in Loughton and Debden.



**TRANSPORT
FOR LONDON**
EVERY JOURNEY MATTERS

The morning journey will now depart Ilford, High Road at 07:00 (previously 07:22). It will then run between 17 and 22 minutes earlier than previously, arriving at Debden, Broadway at 08:15 (previously 08:24).

This is to allow for traffic congestion and ensure that students can arrive on time for the start of school.

There is no change to the afternoon journey.

We will post a new timetable at bus stops shortly. In the meantime, here is a summary of the new times at key points along the route:

	<u>Old Time</u>	<u>New Time</u>
Ilford High Road, Hainault Street	07:22	07:00
Ilford Station	07:27	07:05
Gants Hill Station	07:33	07:13
Barkingside, Fullwell Cross	07:42	07:21
Chigwell Station	07:50	07:31
Buckhurst Hill Station	07:58	07:41
Loughton Station, for Roding Valley School	08:07	07:53
Davenant Foundation School, Willingdale Road	08:16	08:05
Debden Park High School, Burney Drive	08:19	08:09 approx.
Debden, Broadway	08:24	08:15

I would be grateful if you would pass this information to students, parents and staff as appropriate.

Yours faithfully,

Stephen Hosking

Consultation Team

Transport for London



We're on the web:

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

Phone: 020 8551 6496

Fax: 020 8503 9960

Email: enquiries@ichs.org.uk