



IMPORTANT Term Dates

April 9

Easter Day

April 21

Eid al-Fitr

May 6

Coronation of King Charles III

May 9

Exam season begins

May 26

Break up for May half term

Message from Jacquie

Welcome to the iTimes, spring 2023 Newsletter!



I hope all readers are enjoying reading the iTimes. It is a great snapshot of what has happened across iCollege each term, and when I look at all the editions for the academic year, I'm so pleased and impressed with the variety of learning opportunities available and the obvious engagement and enjoyment of the learners.

This last term seems to have flown by, and once again we are starting to plan for the GCSE and Functional Skills exams for our older learners. The 'preparation for public exams' (mocks!) went smoothly and our learners have just a few weeks left to absorb the learning and teaching opportunities on offer before the 'real' exams start.

This term we are saying 'farewell and good luck' to Adam Butler, the iCollege Exams Officer. A new role in the police force awaits him. Theresa Barker is our new Exams Officer, and Sara Pope joins us in April as a new maths teacher at Integration. I wish them all well in their new posts.

I hope you have a lovely Easter break and look forward to starting the summer term on 17th April.

Jacquie Davies, Headteacher

Safeguarding Policy

All staff at iCollege take seriously their responsibility to protect and safeguard the welfare of children and young people in their care; this includes protecting children from maltreatment; preventing impairment of children's mental and physical health or development; ensuring that children grow up in circumstances consistent with the provision of safe and effective care; and taking action to enable all children to have the best outcomes.

For more information, and to view our safeguarding policy:

<https://www.icollege.org.uk/attachments/download.asp?file=162&type=pdf>

To visit the website and view other policies: <https://www.icollege.org.uk/>

Support...



**Health & Wellbeing in Schools
newsletter, edition 50, February
2023.**

<https://content.govdelivery.com/accounts/UKWESTBC/bulletins/348ed3d>

Within this link is information to:

- Vaping resources for schools
- Chat Health
- Bikeability instructors
- Reading Well booklist for 7-11s
- Wellbeing bags
- Activ8 Junior Gym

Learn to Live....Live to Learn!

Inspiration

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This term has been a productive one for Inspiration, with 4 learners being chosen to have their poetry published in the next edition of the Young Writer's Book entitled, 'The Big, Green Poetry Machine.'



Mad Scientists!

Last week was 'British Science Week', and we conducted lots of experiments!

Some were keener than others to take part in the 'Cheesy Challenge' where we made real cheese using skimmed milk and lemon juice. The lemon juice made the milk curdle and produce whey which is the liquid left over. The curdled part is the cheese. It did taste strange!



We also had fun making, and climbing Jack's beanstalk. We were hoping that our own beanstalks wouldn't overtake the classroom during the weekend!



In **Oak class**, we carried out experiments using celery and eggs. We made 'magic milk' and then watched the colours spread throughout the milk. We then put celery into the milk and observed what happened.



Meanwhile, we chose materials and made protective covers for eggs. We wrapped them up, and dropped them. One egg survived being dropped out of the window!



In **Elm class**, we used different materials to capture our fingerprints. We used flour, felt tips and ink. We then transferred the prints using sellotape. Outside, we made a bridge to help Franky Tiger cross the river.



Integration

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The Integration team welcomed Caitlin from the Rosalind Franklin Institute. She delivered an introductory session about artificial intelligence as part of the Hi Tech Horizons inspiring STEM Careers programme.



Jeanette organised a Bag2School collection at Intervention. The amount of money is determined by items being weighed. A total of £103 was raised. Congratulations, Intervention!



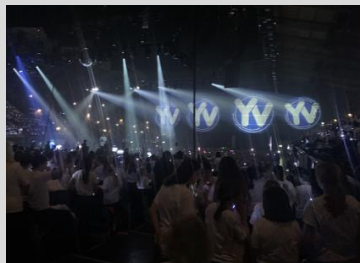
Pod

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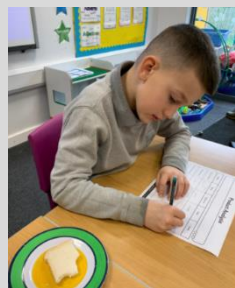
On Tuesday, 7th February, POD staff and 2 learners participated in Young Voices in Wembley Arena! Teacher, Alexandra, commended the children on their incredible behaviour, attitude and effort throughout the whole day.



