



13th December 2024

Dear Parents/Carers,

I hope this letter finds you well. We've had a busy and festive few weeks here at the academy, and it's been wonderful to see so many of our students participating in today's Christmas Jumper Day, raising money for our Student Parliament and Year 11 Prom. The sense of positivity and excitement throughout the academy is palpable, and it's certainly beginning to feel a lot like Christmas here at Iceni! I am also very much looking forward to joining students for Christmas dinner on Wednesday, 18th December.

The success of today's events reflects the significant progress we've made as an academy over the past 12 to 18 months. The energy and enthusiasm we're seeing are a testament to the hard work and dedication of both our students and staff, and I'm incredibly proud of how far we've come together.

Iceni Way

As I mentioned in my last letter, we have launched the Iceni Way with our students. I'm excited to share this initiative with you now.

The Iceni Way Award is given to students who demonstrate commitment to their education, kindness within our school community, and support for both their own and others' success. We want to celebrate those students who consistently do the right thing, day in and day out, and will reward them with the Iceni Way Award. At the end of each term, those students who meet the criteria will have the opportunity to go on a day trip. The Student Parliament will work with students to decide what these trips will be.

To be eligible for the Iceni Way Award over a half-term, students must meet the following criteria:

- Have an attendance of 95% or more
- Have no more than 5 negative points (we understand that mistakes happen, but we encourage students to learn from them)
- Have earned 50 or more positive points

Lines in the Sand: Ensuring Clarity and Consistency in Behaviour Expectations

We are continuing to focus on establishing the highest standards of behaviour for our students. To make sure these expectations are clear, we are working to communicate not only what is expected but also the consequences for failing to meet those expectations. One of our primary goals is to promote consistency across all staff so that every student experiences fairness, regardless of whom they interact with at school.

Our "lines in the sand" provide a clear framework for both students and staff, and we are committed to continuing to build upon these guidelines. In the coming weeks, I will write to you before the school term begins to outline the key lines in the sand that will be introduced in January. This will allow you to have informed conversations with your child about these expectations.

We will ensure that students are made fully aware of these guidelines when they return, through assemblies, tutor time, and lessons, to eliminate any confusion. It is essential that we are explicit about our expectations so every student knows exactly what is expected of them daily.

Thank you for your support in reinforcing these expectations at home. Clear communication between school and home is vital in creating a positive and respectful environment for all.

Student Parliament Update

Our Student Parliament continues to build on the excellent work they have been doing across their six key focus areas. The team meets regularly to discuss student feedback and explore ways to improve various aspects of our academy. This week, each department has identified one key focus for the upcoming half term, and they will collaborate to implement these initiatives.

We are excited to announce that the Events, Charity, and Behaviour & Culture teams have organised a Non-Uniform Day on Friday, 20th December, the last day of term. Students are invited to participate by making a £1 donation. The funds raised will support future student-led initiatives and charitable causes. However, if you would prefer not to make a £1 donation, we will also accept food donations for our local foodbank to help support them during this time of year.

We are incredibly proud of the ongoing efforts of our Student Parliament and look forward to seeing the positive impact of their work across the academy.

It's also worth mentioning that we haven't held a non-uniform day at Iceni for quite some time. The fact that we are now able to organise one is a reflection of the hard work and support from students, parents/carers, and staff in helping to establish and embed high expectations around uniform and behaviour. As a gesture of thanks, we are celebrating with this non-uniform day.

That said, we ask that students still ensure their clothing is appropriate for a professional school environment. Please avoid wearing low-cut tops, crop tops, high-cut shorts/leggings (full-length leggings are fine), or clothing with offensive logos/slogans.

Looking Ahead

We look forward to welcoming students back to the academy next Monday, 16th December, where we will continue to celebrate their achievements. Throughout the week, we will hold reward assemblies to recognise their hard work, and on Friday, 20th December, we will wrap up the term with the non-uniform day to mark the end of a successful few months.

Thank you for your ongoing support, and I wish you all a joyful and restful holiday season.

Yours faithfully,



Mr J Morris
Vice Principal