

# #IceniAcademy



## October 21



@IceniAcademy

PROUDLY  
SHARING  
OUR NEWS

'Individually Strong,  
Unstoppable Together'

## PRINCIPAL'S POST

We were delighted to be able to welcome our new students to Summer School this year, which ran from 26th-30th July. Our usual offer for transition had been scuppered, due to the restrictions that we needed to put in place to keep everyone safe. 118 out of our 135 new year 7 students attended for some or all of the week, and we made some fantastic memories!

Students were put into their Tutor groups, and Tutors joined them for all their activities during the week. Students had an opportunity to get to know each other, and made some good friends. Each day, students were involved in one of 5 activities, as well as a Tour of the academy. The majority of our staff volunteered to be part of the week, so students got to know not only the layout of the academy, but started forming positive relationships with the staff too. The activities were focused around Science, RE, Food technology, Design Technology and Sport, although all activities brought together elements of literacy and numeracy as well.

We were also delighted to welcome prospective students at our Open evening. We had to postpone this, unfortunately, in order to keep our community safe. Once it did go ahead however, staff, parents and students alike enjoyed the activities that we had on offer. It looks as though we have a cohort of budding scientists and linguists on our hands!

As we move towards winter, can I please ask that students come to the academy suitably dressed. Thank you to all of you that have addressed uniform issues; please now make sure that students come with coats if the weather is inclement. Last year the wearing of hoodies was permitted, due to the lack of shops being open. Now however, it is possible to purchase black V-necked sweaters for students to wear that are part of the uniform. Students may wear these under their blazers in the classroom, but will no longer be permitted to wear hoodies.

I wish you all a happy half-term break.

Mrs Hogg

Principal

## World Food Day

Well done to all of our students and families, we are so proud of how much was donated on World food day, in support of the Harvest Centre in Brandon.

Thank you so much for your kindness, everyone - we are so impressed with this haul (which was still growing when we took this photo)!



# NEWS FROM OUR YEAR GROUPS

## Year 7

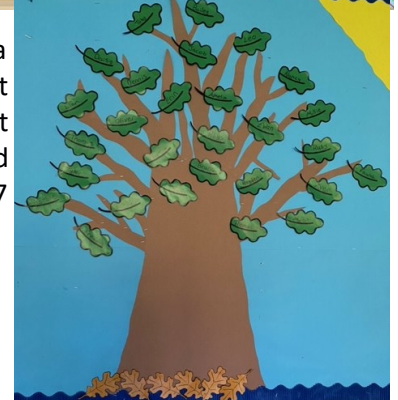
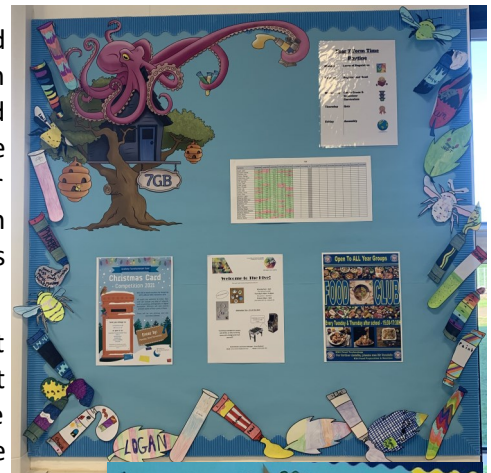
Year 7 have made a fantastic start to their time at Icen Academy and we have been so impressed with the way in which they have settled into life with us. It has been an absolute joy to start to get to know the year group! Over the last few weeks lots of our year 7 students have represented the school in sporting events including rugby, netball and football. It is fantastic to see so many students getting involved in our school community and demonstrating excellent sportsmanship. Aside from this, following over a year of Covid restrictions, it is also incredibly nice to see the students being able to compete with other school as they regularly did in pre-Covid life.

In addition, we have a number of year 7 students who kindly volunteered to help with our Open Evening. This is further testament to the volume of students who are keen to be part of our school community and to share with forthcoming parents and students, all they have learnt and achieved during their first term. In both the Year 7 office and the Science department year 7 have been busy creating imaginative Halloween decorations and lots of our students have been very excited to participate in Ms Francis and Ms Pyke's drama club; I know the club are planning to perform a pantomime towards the end of the year and we can't wait to see how this unfolds!

In form time, our form groups have been creating a form board which links to our year group aim that we would like to be known for determination, kindness, resilience and respect. I have included some photos of these boards and a winner will shortly be announced. Testament to the hard work of year 7 is the sheer number of positives they have collected in the last half term: an enormous 4,981 positive points have been given out! Long may this effort and positive attitude continue.

