

THE COLLEGE ECHO

IVYBRIDGE COMMUNITY COLLEGE

ISSUE NO. 90 SPRING 2023



WELL-BEING AT OUR HEART

GREENPOWER





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Welcome to Ivybridge Community College

Alongside celebrating the many successes for our students, this Spring Echo edition marks the final preparations for our Year 11 and 13 students as they embark on the final steps towards their GCSE and Advanced Level examinations. There are a range of dedicated revision programmes to support summer term preparations and the transitions towards apprenticeships, Sixth Form and university applications.

Staff at the College continue to ensure students are given access to a wide range of enrichment opportunities because we know the benefits that these activities provide to their social and physical well-being. I am pleased to share a selection of such experiences throughout this edition. Please take time to reflect on what the College has on offer. Thank you to all those students who have shared their learning experiences through the many articles and for embracing a vast array of cross-curricular activities. Competing in the National Greenpower Electric Vehicle Challenge has been one of our biggest successes, inspiring young people to excel in Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics. We are always keen to support learning beyond the classroom, with activities such as lifesaving training, residential trips abroad and developing creative talents through the Performing and Creative Arts projects. The sporting successes and the College's reputation continues to grow at local and national level.

Success amongst our students does not happen without the dedication of a hardworking team of adults. Ivybridge Community College has a reputation for developing a strong and expert staff body and this often leads to successful promotions. I would like to take this opportunity to announce the recent promotion of Hannah Martin to Deputy Principal at Plymstock School, one of our WeST secondary partner schools. As an Assistant Principal and long-standing teacher of Physical Education, Hannah has been instrumental in supporting staff and students across the College, helping to improve standards and providing opportunities for all students to succeed. We wish her well in her new role.

We recognise the hard work of Matt Shepherd, Head of Rugby, who left the College at the end of the Summer Term to take up a role with the Devon and Cornwall Police Force and we wish him well in his new career. I would like to welcome Aaron Jarvis, who has taken up the post of Head of Rugby. Aaron is a highly talented former Ivybridge Community College student, having gained Welsh International playing status and professional contracts before more recently, working as a Coach in America. Aaron is keen to build on our Rugby successes and promote the importance that Sport brings to the wider commitment of education.

Finally, as Local Governing Boards within the Trust have been replaced with the new Hub Advisory Boards, I would like to thank the governors who have served Ivybridge Community College over the many years (report on page 1). Their support and dedication given freely to the whole College community has been outstanding and I am sure that parents/carers, students and staff are very appreciative of their service.

Rachel Hutchinson
Principal



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Thank You to Our Governors

College News 1

Governors' News



Above l to r : Caroline Johnson, Richard Peachey, Michael Saltern, Charles Thornton, Simon Whitehorn

l to r : Rachel Hutchinson, Richard Peachey, Charles Thornton

Before Christmas, members from Ivybridge Community College and also the Westcountry Schools Trust, gathered to show their appreciation to our outgoing members of the College's Board of Governors.

In an informal gathering, Michael Saltern, along with Caroline Johnson, Simon Whitehorn, Richard Peachey and Charles Thornton were commended on their contribution and work for the College and presented with a special canvas print (based on artwork created by the students), as a token of the College and Trust's appreciation.

Rachel Hutchinson especially wishes to thank Michael Saltern, the current Chair of the Board for his contribution to the College, including serving as a Governor for 28 years.

The College, along with other schools within the Trust will now be entering a new, exciting period in how they will be governed via the new Hub Advisory Boards, although many of our retiring Governors will still be involved with and offering their expertise.



l to r : Rob Haring, Micheal Saltern, Rachel Hutchinson, Iain Grafton



Sailing to the Top

The College would like to say Congratulations to Year 8 Student **Layla Waine**, whom following the completion of her training, is now qualified to become a Royal Marine Cadet.

Her achievement was acknowledged following six months of training, described by the Royal Navy as 'almost as rigorous as their grown up comrades'.

Training included a study of core history, physically demanding drills and fieldwork, as well as two weekend exercises away from home, all under the watchful eye of serving members of the Royal Marines, Sea Cadets and Royal Navy.

Not only did Layla pass with flying colours, but was also decorated with 'White Tab Status' making her the leader of her troop.

And to cap off a major achievement, Layla completed her training at the tender age of just 12 (13 being the youngest age anyone can become a Cadet).

Many congratulations to Layla!

2 News



KS3 Gothic Writing Competition

At the end of the Autumn Term, our Year 7 and 8 students took part in a WeST wide Gothic Writing Competition as part of their study of the gothic genre. All students were asked to write a gothic description based on an image of their choice. We had so many fantastic entries and have awarded prizes to our class winners and those who have made significant progress over the term.

However, a special congratulations to our overall winners:

'The jet-black, starless sky stretched like a canvas of infinite darkness – my only light coming from the luminous moon above. As I entered the decrepit churchyard, my blood seemed to chill in my veins and the first thing that struck me was the silhouette of a crumbling weathered monastery standing hauntingly against endless layers of thick brambles.'

Edward Crowhurst in Year 7

'As I walked closer, I came to see the building for what it was; streaked ebony stone and eclipsed, bottle-green windows. Grey grime had lodged into the corners of doors, the windows, the elaborate trails of vines that choked the walls.

Everything told of neglect.

When I got to the door, my eyes had adjusted even more and I was able to pick out the fine details of the brass front door. Mythical brown-golden lions and swirling trees winked like the living when the rays of chalky moonlight dipped over it. Finally, I opened up the ornate, wooden-door frames.'

Megan Lawson in Year 8

Congratulations to our Duke of Edinburgh Stars

News 3

Ivybridge Community College would like to congratulate all of our Duke of Edinburgh students on their recent achievements.

Successful students were recently invited to a small ceremony and presented with their Silver and Bronze awards by Mrs Russell and Mr Cresswell.

Such endeavour is highly valued by the College, and we would like to thank Mrs Russell and Mr Mitchell for their work in supporting the students.

Mr Cresswell congratulated the students and encouraged them to wear their badges with pride.

The College is once again proud to see its students engaging in the many opportunities that we offer, not just for themselves, but for the benefit of the wider community too.



Everything's Going Swimmingly for Ethan

The College would like to give a huge congratulations to our budding Swimming Star **Ethan Westwood** following his recent achievements.

Ethan recently competed at the Plymouth Swim Gala, representing Devonport Royal and stormed to Silver Position in three individual races.

If that was not enough, he then found some additional energy and helped his team to glory winning Gold in the boys' relay final.

However, he has not rested on his laurels and has just picked up another seven medals (including six silvers) at recent development races.

Well done Ethan!



4 News

Year 11 Examination Achievements



Reflecting on this year's GCSE results Principal, Rachel Hutchinson, said,

"I have seen first-hand how hard the students and staff have worked over the last year to overcome such challenges and I am confident that our students' results reflect a fair and accurate outcome of their commitment to their learning against the national picture".

We were delighted to celebrate the many successes of our Ivybridge Community College students as they received their GCSE results last August.

We are particularly impressed by how committed and resilient our students were throughout the examination period. We cannot underestimate how hard it has been for the cohort given the disruptions due to Covid and with the uncertainty as to whether their examination series was going ahead or not.

Our students have certainly shown grit and determination, rising to the challenge of achieving their best. We are delighted that almost 80% of the grades achieved by our students were at Grade 4 or above, with over a quarter of the grades being Grade 7 or above. In particular, the numbers securing a pass in Mathematics and English are once again well above national figures.

Additionally, some of our highest performing students successfully achieved a full complement of GCSEs at Grade 8 and 9. Recognition must be given to James Deacon, Ciaran Ricketts, Ben Firth, Alice Chapman, Lottie Humphrey and Freya Bechley who have all achieved outstanding grades across the board, whilst continuing to participate in College activities and enrichment opportunities beyond the classroom. Izzy Farrow-Jones, Edie Longhurst and Eva Metcalfe should also be recognised for their outstanding progress whilst at the College.

Finally, to all students: remember that you are more than a grade. The resilience you have shown under such conditions is remarkable. We are extremely proud of all our students at Ivybridge Community College and across our family of secondary schools of the Westcountry Schools Trust, you are all exceptional, inspiring and talented young people, we could not be more proud of you all and wish you every success with your future plans.

