



IMPORTANT Term Dates

June 5

Term begins – exams continue

June 12

Y10 assessment week

July 3

Transition week

July 18

Bag2School: Intervention

July 20

Last day of the school year

Calcot new-build is looking good.



Message from Jacquie



This seems to have been a very short term at iCollege! Just 6 weeks from our return after Easter on 17th April to finishing for the May/June half term on 26th May! Of course, we 'lost' 2 Mondays for the May Day Bank Holiday and the King's Coronation, so that just left us with 28 school days. If a learner missed just 3 days this term, that equates to 10% of the available learning time, and if that rate of absence was extrapolated over a whole academic year, it would mean 19 days, or nearly a whole month of learning time. So why is attendance important?

- Every moment in school counts, and days missed add up quickly.
- The higher a learner's attendance, the more they are likely to learn, and the better they are likely to perform in exams and formal assessments.
- Being around teachers and friends in a school environment is one of the best ways for children to learn and reach their potential.
- Time in school also keeps children safe and provides access to extra-curricular opportunities and pastoral care.

iCollege recognises it is not always easy for learners to get to school on time, or sometimes at all. We can often help out with practical issues like transport, and in some cases, breakfast and school equipment.

Most of all, we appreciate the importance of working together with learners and families in improving attendance and giving all learners the opportunities to achieve their potential, look after their own well-being and for us to support their wider development.

I hope you have a lovely half term break.

Jacquie Davies, Headteacher

CORONATION CELEBRATIONS!

Units across iCollege celebrated the coronation of King Charles III with food including cupcakes made by learners, a banquet fit for a king and a special lunch. Learners at the Pod created wonderful fact-files about the new king.



Learn to Live....Live to Learn!

Intervention

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A group of young people from Intervention visited Box Farm during lambing season. They learned about the whole process, including how lambs are sometimes adopted and about when they are moved outside. They just missed one being born, but were able to hold lambs that were 3 days old!



Back at home, there has been some fierce competition for Joel from learners challenging him to a game of chess!



Pod

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The science work this half term has been on the Environment. Learners have been finding out about the impact of greenhouse gases on the climate and how we can change our lifestyles and behaviours to help save the planet. Do their posters convince you?

Meanwhile in the garden, learners have been digging and planting lots of fruit and vegetables as well as some sunflowers. There's a competition to see whose will grow the tallest. Some learners thought that singing to their plants might help!



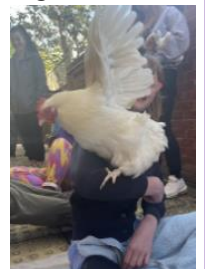
Feathery visitors to Inspiration...

Bantams Beatrice and Chip came to teach learners about taking care of chickens.

Everyone tried handling and feeding them

strawberries, grass seeds and kale.

Beatrice tried to fly off and at the end, everyone got an egg to take home!



At **Forest School**, we have been looking for bugs and insects and learning about their habitats. We found a nest of bumblebees underground!



'World of Work' term for Y10s creates some exciting opportunities.

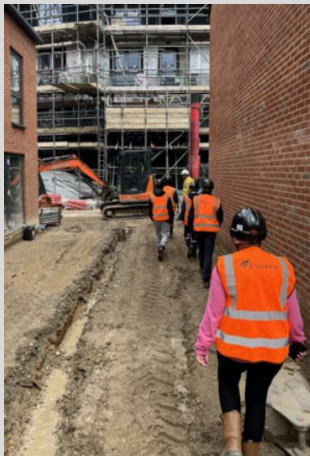
Year 10s at intervention have been visiting some employers in the community and hearing about some inspirational career journeys.



A trip to **Coding Ninjas** had them looking at electronics and coding. Starting from scratch and given just 30 minutes, they produced some really fun, playable computer games. Learners got creative with their 'sprites' and practised problem-solving skills whilst working

together to achieve their targets.

Some learners visited **Rebound Electronics** global head office and were hosted by Siobhan and Jamie, part of the marketing team. Jamie shared that when he left school, he did not know what he wanted to do and spent time painting and decorating as a job before applying for a sales job at Rebound. Now he heads up the marketing team!



Josh and Alfie heard a similar story from James on a trip to an **Equans** construction site in Newbury just opposite Nandos. The site includes a mix of homes for rent, some commercial space and provides an attractive walkway between the station and town centre.

James gave the young people an extensive tour and told them how he hadn't known what he wanted to do after school. He went into construction and soon decided he wanted to be in charge! At 23, he has just finished his studies, paid for by Equans, and is in control of all activities on this busy construction site. He advised learners to get as many qualifications as they can in order to provide options.

