

#IceniAcademy



April 22



@IceniAcademy

PROUDLY
SHARING
OUR NEWS

'Individually Strong,
Unstoppable Together'

PRINCIPAL'S POST

Dear all,

Another term has flown by! It really has been a great term, as can be evidenced by the news contained in this Newsletter. It has been brilliant to attend the Success Assemblies this week, where students who are engaging with their lessons are celebrated. It's fabulous to see so many of our community on the path to success. There are too many to mention here, but well done to all of you!

Next term promises to be the busiest yet. The first external exams series in three years kicks off on the 16th May, and continues until the end of June. I know just how hard the Year 11s have been preparing, and am looking forward to celebrating their results with them in August. There are revision sessions organised during the Easter break, so please look out for the details of these, if you feel that these would benefit your child. In addition to exams, we have several trips and visits planned. It has been lovely to see the year 7s and 8s return from their 'Storming The Castle' trips, and I look forward to the Science, English and History trips that span the year groups heading out next term. In our rural location, it is so important that we expose the students to these opportunities, to ensure they leave the academy with the cultural capital needed to succeed in later life. On top of all this, we have both a Careers Fair and a Science Fair to look forward to.

We welcome Mr. Solloway to the Science department next term, as well as Mr. McGee to the Geography department. Ms. Tooze also becomes a permanent member of staff, teaching both Art and Technology. I will be interviewing candidates for the post of Performing Arts teacher at the end of the week, and shortly advertising for a Head of English as well as an additional teacher to accommodate the demands of a rising role. It is heartening to see that more parents than ever before have decided to send their children to the academy. I don't blame them; our students are polite, courteous and welcoming.

Wishing you a peaceful Easter,

Lesley Hogg.

Norfolk Schools Partnership Panathlon Bowling Event

On Friday, 11th of March, Mrs Warren and Mr Tupper took a group of 12 students to represent Icen Academy in the Norfolk Schools Games Partnership Panathlon Bowling Event held at Mr G's in Brandon.

The students formed two enthusiastic teams of 6, competing against teams from Thetford Academy and Wayland Academy. Students quickly bonded within their teams, supporting each other brilliantly. Their advice and encouragement to one another as well as towards other the schools demonstrated fantastic sportsmanship. The event was hugely successful, and the students had a great time.

We came away with Runners Up medals for our team of predominantly Year 7s, who bowled consistently well all morning. Additionally, the team that consisted of Years 8-10 came away with the Gold Medal Winners Trophy, and awards for Most Strikes and Spares and Highest Score!

The students behaved impeccably all day, thoroughly enjoyed themselves and were an absolute credit to the academy! Bring on the next event!



NEWS FROM OUR YEAR GROUPS

Year 7

Year 7 have had an impressive half term, collecting a total of 2067 positive points which demonstrates their continued hard work and positive effort day in, day out. Notable moments of this half term include the exciting trip to Norwich Castle which lots of the year group enjoyed. We intend to run more trips like this in the future and hope that Year 7 will continue to take all the opportunities presented to them. Many of our Year 7s have spent time in the drama club preparing for their summer show of 'Grease' and a number of our Year 7s are also keen members of the Technology club and have been enjoying creating trinket boxes across the half term.

Our top ten superstars of the half term include:

Dylan W - 44 positive points

Roman R - 41 positive points

Leo S - 37 positive points

Teddy DP - 36 positive points

Lincoln F - 35 positive points

Elivia M - 34 positive points

Alexander C - 32 positive points

Summer-Rai C - 31 positive points

Macie W - 31 positive points

Freddie W - 31 positive points



Congratulations to the students above, but also well done to everyone else who has contributed positively to a productive half term. We wish all of Year 7 and their families and carers a happy and healthy Easter break. Enjoy the chocolate and hopefully some sunshine and we look forward to welcoming you back for our final term of the school year.

Mrs Cross, Mrs Doughty & the Year 7 Form Tutors

Year 8

Year 8 have had another successful term at the academy. I am constantly impressed by most student's ability to come into school every day and get on with the hard work, which is exactly what they should be doing. We have started to reward our students who have the highest number of positive points with Players of The Week certificates, it is great to be celebrating the student's hard work, I also look forward to celebrating their successes even more in this week's Awards Assembly. Many of our students have also enjoyed a trip to Norwich Castle where they were able to use their mathematical knowledge to find out how difficult it would have been to attack a castle or defend one! A special mention goes to the students who went on the trip on Tuesday 29th, the staff at the castle were very impressed by this group. I hope everyone has a fantastic Easter.

Mr Brown



Year 9

This year the options process has been a massive success with the entire year group completing their options well within the deadline. I am looking forward to sharing what options the children have been allocated after the Easter break. Everything is being done to ensure that all are given their first-choice, but please remember that this is not always possible and some may be allocated their second-option.