Both boys were able to identify when they needed to take a break from rehearsals and calmly took a walk around the arena with an adult before returning to their seats. They both managed the whole concert which was from 7 p.m. – 9 p.m. and participated with admirable and infectious enthusiasm. They both did iCollege proud!



Elsewhere in the term, learners have been designing recipes for bread for the Great British Bread Off!



Intervention

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Learners at Intervention have been practising problem solving, resilience and teamwork skills.

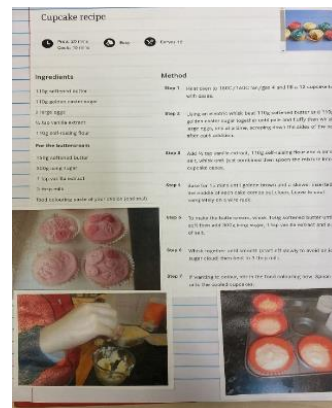
We also recorded the Functional Skills English speaking and listening components with learners showing their grit and determination in facing the challenge of being recorded delivering presentations...



...and then...it snowed!

Baking for Mother's Day!

At Pod+, learners made cupcakes by following a recipe.



Independence

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Life at Independence is all about gearing up for the GCSE exams which are due to begin with Art in the week beginning 24th April. Young people have been preparing...



...thankfully, Jake is on hand to serve up lunch!



Forest School

We have been learning about changes in state. We have learnt that if we heat candle wax, it melts and turns into a liquid. We can then pour it into a mold and let it cool down whereupon it turns back into a solid. We used our candles as gifts for Mothers' Day.



Pod Plus

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All the learners came back from half term a little taller...or perhaps the adults are all shrinking!

At Pod+, we have started new topics including map making in Geography, poetry in English and using our skills in maths to negotiate complicated word problems.



In Art, we have been looking at different media and materials and working with inks and plastics to create some visually stunning pictures of trainers (above) and insects (left).



Branching out!

This month, Jake and Kian applied for horticulture apprenticeships, visited Sparsholt and were interviewed by the Apprenticeships Manager!

Additionally, they wowed in a 'soft interview' with Scofell Landscapes Ltd and will be starting work experience with them after Easter.



If you are interested in learning about landscaping, why not talk to Joel about getting involved in one of iCollege's gardening projects?

College Visits

Summer wins the award for the most colleges visited this year!



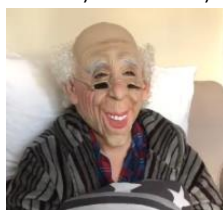
Here she is at BCOT on 22nd March. She has been exploring their new Level 2 nail technician course which she hopes to start in September 2023.

BCOT have an impressive range of courses including animal care and bricklaying. If you are in Y10, 11 or post 16 and would like information, email careersinfo@icollge.org.uk

WORLD BOOK DAY
2 MARCH 2023

You've all heard of 'The Masked Singer'? Well this year, staff across iCollege were challenged to put on a mask as a disguise and to record themselves reading a short section of a book. The recordings were put together into a presentation for young people to watch and to guess who was behind each mask!

How many different staff members can you identify....?



We had a great time listening and trying to work out who was who! A huge thank you to everyone who made the enormous effort to choose a text, find a disguise and make the recordings!

