

Friday 3rd November 2023

BULLETIN

Welcome to
IVANHOE
SCHOOL
A journey to excellence

signpost to reception
ivanhoe.co.uk

Dear Parents and Carers,

Despite the return of the terrible weather it has been a great week at Ivanhoe, with our Year 11s showing great independence and resilience in their trial exams and our Year 7s enjoying a great Halloween disco. A big thank you to our volunteer House Leaders and staff who made it a great event, I certainly had a great time dressing up.

With last week's bulletin I sent a link to review our school day restructure. If you have not already done so, please use the link <https://forms.office.com/e/fnAeKAazJV> to share your feedback. The deadline for responses is Friday 10th November.

A few more updates from me.

Year 11 Trial Exams – Results Day

Year 11s are currently in the middle of their trial exams (these may have been referred to as mocks).

We have been impressed with the maturity and attitude that the vast majority of students have shown. It is natural to feel daunted at the prospect of sitting an examination but our aim is to get students used to the formality of examinations so they know what to expect in the summer and their anxiety is therefore reduced. The requirements of all formal exams are very serious and expectations are very different to any assessments previously set. I ask you to check in with your child to ensure they have the correct kit each day – the minimum they should have is a pen, pencil and ruler but other kit is needed for other exams for example Maths or Design and Technology.

To continue with the preparation for the summer we will give students exam results to them at a **'results evening'** to replicate the experience of the August results day. You are invited to join your child to collect their results on **Thursday 30th November between 4.30 and 6.30** where members of the senior team will be on hand to answer any questions.

Our Christmas Appeal Launch

This year Ivanhoe is proud to be co-ordinating a Christmas collection in Ashby for Leicestershire Charity *Toys on the Table*. We would love it if our students, staff and families could also support the appeal. Here is some more info about the appeal and this will be shared with students in assembly next week. You can watch a video about the charity by click this link: [Toys on the Table Youtube Video](#).



GIFTS ARE NEEDED FOR ALL AGES FROM 0-16.
THEY PARTICULARLY NEED DONATIONS FOR AGE 8-16.

VULNERABLE AND POOR CHILDREN ARE REFERRED VIA SOCIAL SERVICES IF THEIR FAMILIES ARE NOT ABLE TO AFFORD CHRISTMAS GIFTS.



GIFT WISH LISTS FOR EACH CHILD ARE GIVEN TO THE CHARITY AND CHILDREN WILL RECEIVE A SMALL SELECTION OF 4/5 MAIN GIFTS.

FOR OLDER CHILDREN, PARTICULARLY GIRLS THEY MAY RECEIVE 1 MAIN GIFT SUCH AS A WISH LIST BAG, AND IT WILL BE FILLED WITH SMALLER GIFTS LIKE MAKE-UP, STATIONERY, BOOKS ETC.





IN 2022 NEARLY 5000 CHILDREN IN LEICESTERSHIRE WOULD NOT HAVE RECEIVED A CHRISTMAS GIFT WITHOUT THE SUPPORT OF TOYS ON THE TABLE.

This year we are being a local collection point for the Ashby area for not only students and staff at school to donate, but also local businesses and members of the community.

IVANHOE SCHOOL Christmas APPEAL

TOYS ON THE TABLE



IF YOU WOULD LIKE TO SUPPORT THIS YEAR'S APPEAL PLEASE REMEMBER THESE POINTS:

- ALL TOYS AND GIFTS MUST BE NEW
- GIFTS ARE NEEDED FOR AGES 0-16.
- PARTICULARLY NEEDED ARE GIFTS FOR AGE 8+
- SMALL STOCKING FILLERS ALSO WELCOME
- CASH DONATIONS FROM £1 CAN BE MADE INSTEAD OF A GIFT
- YOU CAN DONATE MORE THAN 1 GIFT
- YOU COULD ALSO BRING IN GIFT DONATIONS FROM FAMILY OR FRIENDS TOO IF YOU TELL THEM ABOUT THE APPEAL.

IVANHOE SCHOOL Christmas APPEAL

TOYS ON THE TABLE




Safeguarding Focus - Online Safety

We know lots of our students use the many social media channels as a way to socialise with friends, for entertainment, and to keep up with world news. There is a barrage of information thrown at students through these channels, and although at school we can talk to students about issues such as internet safety, cyber bullying, or encourage them to question information that may be 'fake news', we cannot police young people's usage.

CEOP (Child Exploitation and Online Protection Centre) has a whole range of resources to support parents in keeping their child safe online.

