

15th January 2021

Dear Parents and Carers,

Weekly Round-Up for Parents

Below is our weekly roundup for parents. I hope you are managing to stay safe and well and I would like to express our heartfelt appreciation for the unwavering support we have received through your emails and messages of encouragement and thanks. They really are keeping us going and make our work worthwhile, knowing that it is having a positive impact on our students and families. We also continue to welcome your feedback on improvements that may be needed too, so please continue to contact us.

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Remote Learning

We have had another really successful week of remote learning. Last week, we offered more live teaching and aim to gradually increase this number in the coming weeks. Please can we ask that you ensure your son / daughter is logging on with plenty of time to join in, so that they don't miss the start of the lesson or arrive flustered. We record all of our live lessons, so if they have found an aspect of the lesson problematic, they can pause and go back over the content. Equally, if they are unable to log in at the time the lesson is live, they can do it later in the day. We have asked students to ensure all work is uploaded and submitted on the day of the lesson, and this is to give them some flexibility within their day and to ensure they can get their 'present' mark by submitting the work. Please can I remind you that all of the information about our remote learning provision can be found on our website: <https://iscaexeter.co.uk/school-life/parallel-curriculum/> We have included a variety of help guides including 'how to upload work' onto this area too.

Rewards

We are very conscious that it is hard for students to remain focussed and positive when they are away from their teachers and friends, so we are keen to do what we can to recognise their efforts and keep them motivated. In the last couple of weeks we have seen the outstanding effort that has gone into online learning from our students and in recognition of their continued efforts, we will be launching a lockdown rewards scheme. We have asked subjects teachers to post home little cards every week that acknowledge the effort students are putting into their work.

We will also be introducing 'Lockdown Legends'. Teachers have been asked to nominate students who are really going above and beyond at home. We'd love you to send in images of great work or your son / daughter engaging with remote learning activities so that we can share these on our social media platforms and with the wider school community. Please email lockdownlegends@iscaexeter.co.uk if this is something that you would like to do. The Legends will be announced on social media, so keep an eye out on Monday to discover who our first Lockdown Legend will be! Legends can look forward to receiving a treat through the post later in the week...



Essential School

If your child is [eligible](#) and requires a place at our Essential School, but is not currently booked in, please complete the [Booking a Place for Essential School Updated Form](#) to indicate their requirements for this provision. This will enable us to continue to provide a place for your child as and when you need it and for the period that you need it. Once you complete the form, a member of staff will make contact with you to confirm the arrangements.

If your circumstances have changed and you no longer need a place in our Essential School but have previously booked a place, can you please let us know on the following email address: adminoffice@iscaexeter.co.uk

If your child is currently attending Essential School and you are happy for them to be tested and haven't yet completed the consent form, please follow the link here: [Lateral test consent form](#). Please complete one form for each child for which you are responsible.

Student Timetables – reported issues

We are aware that there are some reported issues on the Xpressions app causing it to show inaccurate student timetables. We are working to identify why this is happening and correct it as quickly as possible. We will update parents early next week.

20.20.20 Rule – Supporting Students with Screen Time

One of our students shared with Mrs Ward that the opticians have advised them of the 20 20 20 rule, which is useful for anyone using a computer. Every 20 minutes, you must look at something 20 feet away for 20 seconds to rest your eyes. This can help prevent tiredness and headaches from prolonged screen focus. We also recommend, getting up and taking time away from the screen in between each lesson and where possible, taking some time to get some fresh air.

Isca: A Reading School - Y7 and Y8 Only

During this challenging time, the English Team at Isca know the joy and pure escapism a great book can bring to people. We are really keen that our students keep on enjoying amazing stories and taking part in the Accelerated Reader book quizzes to track their reading journey. Students are being given the opportunity to spend one of their English lessons reading each week. This maybe a book of their own or by watching the YouTube videos of their Teachers reading some brilliant books. Amongst the choices available to our students are *Wonder* which follows August, a young ten-year-old boy born with an incredible facial abnormality. It emphasises the importance of compassion for those who are less fortunate and the innate humanity we share despite our differences. There is also Patrick Ness' *A Monster Calls*, an emotional read about love, loss and the power of stories, accompanied by beautiful illustrations. Links are made available on the Isca English Google Classroom pages. Why not join your child listening to the story unfold? You could have your own family Book Club too. Do share with us any stories you have about the ways reading is helping you through these difficult times. Email Mrs Freestone mfreestone@iscaexeter.co.uk if you have something to tell us about your love of reading.

Treasure Island Theatre Show for all the Family

We are delighted to share with you the offer made by our local cultural partner, Exeter Northcott. This is the chance to view a recording of the live version of **Robert Louis Stevenson's** *Treasure Island*, as performed by Theatre Company and comedians extraordinaire, **Le Navet Bete** at the Northcott last December. Our students have enjoyed many breath-taking performances at Exeter Northcott together with opportunities to develop their own skills, whilst working alongside professional performers from esteemed companies. This is our chance to support them and we hope you enjoy this wonderful performance using the link here <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Gmd8rSqoxqE>



Exeter Northcott are asking for a small donation of £10 to watch the show which represents great value for money compared to an average ticket price of £8-20 for a live theatre performance per person. If you are able to, it would be wonderful if you enjoyed the show with the whole family and made a donation to help keep the arts alive in our local community.

Free School Meal Hampers

Each week we will continue to issue food hampers to be collected from the school site. If there is a medical reason that you or a member of your household are not able to collect the hamper please contact the school on fsm@iscaexeter.co.uk

Collections can be made on the following days next week:

- **Wednesday 20th January**
- **Wednesday 27th January**
- **Wednesday 3rd February**
- **Wednesday 10th February**

Also please arrive according to your child's year group (if you have more than one child, please use the most convenient slot from the options available to you):

- Year 7: 0900-0945
- Year 8: 0945-1015
- Year 9: 1015-1100
- Year 10: 1100-1145
- Year 11: 1145-1230

Thank you for the effort and commitment that our students and their families are showing to their online learning and we wish you a safe and restful weekend.

Yours sincerely,

Miss Aimee Mitchell
Headteacher