



Isle of Wight  
Education Federation

# HALF-TERMLY NEWSLETTER

Edition 1  
20 October 2023



News and updates from the Isle of Wight Education Federation;  
Carisbrooke College, Medina College and The Island VI Form.



## IWEF Vietnam Trip

30 students and four members of staff from across the Isle of Wight Education Federation landed in Vietnam early on Tuesday morning. This exciting 10 day history trip will see them embark on an adventure from the North to the South of the country. See page 5 for photos from the trip so far and keep an eye on our social media channels for more updates!



## Message from the Executive Headteacher, Mr Parr-Burman

Welcome to the first new style Isle of Wight Education Federation Newsletter. This will be a half termly celebration of the many activities enjoyed by students across our three sites, Carisbrooke College, Medina College and The Island VI Form.

We will still provide the weekly email update from the Head of School with important information and dates, as well as regular updates and news through our social media platforms, but we felt it was important to share wider, experiences and opportunities our students have had over the last half term.

As Executive Headteacher for the Isle of Wight Education Federation, I would like to thank you all for your ongoing support. The students who get the best experience of school are those who have united support from school and home. High attendance in school/all lessons is the other most important factor. We aim for our students to achieve their potential both as students at our schools and as global citizens. In order to achieve this it is essential that students fully engage in their learning, asking for help when needed; it is also important to fully take part in the additional activities provided by us, as well as joining in extra-curricular activities. These activities mean that students may forge friendships with others who are like minded and who they may not have tried to in a normal classroom setting.

The various news stories in this newsletter will show you that we have opportunities to explore each of our core values of Ambition, Success, Progress, Inspiration, Respect and Equality. We are ambitious for ourselves and each other, we celebrate our successes, we make good and outstanding progress, we inspire each other to do our best, we are polite, tolerant and kind to everyone and we achieve equality of opportunity for all.

I hope that all of our students who have been through a form of transition this half term have now settled in and feel confident in what is expected of them, this is especially relevant to our new year 7 students who are new to our schools, our year 10 students who started their GCSE courses and our year 12 students who started their keystone 5 studies on their new dedicated post 16 site. If any student is still finding this a challenge, please encourage them to speak to their tutor, subject teacher or mentor.

I am particularly proud of our year 11 and year 13 students who are working hard to ensure they get the grades they deserve when the exams in the summer arrive. Revision sessions, trial exams, online learning platforms and tutor time activities are available to all of our students so it is really important that they take advantage of everything on offer. Even if students do not know what their next step is going to be, it is vital that they keep every avenue open to them and they do this by achieving the best possible grades they can. Linked to this, we have an important evening for year 11 students coming up, The Island VI Form Open Evening on Thursday 16 November, 5pm - 8pm. If you are a year 11 parent, please come and see what we have to offer. Our dedicated post 16 site is the perfect stepping stone from school to university/further education or employment.

I do hope that you enjoy looking at this newsletter and I look forward to sharing the next one with you towards the end of the autumn term.



## Medina College Farm Club Pumpkin Carving

As a reward for all the hard work they have put in on the agriculture plot this year, students attending farm club had the opportunity to carve the pumpkins they had grown.

For several of the students, this was the first time they had carved a pumpkin, but they took on this challenge with enthusiasm and determination.

The results were really impressive and the students should be proud of themselves. Well done!



## Mentors in Violence Prevention (MVP) Visit

At Medina College, we recently welcomed Donna Jones, Police & Crime Commissioner, HIOW, Terry Norton, Deputy Police & Crime Commissioner, HIOW, Ranjeev Pathak, OPCC Safer Streets Lead, and Cabinet Member for Community Safety (IOW Council) – Cllr Karen

Lucioni to meet with our new year 10 mentors, year 11 mentors and year 8 students to discuss the MVP programme. We were extremely proud of how well the students represented the school when sharing their feedback and thoughts on MVP. Well done to all involved.

The programme continues with mentor students delivering training to new year 7s in the coming weeks.



## Year 11 Careers - Employable Me

Year 11 students at both Carisbrooke College and Medina College had the opportunity to take part in an on-site interactive event devised by the Hampshire Futures Development Manager for Careers and Participation - Employable Me.

