



ICENI ACADEMY NEWSLETTER

JULY 2026

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Principal's Post

As we reach the end of another academic year, I would like to take this opportunity to reflect on what has been a remarkable year for Iceni Secondary Academy and to thank our students, staff, parents and carers for the part they have played in our continued success.

This year has been one in which our academy has continued to grow, develop and strengthen its culture. Throughout everything we have done, our values of Aim High, Work Hard and Be Kind have remained at the heart of academy life. Whether in classrooms, on sports fields, during performances, on educational visits or through the countless acts of kindness that take place every day, our students have consistently demonstrated these values and made us proud.

Whilst there has been much to celebrate, this year has also brought challenges. The loss of one of our students had a profound impact on our community and served as a reminder of how important it is to support one another during difficult times. I was incredibly proud of the compassion, kindness and resilience shown by students, staff and families. The way our community came together demonstrated the very best of Iceni and reflected the strength of the relationships we have built together.

Alongside these challenges, there have been many highlights and exciting opportunities throughout the year. Our Personal Development Week was a tremendous success, providing students with a rich range of experiences that broadened horizons, developed character and created memories that will last for years to come. We have also enjoyed a fantastic programme of enrichment activities, sports fixtures, educational visits, performances and events.

One particular highlight was our end-of-year Awards Evening, where we celebrated students who consistently embody our values and give their very best each day. It was a wonderful occasion that recognised not only achievement but also character, resilience, effort and contribution to our academy community.

The incredible work of our Technology Department was showcased brilliantly through their end-of-year exhibition, allowing students to demonstrate their creativity, skill and innovation. Across the academy, there have been countless successes in sport, with students representing Iceni with pride, determination and excellent sportsmanship.

I would also like to recognise our Year 11 students. Throughout a demanding examination season, they approached their studies with maturity, determination and resilience. They worked hard, stayed focused and represented themselves and the academy exceptionally well. Their Prom was a fitting celebration of their journey and achievements, and they were an absolute credit to the academy. We



wish them every success as they move on to the next stage of their education and careers.

This year has also seen the successful introduction of several initiatives designed to strengthen our culture and maximise learning time. Our academy line-ups and enhanced punctuality procedures are helping to create calm, orderly starts to the day, ensuring students are ready to learn from the moment they arrive. These changes, alongside our continued focus on high expectations, are helping us build an environment where every student can thrive.

As we look ahead, we must also say farewell to four highly valued members of staff who leave us this summer.

Mrs Whiting, Teacher of English, leaves after three years at the academy. During her time with us, she has made a significant contribution to the English department and to the wider life of the academy. We thank her for her commitment and dedication and wish her every success in the future.

Mrs Thompson, Head of Year and Teacher of Science, leaves after three years of dedicated service to the academy. Throughout her time at Icení, she has provided outstanding support to students in her year group while also making a valuable contribution to the Science department. We thank Mrs Thompson for her hard work, care and commitment and wish her every success in the future.

Miss Agoudjil, Head of Year and Teacher of Modern Foreign Languages, leaves after many years of dedicated service. She has been a passionate advocate for the students in her year group, providing unwavering support and guidance while also making a significant contribution to the teaching of languages. Her care, commitment and leadership will be greatly missed.

Miss Turner leaves after an incredible twenty years of service. Most recently serving as SENDCO, she has dedicated her career to supporting young people and ensuring that students with additional needs receive the care, provision and opportunities they deserve. Her commitment to students and families over two decades has made a lasting impact on countless lives. On behalf of the entire academy community, I would like to thank Miss Turner for her exceptional service and wish her a long, happy and well-deserved next chapter.

As Miss Turner begins her next chapter, I am pleased to share that Miss Staniforth will take on the role of SENDCO from September. Miss Staniforth brings a wealth of leadership experience, a deep understanding of our academy community and an unwavering commitment to ensuring that every child receives the support they need to thrive. Supporting students with additional needs remains a key priority for the academy, and we are excited about the next phase of our SEND journey.



Miss Staniforth will be writing to parents and carers at the beginning of September to introduce herself formally in this capacity and to share her vision and plans for the continued development of our SEND provision.

