

Friday 8th September 2023

BULLETIN

Dear Parents and Carers,

What a scorcher! Well done to students as they coped with the heat at school this week. We have very few air-conditioned classrooms, so their resilience was tested and they still remained motivated.

Assemblies this week have focused on our House system and how we use competition between forms and year groups to raise standard and also provide opportunities for students to get involved in school activities. We have also been snagging our lunch systems, please read below for an update on lunches and other key events and news this week.

Shortened Lunches Update:

Thank you to those parents who contacted me directly. I have been made aware that there has been some commentary on Facebook from parents who are unhappy with this change to the way that the school day is structured, and I was so pleased that some parents reached out to me personally. We are unable to engage on social media because we don't have the capacity to respond on a multitude of platforms – but via email – that works well for schools. So please contact us in the first instance if you have a concern.

We are actively seeking a resolution to the issues raised by parents. Our senior team have been checking down with the lunch team and we are very confused by the social media commentary around there being no food. I went down to the dining room yesterday and there was hot food left over at both lunches. I suspect that the issue was to do with sandwiches.

With the change in the weather, very few children wanted hot food and sandwiches were selling faster than expected. When the sandwich cabinet is empty, students just need to request sandwiches and the kitchen will make more. We are very careful to manage our perishable food effectively and avoid food waste as much as possible. This is a financial and environmental priority for us so an occasional empty sandwich bar is the result of careful resources management. Of course each day is changeable depending on the daily choices students make but rest assured that we will always find something for a student if they let us know they haven't eaten.

What improvements have happened so far?

- We have spoken to all tutor groups about the benefits of ordering a **grab bag** – this means that students can order the sandwich they want, they will not have to queue, they can eat outside and we made sure students also know that if they do find there is no food left for any reason they should tell a member of staff and the catering team will make them a sandwich of their choice. As a result of our push in assemblies and form times, grab bag ordering went from single figures on the first few days of term to over 80 yesterday – this alleviated queuing and also ensured that students got the sandwich and food they wanted.
- Today and yesterday, the catering team prepared additional sandwiches and baguettes to ensure they don't run out. I hope that this made a difference – please check with your child if they had been affected in the previous days.
- We have been monitoring the lunchtimes and all students with the exception of a couple have finished eating well before the end of lunchtime. We have noticed

this week in the hot weather that some students are returning to the meal cabin after their main meal to buy extra drinks and ice pops.

- In terms of queuing – initial delays were caused by students without finger prints or dinner cards - but yesterday with 10 mins to go there was no queue at either the meal cab, coffee lounge or dining room and the seated rooms were empty of students. I will continue to monitor this as the weeks go by and check that year 7 in particular settle into our new routine.

Will we be reviewing the changed lunch timings?

The change to the shorter lunchtime is part of a wider strategic shift in raising standards and a shortened lunchtime in a majority of secondary schools has been shown to raise standards and ensure that learning in school is more purposeful.

It also brings us in line with government recommendations of 32.5 hours. Please follow the link here:

https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/1169482/Case_Studies-Minimum_Length_School_Week.pdf

This DFE guidance about school day structures has several case studies about how other schools manage their lunch times. Some lunches in other schools are less than 35 minutes – we feel that we can make this timing work just as they do in other schools.

We feel confident that we can resolve the current issues and have placed a series of mitigations in place to alleviate most of the concerns raised. At this point, we need time to see how the changes take hold as students get used to new systems.

We will be reviewing the changed system just before half term. Our monitoring of both the queues and the dining room will be recorded and then we will have a fuller picture of the impact of the change and can send stats and updates to parents as part of our period of trial and review.

