



ICENI ACADEMY NEWSLETTER

DECEMBER 2025

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Principal's Post

Dear Parents and Carers,

As we reach the end of our first term at Iceni Secondary Academy, I want to take a moment to reflect on what has been an extraordinary start to the academic year. Our academy values of Aim High, Work Hard, and Be Kind have truly shone through in the actions and attitudes of our students.

Year 7 have settled into life at Iceni with confidence and enthusiasm. Watching them grow, make new friendships, and embrace the opportunities available has been a real joy for all of us. At the other end of the school, Year 11 have shown tremendous commitment during their mock examinations. Their focus and determination, alongside their excellent use of our study spaces, give us every confidence as they prepare for the challenges ahead.

This term has not been without its difficulties. The tragic passing of one of our students was an incredibly hard moment for our community. Yet, in that time of sadness, the resilience and kindness shown by our students and staff was deeply moving and a true reflection of the strength of our academy family.

We have also seen the successful launch of our new house system. Students have embraced the sense of belonging and pride that comes with their houses, learning about the remarkable individuals from Norfolk who left their mark on the world. This initiative has already brought a new energy to academy life, and we look forward to seeing it grow even further.

The fantastic work of our year teams and subject departments is evident throughout this newsletter. I want to thank our dedicated staff for their tireless efforts and our parents and carers for your continued support: it makes all the difference.

As we approach the festive season, I wish you all a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year. We look forward to welcoming our students back in January, ready to build on the successes of this term.

At Iceni, we Aim High, Work Hard, and Be Kind—every day, in every way.

Warm regards,

Richard Rushton
Principal



Christmas Lunch

Our Christmas dinner was a great success, bringing festive cheer to everyone involved. Students thoroughly enjoyed the delicious meal and the warm, joyful atmosphere. Smiles, laughter, and positive feedback throughout the day showed just how much the event was appreciated. It was a wonderful opportunity for students to come together, celebrate the season, and create happy memories. A big thank you to all staff who helped make the event special.





Update from Mr Morris

It has been a fantastic first term back, filled with so many highlights. When I sat down to reflect on everything we've achieved so far, I quickly realised I would need a novel to cover it all - so I've picked just three standout moments to share.

Our new rewards system has been a real hit with students. They have been actively seeking recognition points both in lessons and around the school, leading to over half a million points being awarded this term. This week, students with the highest totals were celebrated in their year-group assemblies and received extra raffle tickets for our big summer prize draw. It's brilliant to see students embracing the system and receiving the recognition they truly deserve. It is also great to shine the light on those students that do the right thing day in day out, this reflects the huge behaviour and culture shift we have made in the academy.

The launch of our new house system has also been a huge success, even if my team, the mighty Nelson, are still chasing our first win! This term saw Years 7-11 compete in the Recognition Cup and our first Sports Cup of the year (cross country), with Dyson and Wellington emerging victorious. One of the clearest signs of success is the number of students talking about house events and keenly representing their teams. This initiative is already strengthening our school culture and building a real sense of belonging.

Our work on behaviour expectations continues to make a significant impact. Classroom removals have dropped by more than 15% compared with last year, and isolation and suspension rates have reduced by over 50%. While we know young people may sometimes make mistakes, maintaining high expectations for uniform, learning conduct, and behaviour around the academy, is essential. Our aim is to help students grow into outstanding citizens who will thrive in our community and beyond, while ensuring learning remains disruption-free and our school remains a place student are proud of.

Of course, there are so many other successes I could mention: the incredible work of our student leadership team, our debate team competing in their first London event, Year 10 mock interviews, and a wide range of sporting achievements. I am incredibly proud of our students, staff, and wider community for everything we are accomplishing together to give our young people the very best start in life.

Thank you to all our parents and carers for your continued support.

Wishing you a wonderful and merry Christmas,

Mr Morris



Update from Miss Staniforth

What a busy term it's been!