There are also several exciting personal milestones that we would like to celebrate. Mrs Cross will begin her maternity leave when we return in September. We are delighted for her and her family as they prepare for this exciting new chapter, and we know our academy community will join us in wishing them every happiness. We would also like to offer our warmest congratulations to Mr McAllister, who is getting married over the summer break. We wish him and his partner a wonderful wedding day and many years of happiness together.

Finally, I would like to thank all of our parents and carers for your continued support throughout the year. The partnership between home and school is fundamental to our success, and we are grateful for the trust, encouragement and support you provide.

I hope you all enjoy a restful and enjoyable summer break with family and friends. We look forward to welcoming our students back in September and continuing our journey together.

Students in Years 7 and 11 will return to the academy on Thursday 3rd September, with **Years 8, 9 and 10** students returning on Friday 4th September.

Thank you once again for your support. Have a wonderful summer.

Mr Rushton
Principal



Update from Miss Turner

Thank You and Goodbye...

After 20 incredible years, it is with a very heavy heart that I say goodbye and, most importantly, thank you.

It is difficult to put into words what this school and community have meant to me. They have been such a huge part of my life. I have been fortunate enough to teach, support and watch generations of young people grow into confident, caring and successful adults. I am now also old enough to be teaching the children of parents I once taught... although I'm still deciding how I feel about that!

To all the students, past and present, thank you for making every day worthwhile. You have made me laugh, challenged me to become a better teacher and leader, and reminded me every day why I chose this profession. Every one of you has left your own mark, and I will take countless memories with me. We have shared so many adventures, from lessons and trips to sporting fixtures, overseas visits and everything in between. I have had so much fun with you all. What a ride it has been.

To all the parents, thank you for allowing me to play a small part in your children's lives and for placing your trust in me. Your kindness, encouragement and unwavering support have meant more than I can ever express. Thank you for working alongside us to give your children the very best opportunities. It has been a privilege to share so many memorable moments with your families, and those memories will stay with me forever.

Working in a rural community is something truly special. Schools like ours are about so much more than lessons. I cannot think of many places where students arrive on a Monday morning carrying a brace of pheasants or ducks for Food Technology, or eagerly wanting to show me pictures of the fish they caught over the weekend or tell me about the farming they have been involved in. I have also discovered that everyone has a very definite opinion about which tractors are best. Apparently, "If it ain't blue, it won't do," while others insist, "If it ain't red, keep it in the shed!" As for me, I have always liked the green ones simply because I think they look nice!

To my colleagues, thank you for your friendship, encouragement and unwavering support over the years. We have shared the highs and lows that come with school life, celebrated successes together, and somehow always found something to laugh about, even on the busiest days. I have been incredibly lucky to work



alongside such dedicated, talented and caring people over the years, and I will miss you all more than you know.

As I leave, I do so with a heart full of gratitude. Thank you to everyone who has been part of this journey. Although I may be moving on, this school, its people and this remarkable community will always hold a very special place in my heart. I will be following your progress with great interest and cheering you on from afar.

I wish you all every happiness and success for the future. Thank you for the memories, the laughter and the privilege of being part of your lives.

Miss Turner

Update from Mr Morris

As we reach the end of another academic year, it is a wonderful opportunity to reflect on just how much has been achieved across Iceni Academy. This year has been one of growth, ambition and success, and I could not be prouder of our pupils, staff and wider community.

A particular highlight has been the continued success of our rewards programme. From Positive Points certificates and our Year 7-10 Rewards Trip to High Lodge, to the End of Year Raffle and our inaugural Subject Awards Evening, we have worked hard to ensure that effort, achievement and positive conduct are recognised and celebrated. It has been fantastic to see so many pupils engaging positively and striving to achieve their personal best throughout the year.

This week also saw our Sports Awards Breakfast, where we recognised some outstanding sporting achievements. Congratulations to our Sports Personalities of the Year: Harvey S (Year 7), Layla S (Year 8), Alana P (Year 9) and Fred C (Year 10). We also celebrated our Breakthrough Performance Award winners, recognising pupils who have truly aimed high and worked hard to improve: Francesca D, Antoni S, Jack S and Lexi W. These awards reflect not only talent, but also dedication, resilience and commitment.