See our school website for the Week A and B menu choices

After School Club Late Bus

As we mentioned in last week's bulletin, we are investigating the viability of a late bus for students attending after school clubs, homework clubs and Year 11 revision sessions, who are not able to travel home by themselves, or be picked up by a parent. If we were to provide a late bus service, we would potentially run 2 route options depending on demand. These are listed here.

| Route 1 | Route 2 |
|---|--|
| Lount, Nottingham Road Bus Stop | Blackfordby, Main Street Bus Stop |
| Breedon on the Hill, Main Street Bus Stop | Woodville, Hepworth Road just prior to Donington Drive |
| Worthington, Church Street Bus Stop | Albert Village, Occupation Road Bus Stop by Primary School |
| Newbold Coleorton, Layby opposite Vicarage Close | Moirs, Bus Stop on Measham Road |
| Osgthorpe, Orchard Close | Overseal, A444 Bus Stop by St Matthews Church |
| Peggs Green, Nottingham Road opposite Village Hall | Acrsford, Measham Road Bus Stop |
| Ravenstone, Leicester Road Bus Stop by Village Hall | Donisthorpe, Church Street Bus Stop by Halfway House |
| Ibstock, Leicester Road Bus Stop | Oakthorpe, Main Street Bus Stop at The Square |
| Ellistown, Ibstock Road Bus Stop | Measham, High Street Bus Stop, |
| | Measham, Opposite DFS |
| | Appleby Magna, Measham Road Bus Stop |

To make this financially viable, we would need to ask for contributions from parents whose children would use this service. This would be approximately £4 for each use and would be payable via Wisepay per half term block. We ask that you take 1 minute to complete this very short survey about how your child would travel home from an afterschool club. To allow us to set this up as quickly as possible we need replies

Ivanhoe Academy is part of the
LiFE Multi Academy Trust



by Thursday 14th September [CLICK HERE FOR THE SURVEY](#)

RAAC in Schools

You may have seen recent media coverage regarding Reinforced Autoclaved Aerated Concrete (RAAC) and its use in educational settings. RAAC is a lightweight form of concrete; because it is weaker than regular concrete, concerns have been raised about its long-term durability. Department for Education (DfE) has recently changed its guidance to education settings on the management of RAAC to take a more precautionary approach and as a result areas in affected spaces will be vacated.

We wanted to inform you that we are not affected by this decision as we do not have RAAC in any of our buildings and therefore they will continue to function as normal. We understand that parents may want to understand more about the support to educational settings to manage RAAC safely. You can read more through the article published by the DfE on the Education Hub.

<https://educationhub.blog.gov.uk/>

I hope that this offers reassurance.

KS3 Art & Design Contribution 2023/2024

To enable the Art and Design & Technology Departments to continue to provide a wide variety of opportunities for students to make and take-home products they design, we continue to ask for a voluntary contribution towards the cost of materials.

Parents have always been happy to provide a voluntary contribution of one annual payment of £17, saving time on administration and will cover the cost of products made in **Food Technology, Resistant Materials, Product Design, Textiles, Graphics, Art and Ceramics**. If your child currently receives pupil premium funding, their products can be paid for by the school. Please tick the box on the form linked below if this applies to you.

Our preferred method of payment is using Wisepay by logging in through the school website. Once in wisepay the Art & Design Contributions page can be found under the 'Trips & Visits' tab. If necessary, we can accept cheques made payable to Ivanhoe School with your child's name and form on the reverse, please contact the subject lead for further guidance n.williams@ivanhoe.co.uk if this is your preferred method of payment.

Food Technology - Some ingredients will be provided by the School at a reduced cost. For those students wishing to develop their skills further additional ingredients can still be brought in from home.

For our records, please complete the Key Stage 3 Art, Design & Technology Contribution 2023/2024 form, which will only take 2 minutes to do. Please follow the link below:

<https://forms.office.com/e/b6P7bijyw>

Assembly Focus:

We run a mix of House and Year Group Assemblies throughout the year. Next week's assemblies will be about:

International Stand up to Bullying Week

Opportunities for Conversations

Each week we'll let you know some of the topics being discussed in school so you can share conversations about them with your child.

PSHRE

Please find below information about next week's topics for PSHRE. If you have any queries regarding these, please contact our subject leader Claire Gee on c.gee@ivanhoe.co.uk.

The curriculum resources for these all lessons are available on Moodle.



| Week A PSHRE w/c 11-09-23 |
|----------------------------------|
| Year 7 – Healthy Friendships |
| Year 8 – What are Balanced Diets |
| Year 9 – Personal Safety |
| Year 10 - Basic First Aid |
| Year 11 – Careers Education |

Diversity Calendar

September is East and South East Asian Heritage Month, a celebration and acknowledgement of the heritage, culture, history and lives of those from East and South East Asia. It's a chance to shine a spotlight and learn more about the different communities who help to shape our society.

