



Friday 23rd April 2021

Dear Parents and Carers,

It has been fantastic to welcome back students following the Easter break. The school has felt calm, vibrant and positive with the children settling back in really well. We have enjoyed an action packed week with our extra-curricular activities and it has been wonderful to hear music from different bands as well as seeing the cadets return to training. This weekend we are also looking forward to supporting 60+ students with their Ten Tors training, enabling them to train for participation in the Ten Tors 'Virtual' event this year using Strava. We hope the weather stays warm for them!

School Reports

Our students spent the last part of the spring term undertaking assessments in each of their subjects. The purpose of these was to ascertain what the students have learned over the course of the term, including their time spent learning during lockdown. Our teaching staff are using this information to identify any gaps in knowledge and skill, enabling them to plan their lessons accordingly to address these. Based on the disruption to students' learning as a result of Lockdown, the assessment data is first and foremost for our teaching staff and we will therefore not be publishing a spring report. We will of course send home a summer term report later this year so that you are able to see the progress your child has made over the course of the year. If you do have any questions regarding the progress of your child, please do not hesitate to contact us.

Reporting Student Absence – Important

Please can you use either the Xpressions App or the attendance@iscaexeter.co.uk email address to inform us if your child will not be attending school. Other forms of communication or email addresses may not reach the dedicated attendance team and your message may well get delayed or missed. Also can you please contact us for each day of your child's absence.

Free School Meal Vouchers - Reminder

Please use your FSM vouchers which were issued for the Easter holidays as soon as possible, as they will expire shortly. If you have lost your code please contact fsm@iscaexeter.co.uk for support.

Internet Watch Foundation – regarding 'self-generated' child sexual abuse imagery

The following information has been shared with us by the Department for Education. Although sometimes difficult to comprehend, it is important that we raise awareness with our parents about such issues.

The Internet Watch Foundation (IWF) has launched a [6 week campaign](#) to help raise awareness of 'self-generated' child sexual abuse imagery. This kind of content is created using webcams and smartphones and then shared online via a growing number of platforms. In some cases, children are groomed, deceived or extorted into producing and sharing a sexual image or video of themselves with girls aged 11-13 the main victims. Sadly any child, no matter what their background, with unrestricted access to internet-connected devices, is at risk.

The campaign seeks to provide children with an increased awareness of how to respond safely to inappropriate requests and for parents and carers to have an increased awareness of abuse online so they

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are better equipped to protect their children. Please take some time to look at the campaign and some of their useful resources for parents and children.

NSPCC Helpline – in response to ‘Everyone’s Invited’

Following the troubling testimonies of sexual harassment and abuse documented on the Everyone’s Invited website, the NSPCC have launched a [new helpline](#) and resources to support children and young people. Please take some time to look at the link and their useful resources with your child.

The helpline can be contacted on **0800 136 663**, or by emailing help@nspcc.org.uk.

DfE Guidance for COVID-19 Testing

Please continue to complete the lateral flow test and report the results twice weekly in order to identify asymptomatic cases of coronavirus (COVID-19) and prevent the spread of the virus. This is essential as the national lockdown begins to ease and your support to continue with this is very much appreciated.

Year 11 Update

The last day of formal lessons for Year 11 will be the 28th May, after which students will be participating in various transition and wellbeing activities for Post 16 up to and including the 25th June to give them the best possible start in the next step of their career journey. Friday 25th June will be the last day of school for Year 11. Further details outlining the Post 16 transition and wellbeing activities will follow in the coming weeks, but will include subject enhancement lessons and workshops, mock interview sessions and some fun activities too! We also cannot wait to use this time to reflect and celebrate the many achievements of our Year 11’s during their time with us at Isca Academy.

From this week, my letters will revert back to once per half term, but I will ensure that you are kept informed of any emerging issues and of course the parents and Year 11 students will receive regular updates and information in the coming weeks.

Thank you as always for your continued support as we begin a new term, it is very much appreciated. I wish you and your family a restful weekend.

Yours sincerely,

Aimee Mitchell

Headteacher