Today, we were also delighted to announce our first ever overall House winners. A huge congratulations to Nelson House, whose consistent effort, participation and commitment across the year secured them the title. The House system has grown significantly this year and has played an important role in strengthening our sense of community and belonging.



Another major success has been our first ever Personal Development Week. Throughout the week, pupils explored experiences and opportunities beyond the traditional classroom curriculum. From our Future Skills Day to Careers Day and a range of enrichment activities, pupils developed valuable knowledge and skills that will support them both now and in the future. The week was a tremendous success, and plans are already underway to make next year's programme even bigger and better.

Looking back across the year, perhaps the most significant achievement has been the continued positive shift in behaviour and culture throughout the academy. Icení Academy is now a calm, purposeful and ambitious place to learn. Across the year, we have seen substantial reductions in lesson removals, isolations and suspensions, all of which contribute to the positive learning environment we are creating. This progress has come through the collective efforts of pupils, staff and families, and we are determined to continue building on these foundations next year.

We have also continued our work around identity and culture through our 'We Are Icení' vision. The introduction of our new uniform has been a visible part of this journey, helping to strengthen pride and belonging across the academy. This work will continue throughout the summer, with improvements to the building, displays and learning environment to further establish a strong and distinctive Icení identity that our pupils can be proud of.

Today provided a fitting celebration of everything that has been achieved. Pupils enjoyed inflatables, tutor group activities, crazy golf, ice cream and our Success Assemblies, giving them a well-deserved and memorable send-off into the summer holidays.

None of this would have been possible without the significant progress that has taken place over the last few years. The academy continues to move forward, and while we are proud of how far we have come, we remain ambitious for where we want to go next.

Thank you to our pupils, staff, parents and carers for your continued support throughout the year. We wish everyone a safe, restful and enjoyable summer break, and we look forward to welcoming our pupils back in September for another successful year at Icení Academy.

Mr Morris
Vice Principal



Update from Miss Staniforth

As we reach the end of another academic year, it is a wonderful opportunity to celebrate the achievements, hard work and commitment of our students.

Throughout the year, students across the academy have demonstrated a positive attitude to learning and a determination to make the most of every opportunity. Visitors to lessons regularly comment on the calm, purposeful atmosphere in classrooms, where students are focused. It has been particularly pleasing to see how confidently students participate in learning through routines such as mini whiteboards, choral response and "I Say, You Say". These strategies ensure that every student has a voice in the classroom and provide valuable opportunities for teachers to check understanding, address misconceptions and support progress.

A special mention must go to our Year 11 students, who have worked exceptionally hard throughout their final year. Preparing for GCSE examinations requires resilience, commitment and perseverance, and we have been incredibly proud of the maturity and determination they have shown. They approached the examination season with focus, supporting one another and representing the academy brilliantly. We are excited to see the outcomes of their efforts and look forward to celebrating their achievements with them on Results Day, Thursday 20 August, when results can be collected from the academy between 9.00am and 10.00am.

This year has also seen the successful launch of our Trust-wide Key Stage 3 curriculum in Years 7 and 8 across English, Mathematics, Science, History, Geography and French. Behind this significant development has been an enormous amount of collaboration between teachers across our Trust. Colleagues have worked together to share expertise, develop high-quality resources and refine curriculum content, all with the aim of providing students with the very best educational experience. The result is a coherent, ambitious curriculum that supports strong foundations for learning and ensures that students benefit from the collective knowledge and experience of educators across our family of schools. I am very grateful to all the colleagues who have been so instrumental in designing and delivering this new curriculum.

None of these achievements happen in isolation. They are the result of students' hard work, the dedication of staff and the ongoing support of parents, carers and our wider community. We are grateful for the partnership that exists between home and school and the vital role it plays in helping our young people flourish.



As we look ahead to September, there is much to be excited about. We look forward to welcoming students back for another year of learning, discovery and success, building on the strong foundations established this year. With ambitious plans for the future and talented young people at the heart of everything we do, we are confident that the year ahead will bring even more opportunities to learn, achieve and grow.

For now, we wish all of our students, families and community members a restful, enjoyable and well-deserved summer break. We look forward to welcoming everyone back in the new academic year.

Miss Staniforth
Vice Principal

Well done, Year 7!

I would like to share the fabulous job the eight students have done during transition.