I wanted to start by congratulating our Year 11 students on their impeccable conduct in their mock exams earlier this half term. We had a mock results assembly last week, where students opened their results envelopes as they will in the summer. Mock results are a snapshot in time, and not a finish line: together we will plan how to maintain these grades or improve them in the next six months. January always brings with it the opportunity for a New Years' Resolution or two, and the chance to create new habits. I know lots of our Year 11 students are considering how they might build some new habits to help them supercharge their attitude to learning, revision and self-care.

I would also like to thank all students in other year groups who particularly exhibited our 'Be Kind' value by following instructions and signage to ensure our Year 11s had the quiet and calm conditions they needed to complete their mock exams. Well done, everyone!

When we return in January Years 7, 8 and 9 will be completing their assessments ready for us to share a data update report with you at the end of January. We're looking forward to seeing how they perform, celebrating their successes, and supporting them to make their next steps, too.

January also brings with it the Year 9 Options process, and we're looking forward to sharing more information with students and their parents/carers about this process and the options available to them on Thursday 29th January. It's such an exciting time for Year 9 students, and we can't wait to support them to make these first meaningful decisions about the direction they'd like to take in the next step of their education journey with us.

Finally, it wouldn't be an update from me without a little mention of Seneca Learning! We continue to perform incredibly well both within our Trust and across Norfolk, too. Since September our students have completed an incredible 2747 hours of Seneca! Our top users in each year group have been:

Year 7: Seth L, Year 8: Brody H, Year 9: Matilda F, Year 10: Oliver O, Year 11: Tyler R

Congratulations to you all!

I wish you all a happy and restful break, and I look forward to continuing to work with you in the New Year.

Miss Staniforth
Vice Principal



Year Team Updates

Year 7

As we reach the end of our first full term, it has been wonderful to see how well our Year 7 students have settled into life at high school. The transition from primary school can be a big step, but Year 7 have shown maturity, resilience and enthusiasm, adjusting extremely well to new routines, lessons and expectations.

Behaviour around school has been excellent, with students demonstrating respect, kindness and a positive attitude both in lessons and during social times. This has made a real difference in creating a calm, safe and welcoming environment for everyone.

We are also incredibly proud of our Year 7 attendance. Many students have achieved 100% attendance, earning attendance tickets and VIP passes as a reward for their commitment and dedication. Well done to all those students who have made every day count – a fantastic achievement to celebrate!

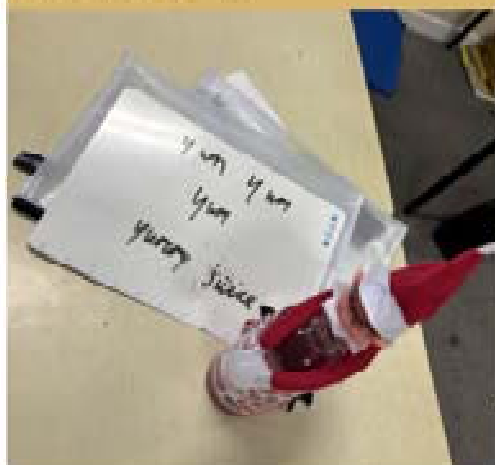
Year 7 have also embraced the fun side of school life. Our Pumpkin Carving Competition was a huge success, with some very creative and spooky designs on display. Congratulations to Tutor Group 7CJ who were crowned the winners – excellent teamwork and imagination!

In the run-up to the festive season, tutor groups have been kept busy trying to stop a naughty Elf on the Shelf from making itself at home in their form rooms. Despite everyone's best efforts, the elf clearly had other ideas and caused plenty of mischief! However, the naughtiest elf was finally outwitted by Tutor Group 7NR who have won some well-deserved sweets for their efforts.

As we look ahead to the remainder of the year, there is lots to be excited about, with many new and engaging experiences planned for Year 7. We are also looking forward to giving students the opportunity to apply for student leadership roles when they move into Year 8, allowing them to become part of our student leadership team and help shape school life.

Well done, Year 7, for such a positive and successful start – keep up the fantastic work!