Farewell message from Matt Shepherd



While Aaron Jarvis is keen to develop the College's Rugby provision even further, the academy's former Head of Rugby, Matt Shepherd, made a hugely positive effect in his time at the College.

Some of the highlights of Matt's time at Ivybridge Community College included winning County 7's competitions and making the prestigious National Schools Finals at Twickenham (where, unfortunately, Covid meant that the final could not be played) and then again at Sandy Park in 2022.

Matt said: "I want to say thank you for the five years I have had at Ivybridge Community College – it has been incredible.

I have had some amazing experiences and met some wonderful teachers and students."

Matt is now on the next part of his life journey and is currently waiting to join the Devon and Cornwall police force.

"With a young family it was time to give back to them and be closer to Cornwall.

It was not an easy decision as Ivybridge Community College, and the Rugby Academy in particular, have been a huge part of my development as a coach and a person."

News 5

New Head of Rugby

New Head of Rugby's ambition to deliver top-flight Rugby at College again

The end of 2022 heralded the start of a new era for Ivybridge Community College Rugby Academy, as it waved goodbye to former Head of Rugby Matt Shepherd and welcomed his replacement, former Ivybridge student and Welsh international player Aaron Jarvis.

Keen to build on the recent successes of the College Rugby Academy, Aaron has outlined his plans to revitalise the Rugby setup and return it to its former glory.

"It's wonderful to be back in Ivybridge, coaching the team that started me on my professional journey 20 years ago," said Aaron.

"I loved being out on the field, but towards the end I found that my passion for coaching was starting to outweigh the desire to play, so it's fitting that I now have the opportunity to help return the College to its former position as a major force in schools Rugby."

Before returning to Ivybridge, Aaron's previous role was coaching the Dallas Jackals, one of 13 teams in the top-level North American Major League Rugby (MLR) championship.

In addition to his role as Head of Rugby at Ivybridge Community College, Aaron is also enjoying another role as the forwards coach at Plymouth Albion.

It is a journey that started 23 years ago when Aaron was just 13 years old and playing for Exeter. After being called up to play for England Under 16s, he made the move to Ivybridge Community College in 2002 so that he could boost his chances of playing professional Rugby.

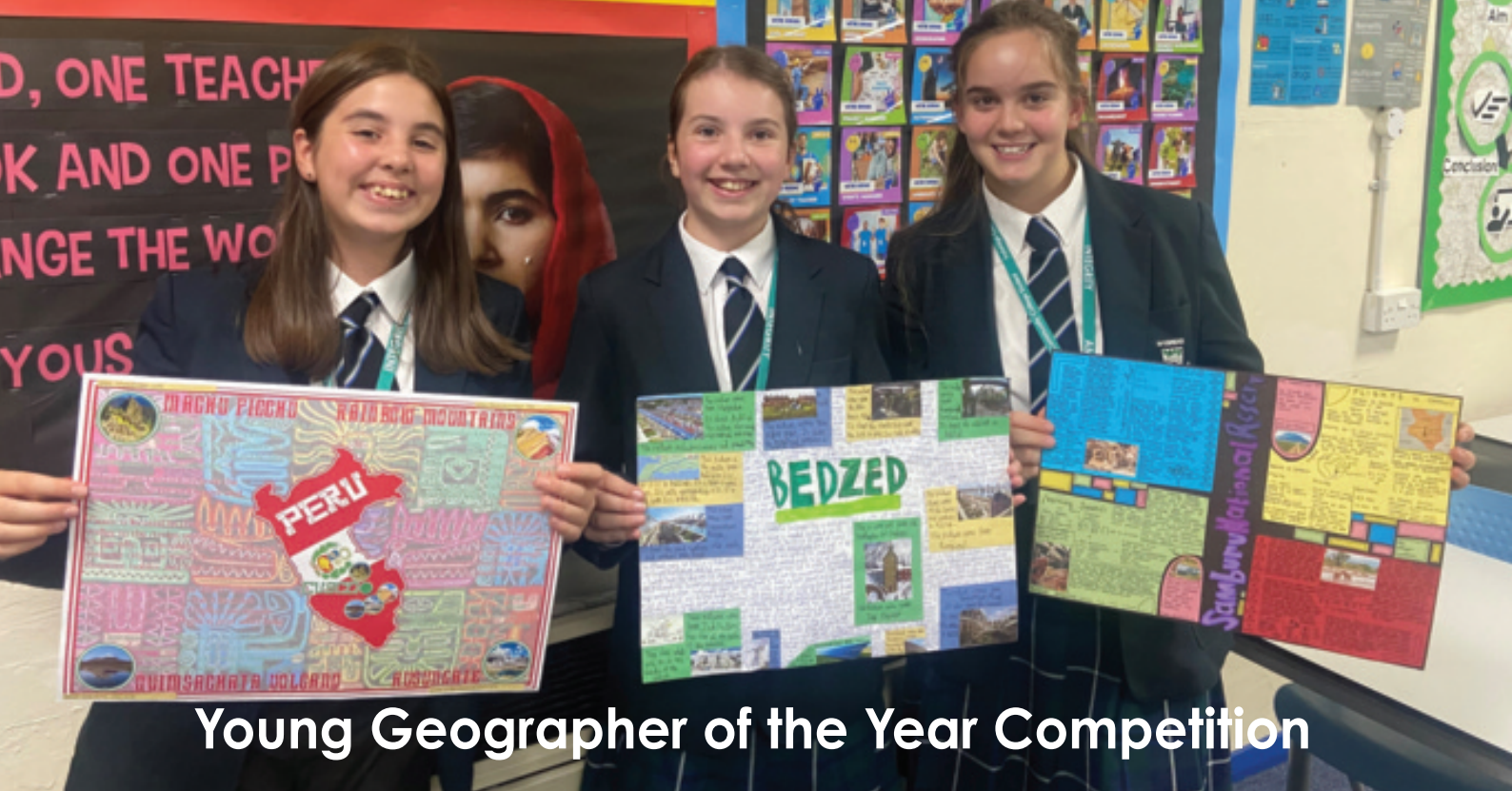
"Being part of such a professional setup taught me what it would be like to train full time and gave me the opportunity to showcase my skills in a formidable team."

This led to Aaron's selection for Bath, where he would make his first team debut in 2007 and go on to play 50 times for the team. This led to Aaron's selection for Wales and in 2011 he signed for Ospreys – one of the four professional Rugby union teams from Wales. In 2016 Aaron joined French team ASM Clermont Auvergne and ended his playing career back in Wales, signing for Newport-based Dragons.



"Living and coaching in America was a great experience, but I'm thrilled that I have come 'full circle' and am now settling back in Devon and working at Ivybridge Community College."

"I'm excited about the next stage in my journey and looking forward to giving many young Rugby players at Ivybridge Community College the same opportunities as Rugby has given me."



Young Geographer of the Year Competition

6 News

We are **Lucy Stephenson** (8TPT), **Sofia Louca** (8TPT) and **Megan Lawson** (8GSS) and we have been involved in the Royal Geographical Society Competition where we had to design posters of a place that was important to us. The places we chose were BedZed, Cucso, and Samburu National Reserve. We started out by searching up a place and creating a folder of everything that they needed for the criteria of the competition. For example, we needed to include at least four geographical features in detail on our posters. We also needed to include labelled images on them also.

Sofia said

"It was really fun designing the poster because I got to use photoshop for it!"

Megan said

"I enjoyed picking where I was going to base my poster on and learning about all the native tribes!"

Lucy said

"I loved researching BedZed and finding facts, and it was just like a club! We met every Thursday and commented on each other's work. It was very satisfying seeing it come to life. I loved creating it".

We all agreed it was a both fun and educational experience and the posters have now been submitted for the competition. We have our fingers crossed and hope for the best!

Alice is not taking any Tumbles

Ivybridge Community College would like to congratulate budding Gymnast **Alice Shekhdar** following her recent achievement.

Alice finished an impressive fifth place at a recent Tumbling Competition which took place at Milton Keynes. This was a closely contested competition, involving participants from across the Southern Gymnastics Region.

Alice showed off her skills in the contest for those aged between 11 and 12, which saw the top five finishers separated by less than one point.

The activity of tumbling is a Gymnastics discipline, involving acrobatic skills such as jumping, flipping and twisting within the confines of a long, sprung track.

