

APRIL 2022

ISCA MATTERS



A roundup of our busy Spring Term at Isca Academy, including outdoor education, dance, theatre, wildlife, poetry, and more!



Dear parents and carers,

As we reach the end of term, I am reflecting on just how proud we are of all of our students, with examples of what has been achieved evident in this newsletter. However, I do want to congratulate our Year 11 students in particular for completing their mock examinations and really focusing on their preparation for the summer exams. They did incredibly well.

There has been so much happening over this last term, from a West End quality production of Matilda, exemplary sporting performances and the Ten Tors training weekends, that it is starting to feel like the true ethos of Isca is returning after so much time dominated by the pandemic. We have so much to look forward to in the summer term as schools gradually return to a more normal routine with many more activities that extend beyond the classroom.

I would like to take a moment to recognise and thank all of our staff for their resilience, positivity and hard work over what has been a very challenging period. They have worked tirelessly to keep everything running smoothly for our students.

Please take some time to read through our newsletter and celebrate some of our students' achievements and experiences this term. We are really proud of them and hope they all have a well-deserved break.

Best wishes,

Aimee Mitchell
Headteacher

End of Term Reports

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Year 7 have settled well into their second term of secondary school. It has been a tough term with lots of bugs and the dreaded Covid still affecting school life, but Year 7 have soldiered on and shown fantastic commitment to their studies. There have also been personal successes for a number of students who have represented the school in a range of sporting events, outdoor education activities and the production of Matilda. Congratulations to those students.

Next term we will be continuing to strive to be in school as much as possible, to try lots of new experiences within the extra-curricular club offer and aim to finish the year as strong as we started it.

Fantastic effort this term Year 7, I'm looking forward to seeing what we can achieve together in the Summer. **Mr Goldson, Head of Year 7**

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Year 8 have had an excellent term and have engaged well with the Options process, staff have enjoyed talking to them about their future ambitions and how their Options choices fit in with this.

It has been lovely to see so many Year 8 students engaging with our extra-curricular programme too and excelling at sports, iLife lessons and being involved in the school production of Matilda.

Year 8 have said goodbye this term to Mrs Adams and are welcome Mr Bond as their new Head of Year who is looking forward to getting to know them all after Easter. Have a good break!

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Year 9 have been excellent this term. They have applied themselves within their lessons and are making exceptional progress. They have also continued this progress outside of lessons where they have participated in a wide range of extra-curricular activities, such as Matilda, sporting fixtures and cadets. There has also been personal success for Year 9 in the recent academic awards, congratulations to our award winners. I am sure that next term will bring the same kind of commitment and enthusiasm from the students. Keep up the great work and have a wonderful Easter Break! **Mr Fahy, Head of Year 9**

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Year 10 have been fantastic this term, they have been working incredibly hard in the build up to their English Literature mock exams. Their behaviour and attitude during the mock exams was exemplary. Year 10 have also been demonstrating brilliant responsibility and independence to organise their work experience placement this term, well done to all students who have already secured placements for July. There have also been many personal successes for Year 10 students at the recent academic reward evening; congratulations to these students on your awards. Next term we will be focusing on working towards a full mock exam series and work experience and we truly appreciate all of the parental support with this. Have a super Easter break! **Ms Marmont, Head of Year 10**

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Huge congratulations to year 11 for working relentlessly throughout another term. The maturity and attitude you have all shown towards your studies and mocks is setting a fantastic example for the younger year groups. I am extremely proud of the results the year 11s have produced and there have been some fantastic individual performances. We're now in the home straight, leading up to your exams, so make sure you take care of yourselves over Easter and come up with a manageable plan to ensure you have a well-earned rest but also keep on top of your revision. Have a great Easter. **Mr Davey, Head of Year 11**

Matilda

Congratulations to all the students that took part in our production of Matilda. It was phenomenal! Students did battle more than usual to bring this production to fruition including COVID, Exams, bad weather and teachers with very high standards... but in the end their hard work, talent and enthusiasm paid off and we all enjoyed a production that was brilliant, funny, enchanting and honest.