Mrs Thompson





Year 8

Back in October's newsletter, I reflected on what felt like an epic half-term – and this one has certainly lived up to the challenge! Back then, I was young, fresh-faced, and full of optimism. Now, as we approach Friday 19th December, many of us are clinging to the promise of a “restful break” (though we all know Christmas comes with its own military-level planning and the economic budget of a small island nation!) Still, the thought of a well-earned lie-in – the kind that feels like hibernation with Sir David Attenborough narrating – is enough to keep us smiling. Joking aside, this term has been one of incredible achievements and, sadly, a heartbreaking loss.

We all hope our children can hold onto the joy of childhood for as long as possible before facing life's harder realities. Last month, Year 8 received the devastating news that Destiny had tragically passed away – a friend to many, always smiling and laughing with those around her. Losing someone is never easy, and as adults, we know how overwhelming grief can feel. Yet, in the midst of sadness, Year 8 showed something truly remarkable: kindness, compassion, and strength. They supported one another, cared for each other, and reminded us all that even in the darkest times, there is light.

I could not be prouder of them.

Whether they realised it or not, almost every student in Year 8 has shown a glimpse – or a great deal – of their very best selves. It has been inspiring and an absolute privilege to witness.

Year 8 currently holds the second-highest number of reward points in the school, often topping weekly totals and sitting just behind Year 7. With two terms still to go, everything is up for grabs – so keep that momentum going!



As we count down the final few days, I'm looking forward to the festive celebrations ahead: the school Christmas Dinner on Tuesday 16th December and finally, Christmas Jumper Day and our End of Term Assembly to close out the week.

Before we wrap up, I want to take a moment to say thank you. To our incredible staff – your hard work, care, and resilience have made this term possible. To our parents and carers – your support and partnership mean the world, and together we've created an environment where our young people can thrive. And to our students – you continue to amaze us with your energy, creativity, and kindness. From all of us here, I wish you a very Merry Christmas and a joyful, peaceful New Year. Let's step into 2026 ready to dream big, work hard, and make it our best year yet!

Mr McCalister

Year 9

As we approach the end of our first term together, I want to express how proud I am of Year 9. When I took on the year group in September, it was honest to say that they had historically been considered the worst-behaved in the school last academic year. However, it quickly became clear that a large proportion of the year group were fantastic—working hard, showing kindness, and demonstrating the school values every day. Their efforts simply weren't being highlighted or celebrated enough.

This term, that has changed. As a year group, we have achieved over 9,500 positive points, issued 74 VIP passes, and today we were able to celebrate these achievements—along with academic success and recognition points—during our celebration assembly. We continue to work hard with those who are not yet getting it right, because we do not want a small minority to affect the learning of the many. At the same time, we are working even harder to shine a light on the students who consistently get it right every single day.

It is a privilege to lead this year group. I also want to give a special mention to the students below, who have earned some of the highest recognition points this term without receiving a single negative:

- Fletcher S
- Harvey A
- Theodore R
- Delilah C
- Lily-Belle T

I wish you all a restful and very merry Christmas.

Mr Morris
Acting HOY 9



Year 10

Stepping into the Head of Year 10 role this half term has been an exciting and rewarding experience. It's been a busy few weeks of getting to know the year group—and what a fantastic half term it has been!

Year 10 are truly going from strength to strength. This is reflected not only in the steady decline in negative behaviour points, but also in the huge number of recognition points they've earned. At the time of writing, they've achieved over 9,400 recognition points—hitting the ambitious target I set when I first joined them. This success is a direct result of the students' commitment to living our school values every single day.

Their growth shone through brilliantly during the recent mock interview day. The feedback from interviewers was nothing short of inspiring. Many students walked in feeling nervous but came out energised, proud, and more confident in their own abilities. It's clear that Year 10 have really settled into GCSE life and are pushing forward with real determination.

That said, we still have some work to do—particularly around punctuality. A number of students are regularly arriving late to lessons, which disrupts learning for everyone. Additionally, a very small group continue to struggle with meeting expectations. I will be working closely with these students, their tutors, and families in the new year to ensure every child has the calm, disruption-free learning environment they deserve so they can truly thrive.

We ended the half term on a high with today's Celebration Assembly, recognising academic achievements, sustained effort, attendance, and of course, those brilliant recognition point totals.