In light of her achievement, Alice has now received an invitation to the Andover Gymnastics Club, to receive coaching from Paddy Lavelle (director of Coaching for the School and Head Coach of England Tumbling).

Well done Alice!



Pen Portrait

Welcome to Jenny Hughes – Careers Officer

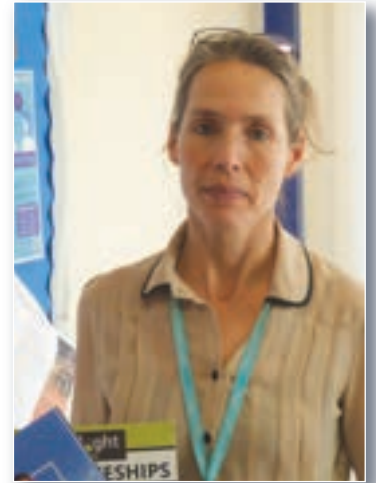
After taking a Degree in European Community Studies at Cardiff University specialising in EEC Law, Economics, German and Spanish, Jenny embarked on a career in Publishing in London, initially working within the Sales and Marketing division at Penguin Books.

She then moved to IPC Magazines, the largest cover magazine publisher in Europe, working as a Senior Marketing Analyst, where she spent time managing projects such as geodemographic mapping, sales forecasting and market data analysis, and liaising with third party publishing clients such as Reed Business International.

Jenny has spent the last 20 years living in South Devon – she has worked as a Senior Administrator at local Pre School and Primary Schools, as well as running a property management business, and both of her children are now currently studying at Exeter University.

She has volunteered as an EACT appointed Governor at a local secondary school and joined the Ivybridge Community College team in 2021.

Jenny is passionate about the importance of quality careers provision for all students and in her spare time she enjoys music, theatre, sea swimming and teaching one to one yoga sessions.



Jenny Hughes is the new Careers Officer at Ivybridge Community College

Fundraising Success by Year 12 Students



Inspired by former student Jack Howitt and his mission to join the 2024 Paralympics, Year 12 students have been making a huge effort in their fundraising activities.

Over the last few months, Year 12 students at Ivybridge Community College have raised an amazing amount to support Jack Howitt's dream of competing in a Para-triathlon. The whole Year Group contributed to the effort, raising a grand total of £1382, which they presented to Jack last week in the form of a 'Giant Cheque'.

Jack, 22, first became ill in 2016 during his last year at the College. Whilst he was finishing Year 13, with a move to University imminent, his symptoms were originally misdiagnosed as stress. This began a long period of illness for Jack, with an eventual diagnosis of Stage 4 brain cancer. Jack was given only a 3-5% chance of living more than 5 years, and a 12-18 month average survival rate from the diagnosis.

An operation and intense course of chemotherapy and radiotherapy followed, with Jack taking up to 30 tablets a day. Although he completed his chemotherapy in August 2020, his mental health was suffering due to lockdown, made worse by his weight fluctuations, the result of the extreme amount of medication he was taking.

Determined to regain control of his life, Jack bought a recumbent bike and cycled for hours, kick-starting his need and desire to do more.

Jack has now become an inspiration to many students at the College, visiting during Mental Health and Wellbeing Week to talk about the difficult times he has faced and how he managed to find the drive and resilience to test his mental and physical limits.

Jack hopes to compete at the Paris Paralympics in one year's time, in the Para-triathlon, whilst also completing his university studies.

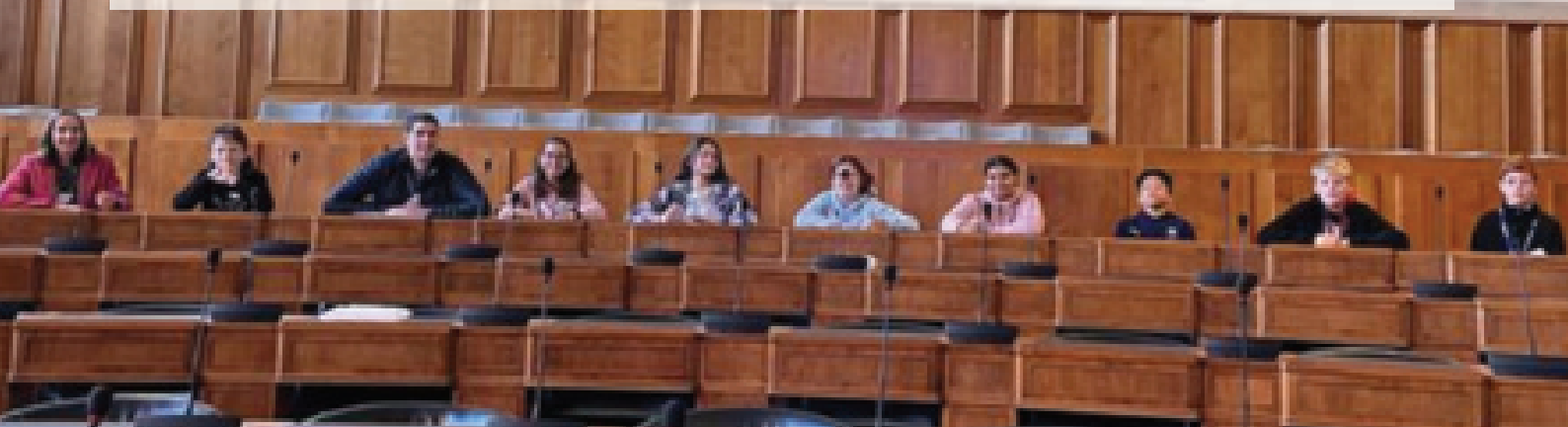
Ivybridge Community College students' fundraising activities, which included a bake sale and competing in a triathlon, will help support Jack with his 1-2-1 sessions in the pool, as well as go towards the purchase of a Time Trial or Triathlon bike.

If you wish to support Jack, you can donate to his gofundme page.

Windrush School's Conference in Exeter

Thank you to Mr Hayward and the History Department for leading a fantastic visit for 8 students to deepen their understanding of Black History, engaging with personal stories from those impacted by migration and the recent Windrush scandal.

Students were enthusiastic in answering and asking questions, and particularly enjoyed utilising the microphones when responding in the Chamber of County Hall. The Department looks forward to working with the Devon Development Education again.



8 Character Education

Careers Launchpad Live

A group of students from Years 10 and 11 attended the Careers Launchpad Live event at Home Park, Plymouth on Thursday 22, September 2022. More than 60 employers and organisations took part in providing interactive activities for students to enjoy and explore. The Careers Fair aimed to inspire and raise aspirations for students, improving their awareness of local career choices and investigating pathways available to them when they leave school.

Assistant Principal Ms Martin said,

"I just want to say how incredibly impressed I was with the way our young learners acted on the trip today. All students engaged in all the activities, they all listened to the professionals, supported other students from other colleges, were incredibly polite, waited their turn and made amazing progress with eye contact and confident communication."

Year 10 student Summer said,

"It was amazing Miss, I actually got to do real jobs and find out if I liked them before I have to choose what course or apprenticeship I want to go on. I did not want to leave."



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Character Education 9

Life-saving training

In the event of a cardiac arrest, would you know what to do? Well now, students at Ivybridge Community College do.

We were delighted to welcome paramedics from Role 1 Medical, led by Andy Edmunds and his team, who delivered potentially life-saving training in the use of a Defibrillator.

Organised in partnership with the Ivybridge Rotary Club, students from across the College received advice in a series of workshops run across the whole day, gaining knowledge and confidence in giving first aid support to a patient and how to use the equipment.

Speaking as part of the session, Mr Edmunds spoke some sad truths that for every minute a patient does not receive CPR, their chances of survival reduce by 10%.

He added, however, that there was nothing more 'gratifying' for an ambulance crew than to see a community minded individual already giving a patient CPR when they arrive at an incident, giving the best possible chance of survival when they reach hospital. Students were taught how the Defibrillator worked, how to use it in an emergency as well as the basic checks to perform before commencing CPR (Check for Danger / Response / Airway / Breathing / Circulation).

Students were told that statistically, someone in their group will find themselves in a situation where they will have to administer CPR, however, there were some lighter and encouraging moments too.

There were also reassurances that the Defibrillator will give recorded instructions on what to do, so there was no need to worry about making a mistake.