Thank you to the students on stage, all the students off-stage, those involved in the technical aspects of the show, the band, the staff helpers and of course, the performing arts team - Miss, Lihou, Mr Carter and Miss Thomas. It was incredible!

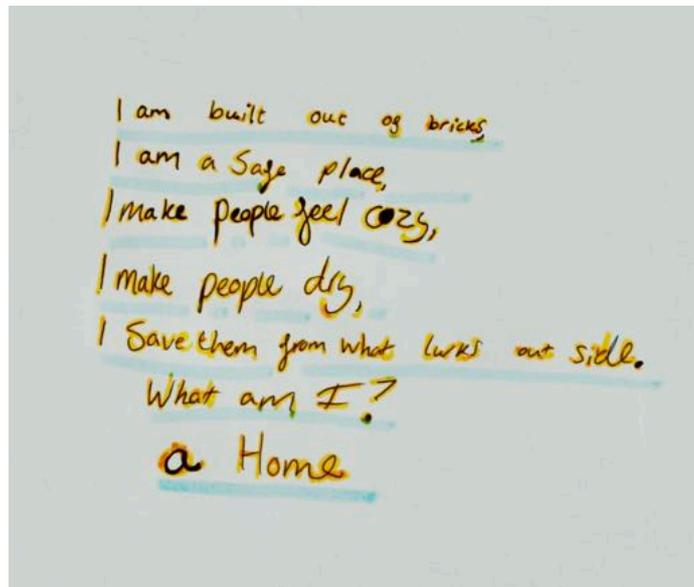


English - working with local literary partners

Riddler in Residence



Chris White, working with Year 7 students



Riddle by Max

One of our Year 7 English classes have had the opportunity this term to work with Exeter Cathedral's new Riddler in Residence, Chris White. The Project has been funded by Arts Council England and run by Exeter Cathedral.

Chris is working as Riddler in Residence, to devise and deliver creative workshops with our young people, to create their own response to *The Exeter Book*, the Cathedral's great treasure and the earliest volume of English literature.

The project aims to inspire younger people to develop their ideas and express them creatively. The medieval manuscript contains religious and secular poems, as well as topics of everyday life in Anglo Saxon times and riddles that are provocative and challenging of its time, raising issues around gender & migration, just as relevant today.

The riddles created by Isca students were shared at an event on 21st March at The Chapter House at Exeter Cathedral.

Poetry with the University of Exeter

Mrs Freestone's Year 9 class welcomed Dr Sarah-Jayne Ainsworth from the University of Exeter. She led a session exploring resources from the University's Archive which allowed students to explore how Charles Causley created the poem *Immunity*. They explored the different drafts of the poem and contextual information showing how the idea came about. It was a wonderful opportunity to have an external speaker who allowed students to take a hands-on approach to their learning. We are hoping to visit the Archives at the University in the Summer Term.

Wildlife - in school and out



The Ilife gardening groups have been working hard to clear the garden and get it ready for planting. Wildflower seeds have been sown around the school which should make for the start of the school flower meadow areas. The hard work from last term is showing in the daffodils flowering by the main gate.

Wildlife Champions

In March a group of year 9 students attended the Devon Wildlife Champions conference at Mincinglake Valley Park. They took part in a number of activities including planting 100 trees to create a new piece of woodland to connect habitats.