A host of local and mainland employers delivered a 'top of the class' experience, which included a range of activities to practice essential skills for the world of work. Divided into groups of 10, each team acted under the instruction of their 'employer' to create a structure that would support the weight of a potato. Their 'employer' observed and fed back to the team how well they communicated, cooperated and delegated tasks.

Next up was a task designed to see how well the team could follow instructions. Each team member was handed a sheet of paper, and the only verbal instruction they were given was to "Read the instructions very carefully". Those

who ended up with their own name on the piece of paper proved that they had indeed read the instructions carefully!

It was a great experience for the students which really made them think about the skills and qualities that employers look for in a candidate.



## Federated Careers Evening for Year 11

A variety of employers and education providers were on hand to provide career pathway information to parents/carers and year 11 students.

Amongst the exhibitors were The NHS, HTP, GKN Aerospace, The Island VI Form, University of Portsmouth, Platform One, Cecamm, The Isle of Wight College, UKSA, Johnson Electric, Moore LLP, RYS Foundation, BAE Systems, Hampshire and IOW Constabulary, Royal Corps

of Signals, The British Army and The RAF.

The evening began with short presentations from HTP, Isle of Wight College, The Island VI Form and The University of Portsmouth and was followed by a chance to meet the exhibitors.

Students who are undecided about their future plans were able to explore a variety of options, whilst those students with very clear ideas could get further information about their chosen pathway. Some students were surprised to find that there were some options they hadn't even considered!

## Sparx Maths - Years 7 - 11

Parents of all year 7 - 11 students will have received a letter this week regarding Sparx Maths. This is an exciting platform that offers every student personalised maths homework.

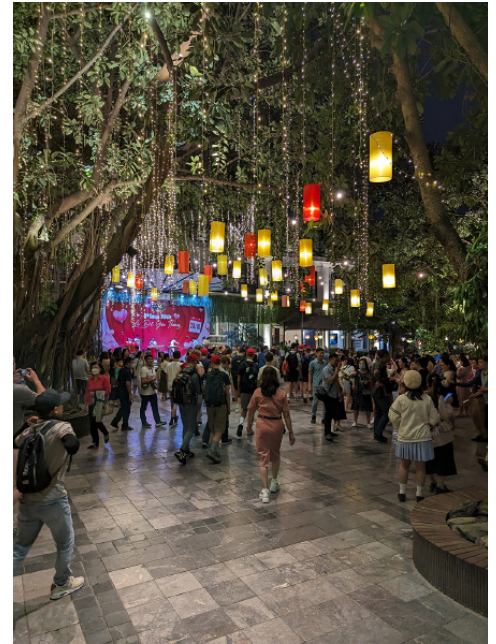
Please take the time to read this letter and encourage your child to complete all compulsory maths homework. This will ensure that they cover the essential building blocks needed to make progress in maths.





# IWEF Vietnam Trip

Here is a selection of photos from the trip so far. Keep an eye on our social media channels for daily updates!





## Dance Success for Lilah

Congratulations to year 7 Carisbrooke College student, Lilah, who recently took part in the Momentum Contemporary Dance Championships in Preston. She competed in contemporary and commercial dances as a group, duet and solo.

Lilah achieved the following results:  
3rd place - commercial solo; 4th place - show

solo; 4th place - commercial duet; 6th place - contemporary duet; 2nd place - show group; 3rd place - contemporary group; 3rd place - commercial group



This is fantastic, especially as the solo dances were competing amongst 30-40 other young people. Well done Lilah!

## Gymnastics Success for Lucy

Congratulations to Carisbrooke College year 11 student, Lucy, who recently competed in the Hampshire gymnastic classic challenge competition. She won 1st place in Floor, Vault and Beam, and 2nd place for Bars. She has also been invited to join the Hampshire Womens Artistic Gymnastics Squad. This means that she will attend training days with them at some of the top gymnastics clubs in the region, the first of which is on 18 December.

Lucy has also competed in the south region classic challenge finals, winning second place in her group. She also came top 5 on all apparatus, with 1st place on vault and 2nd on floor.

Well done, Lucy, you are achieving great things and we are very proud!



## Grand National Success for Elizabeth

Huge congratulations to year 7 Carisbrooke College student, Elizabeth, for her recent win of youngest jockey and also finishing 4th in the Puffing Billy race as part of the Isle of Wight Grand National.