Sixth Form Pastoral Lead Sharon Terry, who also attended the training, said that she was very 'impressed' and thought that the sessions were 'very informative'.



Ivybridge Community College would like to thank Role 1 Medical and Ivybridge Rotary Club for their help in arranging the sessions and hope that they will be able to offer similar training to more students in the future.

Geography Summer Challenge

Over the summer holidays, students across the College had the opportunity to take part in the Geography Summer Challenge. The Challenge aimed to encourage students to engage in activities relating to Geography in their free time. The competition involved students selecting ten activities from a menu of challenges and collecting evidence of completing each as they went along. Some of the tasks included:

- **Squish It** – Taking a photograph of students squishing a physical feature between their thumb and forefinger.
- **Get Out** – Taking a nature walk in three different places and recording the nature students saw
- **Upcycle** – Upcycle a piece of furniture or an item of clothing. Students submitted their entries to the Geography Department and after much deliberation Poppy Billman was awarded 1st place for an incredible piece of work which demonstrated great effort and enthusiasm. Poppy's work was such high quality it has been entered into a national competition run by Internet Geography. Well done Poppy!



10 Sustainability Group

Longtimber Woods Fieldtrip



Reuben Flint 09SBR and George White 09MSH

As part of our current Geography unit on the Living World looking at the ecosystem structure and interdependence, we got to visit our local temperate deciduous woodland at Longtimber woods. We are fortunate to have this on our doorstep. We could walk there in lesson and it allowed us to see and understand many of the things we had been learning about in class. Some of the activities we did included creating a soundscape, identifying the local tree species and looking at species diversity in a small area. My favourite part of the visit was the tree identification task as it allowed us to better understand the diversity of our local woodland and now we can compare to our current tropical rainforest case study. Overall, it was a good trip as it allowed us to experience and better understand our local woodland case study and gain a better appreciation for the beauty of where we live.

An opportunity not to be wasted!

On 6 June 2022, three Year 7 Geography classes had a visitor talk to them about sustainability. His name was Tim Rotheray [Director of ESG and External Affairs at Viridor]. Viridor is a recycling, renewable energy and waste management company that operates across the whole of the UK. Tim talked to us about the different ways in which Viridor is fighting to be completely sustainable. We are currently studying sustainability so he taught us about the different ways of doing so. He also spoke about the use of energy that was used every year at the Viridor site. Many of the children in Year 7 were very engaged and asked many questions. Tim talked about his ways in trying to be a more sustainable family. Sofia said that, "it was very interesting learning from someone who does a job in the sustainability community," and many other students felt the same way. No one was too shy to ask what they wanted - so much so that some of the teachers had to email Tim other questions that students wanted to know the answers to!

Anna Coates 7BOW





Mental Health and Well-being 11

Trauma Informed Schools UK Workshops



Julie Harmieson

Julie sent her thanks to the College Principal, Rachel Hutchinson, saying

“I was deeply moved by how the training was received and the engagement of everyone who attended and to have such a focused and attentive audience. Today felt like the beginning of something very special indeed.”

Ivybridge Community College has had the privilege of hosting **Julie Harmieson**, Director of Education and National Strategy for Trauma Informed Schools UK on Monday, 5 December for a day of student workshops about the neuroscience of mental health and practical strategies to help manage everyday stresses.

Following this, Julie led a parent/carer workshop alongside Suzie Franklin, Strategic Lead at Trauma Informed Schools on Trauma and Mental Health Informed Practices.

The parent/carer workshop was well attended and covered a range of topics, including the changes that an adolescent brain goes through, the impact on mood, behaviour and responses, as well as practical strategies to support communication at home.

On Tuesday, 3 January 2023, Julie visited the College once again to lead whole staff CPD to almost 200 members of staff across teaching and non-teaching positions.

Julie was accompanied by Julia Bird, Director of Trainer Development and Quality Assurance, and together they led a full day of training for staff.

The College will be taking a trauma-informed approach to pastoral care and curriculum delivery.

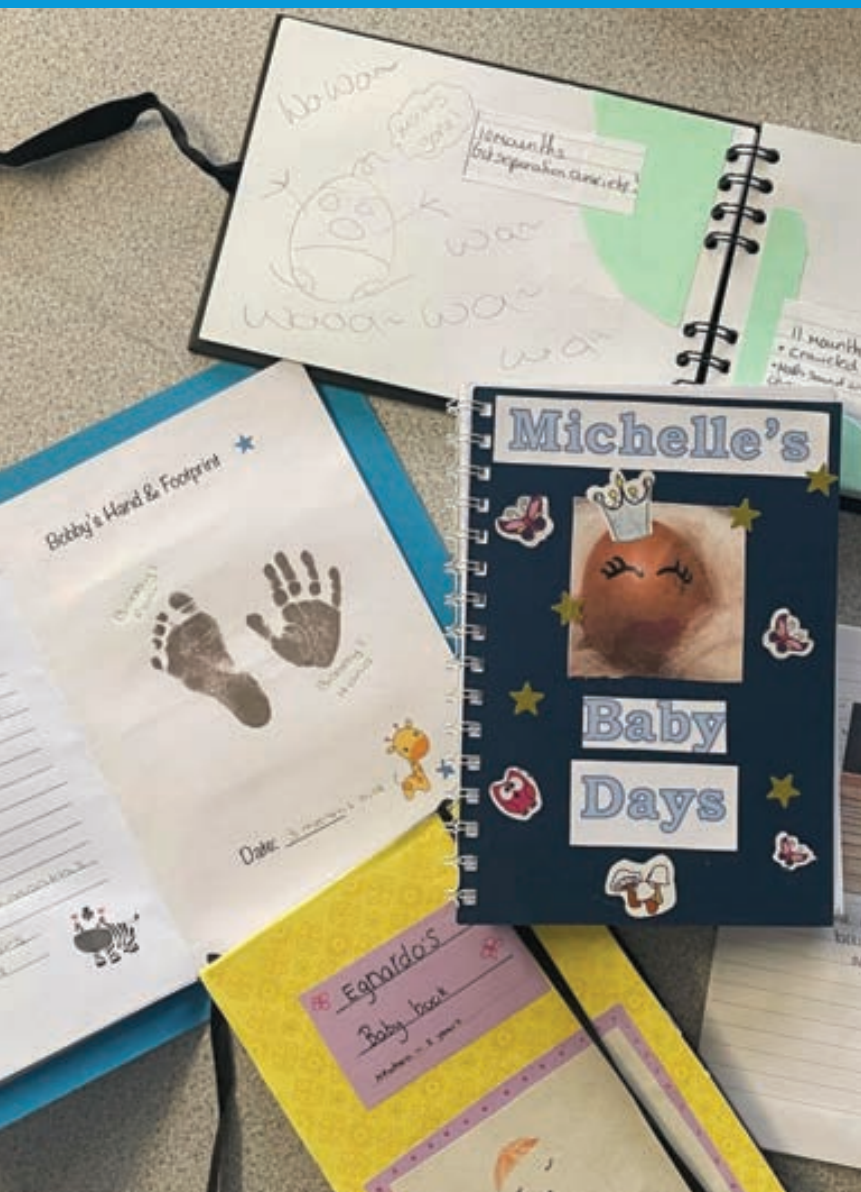
The professional development day focused on how to be an emotionally available adult, among other strategies to help identify the things in students' lives that may cause additional stress and may act as a barrier to learning.

by Miss Hanton





12 Health and Social Care



The Egg Parent Project

Before starting the Human Life Span Development topic in Health and Social Care, Year 10 students undertook The Egg Parent Project to help them gain an insight into physical, intellectual, emotional and social development during infancy (the first two years of life).

The students got creative with their hard-boiled egg 'babies' giving them names and identities as well as creating suitable receptacles to transport them around safely.

The students were challenged to keep the babies safe (and intact) for a week, taking them everywhere they went or arranging suitable child care.

Meanwhile, during lessons and for home learning the students set about creating baby books for their egg babies which detailed their development including major developmental milestones during infancy.

The Egg Parent Project was a great success and we were extremely impressed as a department with the enthusiasm and creativity demonstrated.

by Miss Wright

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Human Science 13

Food Bank

I would like to say a huge thank you to everyone who has helped with the most generous Food Bank donations this academic year. What a great demonstration of the Character of Ivybridge students. We have never had quite so many items donated!

