

29th April 2019



Dear Parents and Carers

I hope you had a restful and enjoyable Easter. Below are some of the highlights from the end of last term and news for the term ahead.

Sports news

Netball

Well done to Mia and Phoebe in Year 10 who are part of the Invictus Under 16 Netball team. Their performances in recent matches has been excellent. Phoebe was named player of the tournament in the recent Birmingham Schools Netball Tournament, what an achievement.

Football

Well done to our Year 7 team who beat Heath Park 4-3. The team were short of 2 players, so just think of what the score would have been with a full squad. It would be great to see more students taking part in our teams, come on lads.

Cross Country

Well done to Noah in Year 9 who is now competing at National level. He represented Staffordshire in the English County Championships and finished 304 out of the 350 fastest students in the country – wow.

Golf

Ben in Year 7 is representing England for golf in an upcoming tournament held in Jakarta. To be selected is an amazing achievement and we wish Ben all the best in the upcoming tournaments.

Duke of Edinburgh

Well done to the 67 Year 9 and Year 10 students who took part in their practice expedition in the local area. Students carried all of their equipment for the weekend including tents and stoves and navigated themselves from school to Kinver Scout Camp on routes they had planned during their training weekend. They coped well putting up tents, cooking and camping in the very windy conditions and all managed to walk back to Wombourne. All the groups worked hard and were a real credit to the school. They are now preparing for their final assessed expedition in June. Well done to all involved.

Ounsdale's MFL Bake off

Well done to the 14 competitors who took part in the MFL bake off, and to the Year 9 and Year 10 MFL ambassadors who organized the event. Students designed and made cakes that were themed on France, Spain, Germany and Jamaica. Students spoke about their creations in a foreign language to the judges Mr Ward and Dr Smith. Entries were judged on appearance, taste and the description of their cake. Runners up were Layla, Daisy and Dominique. The winning creation of macaroons, crispy on the outside, chewy on the inside, and decorated with French flags, was Alfie in Year 7, well done.

Charity Work

Many thanks to all staff and students that have taken part in the collection of food for a local homeless charity. Thanks to Mrs Blake for raising awareness of the struggles some families face and well done to all who rose to the challenge set. We have filled a large container with food to send on to people who need a helping hand.

Dedicated teachers

A huge thank-you goes to the teachers of Ounsdale who have given up time in their holidays to prepare students for upcoming exams. The Easter school ran throughout the holiday, with invited Year 11 students receiving help and support in a wide range of subjects. We hope students found the experience useful and wish them all the best as they put the final touches to their exam preparation.

MFL oral exams, and the 10 hour art exam commence week beginning 29th April. We then have one final week of Year 11 lessons before the exams begin on Monday 13th May. Modified timetables with revision sessions and details of exams have been issued to Year 11 students and are available on the web-site.

Best wishes to all our Year 11, Year 12 and Year 13 students sitting external exams. We know they have prepared well, and we wish them every success as they enter the exam hall.

Exam Weeks (Year 7 to 10)

In previous years, exam weeks for different year groups have been spread throughout the year. We will continue to assess students as they complete modules of work in all subjects. However, the formal exam week for each year group will take place in the final half term of the year.

Year Group	Date of exam week
7	Week beginning 24 th June
8	Week beginning 17 th June
9	Week beginning 17 th June
10	Week beginning 24 th June

Homework club

Students who find it easier to concentrate at school can complete their homework in school at homework club. This runs every night from Monday to Thursday in the library from 3 pm to 4 pm.

Enrichment

In addition to memorable lessons, speakers and trips can give students a real passion for the subjects they study and enrich their understanding of topics. In the past Ounsdale has run an enrichment week at the end of the summer term. There have been many benefits of this, however the logistics of arranging all enrichment trips within the same week and ensuring all students have a week of meaningful activities has sometimes proved difficult. Therefore, this year, enrichment activities will take place throughout the year with a focus on enrichment during the summer term.

The Humanities department are planning trips to Worcester for Year 7 to visit the Tudor House, Cathedral and conduct Geographical surveys and Year 9 Ancient History visit to Wroxeter.

The languages department are organizing for a group of Year 10 students to attend a play in French and are looking at opportunities for students in Year 8 to visit a French café.

The PE department are planning Sports day and arranging teams to take part in the Invictus games.

This is just a flavor of some of the opportunities we will be offering to students. However, please be aware the activities will be spread out rather than taking place within an enrichment week.

Visit Iceland

The Humanities department are planning to visit Iceland in May 2020. This trip is open to all students currently in Year 7, 8 and 9. The trip will include:

- A visit to Reykjavik City
- The Reykjanes Peninsula – A look at the “real Iceland” away from many of the tourist hotspots visiting extensive geothermal springs and mud pools, volcanic explosion craters and the Perlan Centre which provides the capital of Reykjavik with geothermally heated water
- Swimming at the Secret Lagoon- a geothermal lagoon
- The Golden Circle – A tour of the Golden Circle, which includes a visit to the Hellishidi geothermal power plant, the Kerid volcano crater, Gullfoss waterfall and the Strokkur geyser. This day includes a Geothermal Greenhouse Tour – A look at greenhouse horticulture, where Icelanders grow fruits and vegetables in their typically cold climate. Lunch (grown at the greenhouses) included

The trip is an expensive trip at £840 but this will include everything apart from food in the airport and any personal spending money. Letters can be collected, or requested by e-mail, from Mrs Dean.