Elizabeth is seen here with her pony Rascal. They make a great pair and win multiple rosettes for show jumping and cross country riding.

Well Done Elizabeth we are all very proud of you.



## Art Gallery Success for Summer

We are extremely proud at Medina College of our very talented young artist, Summer, who was selected to exhibit in the Mountbatten school art gallery for their new exhibition entitled, 'In-Memory of those we love'. Summer developed a stunning still-life oil painting which took in total around 60 hours to complete; the result was truly beautiful and incredibly inspirational.

The artwork was showcased on Wednesday 11 October. A huge well done to you, Summer, and thank you for your hard work and dedication!





## Author, Peter J Murray, visits Year 7 with spooky new book

Year 7 at both Carisbrooke College and Medina College were extremely fortunate to have author, Peter J Murray, visit and give a fascinating presentation on his new book of spooky stories based on the Isle of Wight, "The darker side of Wight".

Peter J Murray is a successful children's author and best known for his Mokee Joe series. He has often visited the Isle of Wight and many students remembered him from visits to their primary schools.

Peter entertained the students with some snippets from the book, leaving them on the edge of their seats and eager to find out more. Students heard about the most haunted places on the Island and were enthralled by Peter's storytelling abilities.

Peter returned the following day to sell copies of his book at a discounted rate and spent time signing books and chatting to the students about literacy. It was wonderful to see the students so excited about going home for the weekend to read their books.



## The Island VI Form Student Services

We are very proud at The Island VI Form to offer pastoral support that is tailored specifically to the Post-16 age range. Our Student Services team are always on hand and willing to help with a range of needs.

### Who are Student Services?

Available Monday to Thursday 8am to 4pm and Friday 8am to 3:30pm. Find us next to the old Library (L1).

We offer a range of services including but not limited to:

- Pastoral support
- Mental Health Support and Signposting

- UCAS Hub and Support with application submission
- Safeguarding
- Timetable queries
- Monitoring Attendance

You can contact Student Services by email: [vi-student-services@iwef.org.uk](mailto:vi-student-services@iwef.org.uk)





## Year 11 Open Evening Thursday 16 November 5.00 - 8.00 pm

Join us for:

- a short presentation about the wide range of courses on offer (repeated at 6.00 and 7.00 pm)
- Tours of our dedicated Post-16 site and extensive facilities
- Opportunities to meet subject staff and current students
- SEND Information



## MFL Vocabulary Progress

We have been so proud of so many of our students this half term for their phenomenal results in their French vocabulary tests. Some students in years 8 and 9 are already achieving mastery in some skill areas!

Just as in KS3, students in years 10 and 11 also have vocabulary to learn each week and have been widely successful by testing themselves and each other every day at school, or online in the evenings as well as playing the vocab retrieval games made for them by their teachers.

Some of the biggest successes are found when reluctant learners are “encouraged” to learn by their parents/carers who test them on the spellings and meanings of a few words or phrases each day. This is so effective and extremely helpful. It’s a myth that if you don’t speak a foreign language, you can’t help your child with the language that they are learning. In fact, all you need to do is to dedicate a little bit of time each day to learning and then testing - even 5 minutes - it will be a grade-changer!

## Gymnastics Success for Megan

Well done to Medina College year 7 student, Megan, who is now the South Regional Floor Champion in gymnastics after receiving first place in a recent competition.

As a result of this achievement, Megan has been invited to train with the Hampshire Regional Gymnastics Squad. Well done, Megan!

## Hot Chocolate Fridays

Mr Pearce-Jones joined us this term as Head of School at Medina College. Since joining, he has introduced a very popular initiative where students who have received top achievement points or had



100% attendance in the previous week receive a golden ticket to join him for hot chocolate and biscuits on a Friday morning.

Well done to all of the golden ticket winners so far this term. Keep up the good work! Mr Pearce-Jones is looking forward to meeting more students through this reward initiative next half term.

## Year 10 CEMAST Trip

A group of Carisbrooke College and Medina College year 10 students went on a day trip to CEMAST - Fareham College’s Centre of Excellence for Engineering, Manufacturing and Advanced Skills Training.

Students had a great experience meeting employers, asking questions and giving presentations. We had some lovely feedback from the employers who stopped Mr Coombes and said “The students have been asking very good questions and even put us on our toes; we would employ some of them tomorrow if they were old enough”. The students were enthusiastic and really engaged with the content of the day. Well done!



