

iCollege



Message from Jacquie

We all love summer! Spending more time with family and friends, soaking up the sun on the beach and in parks, and being free from the routines of school: it is undisputedly the beloved season!

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 years 6, 11 and 13 – and I want to wish them all 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.

I hope that you are now all aware of the pleasing OfSTED outcome of our inspection in April, in that iCollege is 'good' in all areas. I am particularly thrilled with the first sentence: "Adults have created a calm, kind and nurturing atmosphere." Kindness is important in life, and is often underrated. Be kind to others, and they will be kind back!

I look forward to welcoming learners back in September, when the first day of school is Monday 5th.



Upcoming Dates

July 22

Break up for the summer!

July 28

Commonwealth Games begin

August 25

GCSE results day

August 31

Bank Holiday

September 5

Back to school!

Welcome to iCollege!

We are pleased to welcome a number of staff to our team at iCollege. Some of these are already in post.

Ian Jones - Primary/SEMH Teacher

Charlotte Ross - SEMH/Primary Teacher

Samantha Buckley Art Teacher

Danielle Seward - SEMH TA

Viki Milsom - Independence TA

We look forward to working with you, and hope that you will be very happy.

Covid is still out there!

Over the summer, please:

- Be aware.
- Follow government guidelines – currently, stay at home for 5 days if you are ill or test positive; 3 days for under 18s.
- If you are unwell, stay away from vulnerable people for 10 days.
- Keep up with handwashing.
- Have a jab if you are eligible.
- Stay safe!

Unit News

Integration

office.integration@iccollege.org.uk

This term at Integration, we were lucky enough to be invited for a visit to Theale Fire and Rescue Station! Learners got to have a guided tour of the brand new Theale Fire and Rescue Station by the resident Blue Team, and even got to witness first-hand what happens when a call comes in for a rescue. Learners (and staff!) were particularly grateful to be able to have a go at handling the fire hose on such a hot sunny day, and to top it all off, learners even had the opportunity to see what it was like to take on the fireman's pole! It was great to learn a little bit more about everything that the firemen do for us.



Independence

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This is such a busy half term with revision and exams in full flow, then transitions and planning for Y11 and post 16 to go to college or apprenticeships. It sounds straightforward, but for many learners, leaving one year group and moving up to another, particularly at

a new setting, can be anxiety-inducing: new faces, places, routines and expectations. I can honestly say our Y11s have been superb and have managed their exams brilliantly. Now we have transitioning Y10s in the building and they, too, have been amazing at adapting to the 'new'. We are rounding off a hot half term with a welcome BBQ for the new year 10s on Wednesday, and an activity day on Thursday with bacon sandwiches!

Intervention

office.intervention@iccollege.org.uk

In practical skills, we have finished the Intervention 'Welcome Mosaic' which Barry has now put up in the entrance lobby. All the young people at Intervention have had a hand in working on this project which has been expertly led by Lucie!



Inspiration

office.inspiration@iccollege.org.uk

We have been keeping cool outside. Can you think of a different way to solve our water puzzle and get the water in the bucket?



Pod +

staff.pod@iccollege.org.uk

Pod+ have enjoyed being outside this half term. Year 7 have benefited from Outdoor Academy and Forest School. It's easy for young people to forget how much fun can be had learning outdoors and it has been wonderful to see their smiling faces.



The Pod

staff.pod@iccollege.org.uk

This term, we have enjoyed going out on visits. We visited Beale Park and Finkley Down Farm to look at the animals. We really enjoyed the trip around Beale Park on the train.

This term, we will be saying goodbye to 5 of our learners as they move on to secondary placements. We wish them well in the next stage of their school careers. The rest of us are looking forward to a long and restful summer!



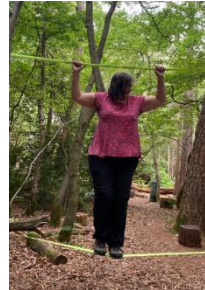
Curriculum News

Forest School

Back in the Spring, we planted potatoes. We have just harvested them!



Look who else loves forest school:



We also had a special guest who came to see how we use small tools safely. We roasted marshmallows on an open fire!

Bumper Harvest at Intervention!



Joel and several willing helpers have been busy harvesting this lovely produce from the Intervention garden. It was all bagged up for sale where it raised £40 towards next year.

