

22nd January 2021

Dear Parents and Carers,

Weekly Round-Up for Parents

Below is our weekly roundup for parents. I hope you have managed to stay safe and well, despite the appalling weather this week!

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Wellbeing and Studio71

I'd like to take this opportunity to remind parents about Studio71 Online, which is an arts based mental health and wellbeing programme within Google Classroom and is run by Mrs Hughes, our Studio71 Lead and Jasper Freestone, our wellbeing coordinator. An amazing 551 students have now joined and are able to access the many resources – including fun quizzes, wellbeing quizzes, creative challenges, wellbeing activities, useful information and so much more. There is even a wellbeing playlist created by our own Studio71 students! If your child hasn't yet joined Studio71 online, please encourage them to do so by using the class code: vk73zmn. It is an excellent resource for our students and those that have engaged with it are finding it really beneficial. If you have any questions or just want to know more, please visit our website or [email Mrs Hughes](#) our Studio71 Lead.

Remote Learning

We have had another week of very successful online learning. We are seeing an increasing number of students attending and engaging in more lessons each day, which is fantastic. However, our challenge remains that we do need students to submit the work they are completing each lesson, so that our teachers can see that they have completed and understood the work being set. We appreciate that this might be a little confusing, so we have created a help guide for you: [How students can find complete and submit work guide](#). We have asked our teachers to mark a student as 'not present' if they have not submitted the work. This enables us to really understand which students are continuing to make progress in their learning and which students require a little more support from us to do this. Therefore, it is really important that students submit their work at the end of each lesson. We also recognise that not all students will be able to complete the work at the time the lesson is scheduled to take place. We do ask though, that it is submitted on the same day and your ongoing help and support in monitoring this with your child is very much appreciated.

Tip for Chromebook Users

By clicking **Alt, [and]** at the same time, you can split the Chromebook screen into 2 tabs and be on your Google Meet and Google Classroom at the same time!



Interventions

We are really pleased to announce that we will be launching some of our online interventions next week for our students, so that we can continue to support them in making progress with their learning as well as personal development. These will include: Year 7 and 8 literacy intervention (Phonics and Lexia), Social Skills, Pastoral Support, Studio 71 (our Arts based well-being programme) and Year 11 English and Maths intervention. We hope to launch even more additional sessions in the coming weeks. If your son / daughter is involved in any of these, you will be contacted directly.

Lockdown Legends

We have been delighted by the response to our Lockdown Legends rewards initiative. Please do keep sending these in. We have also loved that families have nominated teachers for this too. Our staff have really appreciated this, so thank you.

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

REMINDER: 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.

Isca is a Reading School

Students in Year 7 and 8 are still enjoying regular library lessons as part of their curriculum offer in lockdown. During this time, they are read to and are asked to complete a short quiz. The books we're reading have been chosen really carefully to ensure they offer diversity and a rich and challenging reading experience; the English Team hope this brings a moment of calm and joy to your child's week!

Our Accelerated Reader programme is accessible at home – please encourage your child to continue reading and quizzing to build up their points, and ultimately become stronger and more confident readers. We believe the power of a book allows children (and adults) to immerse themselves into a different environment, to encourage imagination and allow freedom to visit and experience other worlds.



With this in mind, we would like to ask that you encourage your child to read daily. Time away from the screen is important, especially at the moment, and a book can provide an enrichment opportunity, together with a chance to develop their literacy skills. Your child can log into their Accelerated Reader pages via this link here:

<https://ukhosted107.renlearn.co.uk/1892265/>

All students are aware of their login details. There is more information about this on the year group English Google Classroom too.

Please also be aware that books can be accessed in these two places (as audio books too!) as well as many more on the Internet.

- <https://www.devonlibraries.org.uk/web/arena>
- <https://library.thenational.academy/>

Year 9 and Year 10 Information Events

The parents' information event for Year 10 parents will take place on Thursday 4th February 2021 between 3:30pm and 7:30pm by telephone.

The evening is designed to enable you to speak with individual subject teachers to review how your son/daughter is making progress and to discuss ways of working together to best support their academic and personal success. You can book your appointments online by going to the following website: www.parents-booking.co.uk/isca Bookings can be made from Monday 25th January at 12 noon. **The bookings will close on Wednesday 3rd February at 12 noon.**

The parents' information event for Year 9 parents will take place on Thursday 11th February and information will follow next week.

Free School Meal Hampers

We are pleased to let you know that Free School Meal Hampers will now be delivered directly to your home. The boxes will cover a two week period and include fresh items and cupboard basics to allow your child to have 10 nutritious lunches over the fortnight. If your child is eligible for Free School Meals and you haven't already completed the form regarding home delivery, please do so here: [Food Parcel Delivery Form](#) Any queries about Free School Meals should be emailed to fsm@iscaexeter.co.uk

Thank you for your continued support and feedback. We wish you a safe and restful weekend.

Yours sincerely,

Miss Aimee Mitchell

Headteacher