## Medina PE going full on in term one!

PE and Sport continues to go from strength to strength at Medina this term. Students have come back from the summer with a real drive to perform in their lessons and we are seeing students making excellent progress in a massive range of different activities across all of the years. The year 7 students have adapted quickly and settled in well.

The year 10 and 11 students have been selecting their own PE activities to help them stay engaged in PE lessons and this approach has proved really successful!

We have had a big surge in students doing extra curricular clubs and teams. We have run clubs for; Boys Football, Girls Football, Netball, Parkour, Badminton, Dance Live, Trampolining, Basketball and Indoor Football.

## Electric Energy in Carisbrooke PE!

The energy within PE has been electric, and the enthusiasm of our students has set an inspiring tone for the year ahead! We're thrilled to report that sports at Carisbrooke are not just an activity but a vibrant, thriving community where passion meets performance.

### Football Fever Takes Over

Our boys' football teams have been on fire, with a whopping 60+ students showing off their skills each week. And let's not forget our girls' football teams, gearing up for some exciting fixtures after the half-term break!

### Basketball and Netball Brilliance

Our courts have been buzzing with the dribbles and cheers of basketball enthusiasts, as well as the swift moves of netball players. With regular training sessions and games during breaks, our students are honing their skills and building a strong sense of camaraderie.



Clubs are happening at lunchtimes on Tuesday-Thursday and after school. All are welcome, no matter what experience level. Next half term we will start to switch to other sports as the Football and Netball seasons come to an end. Look out for after school Rugby and Basketball!

We have put teams in league competitions in Boys Football, Girls Football and Netball so far. Next term we'll have competitions for Cross Country, Sports Hall Athletics, Rowing and Parkour for students to be involved in!

To all our students, keep on working hard and let's see even more of you at clubs!



### Celebrating Victories and Determination

Our year 10 football team recently secured a thrilling 1-0 victory against Ryde Academy. The match showcased exceptional teamwork which ensured an impressive win that had our school spirit soaring!

### Victory for Year 8 Football Team

After a challenging first half, where Carisbrooke struggled to find their rhythm, the team emerged with renewed energy in the second half. Tactical adjustments and remarkable composure paid off, leading to a well-deserved 2-0 win.

### Year 7 Football Triumphs and Tenacity

Our year 7 football team embarked on their debut journey against CTK and Medina. Facing challenges and displaying true grit, our players showcased their skills. Despite a nail-biting 3-3 draw against CTK, their spirit remained unbroken. Against Medina, our team fought valiantly, highlighting their determination, even in the face of a 5-1 defeat.

As we move forward, we have even more exciting events lined up. Tournaments in basketball and netball are on the horizon, promising fierce competition and electrifying matches. We are not just nurturing athletes; we are fostering a spirit of sportsmanship, resilience, and unity that defines Carisbrooke.

## Thai Students - Cultural Exchange

In partnership with the Isle of Wight College, Carisbrooke College and Medina College have been hosting a group of students from Thailand over the past week.

They were paired up with a buddy who looked after them and took them to all of their lessons with them. Our students were all excited to learn more about another culture and share what it is like to be a student in the UK.

Here are some comments from our IWEF host students:

*"I have had a great time with my Thai buddy. We have spoken about the differences between our schools and things like our hobbies. I have learnt about her culture which is really interesting and unique."*

*"Having a Thai student buddy has been an amazing experience! It is so interesting to learn about each others cultures and the way of life in Thailand. Even though our time together has been short, we have made a good friendship and memories that will last our lifetimes."*

*"It has been such an amazing experience and I am honoured to be a part of it. I have loved learning about Thailand and its differences to the UK. I have learnt about Thai poems and how they are structured differently and have more*



*rules compared to English ones. We have also talked a lot about the differences in our schools and school rules. She has been very helpful with questions I have asked about her lifestyle and I hope I have been back. I hope our friendship will continue."*

*"The experience with the exchange students is a great opportunity to get to know other people that you wouldn't find in the school. It's a great opportunity to learn from other people from different backgrounds. It's a great experience that they can learn from too."*



**We'll be wearing odd socks with the Anti-Bullying Alliance and their patrons, Andy and the Odd Socks, on Monday 13<sup>th</sup> November for Odd Socks Day. Will you?**

**#AntiBullyingWeek**  
**#OddSocksDay**

**Odd Socks Day**

## Odd Socks Day Monday 13 November

Calling all staff and students from years 7-11 at Medina and Carisbrooke College

Wear odd socks for the day and donate a £1 - the brighter the better!

