

Date: 17th January 2019

We returned to school after the Christmas holiday to an inset day, which used to ensure all staff were up to date with regards safeguarding training etc... and we welcomed the school nurse to provide the staff with EpiPen training.

We have also recently been inspected by Pearson/Edexcel the examination body that runs the BTEC qualifications, this is a yearly inspection which we passed again with flying colours.

Setting out the expectations for the start of term three has seen us launch our whole school literacy programme, this will be rolled out during the whole of term three in readiness for term four and will include:

- Oracy rules for the classroom
- Subject literacy mats to support students during lessons
- Spelling, Punctuation and Grammar marking in books
- A Drop Everything and Read programme, to be rolled out to year 10 students, who will choose a book of their own that the school would purchase for them. The school will then support an hour a week of reading and discussion to help improve the literacy level of our student's intake.

Date: 20th December 2019

Fourteen school weeks have passed as we approach the Christmas break, experience tells me that time will fly by after Christmas as we lead up to the summer examination window for year 11 and year 13 students. Immediately upon our return Year 13 will be sitting external exams in their BTEC Level 3 Engineering and Year 11 will be sitting their Engineering, Construction and IT exams.

The last week of term is such a big week for us at Christmas; it is the first week that our year 10 engage in work experience or STEM Enrichment trips. We support year 10 students through three weeks of work experience or enrichment trips and students are guaranteed at least two weeks work experience.

Enrichment trips this week saw us visit, The Big Bit in Wales, Underfall Yard, The SS Great Britton, We the curious, The MSHED in Bristol and Bristol Zoo. All the trips where possible included a workshop that was STEM related for the students to participate in.

A number of year 10 students were out on work placements with local employers and if you visit the IKB Facebook page you will see some of the photos and messages of support from the employers we engage with.

This is a busy week for us as we visited the Old Vic Theatre in Bristol with all of our year 11 students to watch a Christmas Carol. Another key text that the students are studying for their GCSE English Literature exam. All the students enjoyed the performance and we hope the key scenes will remain fixed in their memory ready for the exams in the summer.

We also ran a year 11 mock conference, this is an event we run every year where students open their year 11 internal examination results just as they would do in the summer. For some this is a real positive experience, for others it is a wakeup call to work harder, but for all it is an experience to look forward and consider their options post 16. We split the year into three groups, an academic

group that are looking to continue their studies to A level or Level 3 vocational qualifications, an apprenticeship group that are looking to apply to local companies and colleges to start an apprenticeship at post 16 and another smaller group that are interested in opportunities that fall outside of the normal routes identified before.

All year 11 came away from the day with a clear understanding of what the next steps and opportunities could be, the work and effort need to ensure success.

Year 12 worked with our Chair of Governors, Chris Trout. This was to take part in a Belbin assessment so that the year 12 students could understand their potential roles in team working, the results from this will be seen after Christmas.

Date: 6th December 2019

This week we invited year 10 parents into the school for an evening to help them understand the curriculum in English, maths and science their children would be studying at IKB, what? In terms of resources are available to help support them at home and allowing the parents to put a name to a face for our curriculum leaders. I also provided a presentation on Online Safety, such an important aspect of our lives today. The easy access to social media, the use of phones in and out of school, often leads to confrontation, bullying etc... and it is a great help to have parents on board with our expectations.

We visited GKN locally in Bristol with 14 year 11 engineering students who were given the opportunity to work with carbon fibre materials and visit a first class manufacturing facility within the aerospace industry. The students had a fantastic day and could identify the links with their trip to the qualification they were studying back in school, more specifically around materials and their properties.

As we continue to look for opportunities to collaborate with our partner secondary schools within the WMAT. We held a Ten Tors Assembly to link with Bedminster Down School.

Date: 23rd November 2019

This week has seen the year 11 internal exams. Students have been apprehensive but have been well prepared. I am sure when students receive their results they will recognise the additional work they need to put in to be successful. This is the first real experience the students have sitting GCSE examinations, for example in maths they will have sat all three GCSE papers, even though we still have not finished teaching all the content. We know that students make significant progress from the internal exams through to the summer examinations through analysis across WMAT secondary schools, year on year results at IKB continue to be positive and the progress made by students in just the two years with us are very good.

This week we also took three teams of engineers to the Fleet Air Arm Museum, to take part in an engineering competition. Winning is not the be all and end all for IKB and we work with students to ensure they participate, hence taking three teams from a school our size is a significant investment in developing students employability skills etc... and working outside of their comfort zones. All the students performed well and were a credit to our school.

In keeping with our employer links we also visited Beaufort Bespoke a local joinery firm that manufactures a range of bespoke furniture for displays etc... Year 13 students visited to see first-hand manufacturing processes, which helps support their BTEC level 3 Engineering course.

Date: 8th November 2019

We have returned from our half term and I have set out in assemblies my expectations leading to Christmas. Behaviour is key, year 10 have had time to settle into the school, build relationships with teachers and make new friends. We see this every year and behaviour starts to become a real positive of the schools make up. In a small school, consistencies ensure that students get a fair deal and are appropriately challenged to ensure high expectations. At IKB we pride ourselves on managing behaviour and working with the full spectrum of students to ensure the best outcomes for them individually.

