

Friday 27<sup>th</sup> October 2023

# BULLETIN

## Dear Parents and Carers,

Welcome back from what we hope was a restful half term break. We now have a very busy and long half term in the run up to Christmas. I have been lucky enough to accompany a group of students this week to Oxford University, and I was so proud of how they represented the school.

Thanks so much to those parents who filled in our recent survey. We had over 400 responses with Year 10 parents getting the prize for best at responding – 60% of Year 10 parents filled out our survey.

One of the results that has made the Ivanhoe Team so proud is that parents who say they would recommend Ivanhoe to others has risen to 84% from a lowly 66% last term. Of course, I am aiming for 100% of parents wanting to recommend us but I pleased by this significant improvement in how we are viewed as a school. Another key figure that I would like to celebrate is the percentage of parents who have told us that their child is happy at Ivanhoe. This has risen to 85% from 68% in the summer term. Over the next few bulletins, I will share the rest of the results as we continue to improve as a school.

A few more updates from me.

## Behaviour standards

We started this half term with an assembly to all students about our behaviour expectations. We know that some students will think that the reminders don't apply to them, but it is important that we offer a consistent approach to all students. Our recent survey results from students, staff and parents have shown that our strategies to improve behaviour have had a significant impact.

Ivanhoe has always had high expectations for behaviour, but we know we are not the only school in the area, or even the country that has seen an increase in low level disruptions that when added up are having a negative impact on student learning and well-being. You know that we follow clear guidelines as part of 'The Ivanhoe Way' of which having the 'right attitude' is central to what we can achieve. Here are the key messages we spoke to students about, and we hope you will see the importance of these and support us in enforcing with your child.

## Uniform

We have very clear guidance on our uniform policy, but we have listened to student feedback and continued to allow PE kit on PE days, which many schools do not. We also have a bank of extra uniform for families in need. Therefore, we expect guidelines to be followed. Key issues appearing amongst larger groups of students are:



- Students not wearing their tie clipped to their collar, but instead part way down their shirt.
- School jumpers being worn instead of a blazer: blazers are a non-negotiable part of our uniform.
- Wearing hoodies (not Ivanhoe branded) instead of a coat.

Uniform will continue to be monitored and C1 consequences issued which includes a message home.

## Lateness

We understand that sometimes lateness is unavoidable and students with valid reasons or notes are not an issue, but a growing number of students think that continuing to arrive late for school or lessons is acceptable. Students will receive an initial warning about lateness to school, but after that continued lateness will result in 30 minutes after school reflection. Lateness to lesson without a valid reason will be logged and 3 lates will result in a 30minute after school reflection. School will contact parents to arrange this. Continued lateness results in lost learning and disruption and our continued focus will help all students achieve their full potential.

## In School Truancy

In school truancy is not only a behaviour issue, but a safeguarding issue, of which it is our statutory duty to act on. We need to know that our students are where they need to be in case of emergencies. This is not about punishing students with genuine reasons to be out of lessons, or late, this is a strong message to a growing number of students who think it is acceptable to avoid lessons.

Not only does this take time away from our pastoral team who could be supporting students with genuine needs, but it also causes disruption to lessons for students and teachers, and lost learning for students missing lessons.

It is for the good of all of our students that we eliminate this behaviour, and unfortunately for some students this will mean higher level of sanctions including spending time working in our reset room, detentions or suspensions depending on the severity of the issue.

## Rewards – First Attention to Best Conduct

We are currently reviewing our rewards policy to allow more opportunities for those students who continue to follow the Ivanhoe Way, work hard and make progress. We think it is important to recognise, celebrate and praise as many students as possible to boost morale and wellbeing. We will give more information on this soon, but we hope that students will respond well to increased positive interactions with staff across all areas of the school.

## Year 10 and 11 Trip to Oxford University

On Thursday Mrs Allford and Mrs Hill took a group of our Higher Attaining students on a trip to St Edmund Hall at Oxford University. Trips like these are important to raise aspirations of students and show them what they are capable of achieving. We are so proud of our current GCSE cohort, they may be small, but they are mighty and we know they'll go on to achieve great things. We hope the students who were lucky enough to be selected for this trip will feel inspired.



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One of students said, "I think that the trip really introduced me to the scale of the next stages of my life and helped to remind me of the freedom I have over myself and my learning"

## Stephen Lawrence Ambassadors Recruitment

We have been working on our anti-racist campaign for a number of years, in conjunction with Citizens UK.

Our student Stephen Lawrence Ambassadors are key roles in our student leadership team not only in our school, but working towards a bigger campaign of tackling racial injustice in education. Things we have achieved so far are:

- A shift in the culture at Ivanhoe, with people of colour being more widely represented across the curriculum.
- Educated the school on what it means to be anti-racist and how.
- Introduced a number of lessons to combat racism.
- Created Ivanhoe's Anti-racist pledge that students, staff and parents signed.
- Annually commemorate Stephen Lawrence Day.



This week alongside delivering our Black History Month Assembly ambassadors are recruiting new members to join them on the team and be part of our legacy of change on our journey to become a truly anti-racist school.

If your child is interested in becoming a Stephen Lawrence Ambassador, they should return the application form to Mrs Hull by 3<sup>rd</sup> November.

## 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.

## Diversity Calendar

This week as part of Black History Month we have been celebrating influential black women with this year's theme, 'Saluting our Sisters'. This includes Betty Campbell MBE the first black headteacher in Wales in the 70's. She would be proud to know that Wales is the only country in Great Britain where the teaching of Black History is a compulsory part of the curriculum. Or Lilian Bader a strong woman determined



to fight the Nazis during WWII, and despite facing lots of racism excelled so much that she was promoted to leading aircraftwoman. An almost impossible achievement for a black woman at that time.



On a more local level students, learnt about Elvie Morton and the Leicester Caribbean Carnival.

## Poetry Competition

**Students are encouraged to take part in the National Black History Month Poetry Competition. See details on the picture. All entries should be emailed to Mrs Wilkinson (our librarian) by the 5<sup>th</sup> November.**



## PSHRE and Wider Personal Development

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](mailto:c.gee@ivanhoe.co.uk).

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

Year 7 – What is puberty?
Year 8 – Risks of Knife Crime
Year 9 – What is addiction?
Year 10 – What are harassment and stalking?
Year 11 – Careers Education



## Assembly Focus

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

*Community involvement*

## What's coming up...

<b>Tuesday 31<sup>st</sup> October</b>	Year 7 Halloween Disco - Tickets still available-pay on wisepay
<b>Thursday 2<sup>nd</sup> November</b>	Student Flu Vaccinations - Still time to sign up, follow the link from the emails.
<b>Friday 17<sup>th</sup> November</b>	Children in Need – Activities TBC
<b>Friday 1<sup>st</sup> December</b>	Disaggregated Day – School Closed to All.
<b>Tuesday 31<sup>st</sup> October</b>	Year 7 Halloween Disco

That's all for this week. Have a lovely weekend. **Mrs Allford**

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