Throughout the two days, they were outstanding ambassadors for both themselves and the school. They demonstrated exceptional maturity, kindness, patience, and responsibility while supporting our incoming students, ensuring that they felt welcomed, included, and reassured during this important transition period.

Their positive attitudes, enthusiasm, and willingness to help at every opportunity made a significant difference to the experience of our new students. They approached every task with confidence and professionalism, showing excellent communication skills and setting a fantastic example of the values we promote at Icení Secondary Academy.

The feedback received regarding their support has been overwhelmingly positive, and they should be extremely proud of the way they represented the school. Their commitment, dedication, and genuine care for others have not gone unnoticed, and I believe they thoroughly deserve recognition for their outstanding contribution to the success of the transition programme.

These eight students have been excellent role models and are highly deserving of some praise. Well done to Harvey G, Maddison F, Sean S, Bay S, Hadi E-N, Sophie L, Charlotte R-M and Molly B.

Mrs Hobbs
Student Support Officer for Year 7



Introducing 'Iceni Reads'!

This September marks the start of an exciting new chapter at Iceni Academy as we launch Iceni Reads – a daily reading programme designed to inspire a love of reading and help every student develop the literacy skills they need to succeed.

At Iceni, we believe that reading is one of the most powerful tools a young person can possess. Strong reading skills unlock learning across every subject, strengthen vocabulary and communication, boost confidence, and open doors to future opportunities. Beyond academic success, reading nurtures imagination, curiosity and empathy, allowing students to explore new perspectives and discover worlds beyond their own experiences.



That is why, from September, every student will spend 15 minutes each day reading together with their tutor group. During Iceni Reads, tutors will read high-quality, carefully selected novels aloud while students follow along in their own copies. This shared reading approach is used successfully in schools across the country and helps students engage with rich, challenging texts while building fluency, comprehension and confidence.

What makes Iceni Reads particularly special is that it is not another lesson, test or homework task. Instead, it is an opportunity for our whole school community to pause, immerse themselves in a story and enjoy the experience of reading together. Through a carefully chosen selection of texts, students will encounter unforgettable characters, thought-provoking themes and inspiring stories that they may never have discovered independently.

The programme has been carefully designed so that each year group will read a range of engaging books from different genres and authors throughout the year. Students will read alongside their tutors, sharing a common reading experience with their peers before moving on to the next exciting title. To celebrate their achievements, students will receive certificates recognising each book completed through the programme. We will also write to you to let you know, so you can celebrate your child's reading experiences with them! We will be further celebrating reading through book giveaways, author visits and prizes and trips.

To accommodate Iceni Reads into every day, we have made some slight changes to the timings of the academy day. These do not impact the timings of the start and end of the day or have any impact on transport etc., but do allow us the golden opportunity to read together, every day.



Line ups	8.35am
Form Time	8.40am
Iceni Reads	8.55am
Lesson 1	9.10am
Lesson 2	10.10am
Break	11.10am
Lesson 3	11.35am
Lesson 4	12.35pm
Lunch	1.35pm
Lesson 5	2.10pm
Line ups	3.10pm (until 3.15pm)

The introduction of Iceni Reads reflects our wider ambition to develop a strong reading culture across the academy. We want every student to see themselves as a reader and to leave Iceni with the literacy skills, knowledge and confidence needed to thrive in education, employment and everyday life.

We are incredibly excited about the launch of Iceni Reads and the

opportunities it will bring. We look forward to seeing our students discover new stories, develop their love of literature and, most importantly, recognise the lasting power of reading.

A new chapter begins this September – and we cannot wait to start reading together. Here's a taster of some of the book students will be immersing themselves in!



Free School Meals - Important changes from September 2026

We would like to make you aware of important changes to Free School Meals (FSM) that come into effect **from September 2026**.

The biggest change is that all families who receive Universal Credit will now be able to claim Free School Meals for their children, regardless of their income or the number of hours they work. This replaces the previous income limit and could save families up to £500 per child each year.

Who can apply?

From September, your child may be eligible for Free School Meals if your household receives:

- Universal Credit
- Income Support
- Income-based Jobseeker's Allowance (JSA)
- Certain Child Tax Credit awards
- The guaranteed element of Pension Credit

If you think you may be eligible, we strongly encourage you to apply.

