



THE ISLAND FREE SCHOOL

Welcome to the April Newsletter

Admissions

The formal application window is now closed and offers have been made. We are still able to accept applications from parents wishing to place their child's name on the waiting list should a place become available. Applications can be made via the website.

<http://www.theislandfreeschool.org/apply/>

We are delighted to announce that all 12 of our music scholars have been sponsored by local businesses. Sponsorship will pay for music tuition and instrument hire for these pupils. Each sponsor will visit the student at the school and actively support their development and interests. Many have undertaken to support the school in development of whole school assemblies focusing on their chosen fields in business and commerce, music, entertainment and local government.

Transition days

All pupils will be invited to join us for the formal secondary school transition days on 3rd and 4th of July. We are busy planning the activities for the pupils during these important two days. Your child will have the opportunity to meet their fellow classmates, the mentors who will stay with them throughout their time at The Island Free School, some of their new teachers and the Head of Year 7 (Mr Peace) with whom they will be familiar.

At the end of the school day on 3rd July there will be an opportunity for all parents to meet with their child's mentor and discuss current attainment levels as well as choose extra-curricular options for September.

Mr Peace, who formally takes up his post on 1st June, will be visiting each pupil in their current primary school and will start to get to know the children prior to the transition days.

Transport

The local authority has confirmed the following school bus routes to and from school at the start and end of the school day.

Sandown service

Sandown Broadway, Lake Shops, Shanklin Bus Station, Cowlease, Upper Bonchurch, The Island Free School – and the same in reverse at the end of the school day.

Newport service

Newport Bus Station, Rookley Old School, Godshill School, Wroxall Church, Upper Ventnor (York Road), The Island Free School – and in reverse at the end of the school day.

Chale service

Carisbrooke Bowcombe Road, Shorwell, Brighstone, Chale Green, Chale Church, Niton, Whitwell, Pine Point, The Island Free School – and in reverse at the end of the school day.

These routes are in addition to the mini bus service which will run via Bembridge, St.Helens, Seaview and Ryde.

Final details including timings will be sent to you as soon as we receive them, together with details of travel arrangements for transition days.

Site

As you know we have agreed the purchase of our permanent site. Headmaster Steph Boyd travelled to Reading this week and gave a presentation as part of the invitation to tender for construction firms. These firms will now develop their plans for how they would deliver our vision for the school. There are twelve firms who can bid for the contract and all of these have worked with the DfE, building Free Schools.

Despite rumours to the contrary, we are in negotiation with the Local Authority, in conjunction with the DfE, regarding our plans for Rew Valley Sports Centre, the associated astroturf and playing field. Mr Boyd will meet with representatives from the Local Authority to agree terms during the Easter Break.

Staffing and Governors

You will have received the details of the staff appointments and we are delighted to confirm that all have accepted their posts at The Island Free School. It is very exciting to see the team grow to encompass such enthusiastic and talented professionals. Staff Profiles for each member of staff are being prepared and will be emailed directly to parents over the holiday period.

Now the teaching staff are in place we will be turning our attention to appointments for learning support, office and site staff as well as an experienced ICT technician to support the installation and use of our state of the art ICT equipment.

Following on from our information day at the beginning of the month, many of you have already made contact to express your interest in joining the Governing Body as a parent governor and or to become part of the Parent Teachers Association (PTA).

If you are interested and have not yet sent in your details, please email admin@theislandfreeschool.org and tell us a bit about yourself and why you would like to become involved.

And finally...

Thank you to all the parents and pupils who attended the information day on Saturday 15th March and made it such a fantastic day. The team wanted to start school the following Monday! Many parents have offered support for preparing the temporary site as well as a desire to support learning in the school once it is open in September. Your enthusiasm and support for the school is brilliant. Together we will create a very special school for our children.

<http://www.theislandfreeschool.org/a-special-day/>

Kind regards,

The Island Free School Team

An Island school for Island families