The iCollege Rainbow Flag Award champions are delighted to announce that we recently passed two more modules! The team continue to work towards showing just how iCollege supports and encourages the LGBTQ+ community across each of the sites, and we are happy to say that we have passed both the "Supportive Governors and Parents" section and "Effective Policies" section with flying colours. There are only 3 more modules to go before we receive our Rainbow Flag, but we are half way there!



ICT SUCCESS!

At Independence the young people have really pulled it out of the bag. This year, all learners who were entered for ICT have gained either a Level 1 or 2 in functional skills. A couple of learners really gave it their all coming back to iCollege after they had finished for the year to re-sit their ICT exam to get a better grade. Well done to Darren and Gabriel!

SCIENCE



In science at Intervention, we are looking at different chemical reactions.

COOKING

At Pod+, learners have been loving spending time in the kitchen. Kurtis decided to use his lunch break to make a special cake for his nan for her birthday.





Year 10 Work Experience week.

Year 10 learners have taken part in a variety of trips to further education settings as well as a week of work experiences. Visits were made to Sparsholt College, Winchester Science Centre, Reading University, Bucks New University, Reading College and Newbury College.

A huge thank you to everyone who supported our young people on their work experiences. Here are 2 examples:



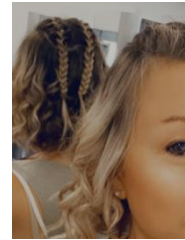
The Ugly Duckling was Cheyanne's favourite placement. She enjoyed making drinks, serving customers and decorating her own egg cup. Thank you Emma Hopper and team!



Nixie had 3 experiences, but the one that got her vote was Podium where she stocked displays, helped with the cleaning and folded napkins as well as getting a tour of the premises.

To Cody for achieving his Level 1 pre-16

Carpentry course at Newbury College, and to Summer for



completing her Level 1 Hair. She needed a model and chose Jo from Integration.



DAME KELLY HOLMES TRUST

Well done to Alfie at Integration for successfully completing the Dame Kelly Holmes Trust mentoring programme with Serena Guthrie MBE.



Farewell Year 11s!

It has been a roller-coaster half term for year 11s with GCSEs, college visits, interviews, end of year trip and for some, their Duke of Edinburgh expedition.

I want to extend my congratulations to learners who have taken all of this in their stride. iCollege young people are moving on to sixth form colleges, apprenticeships, jobs with training and further education colleges. We wish you well, and want to remind you that support is available to you as you transition from iCollege to your post 16 option.

1:1 transition support with Advizer:

Wednesday 27th July, Wednesday 10th August, Wednesday 31st August.

These appointments can provide support with:

- Exploring careers and options
- Confirming college places
- Applying for bursaries (to help cover the cost of travel)
- Applying for apprenticeships, jobs with training and part time jobs.

PLEASE CHECK YOUR EMAILS REGULARLY!

If you ignore emails about college places, your place will be withdrawn!

We know that some college courses are oversubscribed – don't lose your place!

Reading College has transition sessions on 27th July and 10th August.

Any questions on any aspect of this, please contact Ali: ahaynes@icolllege.org.uk / 07464895993

GCSE results day: 25th August.
Independence will be open
9-1pm if you want to collect
your results in person.
Adviza will be available.

Our Community

A Note from Governors: July 2022.

First and foremost, governors would like to congratulate all staff and learners at iCollege for receiving such a glowing Ofsted report recently. This is hugely encouraging and is testament to all the hard work and commitment of everyone at iCollege, particularly in the very testing circumstances of the last two and a half years. Governors enjoyed the opportunity to meet with the Lead Inspector, answer their questions and contribute our own points on some important aspects of governance.

Governors are gradually returning over the last weeks to some face to face meetings. Whilst this is a very welcome move, caution is still being exercised. Much has depended on the incidence of covid amongst staff and learners at iCollege and where there are clear risks, meetings have continued virtually, a very useful option to have at our disposal. Hopefully, when the new academic year starts up in September there will be more opportunities for governors to visit iCollege units in person. There is no substitute for seeing learners and staff at work in their classrooms and/ or in their outdoor spaces. To be able to see the variety of activities, displays, art work and also look at learners' books gives governors such a rich insight into the day to day life of iCollege and the learning pathways that are created to meet each individual's needs.

Governors would like to wish all learners and staff a very happy and relaxing summer break. Public exam results will arrive in August and governors look forward to more celebration of iCollege's learners' successes and achievements from this academic year 2021 - 2022.