Today we ran year 11 mock interviews for the students; using our employer network, we were able to provide a 20min interview for all our students. Students used tutor times to prepare and research questions around a career they were interested in and then we matched these with our employer network to provide the student with a real life experience. Feedback from the day was positive from our students and employers visit our face book page to see the photos.

In keeping with linking with our community we ran a parents information evening on supporting students in year 11 through their exams. What is it that parents can be doing to provide support? If you missed the event, you can [access the resources on the website](#).

Date: 25th October 2019

This week we ran an enhanced PSHE sessions during tutor time and P1/2 for years 10 and 11, the focus was around gambling. Restructuring our timetable to run these sort of events allows us the opportunity to get into the nitty gritty of a subject that is usually relevant to young people, Gambling in the UK is readily available for all young people to partake in and has the potential to ruin lives from an early age, education is the key to prevention and our PSHE programme allows us to focus on the areas to ensure we build the students cultural capital, social mobility and a sense of morality.

Cultural Capital is a term to describe the tools that students will need to learn in order to be successful in the world of work, in relationships forged throughout life and as a valued contributor to society as a whole. These tools consist of knowledge gained, behaviours learned and skills mastered and it is our job to ensure that all learners have the opportunity to develop these attributes through their school experience.

See how we embed this into the [curriculum at IKB](#)

We also ran a trip this week on Wednesday for year 11 construction students to visit the self-build construction centre in Swindon, this is a regular outing for students at IKB as the centre links directly to the curriculum in terms of understanding how substructures are built (foundations), every year there is a question in the exam around substructures design etc...

Date: 18th October 2019

This week saw our schools self-evaluation; this is one of the processes we use to monitor the quality of teaching and learning. This year we have implemented a number of routines to ensure consistency between lessons, we have tied this in to the check element of tutor time where we check to ensure all students are fully equipped for the day. When you couple this with entry routines into the classroom with regards bags and coats, it means lessons can start promptly and settles the class in terms of consistent behaviour expectations.

We have also aligned our teaching and learning policy with Wellsway School to ensure the language around differentiation and green pen work is the same, as IKB students study in Wellsway lessons it helps with consistent message and high expectations we have.

I can also confirm that year 10 applications for September 2020 have been rushing in and to date we have over 85 applications for the 60 spaces available.

Date: 4th October 2019

IKB, SBL and Wellsway School have been holding their sixth form open evenings recently. We welcomed over 100 families to our sixth form open evening and attended both the SBL and Wellsway Schools open evenings. We are expecting improved numbers in to our sixth form for September 2020. Typically, we resting approximately retain about 50% of our year 11 students and match this number with external applicants all wanting to study STEM subjects at A Level and/or Level 3 BTEC vocational qualifications.

Our year 10 and year 12 students embarked on our annual team building event, all enjoyed the ups and downs of ice skating, we had no injuries and the students got to see staff members in a different light. These opportunities at IKB are central to building relationships with our students to ensure we get the best possible outcomes from them.

Date: 28th September 2019

We opened the school to new year 10 applicants, a big thank you to all the staff and students involved in putting on a fantastic open evening that was informative for all the potential new starters in September 2020. We had over 150 families visit the school and as a result the applications are rushing in, we expect to be oversubscribed for September 2020.

Continuing to support English and the students cultural capital, we arranged and subsidised a trip to the theatre for all year 11 students to see 'Blood Brothers', this is one of the texts being studied by the year 11 students for their English literature GCSE. As usual, the students were impeccably behaved and thoroughly enjoyed the performance.

Date: 21st September 2019

Year 13 have returned from a successful jointly run trip with Wellsway School to CERN in Geneva, Switzerland. Students studying A level physics and Level 3 Engineering enjoyed a visit to the large hadron collider. An opportunity to see innovative science and engineering in action is just one of the fantastic wide curriculum trips that IKB prides in incorporating into the students sixth form study programmes.

Recently we collaborated with Wellsway School to provide training for staff on Hate crimes, SARi came to the school to provide the context and support to ensure all Wellsway and IKB staff could identify and understood the strategies surrounding hate crime.

Date: 7th September 2019

We have welcomed our new year 10 and year 12 students to IKB Academy, it's great news to say that we have recruited the largest number of year 12 students this year since we opened. Year 11

and 13 have settled back into their final year of education, preparing now for their GCSEs and A levels.

We commence this term a new and improved PSHE, SMSC etc... education programme, our links with Wellsway School have allowed us to align the delivery of this education programme, recently graded good by Ofsted at Wellsway School. The IKB tutor programme is central to our pastoral support programme and the development of our students' cultural capital.

For me, I embark on my first role as principal and I'm hugely excited to develop the schools vision in regards to linking with employers, improving outcomes and developing students' wider curriculum and cultural capital, ensuring each student has the tools to develop their social mobility.