The impact that these donations will have on some families and individuals this year is immense and it has been a fabulous demonstration of the true meaning of Christmas and has given the students a real sense of belonging to a community.

We will continue with the appeal next Christmas but in the mean time the Foodbank at the Ivybridge Methodist Church accepts donations all year round.

by Mrs Ryder

A Celebration of Criminology

Recently, our Year 13 Criminologists have been designing 'secure residential neighbourhoods' based on the principles of environmental design strategies and Crime Prevention Through Environmental Design.

Students used their knowledge of key aspects of environmental design, identifying the most appropriate factors to building 'secure residential neighbourhoods'.



"We really enjoyed using our knowledge from the lessons to design and build our safer neighbourhoods. It helped us to reflect on the key principles of CPTED and made the learning memorable".

Class 13D Criminology

by Mrs Briant





14 Modern Foreign Languages

Visit to Salamanca

In October, 30 students from Years 10 and 11 took part in an MFL visit to Salamanca, Spain. The students received intensive language lessons in the mornings and undertook cultural visits in the afternoons.

In the afternoons we did a walking tour of Salamanca, visited the cathedrals and climbed up the tower for amazing views over the city.

We took part in a treasure hunt style quiz in the Plaza Mayor, having to speak to locals and shop keepers to get the answers.

We also visited the Casa Lis Art Deco Museum and then went to a local café for churros con chocolate.

Year 10 and 11 students

Visit to Lille

During the first week of December, a group of Year 10 and 11 French students travelled to Lille, France.

Once in Lille they tried out their French skills with a French lesson at the University of Boulogne-sur-Mer.

They also enjoyed a town trail, a visit to the spectacular night-time Christmas market in Lille, a day trip to the beautiful town of Bruges in Belgium and a fantastic final morning creating Belgian chocolate masterpieces at a chocolate-making workshop.

All of the students were a credit to Ivybridge Community College throwing themselves enthusiastically into every opportunity that came their way.



Thanks goes to Mr Pitcher, Mr Warne, Mrs Spampanato and our French Assistant, Iris Singh, who were,

“The best staff team to have on a trip ever.”

Year 11 student



Visit to Berlin

History 15

Over the October half term, 39 Year 11 Ivybridge Community College Historians visited Berlin for four days, to contextualise the golden age of the Weimar period and the rise of the Nazis.

Students visited a range of significant places, including a rooftop tour of the Reichstag, the House of the Wannsee Conference and a walking tour of the city.

The excursion to Sachsenhausen Concentration Camp created the most emotion and conversation, with many students reflecting on the horrors of the events of the Holocaust throughout the trip.

Every member of the group was a credit to the College. We are extremely excited to be able to offer the trip to our current Year 10 students for October 2023.

Describing the whole visit, Josie Kent said, "It was a really good experience, especially being in Sachsenhausen Concentration Camp as we could be in the very place where the horrors took place."

Students Maia Phippen and Sam Henderson added,

"We enjoyed being face to face with what we are learning about, and understanding the historical context of these events."

Speaking of the visit, student Bella Mills said, "I really enjoyed using the U-Bahn to get around the city, and exploring Berlin on foot."

London Calling

Over 30 Ivybridge Community College Humanities students headed to London recently to visit some distinguished locations of political and historical interest.

The overnight visit included stops at some very prestigious venues including the UK Supreme Court, Westminster Abbey, the Tower of London, Hampton Court Palace, as well as the British Library and Covent Garden.

Staff and students agreed that the outing was very enjoyable and fascinating and were grateful to actually experience some of the locations that they have studied in their lessons, first-hand.

The group also had the privilege to witness a procession by the Household Cavalry as well as a drive-past by HM King Charles III in the royal car.

The College would like to thank Mr White for all of his work in arranging the visits and the Humanities Team look forward to inviting their students to more cultural and academic visits in the future.



Year 8 Geographers Visit Mount Batten Beach

During the penultimate week of term a small number of Year 8 students had the opportunity to explore our wonderful coastline and Britain's first marine park, during a trip to Mount Batten beach. Accompanied by Mr Bray and Mrs Briant, students explored the coast as part of their Geography curriculum, focusing on a unit of work entitled Summit to Sea whereby students find out about rivers and coasts.

Tyler Watts attended the trip and told us all about it:

"On the trip we got to look at lots of marine wildlife. Different parts of the shore were explained to us and we found out about the difficulties of living in the upper shore and the way it changes throughout the day. We learned about animals such as cushion crabs, devil crabs and hermit crabs. We were given specialist underwater cameras so we could take photographs of the wildlife. These photographs can be accessed by geographers and scientists all around the world. What we did is called Civilian Science (Science done by members of the public). A social enterprise called The Rock Pool Project helped us and supplied us with the equipment. They also explained the wonders of the plants and animals that live in the rock pools."



16 Geography

Our Trip on Dartmoor

Our trip on Dartmoor was soooooo fun. We got to see all of Ivybridge just from standing on Dartmoor! OK, so at first we had to walk up a massive hill.

Walking up that gigantic hill was very hard for most people, but not really for me because my dad once made me walk 8 miles, and I was only 7, and at the end my legs literally and I mean literally collapsed on the way home. The hill we walked up got steeper and steeper the more we went up. And we had to look out for the loose rocks, even the smallest ones, because even if you think you won't trip you actually can.

When we finally reached the top it was worth it. We could see the big dip where Ivybridge was built. The reason it was built in the dip is because we are then more protected from the bad weather. That is one thing I learned from that day. After that it started to rain, I was so relieved because at this point I was so hot.

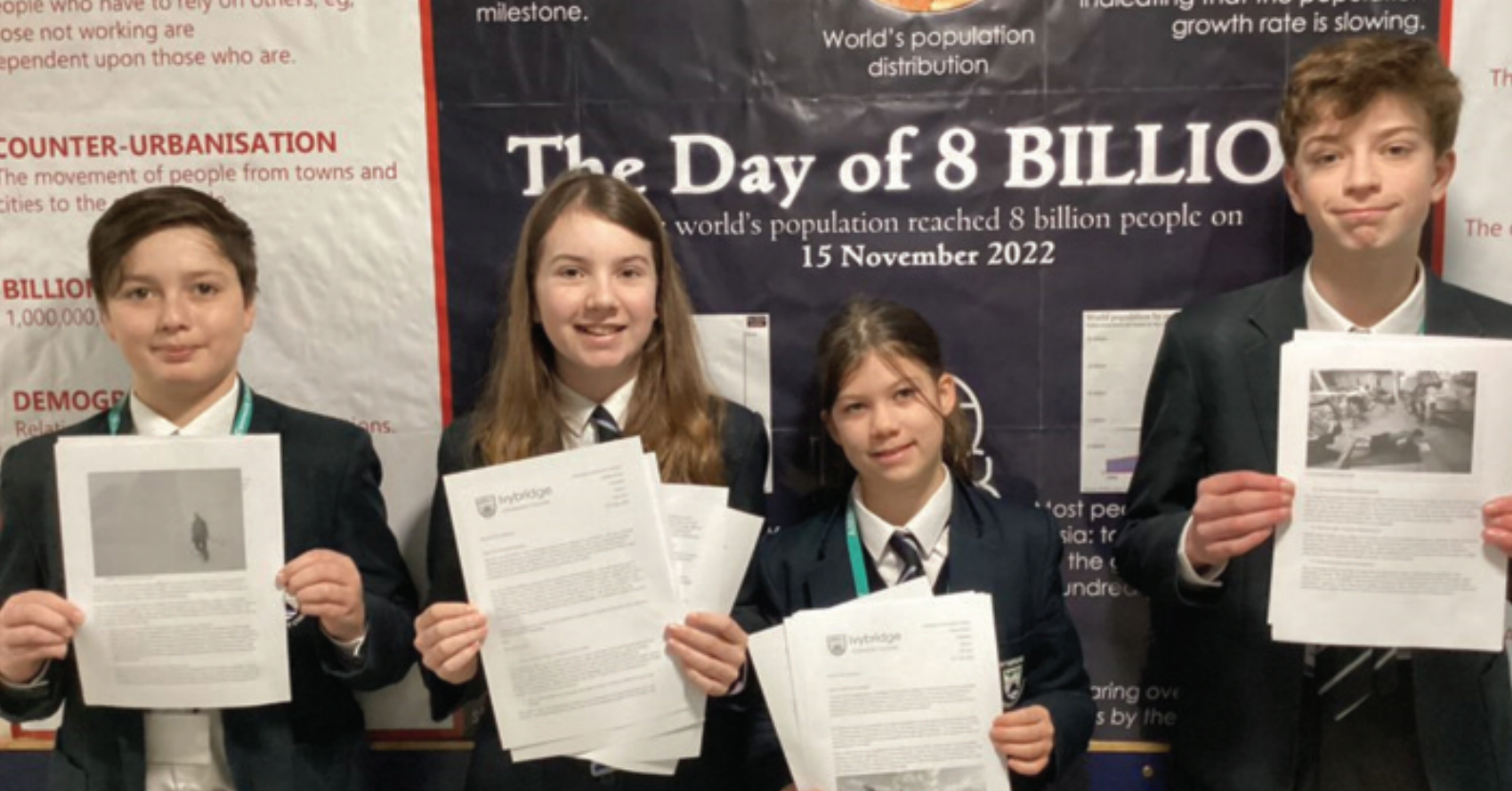
Another thing I think we learned was that people going to Dartmoor, and other places, are stepping on rocks and getting rid of all the earth covering the rocks. Once it is gone, it will never come back so we need to protect it.

