



THE ISLAND FREE SCHOOL

Welcome to the December Newsletter

Admissions:

The formal applications window has now closed and we are delighted to inform you that the school is oversubscribed for the first cohort of pupils in September 2014. We will therefore instigate our oversubscriptions process as detailed in our [Application Policy](#). The calendar for offers will be as follows:

December - Invitations to be sent out to all parents who have applied for a [music scholarship](#) with details of aptitude process and venue.

January - Music aptitude tests for scholarships will take place.

February – Oversubscription policy to be initiated, school places allocated and waiting list compiled.

3rd March 2014 – National offer day.

We are still receiving applications to join the school. These applications will be added to our waiting list and parents will be notified of their position on the list on national offer day.

Site and Transport

The final details of our permanent site are being discussed at this time. Lord Nash, the Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Schools met with Department for Education and Education Funding Agency colleagues two weeks ago to discuss The Island Free School and has asked that the final details of our site be sorted before the end of the calendar year. With such high profile support we are extremely confident that we will be able to share details of what is possibly the worst kept secret on the Island before Christmas.

We have been working with the Local Authority on transport along each of the three main routes into Ventnor and subject to confirmation of our site and ongoing discussions with providers, we are confident that the majority of pupils who have expressed interest in attending The Island Free School should be able to use public transport to get to and from school each day.

We have completed our assessment of the viability of mini bus pick ups for Bembridge, Seaview and St Helens and can now confirm that, dependent on final numbers, we will be able to offer a minibus service for pupils who live in this area.

Staffing and Governors

We were delighted by both the quantity and quality of applications to join our governing body. The Island Free School team has met with some of the members of our community who expressed an interest in joining our team. Each prospective governor will now be invited to attend a formal group meeting before the members and directors meet to vote. Details of governor appointments will be included in our January Newsletter and will be available, along with pen portraits of each governor, on the website.

The recruitment of high quality staff to deliver our vision for the school has begun. The Times Education Supplement will carry the advertisement for Head of English, Head of Maths, Head of Languages, and Head of Year 7 in the edition on 13th December. Advertisements will run online and in various publications both locally and nationally. Our Headmaster Steph Boyd will take up his position on 1st January and, together with the Governing Body, will begin the shortlisting and interview process at this time. Once again, each appointment will be shared with you via the newsletter and on our website.

ICT

We are delighted to announce that we have secured the services of Centerprise, a Hampshire based company, to supply state of the art IT provision for our pupils. Their proposal stood head and shoulders above the others in enhancing and promoting the vision and ethos of The Island Free School. Centerprise will work with the team on both the temporary and permanent new build site and have undertaken to use local expertise where possible. More information can be found on our website.

Kind regards,

The Island Free School Team

An Island School for Island Families