



24th May 2021

Dear Parent and Carers,

We are delighted to be able to write to you with exciting news about how our school will operate from September 2021. Following over a year of COVID restrictions and lockdowns, we want to ensure that our planning from September onwards supports all of our students to achieve fantastic outcomes, as well as having an exceptional educational experience at Isca.

In order to do this, we have not only enhanced our taught curriculum offer, with more option courses available and increased time for core subjects, but we have also created an extended curriculum offer for all year groups which will encompass at least 1 additional hour per week of enrichment opportunities built into the school timetable.

For Years 7 – 9, this will mean that for 1 day per week they will finish school at 4.15pm. For Year 10, this will occur for 2 days per week and for Year 11, 3 days per week. This will only impact the timetable on a Monday to Wednesday each week with Thursday and Friday remaining the same as this year. The days of the week for each year group are detailed below:

- **Year 7** - Extended day until 4:15pm on a **Tuesday** each week. All other days remain the same.
- **Year 8** - Extended day until 4:15pm on a **Wednesday** each week. All other days remain the same.
- **Year 9** - Extended day until 4:15pm on a **Monday** each week. All other days remain the same.
- **Year 10** - Extended day until 4:15pm on a **Monday and Tuesday** each week. All other days remain the same.
- **Year 11** - Extended day until 4:15pm on a **Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday** each week. All other days remain the same.

Many students already attend beyond the school day for Period 6 lessons in Core subjects or to attend our extensive extra-curricular offer. This structure will enable most of this to be achieved within the taught timetable for the students. There will of course still be optional opportunities beyond the school day but this will be adjusted accordingly with the new curriculum structure.

As students will be attending school for longer on these days, we are adjusting our homework expectations to balance students' work commitments over the course of the week. More details will follow on this in the coming weeks.



## **About our curriculum**

The curriculum at Isca Academy is much more than just our lessons. It includes ethos, attitudes, relationships and wider opportunities, all of which enrich the life and development of each and every child at our school.

We believe that the creation of an enhanced timetable offer will enable us to ensure that **all** students can benefit from the wide number of enrichment opportunities on offer, as well as further supporting their academic development.

As always, we aim to provide a broad, balanced and enjoyable curriculum that meets the needs and aspirations of every child and leaves them well prepared for their future. We are committed to developing the 'whole child' and ensuring that we create fun, laughter and joy as well as academic excellence.

## **iLife**

From September 2021, all students at Isca Academy will participate in our iLife programme. This is a personal development programme that is specifically designed for the students at Isca and will become their passport to future success beyond the Academy. The programme includes the following elements:

### **Core Curriculum (Timetabled):**

- Personal, social, health education
- Relationships and Sex Education
- Careers development
- Wellbeing, resilience and leadership development
- Duke of Edinburgh for All (Year 9)
- Cultural and enrichment opportunities

### **Extended Offer - iLife Credits:**

- Leadership development
- Further languages development
- Wider curriculum opportunities
- Careers workshops and experiences
- Outdoor education opportunities
- Sports and Creative Arts opportunities

iLife Credits will be awarded for each extended opportunity that students participate in with an iLife document issued at the end of Year 11, summarising their achievements and skill development to take to College or to an employer.

Skills and qualities developed through the programme include:

• Leadership	• Kindness
• Teamwork	• Tolerance
• Effective communication	• Respect
• Resilience	• Empathy / Compassion
• Creativity	• Positivity
• Problem solving	• Initiative

We are really excited to be able to offer a more extensive range of curriculum opportunities, which-builds on our ethos of 'whole child' education and personal development at Isca.

If you have any questions at all, please contact us at [parentquestions@iscaexeter.co.uk](mailto:parentquestions@iscaexeter.co.uk) and we will reply to all questions raised on this particular issue by Friday 11<sup>th</sup> May.

Thank you as always for your continued support as we prepare for September 2021.

Yours faithfully,



Miss Aimee Mitchell  
Headteacher