A special congratulations to the following students, each of whom has earned an exceptional number of recognition points with zero negatives—a fantastic accomplishment:

- Alfie P
- Oliver O
- Lily H
- Florentina D
- Keyrah S

I'm really looking forward to continuing our journey together in the new year as we support Year 10 through the challenges and successes of their GCSEs.

Wishing you all a restful, joyful Christmas.

Mr Morris
Acting Head of Year 10



Year 11

As we approach the end of a busy and successful term, I would like to take this opportunity to congratulate all our Year 11 students on their hard work and commitment.

Students have now completed their mock examinations, and I am pleased to say that overall they went very well. These exams have provided valuable experience to the Year 11 students and a clear indication of the progress being made as we move closer to the final GCSEs. Students have also just finished their French Speaking mock exam, and I am pleased with the effort and resilience they showed throughout.

Alongside their academic achievements, we are also looking forward to some festive activities to celebrate the end of term. The Year 11 Christmas Bingo promises to be a fun event for everyone involved. It promises to be a lovely, relaxed evening filled with Christmas cheer, laughter, and a great sense of community – all while supporting our Year 11 students.

The Christmas Bake Sale will also be a highlight of the festive season. I would like to thank you in advance to all students and families who contribute by baking, buying, or supporting in any way.

I would also like to take this opportunity to thank parents and carers for their continued support, particularly with maintaining high standards regarding school uniform and the school behaviour policy. Your support plays a vital role in helping students succeed.

A huge thank you must also go to the form tutors and teaching staff for their ongoing guidance and encouragement to the Year 11 students through this important stage of their education. I am incredibly proud of how Year 11 have approached this term and would like to thank students for their continued effort this term. When visiting lessons, it continues to be a pleasure to see the hard work, focus, and engagement that Year 11 students demonstrate.

Thank you again to all the parents and carers for your continued support throughout the term. I wish everyone a restful and enjoyable Christmas holiday, and I look forward to welcoming students back in the New Year as we continue to prepare for the final stages of their GCSE journey.

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year.

Miss Agoudjil



PE

Wow, what a term!

Pupils have been busy in lessons in several activities including badminton, volleyball, fitness, basketball, dance and Leadership. We have chosen to introduce Yr 8 and 9 pupils to leadership units this year, allowing them to gain and develop skills in leading, organisation and planning. This will also benefit these pupils who go on to choose our examined course in PE, Cambridge National Sport Studies, where they can use and further develop these skills as part of their coursework marks.

KS3 have approached their lessons with their usual enthusiasm and vigor, which is always extra lovely to see at this time of year when we have really begun to battle the elements! Year 10 have been equally as impressive, with the core groups and Cambridge National pupils, using PE lessons to gain maximum benefit both in and out of exam-based contexts.

Year 11 coped with their mocks extremely well, and it's always nice to welcome them into PE at this time of year for some much-needed time to exercise and socialise through several of their chosen activities, away from the pressures of exams. Our Cambridge National pupils continue to work hard across their exam and Sport and the Media units, ensuring that they push themselves into the best position come the final exam and coursework entries.

The highlight of this half term in PE has got to have been our Inter-House Cross Country competition! The level of competition between the pupils (and staff!) this year was absolutely brilliant! As a department, we cannot remember a more competitive competition for a very long time! Pupils showed so much enthusiasm, even on the coldest days (and there were some super chilly ones!) to score points for their new houses. It was lovely to be part of so many conversations where pupils were telling us that their house was going to win because they were the best! In the end, after covering over 2,700 miles as an academy, Wellington were crowned victorious, with 'yellow' pupils and a rather chuffed Mr Taylor, Mr Spurgeon and Miss Turner, reminding the rest of us just how good they are! Well done to everyone involved, and an extra well done to Wellington! Although, I am looking forward to Cavell restoring order and claiming victory later next term in our next Inter House competition!

We managed to squeeze in the last of the outdoor fixtures, with some competitive matches being played in boys' and girls' football. Fixtures naturally slow with the weather next term as the winter sports are completed, before the late spring schedules begin, but extra curricular clubs remain! All clubs will be indoors next half term whilst the weather is cold and wet. All clubs are free and do not require pupils to sign up, they simply need to meet in the changing rooms ready for their chosen session.



