

Friday 19th March 2021

Dear Parents and Carers,

We have been delighted with how well students have settled back into learning this week. As I have walked around the school site, and visited lessons, I have seen students engaged in really high quality learning. I also know, having spoken to students this week, that many have enjoyed seeing their teachers again and feeling part of the Isca community. Students have engaged equally well with their homework and I have seen some superb Knowledge Organisers with students recalling this knowledge with confidence in their Do Now Activities at the start of their lessons.

As we settle back in to the rhythm of school life, we will be thinking about the summer term and the potential for some more of our usual activities to take place. We will of course be keeping a close watch on the national road map but we do now feel that we can begin to plan our summer concert (outdoors ad with a festival theme) as well as other wider enrichment opportunities. More details will follow as we move in to the summer term.

A reminder that the non-pupil day that was scheduled to take place on March 22<sup>nd</sup> has been cancelled and this will be a normal school day for everyone.

### Extra-Curricular Activities

As promised last week, please see below the plan for our extra-curricular programme starting from next week.

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday
<b>Study Club, Library, 3:15 - 4pm</b>			
<b>Dance club</b> Miss Thomas Year 7 & 8 Movement space		<b>Samba Club</b> Mr Giles Year 7 & 8 F76	<b>Drama Club</b> Mr Carter Year 7 & 8 Drama room
<b>Junior Choir</b> Mrs Vallance Year 7 & 8 Outside	<b>All Performing Arts clubs are after school 3:15pm – 4:15pm.</b> If a club says it will be outside, students need to bring a warm coat/scarf etc. and it will be under the covered area outside the canteen.		<b>Senior Choir</b> Mrs Vallance Year 9-11 Outside
<b>Rock Club</b> Mr Cosgrove Year 7-9 F75	<b>Sports Clubs run 3:15 - 4:30</b> Students will work in Year groups and there will be access to changing facilities.		<b>Netball</b> CT/KMA
<b>GCSE PE</b> G70 AG	<b>GCSE PE</b> G70 AG	 ISCA ACADEMY INSPIRATION FOR LIFE	<b>Sport Studies</b> FO5 JFA
<b>Sport Studies</b> FO5 JFA	<b>Sport Studies</b> FO5 JFA		<b>Alternative Games</b> AG
<b>Football</b> KMA	<b>Tag – Rugby</b> CH	<b>Extra Curricular Activities</b>  From Monday 22nd March 2021 Please see staff for more details	
<b>Cricket</b> BRE	<b>Rounders</b> BRE		

## Music and Performing Arts

The Music department is very much energised with excitement now that students have returned to the classroom. We are so excited to have students back and making wonderful sounds!

During remote learning Year 11 have been completing their 'managing a music product' unit. This would normally involve organising a live music event, but this year we have had to move things online. The Year 11 musicians have worked incredibly hard and have produced a radio show (due to be on Phonic FM soon), a number of podcasts and playlists, a performance spanning musical decades, cover releases and an original folk EP. The majority of these events can be found on the schools YouTube channel: [Here](#).

We have also been recording and preparing performances for an Easter concert that will be released on YouTube in the last week of term. Details will be shared with you nearer the time. It will feature mostly Year 9 and 11 musicians and the students have been rehearsing and refining their fantastic performances in preparation for this. We are looking forward to sharing this with you.

As mentioned above, The Performing Arts department also plans to hold an open air festival event at the end of the summer term, meaning all of their extra-curricular clubs will start next week! This will include choirs, drama and dance clubs, rock clubs and the return of the infamous samba band! We cannot wait to start working on creative and exciting projects with our students again!

## Catering – New Supplier

From Thursday 1<sup>st</sup> April 2021, Aspens Services will become the schools new catering suppliers.

Aspens who specialise in providing catering services to schools, are passionate about great tasting food and offer a wonderful selection of choices. They will be offering great tasting homemade wholesome food, produced using quality, locally sourced ingredients. Food that is not only nutritious but keeps students coming back for more!

We are thrilled by this change as it will allow the school to have direct management over the catering provision which we did not previously have.

As we move to the new supplier, we will unfortunately have two days where we will only be able to provide onsite food for students entitled to free school meals. This means that all other students will need to bring a packed lunch in to school. The two days affected are, 31<sup>st</sup> March and 1<sup>st</sup> April. We apologise for the inconvenience this may cause.

The new school menu will be available on the school website and SCOPay ready for the summer term starting on the 19<sup>th</sup> April. Ordering and purchasing school meals will continue as usual from this date.

Please see the [welcome information from Aspens](#) and more detail on what to expect in our school menu's after the Easter Holidays on our website.

If you require further information on the above, please contact the school on [adminoffice@iscexeter.co.uk](mailto:adminoffice@iscexeter.co.uk)

## Home testing

Students who have been tested on site for the past two weeks should now have completed their three tests in school and have been sent home with their home testing kits. We ask that students test on a Sunday and Wednesday evening each week and report their test results on the NHS site as well as reporting on the school site [HERE](#). Further information regarding household testing can be found on our website here: [Coronavirus updates](#).

We will be issuing additional home test kits just before the Easter holidays so that testing can continue throughout the break.

Should your child test positive for Covid please record the result as above and email the school on [covid@iscaexeter.co.uk](mailto:covid@iscaexeter.co.uk) to inform us as soon as possible. Positive results from a home test will require a

confirmatory PCR test to be completed. This is because the home tests are not conducted in a controlled environment.

### **Department for Education Message to Parents regarding Testing**

As schools return to full attendance, we understand parents' frustration when their child is asked to isolate at home either after testing positive for coronavirus (COVID-19), or because of being in close contact of someone who has tested positive.

However self-isolation is one of the most important things we can do to help stop the spread of the virus and help protect our friends, family and our community. Around one in three people with coronavirus (COVID-19) have no symptoms, and so finding and isolating these hidden cases quickly will help to stop outbreaks before they get a chance to develop.

If your child has tested positive having been tested using a lateral flow device (LFD) test at school, they do not need a PCR confirmation because these tests are done in a supervised environment. Lateral flow device tests are at least 99.9% specific, meaning the likelihood of a false positive is extremely low – less than 1 in every 1,000. PCR testing will always carry a risk of producing false negatives. At the moment, carrying out LFD tests in supervised conditions and not carrying out confirmatory PCR testing means we capture the maximum possible number of coronavirus (COVID-19) infections during the initial return to school period.

Once your child starts testing at home using lateral flow tests, positive results must be followed up with a confirmatory PCR test (as these tests are not conducted in a controlled environment).

The Government have recently updated their guidance for parents which can be accessed here [what parents need to know about early years providers, schools and colleges during COVID-19](#)

Thank you as always for your continued support. We wish you and your family a restful weekend.

Best wishes,



Aimee Mitchell Headteacher