Isca Wildlife Champions

Easter Fair



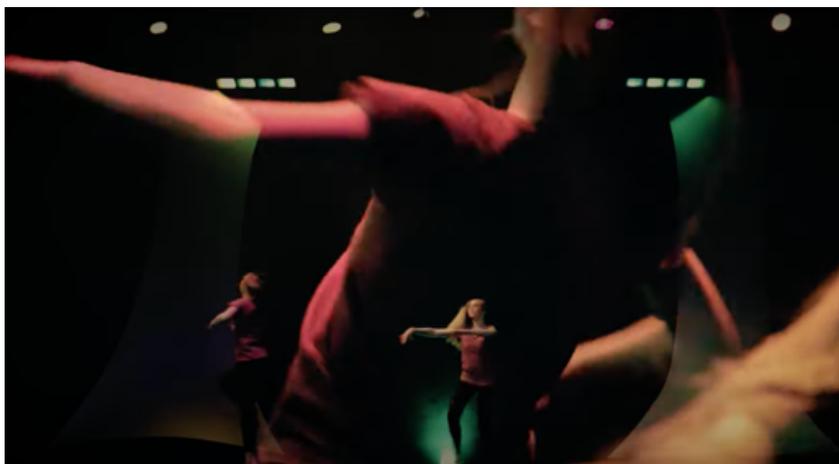
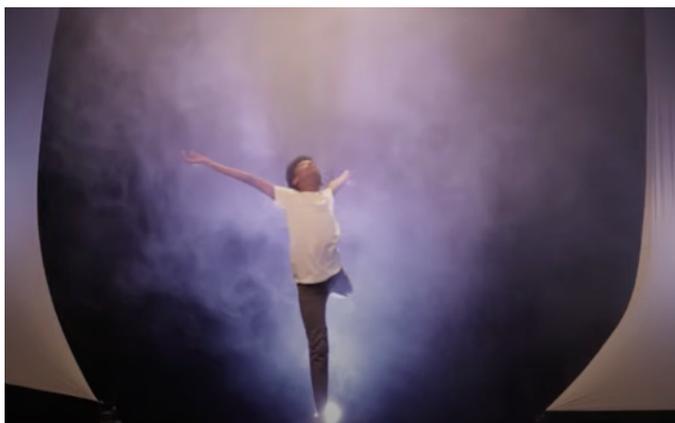
Students from Mrs Freestone's Year 8 iLife Community Challenge group organised the well-attended Easter Fair on Wednesday 30th March. Different activities were organised from Lucky Dips, guess the number of sweets in a jar, baked good sales and so much more.

- Money raised as follows:
- £29.50 for ADHD Foundation
 - £23.55 for the training of a School Dog
 - £16 The Donkey Sanctuary
 - £60 for Marie Curie
 - £26.85 Dementia UK
 - £33.83 Disaster Emergency Committee
 - £20.22 Intercom Trust

Students have worked relentlessly at creating their fundraising ideas and achieving these fundraising amounts. It is always a pleasure to see how well they have done.



Dance Show



The annual Isca Academy Dance Show took place virtually this year, with all pieces recorded in school and streamed onto the school YouTube channel. Miss Thomas and the students have spent many months choreographing and rehearsing the show pieces, some as part of their BTEC Dance qualification and others as individual projects. The show also features an advance preview by the Matilda cast. The show is still available, so please do check it out.

[Isca Dance Show on YouTube](#)



Outdoor Education - Spring Term

This term we have been continuing our Ten Tors training. Our teams have suffered, and endured, some appalling conditions on Dartmoor and Exmoor, which included our first ever rescue: In January Miss Gardner badly damaged her ankle in an awkward slip and was airlifted from the moor. The reaction of staff and students to the incident was exemplary, and we are ever grateful for the Dartmoor Rescue teams and Devon Air Ambulance for their rapid response. Miss Gardner continues her recovery and is weaning herself off her crutches. Teams are now very nearly ready for the Ten Tors event, which is on the 7th and 8th of May. It is so good to have this event back in its proper form after two long years without it. We are placing four 35 mile teams and two 45 mile teams. The grit and determination shown by all of them to come through such a hard season is remarkable. We are looking forward to seeing them cross the finish line successfully in May.