Mr Spurgeon and I hosted the Breckland Partnership Cross Country event this half term and worked alongside our Year 10 Cambridge National group, who were our Sports Leaders. I have to say, they were exceptional. They carried out their roles in some really tough conditions and were a real credit to themselves, their families and to our academy. It was an absolute pleasure spending time with them and witnessing them at work, helping the event to run smoothly with 14 primary schools and over 200 runners in Years 3-6. Well done to all involved, what a team!

Miss Turner was lucky enough to take over 50 runners to the Mid-Norfolk Cross Country event in Dereham. Again, our pupils were a real credit to themselves and ran well against some tough competition from other schools. I am delighted to say that Millie S, Keavie H, Rosie P, Austin C, Tristan K, Antoni S, Mikey T and Francesca H-P all came in the Top 10 of their races! Well done! Out of these runners, Tristian came 1st, Austin came 4th, Millie came 6th, and Keavie came 7th in their age group races and have all automatically qualified for the Norfolk event later in January! Superb, and good luck for January!

Our affiliation with fellow ATT academy, The Nicholas Hammond Academy (TNHA), Swaffham, continues to provide an excellent opportunity for our pupils to be involved in extra-curricular sport. This half term, saw us visit TNHA for basketball fixtures in Years 7, 8 and 9. There have been some excellent performances, and it is a real joy to see so many pupils getting involved in these matches. Next half term, we have more of these fixtures with the sport changing to dodgeball. Team sheets will be issued to pupils after Christmas for these activities.

As the weather continues to get cold into the new year, please ensure pupils are equipped for outdoor lessons. Some activities are suitable to go ahead this time of year. Others will be paused for a lesson during inclement weather, and an alternative activity will be undertaken. Iceni branded PE items, or a non-branded plain navy alternatives are appropriate for lessons. Socks should be Iceni PE socks or white sports socks (although I wouldn't recommend white at this time of year!). It is also a good idea for pupils to bring in a plastic carrier bag to place wet/muddy trainers/boots in after their lessons. Thank you for your continued support when washing and drying muddy kit! We really do appreciate your support in ensuring that pupils have what they need to participate in lessons. A gentle reminder that all jewellery, including retainers, must be removed for lessons, this includes new piercings. We cannot allow piercings to be taped up in lessons under AfPE guidelines and therefore pupils will be expected to remove them. Please encourage pupils to wait until July 2026 for new piercings. Thank you for your support with this.

I wish you a restful Christmas. Get out into the fresh air when you can and enjoy everything that the outdoors gives us at this busy time of year - peace, space and a break from all those mince pies!

See you in January, Happy New Year.

Rebecca Bradley, Specialist Leader of PE.



Humanities

This term has seen Iceni's first participation in the National Ethics Cup held at the North London Collegiate School. A team of five Year 10 students represented the academy, engaging in debates with other schools. The students spent weeks working hard to perfect their arguments and were a credit to the school with their performance, especially as they were the youngest team in the competition by far. A group of Year 9 students also attended to get a taste of the event and gained a lot from what they saw. Next term will also see the launch of our Politics Society as a forum for students to discuss ideas and exchange views, so the future is bright for public speaking and debate at Iceni.

Jacob Dyer-Jones

Maths

As we reach half term, the Maths Department would like to commend students for their hard work and positive progress. Pupils across all year groups have shown great engagement and resilience in lessons.

We are especially proud of some Year 8 KS3 students who, through the new ATT Scheme of Learning, have been exploring high-level GCSE content.

It has also been fantastic to see many students completing their Sparx and Seneca work each week—thank you for your continued support.

The winners of this half term's Times Tables Challenge have now been identified, and we look forward to celebrating their achievements.

Most Improved time for their class:

Year 7 - Larna D, Dalsy H and Annle S

Year 8 - Stanley K, Willow K and Keelan B

Year 9 - Fletcher S, Rosie M, Amelia H, Evie B

Most improved score for their class:

Year 7 - Elliott C, Noah S, Lillian S

Year 8 - Stanley J, Riley W, Brooke D and Lola B

Year 9 - Emma E-S, Poppy B and Skyla B

Enjoy a well-earned break, and we look forward to welcoming everyone back next half term.