Existing Free School Meal claims

Previously, some children remained entitled to Free School Meals even if their family's circumstances changed. These protections are ending from September 2026, which means some families may no longer qualify. Norfolk County Council will contact affected families directly before the end of the summer holidays.

Annual checks

Eligibility for Free School Meals will now be checked each year. Families who already receive Free School Meals do not need to submit a new application unless they are contacted and asked to do so.

Younger brothers and sisters

For families with younger children, it is important to note that all children in Reception, Year 1 and Year 2 will continue to receive free school meals through the Universal Infant Free School Meals scheme.

No Recourse to Public Funds (NRPF)

Some families have an immigration status known as "No Recourse to Public Funds" (NRPF), which means they are not able to access certain benefits or financial support from the government.



If your family currently receives Free School Meals through the NRPF scheme, you will need to submit a new application from September 2026 to continue receiving this support. If you are affected by this change, we recommend contacting Norfolk County Council for advice and guidance.

How to apply

Applications can be made online through Norfolk County Council:

[Norfolk Free School Meals Application Page](#)

If you believe your child may now be eligible, we encourage you to apply as soon as possible.

Questions

If you have any questions about your eligibility or application, please contact the Norfolk County Council Free School Meals Team at: fsm@norfolk.gov.uk



Looking for exciting activities for your child over the summer holidays? The Big Norfolk Holiday Fun programme offers a wide range of fun, engaging and active holiday experiences for children and young people aged 5-16 years (or age 4 if your child is already in school).

Children who are eligible for means-tested Free School Meals can access many activities free of charge, while a number of paid places are also available for families who are not eligible.

Summer holiday activities will run from 20 July to 2 September (excluding weekends and bank holidays), and bookings are now open.

To be eligible for free Big Norfolk Holiday Fun activities, families must be registered with Norfolk County Council for means-tested Free School Meals.



Find out more and book activities:

<https://www.activenorfolk.org/public/bignorfolkholidayfun/>



Check eligibility for means-tested Free School Meals:

<https://www.norfolk.gov.uk/freeschoolmeals>

We encourage families to take a look at the fantastic range of opportunities available across Norfolk this summer.



Big Norfolk Holiday Fun

 Norfolk County Council

Big Norfolk Holiday Fun Scheme for families eligible for means tested free school meals

Children will be able to access up to 16 days of free activity throughout the summer holidays, the sessions will be varied and include a free meal each day.

Book your child a place today!

Don't miss out on your first choice – spaces are limited.

Free activities for 5-16 year olds during the Summer Holidays

- Sports and fitness
- Outdoor fun
- Art and craft
- Youth clubs and projects
- Science and nature
- Drama



To register and to get your unique code for the free activity days visit
www.activenorfolk.org/getmycode



Rewards

My goodness, what a half term. This saw the culmination of so many rewards. Thank you so much to the pupils for all their hard work, staff for contributing to both rewarding and various reward events, and parents who supported and/or attended various reward events. We feel we have made great strides forwards this year, and look forward to continuing, and perhaps even adding, to our current rewards next year.

Rewards Trip to High Lodge

60 pupils from Year 7-10 were invited for a fully subsidised rewards trip to High Lodge to complete Go Ape and Disc Golf. These pupils were invited based on achieving the greatest number of Positive Points in their Year Group. A fantastic time was had by all, and well done to those pupils who overcame their fears to complete the Go Ape challenge.



End of Year Raffle Reward

One of the final moments of the year was our Amazon Voucher raffle draw. Two pupils received vouchers, one worth £50 and another £100. To be in the raffle, pupils had to finish the year on a Positive Points Difference behaviour record. Nelson pupils received a second ticket, and Dyson a further two extra tickets, as they won the three Recognition House Cups across the year. The winners were drawn after writing this Newsletter Piece, but we hope they purchase a gift they can enjoy over the summer.



Final PRA and Certificates Achieved

Pupils completed their Personal Record of Achievement (PRA), which gives pupils a weekly opportunity to reflect on their achievements and set clear targets for the week ahead.