Year 9 are continuing to show how well they are doing by receiving a great number of positive points. Collectively they have earned an impressive 1818 points, with Amberley and Harley E being our greatest earners this time round.

It's been lovely to hear that a large number of students from Year 9 have been attending the drama club and auditioning for the upcoming summer performance of Grease. I'm definitely looking forward to hearing how the auditions went and who will be playing the key roles of Danny and Sandy.

Mr Marenghi

Year 10

Year 10 have had a successful end to spring and I have seen some excellent Art in Miss Tooze's lesson (GD particularly had amazing work). Mr Carmichael has worked really hard with our Food Technology group and I have really enjoyed popping in to see their progress.

It is a privilege to see some of the growth of these young people over the last four years. As we move into the summer term we become the oldest students in the school and therefore the leaders of the school body. The messages I have tried to pass on to these students through the years were all planned to prepare them for this responsibility and I have no doubt they will continue to make me proud. School is more than academic achievement; it is about growth and I am certain that Team 2023 (as we will be named for Year 11!) will really show our community how strong our school values are.

With the above in mind, we may find our young people feeling the pressure of expectation. We have worked hard to provide great pastoral care for these students, please encourage them to be open with form tutors, Miss Breheny or myself if they need support.

My final comment would be that there is a fine line between confidence and arrogance. Year 10 often are praised for their exceptional standards and care towards others. Rightly they revel in this praise. However some of our young people have adapted this to a slightly arrogant manner when they do inevitably make mistakes. Please encourage them to be spectacular in their successes and humble with failure.

Year 11

Year 11 have had an extremely positive mock period, and on behalf of all Teachers I would like to congratulate them on their effort. By the time you receive this newsletter students will have been given their grades for the mocks completed. This inevitably comes with some celebrations and some worries. I would urge all students to honestly appraise their performance overall and seek out support where needed. As a staff body we are eager to support them and will continue to hold revision sessions during and beyond Easter. Before school I am holding quiet study sessions for those who are in early and want to use their time wisely. Unfortunately we will not be holding catch up mock sessions beyond this time, please do speak to Directors of Faculty, Mrs Hogg, Miss Staniforth or myself about concerns regarding this.

Prom fundraising and preparation continues, Miss Breheny and I will be sending out details after Easter for final confirmation for the theme and organisation for the evening. I for one am really looking forward to this as we haven't held a Prom since 2019, and it will be a great opportunity to celebrate the conclusion of perhaps the strangest school years in living memory.

We have received various questions regarding leavers hoodies. After careful consideration it has been agreed that if the rest of a student's uniform is correct they will be able to wear this before the final day. This will be looked at on a case by case basis. As soon as we have received them a notice will be sent out for collection.

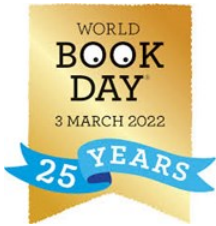


We have already started exams, with Food Tech completing practical work. I have to say I was blow away with some of our entries here (as was Mr Carmichael). The next time we speak the exams will be in full flow and we are on the last few moments of school for these students, let's help them grab every opportunity to leave on a high!

Mr Falder

NEWS FROM OUR FACULTIES

English



Staff and students enjoyed book week earlier this month, to celebrate World Book Day. The week began with students participating in a 'Get Caught Reading' challenge which resulted in the giving of lots of raffle prizes. We had lots of competitions happening in the library. 'Guess the book in the jar' and 'Find the Golden Ticket', were firm favourites

World Book Day started off with our Book Swap Breakfast Feast in the library. There were lots of breakfast treats for the students to enjoy including bacon and sausage baps, pains au chocolate, hot chocolate and much more. There wasn't even a sausage left at the end! The library also gained some donations of books, which the students can enjoy borrowing.

To celebrate the importance of reading all classes dropped everything and read during lessons throughout the day and every member of staff displayed a poster to highlight their all-time favourite reads.

World Book Day tokens were given to every student, for them to claim a free book from a local bookshop. We wonder what they will choose?

Book week was enjoyed so widely that discussions are already underway in planning next year's exciting events.

Mrs Copeland



You have just found a
Golden Ticket!

Maths

The maths department have had a very busy half-term. To raise awareness of the LGBTQ+ community, Mrs Purdy and Mr Moore planned an excellent lesson on the life of Alan Turing for all of Years 7 to 10 to learn about and enjoy. Students were immersed in teaching about his early life studying at the University of Cambridge, his impact during the war at Bletchley Park and his arrest due to his sexuality which ultimately led to him taking his own life in 1954. Afterwards, students participated in a code breaking murder mystery activity which included using a Caesar Cipher and Morse Code to solve the mystery of who killed Miss Pyke. Many students commented on how interesting the lesson was and were intrigued if Mr Brown in his wonderful green skirt had committed the crime!