When we walked back down the massive hill it was so hard because some parts are all covered in loose rocks and you would trip if you aren't careful, so we were.

Then we got back to school and that was everything we did on our trip up to Dartmoor. With our awesome Geography teacher Miss Hoggett.

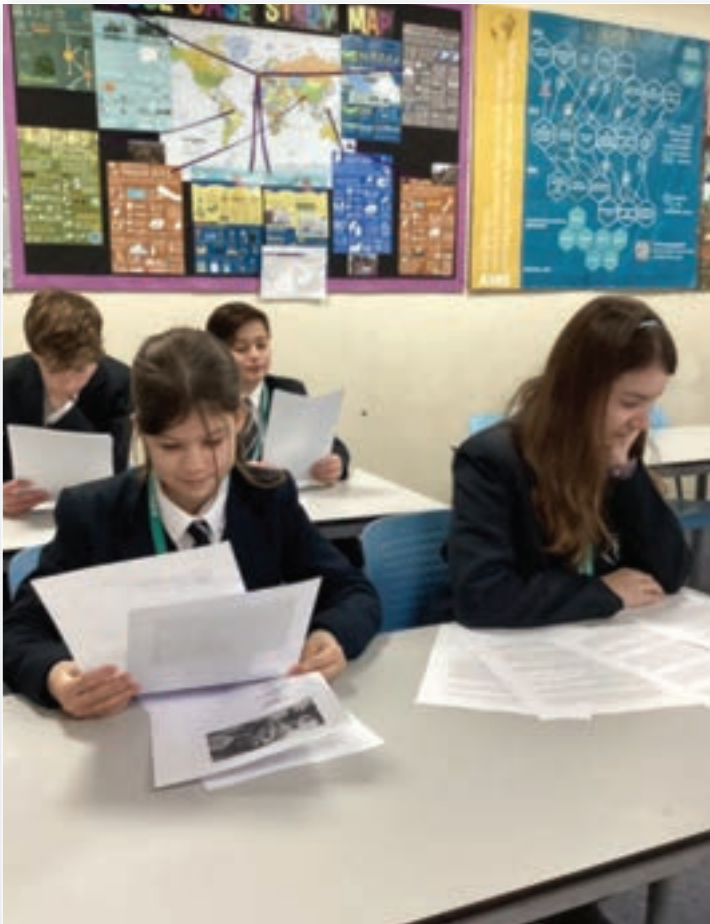
Reef Stevens – 7BRK





Geography 17

Year 8 Antarctica Link



Year 8 Geography students have been studying a range of different biomes across the world as part of a unit entitled Pole to Pole. As part of this unit, students explored the polar biome with a particular focus on Antarctica. Students learned about the location of polar biomes and their climates as well as what animals lived there and their adaptations. Students also investigated who lives in Antarctica and this was brought to life by Miss Hoggett who put our Year 8 students in touch with scientists and researchers based on the continent through the UK Polar Network.

Students wrote four separate letters to the scientists which included a number of excellent questions such as, "to what extent have you seen animals being affected by climate change?" and "what is the most interesting thing you have discovered on Antarctica?". The students received responses a few days later from a range of scientists including Adam Booth, a Geophysicist from the School of Earth and Environment, University of Leeds and Floortje Van Den Heuvel, a Cloud Physicist working for the British Antarctic Survey.

The responses were really detailed and gave students a real insight into the research being conducted on Antarctica and what life is like in one of the most extreme environments in the world. It enabled to bring to life students' learning and explore some of the careers available to those who continue to study Geography.



18 STEM

Greenpower – Race Report

Race day was very successful and in the same way a Rugby Team can leave everything on the field, the girls have given everything in some extremely demanding racing.

We have lots of improvement to do, but we finished 33rd and as it is the international final we finished 33rd globally.

There were many international teams present including one all the way from Brazil!

Eighty-five cars raced at the event all of whom had podiomed in their respective regionals, so to beat any of them in our first season would have been celebration worthy. To be competitive and challenge 1 is a fantastic achievement.

The girls had to do very tight racing in a car now worth approx £15,000 (no typo fifteen thousand!) due to its newly designed carbon body, so the pressure was on and they handled it brilliantly.

Both their driving technique and pit stops were making some experienced teams look like amateurs!

The job now is to figure out what magic formula is making the other teams' cars run faster as the girls have pushed the current set up to its absolute limit.

The Greenpower Electric Vehicle Challenge is a national competition organised through the UK Charity Greenpower Education Trust. The Trust inspires young people around the world to excel in Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (STEM) through a unique challenge: to design, build and race an electric car.

Craig Jewell is championing this initiative through his Girls' in Science club.

Mr Jewell





Mathematics 19

Year 10 Plymouth University Maths Taster Day

On Tuesday 17th January 60 year 10 students attended a Mathematics Taster Day at Plymouth University.

They were split into groups of 15 and, along with other Colleges, attended three of the six activities offered.

Activity 1

The Monty Hall Problem. Students played a game where a prize was hidden behind one of three doors. They used probability to find out the best door to open and whether to stick or switch their choice.

Activity 2

Shot in the Dark. How asking the right questions, whilst applying Mathematics they already knew, could help them when it came to job interviews.

Activity 3

Guesstimation. Again thinking 'outside the box' when applying Mathematics in everyday life.

Activity 4

Breaking the Cipher. In this session students explored how Mathematics unlocked the secrets of cipher used by British prisoners of war in WWII.

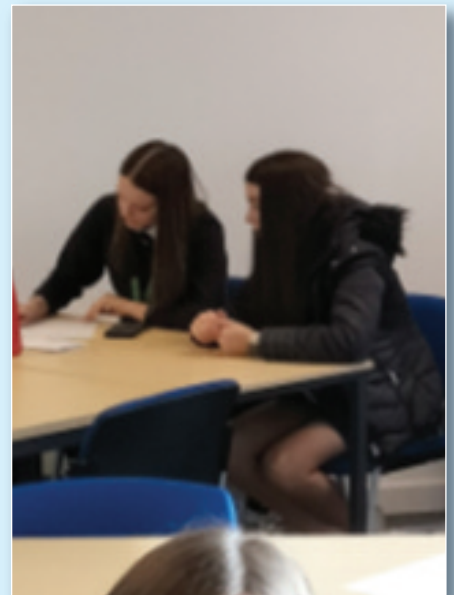
Activity 5

How many? Using Mathematics to estimate the number of beads in a jar.

Activity 6

All is not as it seems. Students enjoyed seeing a magic trick and finding out about the Mathematics behind it.

The day finished with a short talk that gave them an insight into mathematics beyond GCSE and some of the benefits of having an A Level in Mathematics.



The day proved very thought-provoking and was enjoyed by all students who attended.

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20 Festive Week 2022

Ivybridge Community College would like to congratulate all students and staff for their achievements during its Festive Week.

Students participated in a comprehensive week of fun and festive-themed events raising over £2,700 in aid of Children's charities and College projects.

