



## IMPORTANT Term Dates

### August 2

Blue Moon

### August 6

Friendship Day

### August 24

GCSE exam results

### September 5

Back to school!

### September 21

Welcome BBQ: Independence

## Message from Jacquie

The summer holidays are here again!

We will be able to spend more time with the family and friends, soaking up the sun in gardens and parks, and being free from the routines of school: it is absolutely the best time of year!

This term, we have ended the school year with some extremely hot weather, and this has made me want to remind you all to take care in the sunshine, especially between 11am and 3pm when the sun is at its strongest.

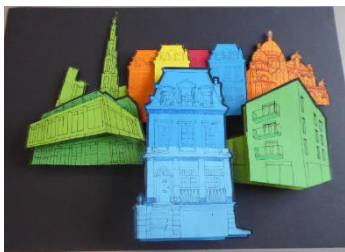
And, once again, we are saying a fond 'farewell' to many of our learners – those in year 6, 11 and 13 – and I want to wish them well with the next stage of their lives. Transition and change are always anxious times, but thinking positively and looking forward with excitement and joy will always lead to success.

The school year closes with an early finish on Thursday 20<sup>th</sup> July, and I look forward to welcoming learners back for the autumn term, when the first day of school is Tuesday 5<sup>th</sup> September.

I hope you have a lovely, restful summer. *Jacquie Davies, Headteacher*



## As promised...here are some examples of the beautiful artwork that was produced during the 10 hours of 'controlled' GCSE time...



## Art team day out!

Pots were thrown and masterpieces were made when the art team of Rob, Sarah, Mel and Sam went for a day of training at the Wren School in Reading.



## Learn to Live....Live to Learn!

### Intervention

[office.intervention@iccollege.org.uk](mailto:office.intervention@iccollege.org.uk)

Intervention learners have had a big half term, with the year 10s transitioning to Independence. Before they went, we had a celebration which included games and a BBQ.



We also squeezed in a trip to the Harry Potter Studios! 13 young people and 8 staff enjoyed a day out in Leavesden, Watford. We walked through sets, looked at props and discovered some of the magic that went into making the films. Half way around, after we had walked along platform 9¾, we had a packed lunch and tasted butter beer. Not everyone was a fan of the sweet drink! It was a privilege to spend the day out with these young people who were well behaved and polite. Everyone had a brilliant time and were inspired!



### AMAZING ALUMNI!



Staff and learners were treated to an extra-special careers presentation delivered by ex-iCollege learner, Kat! She met with several learners and talked with them about her experiences leaving the Downs, coming to iCollege before re-joining the Downs for her 6<sup>th</sup> form and then going on to study English literature at Winchester University. Kat was honest and informative and described some of her challenges as well as her inspirational moments. She

said that she was very motivated after taking part in the NCS Summer Challenge when she was 17, recognising the confidence boost she gained.

Kat also spent some time discussing her dissertation with some of the English team. We are so very proud of her and could hardly believe how much she has absorbed during the course of her degree.



### Independence

[office.independence@iccollege.org.uk](mailto:office.independence@iccollege.org.uk)

Independence has been a place of transition this half term. The first few weeks saw our year 11s working hard to complete their GCSE exams. Then we said a sad 'Good bye' to them. Some went on trips with members of staff. Alisha and Cheyanne had never been to a big supermarket before, and chose to visit Costco where they did some shopping and had lunch!



Subsequently, we welcomed the new cohort of year 11s through our doors. We've had all kinds of lessons including how to administer CPR!





## 'Experiences at work" for Y10 and Y11 learners have been a huge success!

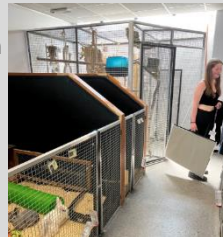
Year 10 and 11 learners have been attending workshops and trips that explore post 16 options and possible work experience. Well done to Lauren, Alfie and Ella (Y10) who attended EVERY trip they were offered!

### Further Education

Sparsholt, with their extensive grounds, remains a popular choice for learners who are interested in working with animals or outdoors. Phil Allen, our School Liaison Link has arranged many visits for iCollege.



BCOT is also gaining interest from learners who are excited by the range of courses including bricklaying, nail technician, hospitality and esports. Nixie (right) is weighing up the animal course with Fine Art for September.



### Marshalls



Alfie and Reece visited Marshalls and met an apprentice who was selected because he took his CV in, personally. His positive attitude and determination secured him the job and he is looking forward to being qualified and having a wage increase!