All of these countries have an important history with Britain. This is mostly a result of war, colonisation, globalisation, and the British Empire. Today, people of East and South East Asian heritage are a significant part of the British population.

Our heritage is an important part of who we are. It is what is inherited from our ancestors or previous generations of our family. It can be things that you can touch and see: Property, Works of art, Books., or it could be things you do: Dance, Music and Crafts.

Ask your child about which country their form are looking at for this interhouse competition.



It is valuable to keep in mind that East and South East Asia includes a wide range of countries and communities, each with their own unique traditions, religions, customs, cultures, and languages. To thoughtfully celebrate the month, we are going to learn about these countries' vast and diverse areas and peoples instead of lumping them together.

Task As a form pick one of the countries and find out as much information as you can, including:

- Traditional food and clothing
- Languages spoken
- Traditional sports
- Famous buildings and people
- Festivals celebrated



This will be an Inter-house competition
You can present your information in a poster (or any other format). It will be judged on presentation and information as well as the number of entries per house. All entries to be passed to Mrs Hull by Friday 15th September.

| | |
|-------------|-------------|
| China | Cambodia |
| Hong Kong | Vietnam |
| Macau | Philippines |
| Taiwan | Malaysia |
| Japan | Singapore |
| North Korea | Brunei |
| South Korea | Indonesia |
| Mongolia | Timor-Leste |
| Myanmar | Thailand |
| Laos | |

What's coming up...

| | |
|---------------------------|---|
| Weds 20th September 5-7pm | Open evening for Yr7 and 10 Autumn 2024 starters |
| Sat 23rd September | Ashby School Campus Tours for students interested in joining the sixth form in 2024 |
| Tues 3rd October | Current Year 7 Settling in Parents Evening 3.20-5.20 |
| Sat 7th October | Ashby School Campus Tours for students interested in joining the sixth form in 2024 |
| Weds 11th October | Year 9 Face to Face Parents Evening |
| Friday 13th October | End of Half Term |



Join us for our Open Evening for students due to start Secondary School or KS4 in Autumn 2024

IVANHOE SCHOOL
A journey to excellence

Year 7 & 10 Open Evening
Wednesday 20th September
between 5 and 7pm

Take the opportunity to explore our school and discover more about the exciting educational 'Journey to Excellence' at Ivanhoe School

LIFE

IVANHOE SCHOOL EXTRA CURRICULAR SPORTS CLUBS

WC Monday 4th September

| MONDAY |
|---|
| Year 7 Boys Football—Mr Green Sports Leaders—Miss Jones Year 8 Boys Football— Mr Grundy |
| TUESDAY |
| All Years Girls Football—Mr Orton & Miss Tickle Year 9/KS4 Boys Rugby—Miss Jones (Starting WC 25th September) All Years Girls Rugby—Miss Jones (Starting WC 25th September) All Years Badminton —Mr Grundy |
| WEDNESDAY |
| Year 9 & KS4 Boys Football—Mr Green, Mr Orton & Mr Grey Year 9, 10 & 11 Girls Netball—Mrs Brennan Year 7 Netball—Mrs Lane Year 8 Netball— Mrs Lee All Years Dance—Miss Brown Year 8 Boys Rugby—Mr Perkins (Starting WC 25th September) |
| THURSDAY |
| Year 7 Boys Rugby— Mr Perkins (Starting WC 25th September) |
| ADDITIONAL INFORMATION |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> All clubs run 3.45-4.15pm All clubs are free! No sign up, just turn up. Please organise a safe way to get home. The timetable will change each half term to include different sports. Please bring your PE kit if it isn't your P.E. day. |

IVANHOE SCHOOL EXTRA CURRICULAR COMPUTING CLUB

MONDAY & WEDNESDAY BREAKTIME

Computing Club 11.05-11.25am. Location IT1
Starts Mon 11th September

IVANHOE SCHOOL EXTRA CURRICULAR ENGLISH CLUBS

THURSDAY

Year 11 - Activate English Revision
3.05 - 4pm Location C8
Starting Thursday 14th September

Enjoy the sun this weekend.
Mrs Allford