Gam Care

Intervention and Independence welcomed Gam Care to citizenship lessons to discuss gambling and how the brain works around addiction. Young people were fascinated and learnt how to keep gambling safe.



Artists in Y11 have finished their GCSE – congratulations!

At Integration, they have been studying the American street artist, Keith Haring.

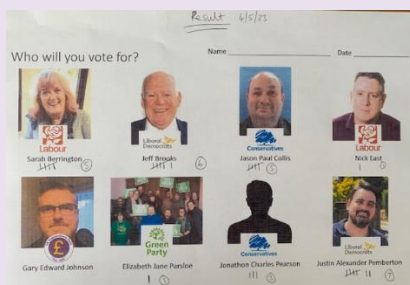


At Intervention, learners have been investigating natural forms.

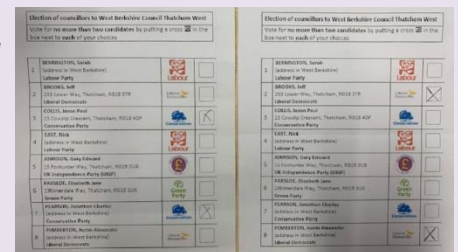


Integration

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In citizenship lessons at Integration, we have been learning about elections. On 4th of May, we used our Election toolkit to replicate the local council elections for West Berkshire that was taking place on the same day. We registered to vote and received a poll card. Then we found out information about the candidates for the Thatcham West Ward. Once we decided who we liked, we visited our polling station, filled in the ballot paper and posted it into the ballot box. When the votes were counted, we found out that our school election results predicted the real-life outcome: victory for the Liberal Democrats, winning the most seats in West Berkshire Council.



Pod Plus

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In history, learners have been thinking about migration and exploring why people wanted to live in Britain and what resources were on offer. They have been researching the main groups that invaded Britain and considering what it might have been like to live in the Dark Ages.

In English, we have started a new project on William Shakespeare, looking at a variety of plays and have produced some amazing descriptive work on the Tempest about being caught in a storm.

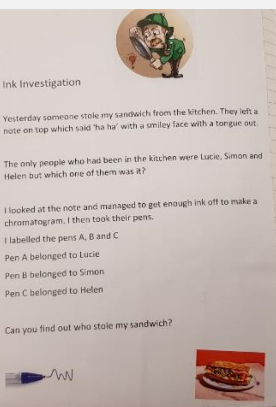
Maths has seen us focusing on algebra, ratio and geometry. We have been solving problems involving missing values and working out percentages of large amounts.

Learners have been investigating light, shadows and hearing in science, conducting experiments on how a shadow changes as an object moves nearer to a light source. We have also been thinking about refraction in water and glass.

Sounds like a VERY busy and productive term!



Young people at Integration have enjoyed a visit from some local, professional tradespeople: two electricians. They talked about their work with learners.



Who stole my sandwich?

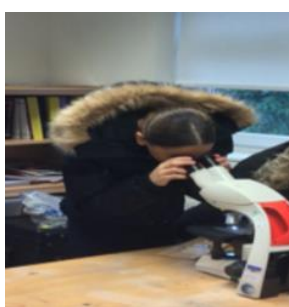
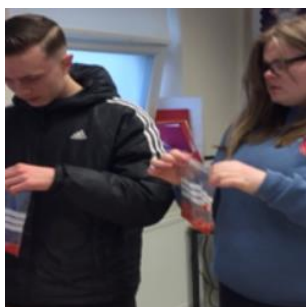
Using chromatography, learners at Intervention have been solving the crime. They separated inks from some pens and discovered the guilty party...

Simon has been convicted and has to do a penance!



Fun science with Reading Scientific Services Ltd at Intervention and Pod

On March 29th, 4 scientists from RSSL delivered a stunning science session for learners. 3 stalls were set up to allow learners to try out each activity – Biology with Alistair, microscopy with Arisha and chemistry/physics with Beth.



Everyone really enjoyed the session and asked when RSSL could come back! Luckily, they have confirmed they will be at our Careers and Community event on October 19th.

Inspiration

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Fruity, our pet rabbit at Inspiration has been acting a little strange, wanting to be alone in her hutch and making a nest with some of her own fur. She has been experiencing a false pregnancy which can last 2 weeks for rabbits. Get well soon, Fruity!