Kelly Saunders



Young Writers at Iceni Academy!

As part of Iceni Academy's creative writing initiatives, we are delighted to share the news of several published writers. Some of Year 8 students entered the Young Writers Competition and we are now able to see their work in print. From Fright Club and Grim Tales to the Annual Showcase, it is an absolute delight to observe such talented students and their creativity. Well done to all students involved!

Mrs Horn-Castle



Year 11 Bingo Fundraiser

We held our Christmas Bingo fundraiser for the Year 11 prom in the last week of term, and it was a huge success and full of festive cheer. We would like to thank everyone who came along to support the event, and it was so lovely to see so many members of the local community enjoying the Christmas atmosphere.

A big thank you also goes to the staff who gave their time to help support the fundraiser. Special thanks must go to Mrs Doughty, who has been more than amazing throughout and organised some fantastic prizes that helped make the evening one to remember.

We are delighted to announce that a fantastic £1500 was raised towards the Year 11 prom.

Finally, I would like to say well done to the girls from the Prom Committee, who did a fantastic job and worked incredibly hard to ensure the event ran smoothly and spread plenty of Christmas spirit.

Thank you to Macie W. for her homemade cakes and being a great bingo and raffle caller. Thanks also to Alice W., Elodi-May M., and Tilly B. for being great bingo runners.

Miss F. Agoudjil - Head of Year 11





Rewards

As communicated previously, we have introduced a new and enhanced rewards system this year. Central to this is the **Personal Record of Achievement (PRA)**, which gives pupils a weekly opportunity to reflect on their successes from the previous week and set clear targets for the week ahead. Alongside this, staff have been asked to consistently recognise the positive behaviours, effort and attitudes we see every day.

This collective focus on recognising success has had a significant impact:

- **52,000 positive behaviour entries** recorded this term, compared to **31,000** in the same term last academic year
- **512** pupils achieved a **Bronze Certificate** (500+ points)
- **440** pupils achieved a **Silver Certificate** (750+ points)
- **319** pupils achieved a **Gold Certificate** (1000+ points)
- **48** pupils achieved a **Platinum Certificate** (1500+ points)
- **390 VIP passes** (queue jump rewards) awarded by Heads of Year to pupils with the highest weekly positive point totals

These figures reflect the outstanding effort, conduct and commitment shown by our pupils across the term.

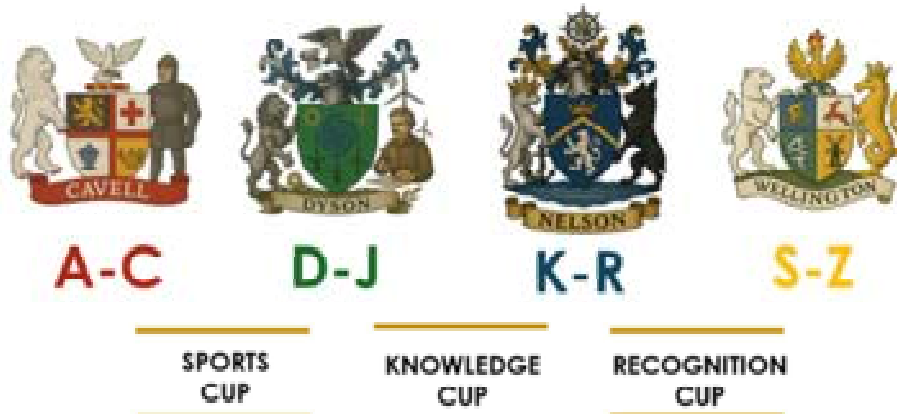
The term concluded with **Year Group Success Assemblies**, during which the following awards were presented:

- **Subject Awards** – voted for by subject departments to recognise excellence
- **Work Hard, Aim High, Be Kind Awards** – voted for by Year Teams to celebrate pupils who consistently demonstrate our school values
- **Personal and Form Attendance Awards** – recognising strong attendance
- **Form Positive Points Award** – awarded to the form with the highest number of positive points
- **Individual Positive Points Certificates** – recognising pupils who achieved Bronze, Silver, Gold or Platinum status



House System

We started in Norfolk and left our mark on the World.



