



7th February 2025

Dear Parents/Carers,

As we near the end of the first half-term of 2025, I'd like to take a moment to reflect on the many positive experiences we've shared as a school community. It has been a vibrant and productive start to the year, full of exciting events and impressive achievements from our students.

This half-term, we've had some fantastic highlights, including our successful Year 11 Progress Evening, the inspiring 100-Day Assembly, and the Mock Exam Results Assembly with Ms. Staniforth. These events have not only celebrated our students' hard work but also highlighted their dedication to both academic progress and personal growth.

Looking ahead, I'm excited to announce that we will be hosting our very first Celebration Movie Nights during the first week after the break, for both KS3 and KS4 students. This special event will celebrate students who are on track to achieve our Iceni Way Award this term. They'll be invited to relax with friends, enjoy a movie on the big screen, and indulge in popcorn and sweets—our way of saying thank you for embodying the values that define us here at Iceni. Invitation letters for this event will be sent out next week.

Uniform Success and Next Steps

Since September, we've seen significant improvements in our students' uniform standards. Our students wear their uniforms with pride, looking smart and representing our school community with confidence. This has created a positive and welcoming atmosphere, where all students feel a strong sense of belonging, regardless of background. We truly appreciate your support with this.

As we continue to build on this progress, we will now be focusing on ensuring consistency across all aspects of our uniform expectations. While we've made great strides in key areas, we'll be reinforcing expectations around false eyelashes and nails. A small but growing number of students have been wearing these items, and we believe it's time to revisit this to maintain the high standards we've set together.

We understand that some parents and carers may have different views on this issue, but our decision is based on research, experience, and—most importantly—what we believe is best for our students. Our goal is to reduce unnecessary pressures related to appearance, particularly those influenced by social media or peers. To support this, we'll be incorporating lessons on self-image and self-esteem into our PSHE curriculum.

We recognise that removing false nails and eyelashes may require appointments, so we're giving advance notice that, starting Monday, 24th February, after the half-term break, students who are wearing false nails or eyelashes will be asked to remove them. If they are unable to do so, they will be placed in isolation until the matter is resolved, in line with how we handle other uniform issues. We appreciate your understanding and support in helping us uphold these standards.

Advance Notice on School Shoes

To reinforce our commitment to a consistent and professional appearance, we want to inform you about an important update to our uniform expectations concerning footwear. Starting in September 2025, students will no longer be allowed to wear any type of trainers to school. This includes the current allowance for plain black leather or leather-like trainers, which will be removed from the uniform guidelines for the next academic year. This change will ensure clearer guidelines and promote the uniform's consistent application, eliminating any ambiguity.

We recognise that this change may require some adjustments, and we are providing advance notice to allow families sufficient time to prepare and avoid any unnecessary financial burden. For students with medical needs, orthopaedic shoes or insoles will continue to be permitted, but this does not extend to trainers.

Thank you for your ongoing support as we work together to maintain a positive, inclusive, and high-achieving school environment. We are proud of all our students and look forward to celebrating many more successes in the months ahead.

Attendance

As we near the final week of the half term, we're launching an exciting attendance competition! Any student who achieves 100% attendance from Monday, February 10th to Friday, February 14th will be entered into a draw to win a £30 Amazon voucher and five lucky runners up will receive a queue jump pass, each including a free lunch.

I hope you have a restful weekend, and I look forward to welcoming the students back to the academy on Monday.

Yours faithfully,



Mr J Morris
Vice Principal