Dressed for the events, including Christmas costumes, many students took part in a variety of festive themed activities, including Festive Football, Rugby, Bench Ball and Netball, as well as some short distance races and a Santa Run. Meanwhile, others were joining the Christmas Film Club as well as dressing up for the Festive Photoshoot and Christmas Jumper Day, raising nearly £1,000 for Save the Children.

For those with more creative flair, there were opportunities to participate in a Gingerbread decorating competition (raising £170), a Christmas Card Workshop and some festive Dance classes.

Our budding performers also shone with superb singing and musical performances at a special Christmas Carol Concert, as well as taking their talent to a local primary school, residential home and library for the enjoyment of the wider community. Also benefitting, were the South West Children's Hospice, whilst some of the funds raised will be allocated towards the College's current sports projects. The College would once again like to thank everyone for their participation over the Festive Week and are proud that students are taking advantage of the opportunities on offer and benefitting the wider community in the process. Ms Lilley, Deputy Principal said, "It was wonderful to be able to see our students get involved in such a wide variety of festive activities. The amount that has been raised for charity is fantastic; the staff and students should be very proud."

Festival of Kings

Ivybridge Community College's gifted and talented Linguists returned from the Christmas break and signed off the festivities with a custom fit for the continent.

Students observed King's Day (or the Festival of the Kings), following a French tradition that involved sampling some traditional recipe cakes from France and Spain.

The youngest student sits under a table and decides which piece of cake should be received by each of their peers. One piece, however, contains a special, hidden charm and whoever receives this earns the right to be crowned King for the day.

The Festival of the Kings ('La Fête des Rois' or 'El Día de los Reyes' for the benefit of our Spanish language students) is an annual custom which takes place on 6 January and marks the arrival of the Three Kings following the birth of Jesus.

This year, the student with the honour of serving the cake was Lucy Stephenson, whilst this year's Queen for the day was Sofia Louca.

The students translated the recipes, to have a go at home too.





Festive Week 21

Santa Run

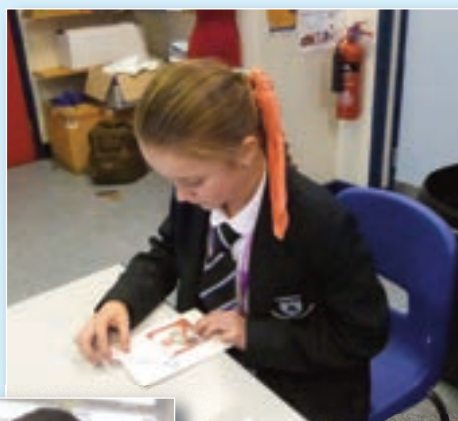
The Santa Run took place on the last day of term before Christmas. All Year 7 students were invited to 'compete' or 'complete' the 1 mile course around College dressed in Christmas jumpers and Santa hats. The students were welcomed back from their run with a hot chocolate and festive tunes whilst they cheered on their classmates still tackling the course.

The event was in aid of South West Children's Hospice and the Build our Fitness Funds - to enable us at the College to update our current fitness facilities.

A total of £316.00 was raised from just this event.

A huge congratulations to all those who donated and took part. Special mention must go to our top 3 finishers in each PE group, these students will be invited back to a second round cross country event to be named Ivybridge Cross Country Champion later in the term - watch this space!

Miss Mattinson



Community Carols

Musicians in Years 7–12 from the College's Ukulele and Busking Ensembles led by Phil and Mahrey Berthound, and Year 12 student Ellie Murphy, along with the Pop Vocals Ensemble, led by Rosie Le Caz, toured with the Music Department on Thursday, 15 December 2022 to perform as part of Ivybridge Community College's 'Carols on Tour' Live Music Performance at three local venues: The Erme Primary School, Ivydene Residential and Nursing Home, and Ivybridge Library at The Watermark Centre. The students and staff were delighted to be able to do this event again for the first time since the pandemic and it was wonderful to see them share the cheer, festivities and Christmas music with the community.

The Deputy Manager of Ivydene Residential and Nursing Home commented on how impressed she was with the students, describing them as impeccably behaved.

"It was fantastic to see these students being so engaged and putting themselves out there, performing to such a high standard. We are very proud of their achievements."

Mary Webber, Teacher of Music.



22 Festive Week





Learning Resource Centre 23

Read for Good

It is with great excitement that the Learning Resource Centre would like to announce we have raised another £80 for the 'Read for Good' Charity, through two book sales. The first was a Father's/Carer's Day book sale, held in June and the second was our well established Christmas present book sale with a free gift wrapping service. The money has been sent to the charity as we continue to support in their bid to buy book trolleys for childrens' hospital wards or restock a book trolley, already in place, with new books. We would like to say a massive THANK YOU for the book donations from students and staff, without your support, this would not have been possible.



... and finally



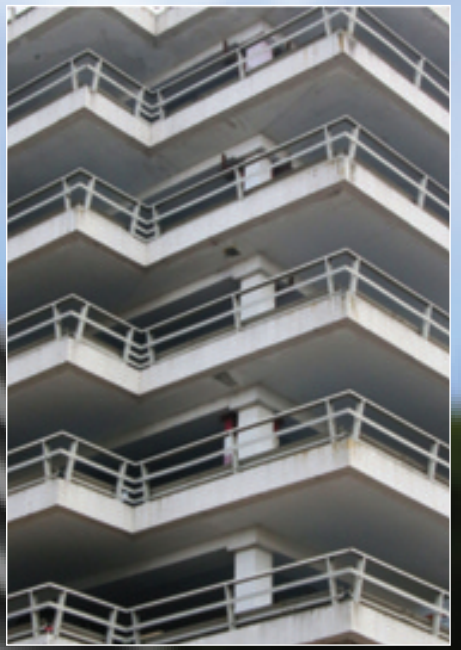
A huge Thank You to Eleni Kitidis 07BRK for her fabulous gift to the Learning Resource Centre.

Eleni joined Ivybridge Community College in September and was one of the first Year 7 Students to sign up to our Knitting and Crochet club held in the Learning Resource Centre after College on a Wednesday.

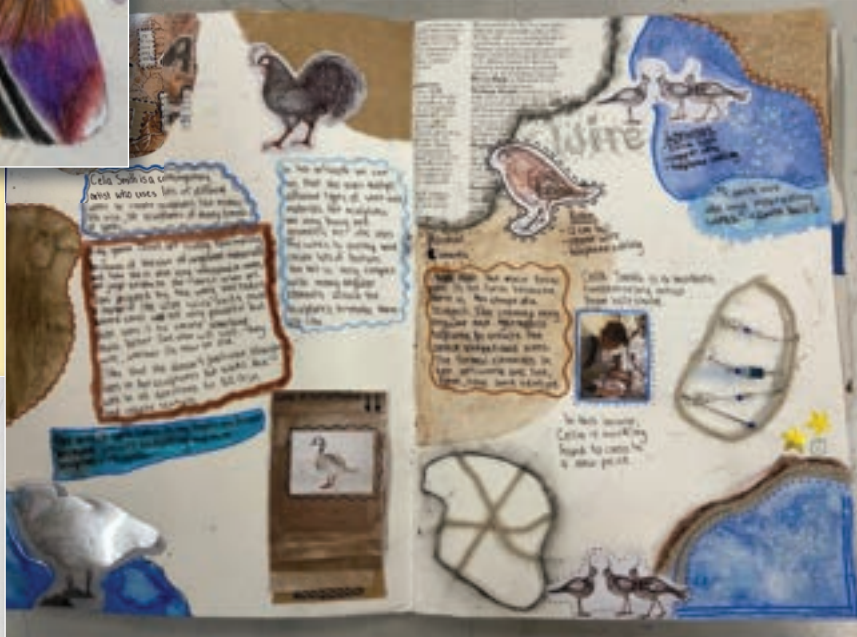
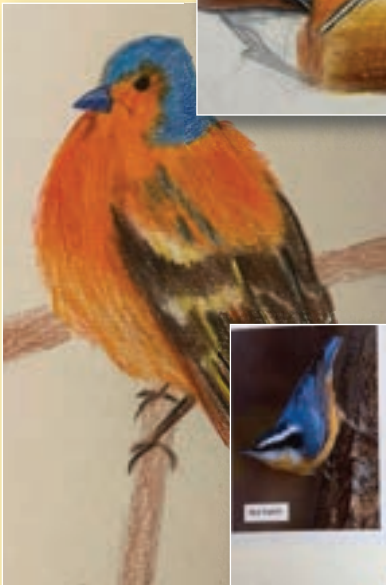
The club is run by Miss Davidson and Mrs Ash and has been a huge success. Eleni had not crocheted before, but returned after the Christmas break with this gorgeous gift for us.