<https://www.thinkuknow.co.uk/parents/>

We recommend all families have open dialogue about their rules about accessing social media, and what to do if they have issues.

Speak to your child about which social media channels they are using, it might be more than you think.

These are just some of the apps they might be using to chat and share online: **WhatsApp, Youtube, Instagram, Facebook, TikTok, Snapchat, Discord, BeReal, Kik Messenger, Twitch, Holla, Twitter, Tumblr, Reddit.**

Poppy Appeal

We are proud to be supporting the Royal British Legion Poppy Appeal again this year. Poppies will be on sale during form times and break next week.



IVANHOE SCHOOL

Is your child ready for social media?

Once children reach secondary school, they're likely to come under growing peer pressure to stay in touch with friends online. If you are thinking about social media for your child, what should you consider and how can you help and support them?

WHAT ARE THE RISKS FOR YOUR CHILD ON SOCIAL MEDIA?

- Inappropriate content
- Inappropriate behaviour
- Over-sharing
- Making friends with people they don't know

IS YOUR CHILD READY?

- Their level of maturity can affect their ability to have a positive experience on social media.
- Are they old enough to sign up to the site - most are 13+ for data protection reasons.

IS YOUR CHILD READY?

- Are they mature enough to deal with social media pressures?
- Do they have the social skills to manage online friendships?
- Are they able to deal with negative experiences without it causing them anxiety or upset?
- Will they come to you if they need help?

ARE YOU READY?

- Check out the social media site or app first.
- Take time to look at the sites together.
- Be a great role model, for example show your child how you use privacy settings, or don't share photos without permission.

GETTING STARTED ON SOCIAL MEDIA?

- Talk to your child regularly about online safety.
- Make an agreement with your child about their usage including which sites are allowed and time limits.
- Make sure they know how to report and get help if needed.

You can find more tips and support about protecting your child online including on social media from CEOP (Child Exploitation and Online Protection Centre) at [thinkuknow.co.uk/parents](https://www.thinkuknow.co.uk/parents)

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Diversity Calendar

This week students have been focussing on World Sight Day, an annual awareness to focus global attention on visual impairment, including blindness.



Students learnt about the challenges people with sight loss face, from trouble accessing services to difficulties finding employment and reduced academic attainment. At Ivanhoe

we always encourage our students to be pro-social and so students discussed ways they could be more aware of people with visual impairments in the community.

Things we can do to help make our streets more inclusive:

- Think about how you use the pavement outside your house. Things like bins/ cars partially parked on the pavement can cause an unexpected hazard for blind and partially sighted people.
- When cycling help make yourself as visible as possible. Wear bright high visibility clothing and use lights. Use your voice to alert others to your presence and kindly let them know whether they need to take action, as ringing a bell gives an unclear signal that can confuse pedestrians.
- Guide dogs are cute and look friendly but they have an important job. Please don't touch or distract a guide dog without permission.
- If you use a scooter, give pedestrians space while overtaking.



Don't forget children and young people between the ages of 16-18 in full time education are entitled to a free NHS eye test and glasses if needed. Picking up issues with a child's vision early will have a positive effect on their school experience.

Signs your child might need an eye test

It's often difficult to tell whether your child has sight problems, which is why regular eye tests are so important. There are a number of things to look out for:

- Straining their eyes or tilting their head to see better
- Frequent eye rubbing
- Losing their place while reading, or using a finger to guide their eyes
- Sensitivity to light and/or excessive tearing
- Falling behind in school
- Complaining of headaches or tired eyes
- The presence of a 'turn' in the eye or a misdirection of the eyes
- Consistently sitting too close to the TV or holding a book too close
- Avoiding activities which require near vision, such as reading or homework, or distance vision, such as participating in sports or other recreational activities
- Closing one eye to read, watch TV or see better
- Avoiding using a computer or tablet because it hurts their eyes
- A 'white reflex' in photographs. This is similar in appearance to red-eye, except it's white. It is extremely serious – if you notice it, you should seek medical attention immediately.

Top tips to look after your eyes:

Get them checked- eye examinations are free up to the age of 16, and up to 18 if you are in full-time education.

Do not smoke

Smoking can cause and worsen a number of eye conditions (and cause lots of other health issues!). According to RNIB, smoking doubles the chance of losing your sight.

Eat well and stay active

A healthy diet with lots of fruits and vegetables is important to keep our bodies healthy, including our eyes. Poor diet can worsen things like cataracts.

Shield them

Always make sure you have the right protective eye equipment for anything that poses a risk of injury to the eye, like DIY or activities at work. It's also important to protect them from the sun.