Our Duke of Edinburgh Bronze participants have been getting on with their Skills, Volunteering and Physical sections and will be anticipating their Practice and Qualifying expeditions in the summer term. New Silver participants are about to start. We also have **Exe Valley Challenge** (for Year 7), **Jurassic Coast Challenge** (for years 8-10) and **Exe Valley Extreme** (for years 8-10) to look forward to. Details of these are being released over the coming weeks. Again, it is a joy to offer our usual programme of events to our students after missing out on so much.



Awards Evening 2022

On Thursday 31st March, it was our absolute pleasure to host the first Isca Academy Awards Evening since early 2020.

Students from all years were nominated by their teachers for their academic progress and resilience, rewarding effort, ability, improvement, contribution and their support for their peers.

It was a very enjoyable evening, well attended by students and their families, with our heads of department introducing each of the award categories.

Congratulations to all of our award winners.



Isca Academy Sports Highlights

Football: U13 girls Devon County semi- finals

Congratulations to the U13 girls football team who represented the Exeter area at the Devon county semi-finals on Tuesday 6th April. The girls have been fantastic all season and it was great to see them play in the county semi-finals. Results below:

Isca v All Saints Academy 1-1
Isca v Newton Abbot College 6-2

Isca v Tavistock College 0-2
Isca v Plympton Academy 0-2

Special mentions to Lily who scored a double hat-trick and Daisy who was very determined to beat her player out on the wing every time she received the ball. Daisy also scored a brilliant goal and won a penalty for her team in a 1v1 situation with the keeper. Hollie and Keira made their Isca debuts and Sophie captained the team in the semi-finals. Well done to the whole squad: Lily, Daisy, Sophie, Alexia, Kayleigh, Hollie, Sasha, Sofia, Keira, and Brooke.

Cross Country

We entered 50 students into the local area cross-country championships in November. Of these 14 made it through to the next stage .

Congratulations to Abbie Furnivall and Gustaw Banazcek from Year 7, Jess Creasey, Year 9, and Tom Maynard from Year 11 who ran in the Devon round. Tom and Gustaw made it through to the Southwest round with Tom gaining a place to run in the National finals, a fantastic achievement!

Cross Country team



Tom, Year 11



Netball

Year 7 had a wonderful start to the fixtures with a tournament win at St Lukes.



Summer Term Calendar

1st half of term starts
Half term holiday
2nd half of term starts

Monday 25th April
Monday 30th May - Friday 3rd June
Monday 6th June

Thursday 28th April
28th/29th April
Monday 2nd May
6th, 7th, 8th May
Friday 13th May
20th/21st May
22nd/23rd May
Friday 27th May

Year 7 Parent's Evening
Year 10 Geography Field trip
Bank Holiday, school closed
Ten Tors Event
Jurassic Coast Training
D of E Bronze Practice Walk 1
D of E Bronze Practice Walk 2
Exe Valley Challenge Training Walk

7th/8th June
10th/11th June
16th/17th June
24th June
27th/28th June

D of E Bronze Qualifying Walk 1
D of E Bronze Practice Walk 3
D of E Bronze Qualifying Walk 2
Exe Valley Challenge Training Walk
D of E Bronze Qualifying Walk 3

Friday 1st July
Wednesday 6th July
Thursday 7th / Friday 8th July
Sunday 10th July
Tuesday 12th July
Thursday 14th July
18th - 21st July
18th - 22nd July
Friday 22nd July

Jurassic Coast Challenge Event
Year 6 Parents Transition Evening
Year 6 Transition Days
Exe Valley Challenge
Exe Valley Extreme
Year 11 Leavers Prom
Enrichment Week
Work Experience Week (Year 10)
Last day of term

Thursday 25th August

GCSE Results Day

Wednesday 7th September
Thursday 22nd September

Autumn term begins
Isca Academy Open Evening

The 2022-23 Term Dates are available on the website.

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 Isca Academy

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news and information
at www.iscaexeter.co.uk

*Parents, please make sure we have your current
mobile phone number and an email address.*