The new House system has also created healthy competition and excitement, with pupils fully embracing opportunities to represent their House.

The first **Sports Cup** competition of the year was won by **Wellington**, following a thrilling final of the 3 week Cross Country event. All Wellington pupils were rewarded with **30 positive points** and a **non-uniform day**, a reward pupils had requested. Final scores were:

Cavell: 4513

Dyson: 4523

Nelson: 4017

Wellington: 4633

We have also completed two Who Wants to Be a House Champion? gameshows this term, held per half-term. The first was won by Dyson in October, with the competition going right down to the final question and pupils rewarded with a non-uniform day.

Scores were extremely close:

Cavell: 181

Dyson: 191

Nelson: 187

Wellington: 177



The second gameshow took place on the final Thursday of term, with Wellington emerging as winners and taking home the **Knowledge Cup**. Once again, the competition was fierce and thoroughly enjoyed by pupils and staff alike. Wellington House pupils and staff can now enjoy a **non-uniform day on Friday 9th January**. Special thanks and recognition go to the pupils who represented their Houses on stage during both events.

Cavell: 185

Dyson: 189

Nelson: 185

Wellington: 227

Finally, the **Recognition Cup** has now been awarded for the first time. This cup recognises the House with the best Positive Points Difference (positive points minus negative points) at the end of the term. Members of the winning House will receive an additional End of Year Raffle ticket, with prizes including £50 and £100 Amazon vouchers.



This term's winners were **Dyson**, congratulations to all pupils for living the Iceni values of Work Hard, Aim High and Be Kind each and every day:

Cavell: 135'718

Dyson: 146'732

Nelson: 137'928

Wellington: 144'350

Thank you, as always, for your continued support in helping us celebrate success, promote positive behaviour and foster a strong sense of community within our school.

Mr L Taylor and Mr J Morris



Design Technology

This first term has been an exciting one within the design and technology department gearing up for some interesting practical work. Year 7 have been designing their narrowboats ready to make and paint their polymer boats. Year 8 have been learning about the history of dog-tags and are starting to make their own out of sheets of steel. Year 9 have been designing phone stands and will be making these out of acrylic and vinyl in the new year. Year 10 have been working on their first GCSE project with the brief of designing and making a birdbox inspired by architecture. Year 11 have been super busy completing their first two projects with the Christmas deadline looming. The workshop has been a hive of activity and we have some incredible practical work being produced.