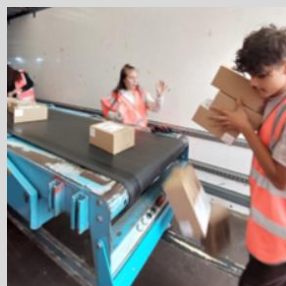
### NHS

Did you know that the NHS is one of the UK's largest employers with 1.3 million people on the payroll? Year 10s had a tour of the Berkshire Community Hospital and explored roles on offer. They spoke to a radiographer, a ward assistant and a facilities manager. We will be visiting the Royal Berks Hospital next!



### Westcoast

Westcoast is iCollege's enterprise advisor. They are a great support to iCollege. Young people had to navigate mini-pickups to collect cans of drink. Then they had to locate iCollege boxes which were labelled and despatched. Goodie boxes arrived at Independence the next day! Huge thanks to Craig, the operations manager for organising and sending out the boxes – we had a great time!



## Independence cooking on gas!

Kian, Jake, Cheyanne, Alisha, James, Logan and Alfie have successfully completed their Btec cooking level 1 or 2. Jake made a chicken tikka using his own blend of spices, and Kian took a tuna salad to the next level!

All should feel proud of their efforts.



## Integration

[office.integration@icollege.org.uk](mailto:office.integration@icollege.org.uk)

The big news from Integration is that the new building is ready! This week has been full of packing and getting ready for the move. From September, learners will be heading back to Calcot where they will be greeted by this beautiful, purpose-built building:



Meanwhile, learners have been busy growing vegetables and using them in their cooking...



...and also playing football against Pod+.

"Good luck!" to all our young people who will be starting somewhere fresh in September.

## Pod Plus

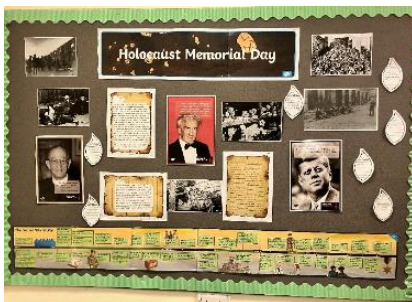
[office.podplus@icollege.org.uk](mailto:office.podplus@icollege.org.uk)

The year seems to have flown by!

We have been looking at the holocaust in history, which is a difficult and emotional topic, but the learners have been sensible about it and have asked some thought-provoking and powerful questions. We looked at how the Jewish community was persecuted as well as looking at concentration camps with learners writing about how they were persecuted and completing some emotional pieces of work on remembrance.

In art, we have been looking at different media and mask making, creating a structure and different shapes before exploring different ways of decorating them. The results are spectacular, if not a little creepy!

Take care, and have a wonderful summer!



## Defying gravity at Forest School!

This term, we have transported eggs, our lunch and even water uphill using wood, string, teamwork and our imagination!



## Look at some of what we have harvested this year...



## Inspiration

[office.inspiration@icollege.org.uk](mailto:office.inspiration@icollege.org.uk)

We had great fun during water safety week. We learnt what to do when you get into trouble in water. We looked at tips from the RNLI. There are 4 steps to remember:

1. Tilt your head back with your ears submerged.
2. Relax
3. Move your hands
4. Spread your arms and legs

We also read the Lighthouse Keeper's Lunch. We investigated electrical circuits!



## Pod

[staff.pod@icollege.org.uk](mailto:staff.pod@icollege.org.uk)

At the Pod, we took part in an art workshop where we discovered how to print.



As well as this, we have seen some wildlife visiting our garden in the day. This made us wonder what came in the night so we set up some night vision cameras and managed to capture this image...





## Our iCollege Community

I've been referred a fifteen year-old lad for counselling. School staff tell me about the potential they see in him, adding that he's a likeable lad who 'doesn't appear to take anything seriously', refuses to follow basic school rules, and has recently been involved in criminal activity. Of course he's full of potential, I think; he's a young man, brimming with mercurial energy, his driving life-force intimately connected to desire. The questions he's likely to need some help honestly exploring will be 'what do I do with it, and how do I do it, if, as I'm coming to realise, it's ultimately up to me to choose how to engage in the world'? Teenagers are always asking themselves: 'What really would happen if I choose to do *this* as opposed to *that*, and what kind of person would I become if I choose not to follow the rules laid down by people who were here before I even existed? Do I have any kind of control over anything?' We see this played out in the self-initiatory rites of boys who lark about in antisocial pranks, hurl themselves off cliffs, push limits, steal, and deftly manoeuvre themselves in their self-presentations as they slink between the worlds of their peers and of adults. As frustrating as this may be for adults working with or raising adolescents, it can be helpful to recognise that these sorts of behaviours are how teenagers explore, challenge, and develop their own moral compasses. Appreciating that within apparently senseless or selfish adolescent antics there's an awakening of conscience and a transition from collective to individual authority might help us to explore with them the inhibitory tension between feeling something and acting upon it.