In addition, we have enjoyed taking Years 7 and 8 on a maths and history trip to Norwich Castle. The students used their knowledge of multiplication to calculate the height of the south facing wall from a scale diagram, budgeted for the cost of resources, calculated how much water each person would need during a siege and sorted historic items into categories. However, the students most favourite part was getting to try on the helmets and handle the swords and bow and arrows. It was a great day out!

Miss Colson

MFL

As we are fast approaching the GCSE Exams, we start with the MFL speaking exams at the start of May. I will be in contact very soon with dates and details, but should this clash with any previously arranged college interviews or medical appointments, please contact us as soon as you can. The speaking exam is 25% of the final grade, so it is important that students are prepared and ready for their allocated time slot. The format will be the same as the previous mocks in February.

I am pleased to say that now most classes across KS3 and KS4 now have accounts set up on the Language Gym website and have been accessing them in class. These accounts can also be accessed at home, using their school email address and passwords. Should students wish to do some additional language learning, please encourage them to log on!

We have some exciting plans for year 8 in the summer term... watch this space!

Miss Pawsey



NEWS FROM OUR FACULTIES

PE

HEADLINES

The PE department has had a slightly different half term, with pupils focusing on OAA in their lessons. This has seen them learning orienteering skills and completing problem solving tasks. We have taught effective communication alongside this and pupils have responded really well. In these closing weeks of the term, pupils have been competing in their second Community Competition, this week being indoor athletics and next week concluding with community circuits. At the time of writing, the current standings in the indoor athletics are:

N	P	A	M
520	588	470	546

It has also been fantastic to see fixtures return from the Covid disruption. KS3 boys and girls have enjoyed Rugby club and fixtures with TNHA, whilst KS4 boys have represented the school well in Football. We conclude with girls football in this final week, best of luck girls! We hope the situation remains stable as our focus shifts to summer sports next term.



WHAT'S NEW?

There will be a refreshed club timetable after the break, details of which will be on the whole school extra-curricular timetable. GCSE PE revision sessions will also begin.

SPECIAL MENTIONS

Our stand out pupils this half term have definitely been those pupils that represented the school in the rugby and football. Our stars in class will receive their commendations in success assemblies next week.

We would also like to mention Year 11 GCSE PE pupils once more, who have worked hard and in many cases and have progressed well in their working at and predicted grades. Practical moderation is in this final week of term, we wish them (and staff) good luck!

Drama Club

After the roaring success of our Christmas pantomime 'What if Christmas happened today?', the drama club wanted to reach new heights and ambitiously want to perform a summer musical. After much deliberation they voted on 'Grease (School Version)' to be the first of many annual summer musicals. The team of nearly 40 students and four staff are working hard to fundraise the large amount of money needed to buy the rights of the production. Through events such as sponsored walks, bake sales and raffles, we hope to achieve the goal amount of £1500 before the end of this term so production practice can get started. The school is buzzing with excitement and songs.

This term Science has decorated the department for Mardi Gras.

Science



Science Club has been working hard to get the garden ready for planting and are planning to grow flowers for creating bouquets.



We have launched our Science Fair which will be on the 15th July, and have run a competition to link in with National Science week to design a poster to show growth.



Humanities

This half term has focused on assessment for the Humanities department, including the second round of mock examinations for Year Eleven. The marking of these has revealed definite progress in History and Geography since the November series and the students will receive their results in a dedicated assembly during the last week of term. I can only encourage students to redouble their efforts and maintain both their dedication and focus over the coming months. What they do now will help define their success in the summer examinations and set them fair for the next phase of their lives beyond Icen Academy. To this end, can I also encourage all students to attend both the weekly History and Geography revision sessions on Monday after school and those provided during the Easter and May holidays. History sessions will take place on **Monday 4th** and **Tuesday 5th** April 9am-12pm and Geography sessions on the same days between 12.30 and 3.30. It is no accident that students who attend such sessions have historically excelled in both subjects at GCSE.

Planning is also well underway for the Battlefields Trip for Years 9, 10 and 11 in July. We have faced some additional challenges, including the Covid protocols for both Belgium and France. To recap the letter sent earlier in March, students will need either evidence of being **double vaccinated** or a **negative PCR test within 72 hours of travel** in order to enter either country. In addition, students are no longer permitted to travel in Belgium under a collective passport and will therefore require their own in order to participate. These requirements inevitably make the situation more awkward, but I am anxious that after the travails of the last two years, students do not miss out again. Likewise, planning for Geography fieldwork in Year 10 during the Summer Term is well underway, more information to follow.

Miss Pyke has been maintaining herculean efforts in RE and delivered an outstanding thought-provoking assembly on Women's History Month to the entire Academy, in tandem with an accompanying display that illuminates the RE and Science corridor. All students would be well advised to take some time to peruse the information that provides ample sustenance to one of the most relevant aspects in contemporary society.

Mr Bedford