All money raised will be going to the Anti Bullying Alliance.



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 iow.gov.uk/islandfutures

# CAREERS, EDUCATION & JOBS FAIR

UNIVERSITIES  
APPRENTICESHIPS  
LOCAL EMPLOYERS  
RETURNING TO WORK  
WORKING PARENT  
WORKING WITH  
YOUR DISABILITIES

**THURSDAY  
26 OCTOBER 2023  
IW COLLEGE  
11AM\* TO 3PM**  
(LAST ENTRY AT 2PM)

\*Visitors with physical or sensory needs, or those who require extra time to get around the event, are invited to attend 10.30am to 11am for a quieter session.

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CAREERS HUB

CAREERS &  
ENTERPRISE  
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THE ISLE OF WIGHT  
college

# Family Hub

## Newport open day

**Wednesday 25 October 10am to 3pm  
to launch the Newport Family Hub at  
Furrlongs, Newport, PO30 2AX.**

This event is open to members of the public and is a great opportunity for those who would like to find out about the services Family Hubs offer.

To **book and secure your place** please visit [familyinfohub.iow.gov.uk](http://familyinfohub.iow.gov.uk) and click on the article link **Newport Family Hub open day**.

## School Transport - Spare Seat Application Window

The date for the next spare seat application window for academic year 2023/24 has been finalised. Should you wish to apply for a spare seat for your child to use the school bus service you will need to apply from 9am on Monday 30th October 2023.

Applications will be assessed on a first-come, first-served basis. Further information on the spare seat process can be found online, here: [www.iow.gov.uk/spareseats](http://www.iow.gov.uk/spareseats).

By accepting transport provision you are agreeing that your child will comply with the School Transport Code of Good Practice. The Code is available via the same webpage.

If you scroll to the bottom of the webpage, you will see the bus services for which you can apply.

Should the service you require not be listed you will not be able to apply for that service as there are no seats available and it's unlikely seats would become available.

Do bear in mind that making an application for a spare seat does not guarantee a seat on the school bus.

Spare seat ticket prices are set costs as follows.

- Up to a full term £130.00
- Up to half a term £65.00
- Up to a full-term AM or PM only £65.00
- Up to half a term AM or PM only £32.50

Should you have any queries please contact the Transport Team at the Council via email: [transport.info@iow.gov.uk](mailto:transport.info@iow.gov.uk) or telephone: 823780.



## Attendance Matters!

***“Attend today, achieve tomorrow”***

There are very clear links between school attendance and student achievements. 100% attendance is always our aim, however we understand that illnesses and other exceptional circumstances can affect this. Please do communicate with your child’s school on the first morning of any absence so that we can work together to minimise the impact on your child’s learning. Take a look at the ladder below to see how we judge attendance levels in school.

### **Absence reporting telephone numbers:**

Carisbrooke College - 01983 524651(option 1, followed by the relevant year group option)

Medina College - 01983 538055

The Island VI Form - 01983 522886 (option 1 for Student Services)

### **Parents and carers can support attendance and achievement by the following methods:**

#### *Talking to your child about school*

Every day, if possible. This means not only are you sure that your child has been to school that day, but you can also find out if your child is having problems at school such as bullying or difficulty with any work, and you can help deal with those problems. You can also celebrate and reward any success your child has.

#### *Keeping in contact with the school*

Do not wait for a problem. Send an email or a note to a teacher or book an appointment to see teachers if you have any concerns. Be part of the Parent Voice group. Support events. The more involved you are, the happier your child will be at school.

#### *Being involved in your child’s homework*

Ask what homework your child has each night. Have a look at what is to be done and offer help if it is needed. Ask to see the work when it is finished and be positive about what your child has done.

#### *If in doubt, find out*

If you think your child might be missing school, talk to the staff. If you are not sure whether your child is allowed to miss school for any reason in particular, call and ask. Keep a note of term dates, holidays, teacher training days, etc. These can be found on each of our schools’ websites.

