



20th December 2024

Dear Parents/Carers,

As we reach the end of this term, I want to take a moment to reflect on what has been a significant and productive 15 weeks—the longest term in my teaching career. While the length of the term has posed challenges, it has also provided us with the opportunity to establish high expectations, solidify routines, and define clear boundaries—our “lines in the sand”—that have positively impacted the academy’s culture. The progress is clear, with calmness and high standards maintained throughout the term.

Celebration Assemblies

This week has been filled with excitement as we held our year-group celebration assemblies, recognising students who exemplify our core values of *Work Hard, Aim High, and Be Kind*. It’s truly inspiring to see how far we’ve come; students are now proud to receive awards, and their peers join in celebrating these achievements. This is a testament to the positive culture we are building. A big thank you to the Heads of Year for organising these fantastic events, as well as the Tutors and Student Support Officers for their invaluable help.

Christmas Dinner

This week, I had the privilege of attending my first Iceni Christmas dinner. The festive atmosphere—complete with Christmas music, beautifully set tables, and crackers—created a joyful occasion for our students. I even rolled up my sleeves to help serve the meals! What stood out to me was the politeness and gratitude shown by every student, with each one saying “please” and “thank you.” This reflects the respectful culture we are nurturing. Across the academy, students and staff routinely hold doors open, exchange greetings, and engage in positive interactions—small but meaningful gestures that define our community.

Uniform Expectations

Our students have shown great improvement in wearing their uniform with pride this term. To acknowledge this progress, we held a non-uniform day today. As we approach the break, we recognise that students may grow out of clothes quickly or wish to try new hairstyles or nails over the holidays. However, I’d like to remind you of our uniform expectations to avoid any issues when term resumes. If you are purchasing new shoes or trousers, please refer to the uniform guidelines to ensure they meet our standards. Additionally, hair dyed in unnatural colours, false nails, or eyelashes will need to be addressed before students return. Maintaining these high standards ensures a smooth start to the next term and helps avoid unnecessary challenges.

Lines in the Sand

As previously mentioned, I will be writing to you on 3rd January to outline our updated “lines in the sand.” Our focus for the next term will be on defiance, punctuality, and language, while continuing to reinforce the expectations we’ve already set. This approach will ensure that high standards are consistently maintained across the academy and that the rules and expectations are clear and fair for all students.

Ready to Learn Packs

Message from Mr. Pryke:

We are pleased with the success of our Ready to Learn packs this term. Each pack contains a mini whiteboard, eraser, black and purple pens, pencil, highlighter, and student planner. These packs have contributed to calmer lesson starts, improved student engagement, and more effective teaching. Students are expected to have their packs ready each day, as teachers will be checking them each morning. Should a student forget an item, they will have one opportunity to borrow it from student reception, with the item needing to be returned by the end of the day. A second occurrence will result in a detention, reinforcing personal responsibility.

Please encourage your child to keep their pack in their bag at the end of each day to ensure readiness for the following day. Replacement items can be purchased through the *My Child at School* app, or collected from student reception. For Pupil Premium students, replacements will be provided as needed. Thank you for supporting this initiative.

Looking Ahead

This term has been an incredible journey as we continue to provide the best educational experience for our young people. By upholding high standards, we are not only striving for outstanding outcomes but also nurturing the well-rounded characteristics that will serve our students well in life.

Thank you for your continued support this term and throughout our journey of growth. I look forward to welcoming our students back to the academy on Monday, 6th January.

Wishing you a restful and joyful holiday season.

Yours faithfully,



Mr J Morris
Vice Principal