Take a break

Looking at anything for a long time can cause eye strain, which can be uncomfortable. It's also helpful to wear your glasses if you have them and reduce glare and bright lights.

Parent Survey Feedback

Thank you for taking the time to fill in our stakeholder survey just before half term. We are striving to improve as a school and parent feedback plays a large role in helping us to that. Please read below for our key findings and actions to follow up.

1. More parents filled out the survey this term than in the summer term. **224 up to 422**. That's just under 50% of our cohort. All year group parents were represented but with Year 10 parents being the biggest proportion at 60% responses of the Year 10 cohort.
2. The percentage of parents who say their child is happy at Ivanhoe has seen a sharp rise **from 68% in the summer survey to 85%** this Autumn 2023 of parents who either agree or strongly agree.
3. The percentage of parents who say that their child is safe at Ivanhoe has also seen a rise from **78% in the summer survey to 89% this Autumn** – a credit to all staff but particularly Mrs Boussida, Mrs Sharpe and the pastoral team for that rising confidence in safeguarding systems. There were 31 parents who said their children weren't safe. The survey is anonymous so I would like to reach out to those parents now to get in touch directly with me if you haven't already done so.
4. Most pleasingly, the percentage of parents who believe that Ivanhoe encourages good behaviour **has risen from 55% in the summer to 72% this Autumn**. This is a significant rise especially in view of increased numbers filling out the survey. This is a priority for us and we will continue to make improvements to protect the learning environment of all students.
5. The number of parents who believe that Ivanhoe makes them aware of what their child is learning **has risen from 64% in the summer up to 75% in Autumn 23**. But 20% of you disagree that we let you know. This is on our priority list this year so that subject teams do more to involve and inform parents. Watch this space.
6. **In terms of when parents raise concerns, last term 35% said that we didn't deal with them properly. That has reduced to 16%** but we will need to keep an eye on that figure because we are early in the year and concerns are currently fewer.
7. **82% of parents believe we have high expectations of our students**. This is a rise from 72% last term. But there are nearly 20% of parents (that's 40 from this survey) who don't believe we have high expectations and that's remained steady. Other parents simply did not know our high expectations. We clearly need to put more energy into signposting our expectations.
8. **Parents agree that their child does well at Ivanhoe to the tune of 82%** and that's a rise of 10% from last year.
9. We have seen a rise in parents who think Ivanhoe lets them know how their child is doing. This has risen from 63% to 77%. But 20% of you tell us that we don't tell you how your child is doing and this is the same percentage of parents who think that we don't tell you enough about what your child is learning. Clearly, we need to be sending home more information to you and this is something that we can act on quickly.
10. Parents were asked whether they agreed that we supported their child's wider personal development. It's a question that parents don't really seem to understand fully but 69% agree that we do - this was a rise from last year where only 62% of parents agreed. **But 31% of parents either didn't know or disagreed (14%)**. I went back to data from Autumn 2022 – at that point - 45% either didn't know or disagreed (26%) this time last year so we are seeing improvements but we need more overt signposting with regard

to Ivanhoe Way, clubs, trips, PSHRE, and careers as elements of our curriculum which develop wider personal development. And this needs to come from all angles – tutor emails/subject teams/and all contacts with you. This is something that we believe we can improve quite quickly.

11. And the best improvement from my point of view. Parents are now more likely to recommend Ivanhoe to others. In this most recent survey, 84% said they would recommend us. This is a big jump in favour from last term where only 66% would recommend us. And even going back to Autumn 2022, 73% of parents said they would recommend us. This shift in perception is significant and a credit to all our staff and our systems- especially given our context as we move through age range change and have a percentage of Year 9 (59%) who will choose to go elsewhere for Year 10.

Overall, I am pleased that parental feedback is recognising our school improvement strategies. If you were unable to complete the survey and your views are not reflected here, please email me directly with any concerns or feedback.

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

Year 7 – Places of Worship
Year 8 – What is Diwali?
Year 9 – Buddhist Holy Texts
Year 10 – What are ethics?
Year 11 – Careers Education/Exam Prep



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:

Remembrance

What's coming up...

Mon 6th-Fri 10th	Poppy Appeal Sales
Friday 17th November	Children in Need – Activities TBC
Friday 1st December	Disaggregated Day – School Closed to All.
Weds 6th-Fri 8th	Christmas Appeal Collection Days
Weds 13th December	Christmas Dinner Day (Tickets on sale soon)
Thurs 14th December	Family Quiz Night (more info coming soon)

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

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