In Conversation with Cheyanne

My name is Cheyanne and I'm a year 10 learner.

Today I interviewed Suzanne and Emma from the English Department. I asked about their love of English. These teachers are very much alike in the way they love English as well as how they teach it. They are both funny and chill in lessons not like boring maths teachers.

The first question I asked was what about English are they passionate about. Suzanne loves language and how powerful words are. Emma is passionate about apostrophes, poetry and literature.

Next I asked what made them want to be English teachers. Suzanne actually wanted to be a forensic scientist! The truth is that both of her parents were teachers and it seemed like a good life. Now she has realised how amazing and what a privilege it is to share her love of words with young people. On the other hand, Emma loves being part of the journey of discovery and uncovering hidden layers in text. Her first love was William Shakespeare!

I was quite shocked at what Suzanne and Emma said when I asked them if they would quit their jobs if they could be famous novelists. Both of them said no, they would stay as teachers because they love their jobs. Emma said she would find it boring not teaching because she loves seeing young people learn.

After that I asked, "If you could meet a famous novelist, who would it be and why?" Emma said she would love to meet Emily Bronte who wrote *Wuthering Heights* because she would like to find out how she came up with such incredible love stories whilst living in the middle of nowhere on the Yorkshire Moors. On the other hand, Suzanne changes her mind a lot, but at this moment, she would like to meet Manjit Mann who wrote 'The Crossing' which is one of the Carnegie shortlisted books of this year. She would also like to know about the author's inspiration.

Fifthly, I asked what their favourite genre was. Suzanne, unexpectedly, loves crime thrillers whilst Emma loves historical fiction.

Lastly, I wanted to know what their favourite thing to do is that isn't English-related. Both of them said they love to go shopping with each other!

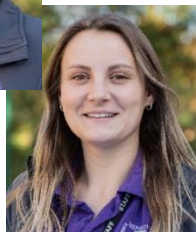
What do political and economic systems have in common with people? All require challenges and stressors in order to grow and develop. If our immune systems aren't exposed to germs, they weaken; unused muscles atrophy. And this applies equally to our emotional systems. I'm not referring to the overused word resilience; rather, humans are what's termed 'antifragile'. It's when we're challenged and thwarted that we learn and adapt. Overprotecting our children through the creeping cult of safetyism and trigger-warnings undermines their innate capacity for antifragility. Studies show a clear connection between protecting young people from feeling 'unsafe' and the rises in rates of depression and anxiety over the past decade. There's a crucial difference between ensuring children are physically safe and that of protecting their emotional safety by warding off potential disappointments and frustrations. You may have heard the saying: 'Prepare the child for the road, not the road for the child.' Our children aren't fragile candles who'll be easily extinguished by the wind of life, so let's ensure we harness their strength and vitality to embrace the wind.

iCollege Counsellor

And finally...



We are saying goodbye to...



Mary, Ramona and
Sian from Inspiration.



Karen from Integration

Becky from the Pod



Melanie from Intervention

Jo from
Independence



Fen from everywhere!

Sarah from Adviza



Thank You!

for everything you
have done. We wish you all the best
with your future endeavors!

FREE SUMMER ACTIVITIES FOR SECONDARY SCHOOL AGE PUPILS
Moorside Community Centre,
Urquhart Road, Thatcham, RG19 4RE
26th July - 19th August
Tuesday - Friday 12pm - 4pm
FREE LUNCH INCLUDED

Boxing sessions | Cooking | Crafts
Basketball | Paddleboarding | Climbing
And a Lot More...

FOR MORE INFO:
WWW.THATCHAMYOUTH.ORG.UK/SUMMERHAP

Waterside Centre
Berkshire Youth

**Primary School Years 1 - 6
Summer Holiday
Club Programme**

Come and enjoy a wide range of activities,
including sports, arts and crafts, games,
plus healthy meals and more!

Monday 1 - Thursday 25 August 2022
Mondays, Tuesdays,
Wednesdays and Thursdays

Primary School Years 1 - 6
8.30am - 12.30pm
£5 per day plus £3 breakfast

To register your interest, please send an email
with the title 'Summer Sign Up' to
waterside@berkshireryouth.co.uk

Waterside Centre
31 Northbrook Street
Newbury
RG14 1DS
watersidecentre.co.uk

BERKSHIRE YOUTH BY

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

sgiaever@icollage.org.uk

Thank you to everyone who
sent items for this edition.

For general enquiries,
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