In Oak class, we have had great fun mixing our own potions. We sniffed and felt different herbs, discussing their tastes and smells before choosing ingredients. Everyone made a label for their potion. Thankfully those who chose to make 'poison' made labels to keep people safe!



Our iCollege Community

Sooner or later the topic comes up in my time with young people; 'my bedroom.' Young people understandably have all sorts of important feelings about their bedrooms. Referring to 'my room' means they're talking about the physical space *and* their internal world. Exploring bedrooms involves wondering about privacy, secrets, and trust. Counselling affords young people the chance to explore, perhaps for the first time, degrees of privacy: 'Do I want to share this personal thing about myself? Will my counsellor think I'm weird?' Whether I'm told stories about what's there, or whether I ask directly about things, everything is of equal interest to me. Opportunities to explore key life moments, transitions, and bittersweet experiences of growing up are scattered throughout their rooms. And of course there are sessions when a young person keenly tells me about redecorating their room. Woven through their details of new paint, furniture, and posters, is the palpable sense that 'I'm growing up. This is what I'm into now. I'm trying out a different way of being me. I'm not sure what to keep and what to throw away.' And implicit in their eagerly shared plans is the question 'And what do you think?'

iCollege counsellor

A Note from Governors

Here's hoping that the final Bank Holiday and the week that follows it will give all of us some warmth and sunshine to relax in. Staff and learners are likely to be looking forward to this brief break, even if it does fall in the middle of exam season. Governors are very grateful for all the extra efforts that all staff at iCollege put in to give learners taking public exams the very best opportunities for success at this vital stage in their education.

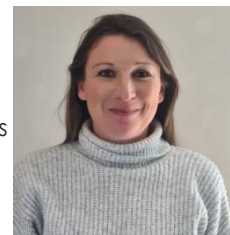
The iCollege building for Integration at Calcot is likely to be ready for use in September. Replacing the former site with this new, purpose-built unit is a very exciting and important development for staff and learners at this unit, especially, and for iCollege as a whole. Staff across the different units that make up iCollege are always creative with the spaces that they have, but having a new one that meets their needs more particularly is a significant improvement. Governors are looking forward to seeing this new site first hand when it is appropriate to do this.

Governors wish all iCollege learners taking exams in the next weeks every success.

Welcome!

Sarah Pope

"I am excited to join Integration as their maths teacher. I have worked for the last 13 years in a local secondary school. I am looking forward to getting to know everyone at iCollege and am happy to support and get stuck in!"



Congratulations!

Mark – and welcome to the world baby Sienna. Mark brought Sienna in to meet learners at Intervention.



We have been selected by Pearson exam board to be pioneers, trialing their new GCSE 'Literature in Colour' course. Only 100 schools have been chosen from across the country. We will receive 300 books of all types to add to our resources. They will be used to provide greater diversity within our curriculum and broaden the range of books available for reading for pleasure. This is a unique opportunity and we look forward to bringing news of how it progresses over the coming months.

Independence

College News...

Congratulations to Lewis who has completed his Pre-16 mechanics course at Newbury College and will start his mechanics apprenticeship in September!

Well done to Cheyanne, Kya, Sky and Jae-Lee who attended Newbury College interviews and have been offered your places for September!

Don't forget that you will need to contact Newbury College with your GCSE results on August 26th – Your place will only be confirmed once you've enrolled which you will do in September.



Dates for visits to BCOT

We have been allocated slots for iCollege learners to visit BCOT on the following dates:

June 14th

June 16th

June 28th

Please contact Ali (07464 895993) or ask your Lead Teacher if you would like to attend.



Reading College Transition Sessions are 10 am - 12 pm every Wednesday throughout July.

These provided young people with two-hour sessions to become more familiar with Reading College when it is very quiet!

They are relaxed, informal sessions. Attendees play games, meet staff and other learners.

In previous years, learners have found these very helpful. Please let Ali know if you would like to attend.

Amanda Gill from Adviza is offering 1:1 careers advice and guidance for learners (and parents) on the following dates:

June 6th

June 20th

July 18th

August 25th



Please contact Ali: 07464 895993 or ahaynes@icolllege.org.uk to book your appointment.

Exam dates, 2023

Well done to all our young people who have been sitting public exams – we are very proud of you. Here are some upcoming GCSE dates:

June 5th: English language 1

June 7th: Maths 2

June 9th: Biology 2

**June 12th: English language 2
Business 2**

June 14th: Maths 3

Please remember that normal lessons will be running between exams so that you can meet with your teachers and continue with your revision.

Good Luck!
We believe in 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.

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