Banned items

Items that can cause danger to students, such as knives, penknives and drugs are not allowed in school. Any student found in possession of a banned item will lose their place at the school and we will work with the police where students are found to be in possession of an illegal item. Ounsdale is a very safe community and we wish to maintain this.

Building work and CCTV

The ground work and foundations for the new building, which will contain 10 teaching classrooms, is now complete. Work will now begin on building walls and stairs, an exciting time as we will watch the main structure being completed.

In addition to the new build, over the holidays work took place to demolish the single story end part of the main teaching block, and to continue work on the windows.

We were very happy to open the new visitor reception last term, and work to complete office and entrance facilities is nearing completion.

As part of the updates to the building we will increasingly use CCTV around school as a security measure. The CCTV will also help us to identify students that are not conducting themselves in the way we expect and allow sanctions to be fairly targeted at the students not doing the right thing.

Welcome to Mr Crook

We are very pleased to have Mr Crook join the leadership team at Ounsdale from Easter. Mr Crook has run a successful 6th form at a Shropshire school and joins us to lead the pastoral team within the school. Mrs Thompson will be increasingly taking a role in Teaching and Learning, particularly in English, Maths and Science. Mr Crook will be taking the lead in working with vulnerable students and working with students on behaviour. A warm welcome to Mr Crook.

Uniform

[The uniform policy for 2019-2020 is attached.](#) The key changes are highlighted below

- The school will have a new logo from September 2019. This will be shown on blazers and PE kit. Please ensure any new kit has the new logo. However, the old logo will be accepted in the 2019-2020 academic year as a transitional period. From September 2020 all uniform should have the Wombourne High School logo.
- We will not accept trainers as appropriate school footwear from September 2019. All students need to wear black shoes. Any item of footwear with a logo or that looks like a trainer will not be accepted.
- We will allow girls to wear shorts rather than skorts during PE lessons from September 2019 if they feel more comfortable in this attire. However, we will require all girls representing the school in fixtures to wear the smart skorts.
- All girls skirts must be the drop waist pleated design from September 2019. This style was introduced for Year 7 this academic year and the girls wearing this design look smart and professional. Straight style skirts will no longer be accepted, the shortness and the tight fitting nature of this design has increasingly been a concern.
- We are now using two uniform suppliers to give families choice when purchasing uniform. Uniform will be available from Abbiss in Wombourne and from Total Uniform in Kingswinford. Please see the policy for additional details.

6th form news

We are very pleased to announce that Invictus 6th form results in 2018 were amongst the best in the country for progress. This is a remarkable achievement and shows just how well staff work with students to support them in achieving their potential. More details of this achievement are documented below in a letter from Ms Kendrick, Director of Invictus Sixth Form.

Thank you for your continued support.

Kind Regards,

Dr Smith

INVICTUS
1TH FORM

2nd April 2019

Dear Parents and Students

Invictus Sixth Form – Top 10 for A Level Progress

We are thrilled to let you know about our recent success in relation to the progress of students at Invictus Sixth Form. In 2018, our students achieved A Level results that place us in the **top 10** for progress compared to all other Education Trusts in the country. This success means that we have secured our place in the top 20% of all schools and colleges in England and meant that our Y13 students secured places at some of the most competitive and prestigious universities in the country. Our results also compare very favourably to other local schools and colleges (see overleaf).

Every Invictus campus, their teachers and students contributed towards this incredible achievement but it is worth noting that students and staff based at Kinver High School are worthy of an extra special mention. Kinver's A Level results are in the top spot in terms of progress compared to all 125 schools and colleges in Staffordshire, Dudley and Wolverhampton; this is an achievement of which we are extremely proud.

Year 12 and 13 students, alongside their talented teachers, are currently working hard to maintain this exceptional standard as they prepare for the summer examination period. We are also in the process of preparing for a number of visits to Edge Hill University, the Birmingham HE Convention and an Advanced Apprenticeship Day at Halesowen College. As well as this, plans for the summer induction for our September 2019 applicants are well under way. We can't wait to welcome the next group of students who wish to share in our success.

If you would like to find out more information about Invictus Sixth Form, visit any of our campuses or receive a prospectus, please do not hesitate to contact me by email or telephone (see below). Please take a look at our website www.invictussixth.co.uk and Facebook group <https://www.facebook.com/invictussixth> to keep up to date with our latest news and events.

Yours faithfully



Jane S Kendrick

Director – Invictus Sixth Form

Academic qualifications performance with school / college, 2018 - all students

School or College Name	Type of school or college	Progress Score	Grade and points score for a student's best 3 A Levels
Invictus Sixth Form	MAT	+0.01	C+
Haybridge High School & Sixth Form	Academy	-0.10	C+
Halesowen College	College	-0.10	D+
King Edward VI, Stourbridge	College	-0.13	B-
Highfields School, Wolverhampton	Academy	-0.22	C
Dudley Sixth	College	-0.23	D+