Thank you to all of our year 7 parents and carers for helping to get students into good routines, supporting with homework and most importantly, ensuring they are enjoying their time with us. We know there have been lots of challenges and changes for these students over the last few weeks and as a school we are proud of how they have navigated their transition to secondary school. As a reminder, if you have any questions or concerns, in the first instance please contact your child's form tutor. Mrs Doughty, our Student Support Officer, and I are also always on hand and very much look forward to continuing our work with our year 7 students.

Mrs Cross



## Year 8

I have been made very welcome by the students in year 8 during my first half term as head of year and it is a privilege to be in the role. I have enjoyed getting to know each of our form groups and the students in them and although I do not know all of the students yet I am impressed with the progress made so far this year. Our year group has earned over 4800 positive points since the beginning of September which is something to be celebrated and goes to show how so many year 8s hold themselves to high expectations and go above and beyond to ensure they succeed.

I want to give a special mention to Amber J and Ria B for each earning over 100 positives already this year, this is a brilliant achievement that deserves recognition. Last Friday was World Food Day and I was impressed to see the number of year 8s who brought food items to school for a local food bank, it is great to see so many of our students and their families contributing to such a good cause.

Mr Brown

## Year 9

Since our return to the academy, Year 9 have made an amazing effort to settle back in and engage with their learning. This is clearly shown by the number of positive points they have received collectively; a whopping 5130! Amberley and Flynn topping the charts with 90 and 85 points respectively.

I have been delighted with the warm welcome they have given me as their new Head of Year and look forward to leading their development and celebrating their successes as they progress through Year 9.

This month saw Year 9 have a Halloween based STEM challenge in science. Students learned about the adaptations of a bat before designing their own and investigating whose could fly the furthest. Students enjoyed the challenge and the chance to use skills gained from a variety of subjects and 'wow' us with their engineering talent.

Mr Marenghi



## Year 10

Year 10 have made an exciting start to their Key Stage 4 life. Option lessons are well on the way and there has been some excellent work in Food Tech and Art particularly. I have been impressed with the quality of work produced as students adjust to the higher-level courses.

Students have had a half term of assemblies from Further Education establishments. It is never too early to consider our options further down the road and I have been impressed by the engagement with these institutions, it shows real maturity that students are already thinking about these prospects. Year 10 have continued with CCF and will eventually move towards helping train the younger cadets. We have also restarted afterschool and sports clubs as we return back to a normal school schedule.

Finally, there was a great effort in the year group for World Food Day. I was humbled by the effort all students made to bringing food in and this will go towards a great cause in the local community.

Mr Falder

## Year 11

Year 11 have made a cracking start back this year - although we are finding the half term has flown by, and the first round of mock exams are now looming!

We have been lucky enough to have a number of colleges and sixth forms visit us to tell us all about their facilities and the subjects they offer for post-16 study. Tutors have spent a lot of time during form helping the students write their personal statements and CV's so they are ready to get their applications into Help You Choose before Christmas.

Our first Prom fundraiser takes place this Friday lunchtime (In partnership with the science department) - fingers crossed we get off to a flying start!

Miss Roche



# NEWS FROM OUR FACULTIES

## English

In English, we have settled into the new school year and made a brilliant start to learning after the summer holidays.

Year 7 have been learning all about the History of Language, exploring novels such as 'Utopia' by Thomas More and 'Robinson Crusoe' by Daniel Defoe.

Year 8 have started reading 'The Time Machine' and investigating technology and the advantages and disadvantages of this.

Year 9 are currently reading 'To Kill A Mockingbird' and are contributing excellent ideas on unit's theme of prejudice, courage and good vs. evil. There have been some very interesting conversations surrounding Boo Radley's character and the prejudice he suffers in particular.



In Key Stage 4, Year 10 have started their GCSE study with Macbeth, whilst Year 11 have been revising their GCSE English Literature texts and starting their Language content. We are very pleased with how both Year 10 and Year 11 have settled into GCSE study and are working hard to achieve in the coming months. Well done, everyone!

## Maths

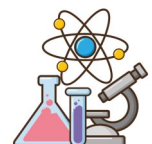
We've had a great start to the academic year. We've loved welcoming our groups into our newly relocated classrooms in the maths building. The energy has been calm but full of intrigue and excitement for the wonders of mathematics. In addition, we've had the pleasure of welcoming Mr Brown to the team. He has enjoyed getting to know his classes and exposing them to new mathematical concepts.