Please note in order to process the certificates, the cut off date for this was Friday 10th July. The final standing for certificates were:



556 pupils reached their Bronze Certificate for 500+ points
543 pupils reached their Silver Certificate for 750+ points
524 pupils reached their Gold Certificate for 1000+ points
474 pupils reached their Platinum Certificate for 1500+ points
175 pupils reached their DOUBLE Platinum Certificate for 3000+ points
4 pupils reached their TRIPLE Platinum Certificate for 4500+ points:
congratulation Ellie, Alfie, William and Maddie!

These certificates were issued in Success Assemblies on the final day of term, along with Attendance certificates, School Values certificates and a number of Form Group awards.

Subject Rewards Evening

We were thrilled to host our first formal Subject Awards Evening. This was the jewel in the crown of our Rewards this year. The invited nominees were:

Art Nominees: Hope, Bernadetta and Josef
Computing Nominees: Betsy, Abigail and Stanley
Design Technology Nominees: Stanley, Antony Damacino and Ellie
Drama Nominees: Richenda, Millicent and Matilda
English Nominees: Sophie, Sarai and Harvey
Food Nutrition Nominees: Johnny, Harley & Sebastian
French Nominees: Francesca, Amelia and Violet
Geography Nominees: Sophie, Mason and John
History Nominees: Safia Brooke and Mckenzie
Maths Nominees: Stanley, Seb and Maddie
Music Nominees: Sky-Ann, Harvey and Fletcher
Physical Education Nominees: Xander, James & Leyla
Science Nominees: Rowan, John and Hadi
Sports Studies Nominees: Fred, Lexi and Grace
3D Design Nominees: Richenda, Apollo and Matilda

All nominees received a nomination speech from their subject teachers, with the overall winner receiving a glass plaque. We would like to thank again, our Pianist Harvey, and our 'Koalas' band for their fantastic performances as part of the ceremony.

House system

The new House system came to a fantastic climax:

The Knowledge Cup: the sixth and final instalment for the year was won, and retained, by Nelson. Pupils won the Cup and a non-uniform day on the final day of term.



The Recognition Cup: Dyson took the final Recognition Cup, with a points difference for the term of +92586. The second time out of three opportunities Dyson have taken this Cup, and pupils gained an extra raffle ticket in the Amazon Voucher prize draw.

The Sports Cup: Unfortunately, the third Sports Cup – Sports Day, was for the second time, beaten by the heat and did not take place. This meant 11 of the 12 House Cups across the year were completed.

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



Now the Academic year has concluded, we were very excited to announce the overall House Winner. To decide the overall winner, and which House is permanently added to the House Winners Roll of Honour board for 2025-26, we counted which House has won the most Cups throughout the year, out of a possible 12 (what turned out to be 11) available.

CONGRATULATIONS TO NELSON who were announced winners to huge cheers and blue confetti canyons just before heading off to catch the bus for the summer holidays. Well done to all pupils for fully embracing the new House system this year.



Student Leadership

Student Leadership worked hard all year to make the school better, starting with problems identified by the student body. The end of year focus was the community Bingo night in July, where all money raised was to purchase further outdoor seating as requested by the student body. Almost £600 was raised and this will be agenda point one of specifically what seating to purchase when the Student Leadership team reconvene in the new year. Special thanks to all the students who supported the event, parents and local business for donations, and especially Mrs Doughty for all the time and effort she took to make the event exceptional. Of course, one last thanks to this year's Student Leaders and all the work you have contributed.



Looking ahead to the New Year, we are thrilled to announce the successful new Student Principals, Deputy Principals, Senior Prefects, Prefects, Heads of Year and Heads of House. We also thank all those who applied and were not successful on this occasion. Pupils were scored and ranked based on their application, behaviour record, attendance, staff recommendation and interview/interview task. Those that applied for Principal also had an anonymous speech as to why they should be elected shared and voted for by the student body. Our new leadership team for 2026-2027 will be:

Student Principals, Deputy Principals, Senior Prefects and Prefects

Noah, Kiyah, Scarlett, Adriana, Kieran, Alice and Dixie

Heads of House

Safia, Alex, Amicie, James, Daisy, Harriet, Dexter, Maggie, Ruby Thompson and Filip

Heads of Year

Tyler, Harry, Sophie, Teigan, Xander, Sophia and Hadi

Mr L Taylor and Mr J Morris



Year 9 Update

As we reach the end of another academic year, I want to take a moment to say just how incredibly proud I am to have been the Head of Year for Year 9. It has been many years since I was last a HOY but I have thoroughly enjoyed it. It has been a privilege to support and work alongside this fantastic group of young people as they have grown, matured and developed throughout the year.

