



20th January 2025

Dear Parents/Carers,

I hope this message finds you well and that the New Year is off to a positive start for you and your family. As we settle into the new term after the Christmas break, I am pleased to share how wonderfully our students have adapted to the routines and expectations of school life. While this time of year can present challenges—colder weather, shorter days, and darker mornings—I'm proud of the positive start our students have made.

On the first day of term, all students participated in an assembly led by Mr. Rushton, Ms. Staniforth, and myself. During this session, we introduced the 'lines in the sand' (outlined in my January letter), discussed New Year's resolutions, and encouraged students to set achievable goals while fostering an aspirational mindset for the months ahead.

Pastoral Team Update

We are thrilled to welcome Mr. Griffiths to our Iceni family as our new Student Support Officer. With his extensive experience in this role, we are excited to have him join our team as we continue to focus on supporting the well-being and success of all our students. Along with Mr. Griffiths' arrival, we have made some updates to our year teams, which are now as follows:

- **Year 7** – Ms. K. Thompson (Head of Year), Ms. R. Hobbs (Student Support Officer)
- **Year 8** – Mr. C. McCallister (Head of Year), Ms. K. Connor (Student Support Officer)
- **Year 9** – Mr. L. Taylor (Head of Year), Ms. Valentyna (Student Support Officer)
- **Year 10** – Ms. F. Agoudjil (Head of Year), Mr. S. Spurgeon (Student Support Officer)
- **Year 11** – Ms. H. Tooze (Head of Year), Mr. W. Griffiths (Student Support Officer)

Punctuality Drive Update

We are now two weeks into our punctuality drive and the implementation of our clear line in the sand around this important area. While we are pleased to report a significant improvement in punctuality to lessons, we acknowledge there is still work to be done to reach our goals.

In the first week of the initiative, we focused on raising awareness and fostering understanding, rather than immediately enforcing catch-up sessions. During this time, we emphasised the importance of punctuality to students and collaborated with parents and carers to reinforce this message. Despite some improvement compared to the previous term, students collectively lost 44 hours and 28 minutes of learning due to lateness to lessons.

During the second week, we introduced catch-up sessions for continued lateness, which led to another noticeable improvement. The total learning time lost dropped to 29 hours and 1 minute, marking a positive reduction. While this progress is encouraging, it also underscores the ongoing importance of prioritising punctuality and its significant impact on learning outcomes.

To support punctuality while accommodating practical needs, students are expected to arrive on time for all lessons, with a 3-minute grace period provided for transitions between classes. This approach ensures adequate time for movement while promoting punctuality and maintaining classroom discipline.

We remain committed to helping students develop good habits and valuing every minute of learning time. Thank you for your continued support in reinforcing the importance of punctuality at home.

Safety Notice: Student Drop-Off Procedures

We have noticed an increasing number of parents dropping their children off just outside the school entrance gates. For the safety of your child and all other road users, we kindly ask that you avoid dropping children at the gates.

Instead, please drive into the school car park and drop off your child at the path to the rear playground before using the designated exit. This procedure will ensure a safer environment for all students, staff, and families.

As a reminder, students should arrive at the Academy between 8:15 am and 8:35 am. To maintain proper safeguarding procedures, where possible, please refrain from dropping off students before 8:15 am.

Thank you for your understanding and cooperation in keeping our school community safe.

Key Dates

In response to feedback from parents and carers, and as part of our ongoing efforts to improve communication, I am pleased to introduce a new section in my letters called 'Key Dates.' This will provide you with advance notice of important events and deadlines so you can stay informed and plan accordingly. Please note these key dates are already published on our academy calendar on our website, www.icenisecondary.atrust.org.uk, under "News & Dates".

Here are some key upcoming dates:

- **Thursday 6th February** – Year 11 Progress Evening 2 from 4:00 PM
- **Thursday 13th February** – SEND Review Evening from 4:00 PM

We are also exploring further ways to enhance our communication to ensure it is timely and effective. Your feedback continues to be invaluable as we strive to build strong partnerships between home and school.

Thank you for your continued support and involvement in your child's education. Together, we will continue to work towards the best possible outcomes for all of our students.

Yours faithfully,



Mr J Morris
Vice Principal