Megan S
Beach Hut Birdbox



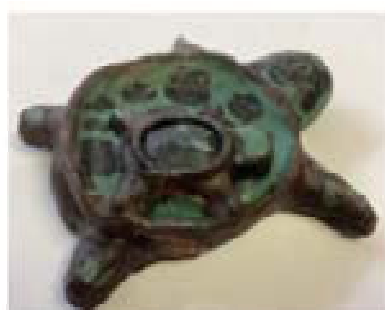
Freddy H
Mushroom Storage Box



Tyler R
Architecture Birdbox



Logan J
Spongebob Lamps



Lexi R
Jewellery Holder



Sam M
Architecture Birdbox



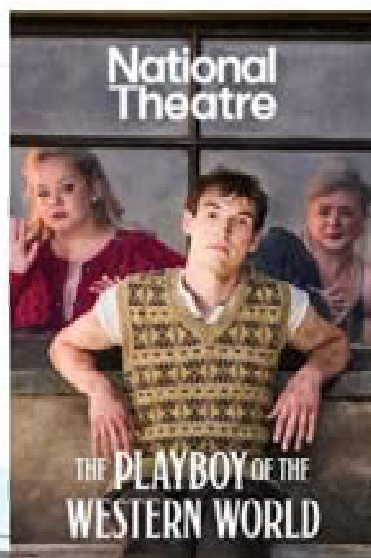
Food Preparation and Nutrition

We have kicked off this year with a brand new food curriculum which has been designed to have more focused theory lessons and clear links to more adventurous and nutritious food practicals. Year 7 have started with the basics, learning about health and safety, knife skills and the Eatwell guide, while exploring practicals in fruit salad, Greek pasta salad and fruit scones. Year 8 have been exploring the difference between intensive and organic farming and genetically modified crops, while expanding their skills in making pea and bacon risotto and sweetcorn fritters. Year 9 have been learning about the importance of nutrition and how this changes depending on personal circumstance. They have made healthy burgers and vegetable frittata. Years 10 and 11 have been practicing a lot of high skill dishes such as making their own bread, pasta and pastry.



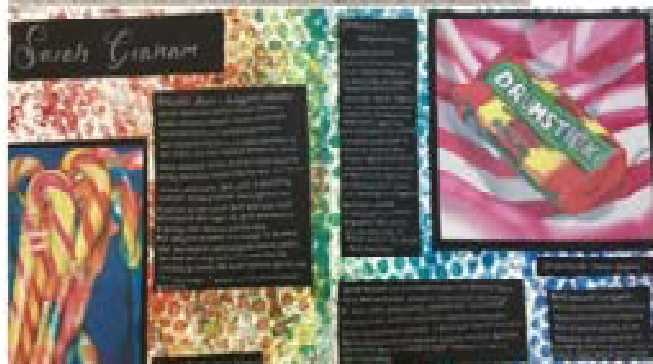
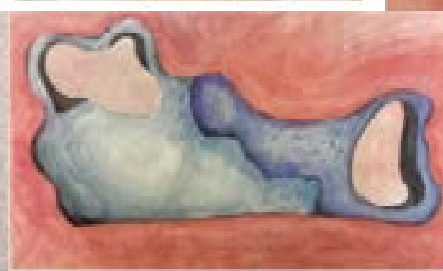
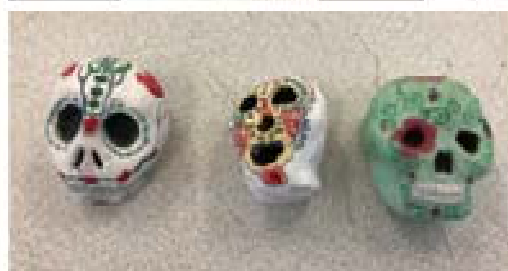
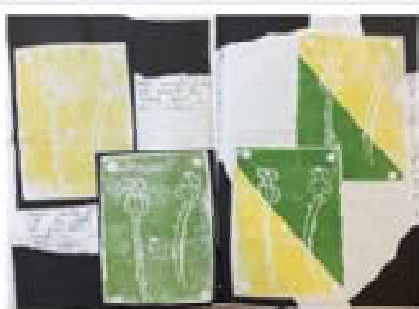
Destination: DRAMA

Our Year 11 drama cohort have been working really hard finishing off their coursework and own scripted pieces and logs ready for moderation. They have been given their scripted groups and extracts and will be frantically learning lines during their Christmas break ready for their final performances. They have also had the pleasure of being taken to London to the National Theatre to see *The Playboy of the Western World* which is about a meek young man who stumbles into a County Mayo pub claiming he's murdered his cruel father, becoming an instant local hero and winning the heart of the innkeeper's daughter, Pegeen Flaherty. Our students loved the opportunity and will be using this experience and knowledge within their upcoming drama exams.



THE POWER OF ART

This term in art we have been experimenting with loads of new techniques and media. Year 7s first project was a line and mark making project, centered around poppy seed heads. They did some observational drawings and then developed these into prints using styrofoam. Year 8 have been exploring the Day of the Dead festival and have made their own clay candy skulls. Year 9 have been researching the artist Henry Moore, specifically his sculptural sketching. They have been trying a technique called 'wax resist', developing this into a large scale final artwork. Year 10 have been starting on their first GCSE project titled 'wrapped, tied and bound' while Year 11 are finishing off their first two projects ready for Composition 2 coming out in January.



 aim **HIGH**  work **HARD**  be **KIND**

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