*iCollege counsellor*

### A Note from Governors

This academic year draws to a close in a few weeks' time. Another hectic year for iCollege! It is hoped that the new unit for Integration at Calcot will be ready for learners early next term. It looks like an impressive new building that will offer more space for a range of activities.

All public exams have now been completed. This is a huge operation to take account of all learners' particular needs, aiming to create the most effective environment for this to happen. Governors look forward to hearing about results later in the school holidays in August. Learners and iCollege staff are still coping with the aftermath of Covid and all the issues that arose from this extended period of time. Governors are very appreciative of all that the staff at iCollege do to provide such a wide range of nationally recognised qualifications that can be achieved by the full range of learners in any one cohort. Governors at iCollege are always looking to recruit more governors when there are vacancies to fill. We are very pleased that we have a new governor and that he was able to join our recent management committee meeting. Matt Muijen has written the following pen-portrait by way of introduction.

Matt has always been very interested in education. His background is a psychiatrist, with a special interest in working with the most vulnerable people. For the last 25 years, he has been active in the interface between policy and service delivery and the need to provide better training, first in the UK as Chief Executive of a mental health charity, later working at the World Health Organisation. He now lives in Newbury and is keen to contribute to the wellbeing of young people and their parents and carers in his local area. In his spare time, he enjoys reading about history, listening to music and walking his dog.

We are very much looking forward to working with Matt and we hope that learners and iCollege staff will have the opportunity to meet him when he visits the different units.

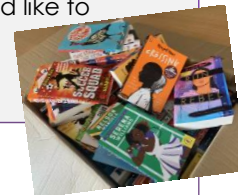
Governors wish all iCollege learners and staff a very happy summer break. A huge thank you to you all for everything that has been achieved this year!

## Creative Journaling

Thanks to funding from The Corn Exchange we have access to a 6 week Creative Art Journaling course for learners to use art as a visual voice to support the articulation of emotions in a safe space. It aims to help our young people with resilience, self regulation and reflection and uses mixed media, mindfulness and creative techniques to produce a private journal and will be run from Integration at their new site starting Sept 2023.



300 books have been delivered to us! Look out for them being promoted at Independence, Intervention and Integration and please ask if you would like to borrow any of them!



### Siobhan is swimming the channel!

Do you get a medal?  
*I don't think so, but I will share my certificate with you when I get back!*

Won't you die of cold-water shock?  
*Hopefully not! I've been swimming all through the winter in temperatures as low as 3 degrees so I am used to cold water.*

What are you worried about the most?  
*I am mostly worried about getting sea-sick when I have to sit in the boat while the others are swimming. I am also worried about not reaching France. We will need lots of determination to get through it.*

Good Luck,  
Siobhan!



## Summer Fun!

### JOIN TODAY!

The Summer Reading Challenge is ON.

Ready, Set, Read! is the name of the game and this year, you guessed it, our theme is sports and games.

Take part in your local library or online, right here. Set a reading goal and log your books on your profile. When you reach your goal you will unlock some digital goodies.

Join today!



Click on the link to find out more information and sign up:  
<https://summerreadingchallenge.org.uk/signing-in-src>



**Did you know...**that there is some amazing transition support for iCollege learners?

We offer 1:1 meetings throughout the summer holidays for those who are struggling to make their next move or are unsure about what to do next. Appointments between 10am and 2pm:

26<sup>th</sup> July  
9<sup>th</sup> August  
16<sup>th</sup> August  
24<sup>th</sup> August  
30<sup>th</sup> August

We can help you with careers advice, college place confirmations, enrolment queries, busary applications, any kind of application, interview support.

Please email [ahaynes@icollge.org.uk](mailto:ahaynes@icollge.org.uk) to book an appointment or for any help with your future careers.

### Keeping safe in the summer

Tim Emery, Police Liaison Officer, has visited all iCollege sites to discuss



how to keep safe through the summer holidays. In this photo, the learners tried on 'googly' glasses which mimicked the effect of alcohol. They were then challenged to 'high five' and Tim tested their coordination. It wasn't easy!

### Helpful Links:

Helping millions of families stay bored-free: [www.familyfirst.co.uk](http://www.familyfirst.co.uk)

Support for parents and carers: [www.wbpcf.org.uk](http://www.wbpcf.org.uk)

Link to iCollege website: [www.icollge.org.uk](http://www.icollge.org.uk)

50 free things to do in Berkshire this summer: [www.berkshirerummies.co.uk/50-free-things-to-do-in-berkshire-this-summer/](http://www.berkshirerummies.co.uk/50-free-things-to-do-in-berkshire-this-summer/)

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

[sgiaever@icollge.org.uk](mailto:sgiaever@icollge.org.uk)

Thank you to everyone who sent items for this edition.

For general enquiries, contact:

[office@icollge.org.uk](mailto:office@icollge.org.uk)  
01635 48872