We are busy preparing for Year 11 mocks after the half-term. The students have been prepared with their revision lists and have been revising during lessons. We will be working with Year 11 over the next few terms to ensure revision outside of school is productive and that they have opportunities to attend revision sessions for areas that they are weaker in.

This term, we have launched a coding club open to Years 7 through to 10 in which the students compete against hundreds of schools across the country in the National Cipher Challenge. The students have enjoyed cracking the codes using the Ceaser Cipher Wheel and the Linear Scrambler. These were famously used by Roman Emperor Julius Caesar to communicate top-secret information with his army generals. We are looking forward to the students doing very well in the challenge and placing Iceni at the top of the leaderboard!

## Science

We have launched the ambassadors scheme with year 7 and chosen eight from lots of very good entries.



Decorating club have been making the decorations for open evening and our Halloween event on the 22nd October.

We have had some excellent Key Stage 3 science homework projects!



## PE

What a term! The PE department has come alive again with almost all covid restrictions now lifted. The nicest thing to have back is clubs and fixtures. We are extremely proud to say we managed to create 180 opportunities to represent the Academy this half term. We are prouder to say, that around 150 different students took that opportunity: that is creeping towards a quarter of the school. Well done to all of those who represented us in Football, Netball, and Rugby.

Next half term already has Football, Basketball and Cross-Country in the diary. Students will also be representing their community in PE lessons when they take on the Cross-country challenges. I must also take this opportunity to say thank you to my PE team and volunteers (Mr Boyd, Mrs Warren and Mr Charlesworth) for giving up so much of their time to create these experiences for our students.

## Humanities

It has been a busy half term in the faculty, welcoming the new year seven and getting off to a flying start with all year groups. In History, we have prepared year seven for their study of the Battle of Hastings, year eight are investigating the Tudors and year nine are exploring the full horrors of the Great War. Simultaneously, year ten made an outstanding start to the GCSE course with Medicine Through Time, whilst the Year Elevens are focused up on their upcoming mock examinations. We are very much hoping that, after the COVID induced hiatus of two years, our Battlefields trip will be back this summer. Watch this space.

Geography students have been embedding their geographical skills in year seven, including finding their way around an OS map. Year eight are examining the impact of rivers on the environment, whilst year nine have really enjoyed their cross discipline geographical study of Japan. GCSE students in both years ten and eleven have got off to a fine start and we are hoping to initiate some exciting educational visits in the near future.

Students in Key Stage Three RE have enjoyed learning about comparative religions and their differing approaches to a range of ethical scenarios, such as war, marriage and worship. We are also eagerly anticipating our first Diwali Day, many thanks to both Miss Pyke and Miss Griggs for their organisation of such an exciting event.



# Design Technology

In Computing we have been looking at how technology has evolved over the years and how artificial intelligence could become more common in our daily lives. There have been some really interesting Year 8 discussions on this topic with students questioning what jobs will be available to them in the future and wondering how Miss Bhadrinath coped without music and internet on her phone when she was in school.

With the news this week that Tesco has opened their first store without checkouts, students can predict how the future of technology will unfold. By 2040 a lot of the jobs that people do today will be able to be conducted by artificial intelligence and some of the jobs our students will have when they are older do not even exist yet. This has led students to question how they can ensure they have the right qualifications when they leave school to be able to work alongside technology.

We are currently living in the “information age” and it is believed that we are subjected to 174 newspapers worth of information every day. A shocking statistic to our students.

## MFL

Yr11 Speaking Mock Exams:

Year 11 MFL students are gearing up towards their mock exams and we have been preparing tasks for their speaking exam. All students have been given a list of questions on their chosen theme and a photocard task to prepare. Their subject teacher will be conducting the speaking exams and will ask them questions from the work they have already prepared. They will need to be able to respond to those questions with confidence and without any notes.

Before going into the exam they will be given 6 minutes preparation time, with an invigilator present, they can use this time to go over their notes.

The dates for these will be as follows:

Tuesday 2nd November: French

Thursday 11th November: French & Spanish

Monday 22nd November: German

Teachers will confirm times with the students in their classes.

GCSE Revision classes after school started this half term and will continue into next half term;

French - Tuesday

German - Thursday

KS3 Film club will take place after half term every Friday lunchtime in H2, week 2. We will be watching films in French, German or Mandarin in the target language with subtitles. Come along and join us and bring your lunch with you.



KS3 Mandarin club will be open to those students who are not currently studying Mandarin. This is a chance to learn Mandarin and find out more about the culture of China. This will take place on Tuesdays in Week 1 in Room 2.