Our iCollege Community

In my work I spend a lot of time with angry young men. They've all got good reasons to be angry: aside from possible experiences of abuse and neglect, making sense of what's expected of you as a man can be lonely and confusing, with all of the muddled messages about masculinity pinballing around families, schools, sports fields, and social media. Not only do I often hear about stereotypes of performative masculinity, I see it in how boys hold their bodies in a brittle rigidity, particularly when in the company of other boys. The 'Man Box' (see Tony Porter's 2010 Ted Talk 'A call to men' on YouTube) affords us a useful way to understand how boys become trapped in the fixed confines of a particular notion of manhood that, without being challenged and explored, can underscore how they believe they 'should' behave. Online 'male influencers' encapsulate man box culture, the Peter Pans that they are, trapped in their adolescence of ostentatious wealth, the 'cult of big', emotional immaturity, and a pornographic outlook on females. It's difficult for a teenage boy immersed in such a culture not to be entranced by the incessant Tik-Tok feed of this perennial adolescence, all the while fearing being policed by his peers for the slightest deviation from the cul-de-sac of the man box.

Where we can help is in promoting a vision of positive masculinity that doesn't require props to self-worth, rejects the 'taboo on tenderness' (a term coined in 1935, and showing little sign of abating), and exposes the toxic male-code shaming that stultifies growth. Challenge paralysing stereotypes about masculinity by speaking out against the idea that boys and men should be tough, emotionless, or aggressive. Model ways of being male that include a broad emotional repertoire, involving self-care, asking for help, and respecting girls and women, and make the courageous choice to push back against the isolation of man box culture.

iCollege counsellor

A Note from Governors

With the clocks now changed, it looks like spring might finally show its face. Let's hope so. After too much cold weather and even a proper snow day very recently, iCollege continues to thrive whatever the weather! The new building at Calcot is moving on very effectively and is due to be completed by next half term. This is a very exciting development for iCollege generally and for the staff and learners at Integration in particular.

West Berkshire Volunteer Centre hosted an excellent day at Shaw House in March and the Chair and Vice Chair of Governors attended. Rather like the day in the Corn Exchange in January, this event sought to bring people together and raise awareness of the huge variety of voluntary organisations operating across the district. We met lots of representatives of these groups who are either working with iCollege currently, or who might like to be involved in some capacity at some stage. There may well be opportunities for new governors to come forward, more possibilities for work experience for iCollege learners and others who could offer their services to iCollege to support its learners and the curriculum in other ways. It was really encouraging to hear that many had heard of iCollege and the work that it is doing; they were all very keen to support this. The Duchess of Gloucestershire visited and came round to talk to many of the volunteers, and an inspiring keynote speech was given by Sarah Vibert, the CEO of the National Council for Voluntary Organisations.

Governors would like to wish all iCollege staff and learners a very happy, relaxing Easter break and to thank them for all that they do to make iCollege work so well.

Farewell!

We are sad to be saying goodbye to Adam who has been a hardworking and valued member of staff. It looks like he's quite worn out!



Progress in Calcot!



Looking for a Job? Who's HIRING?

Berkshire Opportunities

<https://www.berkshireopportunities.co.uk/>

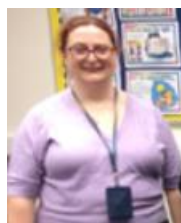


There are opportunities out there for apprenticeships or part-time work.



On March 6th, Amanda from Adviza explored interview skills with Y10 learners. Having a CV and understanding interview techniques are really important for making a good impression on an employer.

If you need help creating a CV, contact Ali:
careersinfo@icollge.org.uk



Do you recognise the skills employers want?
Can you explain the skills you have to offer?
Do you know how your skills and hobbies can win you a job?



Have a think about how you might answer some of these questions.

If you would like support with applying for an apprenticeship or a part-time job, or to practise interview technique, please talk to Ali.

Exam dates, 2023

GCSE Art: week beginning 24th April

KS2 SATs: Tuesday 9th – Friday 12th May

Childcare: Friday 12th May:

GCSE Biology Paper 1:
Tuesday 16th May

Functional Skills English:
Thursday 18th May

GCSE Business: Thursday 18th May

GCSE Maths Paper 1: Friday 19th May



...to all our learners in Y6, and in Y11 and post 16.

Please continue to make sure you access as much time as you can in lessons, ask as many questions as you need and do as much practice as possible to prepare you.

If you would like to contribute to the next iTimes, please email:

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Thank you to everyone who sent items for this edition.

For general enquiries, contact:

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