Thank you, Eleni.

If you have a flair for knitting or crochet, please feel free to pop along on a Wednesday. We'd love to see you.



24 Creative Arts



Page 24
GCSE Photography - Sophie Barham
inset: GCSE Photography - Patrick Swift

- clockwise
- Year 8 Art and Design - Beatrice Ellison
- Year 8 Art and Design - Lily Mahoney
- Year 8 Art and Design - Martha Fenwick
- Year 8 Art and Design - Megan Lawson



Creative Arts 25



Page 25

GCSE Art and Design - Angelle Pickett

GCSE Art and Design - Patience Kawao

GCSE Photography -

Kayleigh Coote Lehane

clockwise

GCSE Photography - Lucy Scott

GCSE Photography - Emily Bellamy





Rugby Academy - The First Hurdle Tackled

26 Sport

The England Rugby Union Association has recently launched a new Developing Player Programme for girls and five Ivybridge Community College students have already taken up the offer.

The College would like to congratulate Megan Sams, Nicole Mitchell, Izzy Firth, Maddison Spampanato and Sophie Gilvear having successfully gained a place on the programme.

The initiative will work closely with School and Rugby clubs to provide training, development and competitive opportunities for young players.

In addition, Maddison Spampanato took to the pitch at Twickenham Stadium with 49 other aspiring referees as part of a RFU Match Official Development drive with the aim of introducing more female match officials into the game. *Well done everyone and good luck!*

Volleyball...Champions of the South West



Ivybridge Community College is delighted to report that our Under 15 Girls' Volleyball Team are the Champions of the South West having won the JuVoTo Volleyball Tournament in Exeter.

The Tournament took place in mid-December at Exeter's Riverside Leisure Centre and saw teams of three play a series of matches against different clubs, scoring league table points based on their results.

The victorious team faced others from across the locality as well as groups from Wiltshire and Wales on their way to the title.

Congratulations to our team!

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Cross Country Success in January



January 2023 has seen the Ivybridge Community College Cross Country runners go from strength to strength with students representing both Club and College with great success.

The South West Club Cross Country Championships were held on Sunday, 8 January.

Matthew Gilvear, Charlie Milward, Thomas Jones, Madeleine Jones and Bella May all represented their running clubs at RNAS Merryfield.

The athletes were up against stiff competition with a stacked field including a European Cross Country athlete.

The Ivybridge Community College students obviously were not fazed by the impressive line-up with Madeleine, Thomas and Matthew all securing spots in the team that will represent Devon clubs at the Nationals in Loughborough on 11 March.

Charlie has a spot on the reserve list and Bella is currently awaiting confirmation of her place from the team manager.

A huge congratulations to these students, we look forward to hearing the news of your race in Loughborough.

Top of page main
Thomas Jones
inset Thomas Carter

clockwise
Charlie Milward
Thomas Carter
Matthew Gilver and
Charlie Milward



28 Sixth Form

Sixth Form Celebrates Results Day

Students received their A Level and Vocational qualification results in the summer.

After an abrupt end to their Year 11 studies, we are so proud of the way that our Year 13 students have shown determination and resilience throughout their time in the Sixth Form.

Over 60% of A Level passes were at grades A*-B, and more than half of our Vocational passes were at Distinction or Distinction*.

40 students achieved only the highest grades of A*, A, Distinction and Distinction* in all of their subjects, with 30% of our A Level grades being at grade A or A*.

Three students have realised their dreams to study Medicine or Dentistry and one student has achieved his place at Cambridge to study Natural Sciences. This year, 200 young people at the College decided to apply to university; a quarter having gained places at the prestigious Russell Group universities.

We are always proud of the destinations of our students, and this year is no exception, with students off to university, apprenticeships and training across the country and beyond. One student is off to realise his linguistic and business talents at a Business School in France, many are off to prestigious Dance and Drama schools across the country, a further student has secured a top job with a local firm supporting his AAT qualification training and another student has already started to work as a firefighter.

Mrs Hutchinson, Principal added,

“After such turbulent times over the past few years we could not be prouder of their achievements today. I would like to congratulate our students; to thank our staff who have supported our students so tirelessly, and also our parents/carers for their ongoing support and encouragement.”



Ms Martin, Director of Sixth Form said,
“I am incredibly proud of the students. They have shown outstanding resilience over their time at the College and have been a joy to work with.”



Term Dates 2023

Spring Term 2023

Spring Term Starts	Wednesday, 4 January 2023
Half Term	Monday, 13 February - Monday, 20 February 2023 inc.
Term Ends	Friday, 31 March 2023

Summer Term 2023

Summer Term Starts	Tuesday, 18 April 2023
May Day	Monday, 1 May 2023
Half Term	Monday, 29 May - Friday, 2 June 2023 inc.
Term Ends	Friday, 21 July 2023

Autumn Term 2023

Autumn Term Starts	Wednesday, 6 September 2023
Half Term	Monday, 23 October - Friday, 30 October 2023 inc.
Term Ends	Tuesday, 19 December 2023

If you have an article celebrating a student's achievement, please complete the 'Submit a News Article' form located on the College website under the 'Contact Us' tab <https://www.ivybridge.devon.sch.uk/>





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• WORKING OUT TO IMPROVE OUR CHILDREN'S FUTURE •
AFFORDABLE FITNESS • PERSONAL TRAINING

Dates for 2023

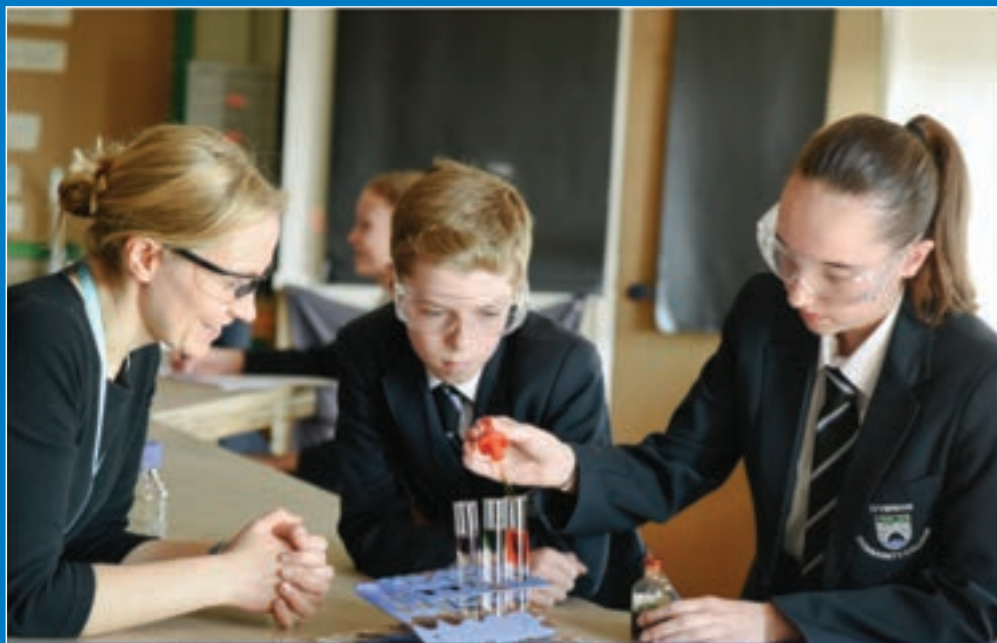
PARENT FORUM

Special Educational Needs
Focus and Literacy
Review Forum
Thursday, 8 June

PARENTMEET

Careers in Action
Thursday, 27 April
and Thursday, 18 May
5.00 - 6.15pm

For further information and to book a place on the next meeting please visit the College website
www.ivybridge.devon.sch.uk



Train To Teach Events 2023

Thursday 26, Jan 5.00-6.00pm
Thursday 16, March 5.00-6.00pm
Thursday 4, May 5.00-6.00pm

Via Microsoft Teams
(you will be invited to the meeting)

Please Register online at:
www.westst.org.uk/train toteachevents



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