Year 9 have continually improved and impressed, demonstrating resilience, ambition and a willingness to embrace new challenges. They have shown tremendous personal growth and are now ready to embark on the next stage of their journey as they move into Year 10 and begin their GCSE courses. I have every confidence that they will rise to the challenges ahead and continue to make us proud.

I would also like to take this opportunity to thank all of our parents and carers for your continued support throughout the year. Working in partnership makes such a difference and enables our young people to grow, thrive and achieve their potential. Your encouragement and support at home play a vital role in their success.

A particular congratulations must go to the fifteen Year 9 students who attended this week's Rewards Trip. These students achieved the highest recognition point totals across the year group and fully deserved the opportunity to celebrate their success. They represented Year 9 brilliantly and were excellent ambassadors for the academy.

I would also like to give a special mention to Theo, Harvey and Sophie, who achieved the highest recognition point totals in the year group this academic year. These students have consistently demonstrated our academy values of Aim High, Work Hard and Be Kind in everything they do. Their achievements are thoroughly deserved, and they should be incredibly proud of what they have accomplished. Another huge congratulations goes to all of the Year 9 students who were nominated and attended the Subject Awards Evening last night. Being recognised by your teachers is a significant achievement and reflects the hard work, dedication and positive attitude you have shown throughout the year.

On a personal note, I am sad that I will not be continuing as Head of Year for this wonderful year group next year. However, I will always have a soft spot for Year 9 and will be watching with great pride as they continue to grow into confident, successful and compassionate young adults. I have no doubt that they will achieve great things as they begin their GCSE journey.

I would like to wish all Year 9 students and their families a restful, enjoyable and well-deserved summer holiday. Stay safe, make some wonderful memories and return ready for the exciting opportunities that Year 10 will bring.

Good luck, Year 9. I look forward to welcoming you back in September and seeing the next chapter of your journey begin.

Mr Morris
Head of Year 9



Year 10 Update

We have had a very busy and successful final half term in Year 10.

We started with the mock examinations, where students conducted themselves positively in exam conditions and worked extremely hard throughout the examination period. While we know there is still work to do in some subject areas during the final months of Year 11, I am confident that our students will achieve well when they complete their GCSE examinations next summer.

From September, there will be a continued focus during form time on key subject areas, revision techniques and post-16 pathways. This will allow students to develop effective study habits, identify areas for improvement and make informed decisions about their future education and career options.

We then had over 80 students attend a trip to the College of West Anglia in King's Lynn, where they were able to experience what a typical day at college might look like and begin thinking about their post-16 options. It was fantastic to see students fully engaging with the activities throughout the day. Students experienced a wide range of subjects and vocational courses, including television production, where they worked both on-screen and behind the scenes, hairdressing, carpentry, where they produced some fantastic trays to take home, A Level subjects and much more. I was incredibly proud to see our students representing the academy so well in a different environment and embracing every opportunity available to them.

We then had the amazing week of work experience. It has been wonderful to hear so many positive stories from students about their time in the workplace since returning to school. The feedback from employers has been exceptional and it is clear that students gained a great deal from the experience.

Some standout comments from employers included:

"He has restored our faith in having work experience students."

"She could not have wished for a better young person and we would love to keep him."

"If I could employ them today, I would."

"I couldn't have asked for a better work experience student. Everything was brilliant and they worked really hard."

"The lads on the team are very impressed with him."

These comments demonstrate just how incredible our students are. Well done to everyone involved!

During the final week of term, we also celebrated students' achievements through a number of reward trips. Thirty-five Year 10 students visited Thorpe Park on Monday as a reward for completing their SENECA Maths homework throughout the year. The students had a fantastic time and were buzzing with excitement throughout the day.



Students also attended High Lodge on Wednesday, recognising those who achieved the greatest positive points difference across the year. Students took part in the Treetop Adventure course, where some really pushed themselves beyond their comfort zones and showed great resilience and determination. They also enjoyed a game of disc golf. It was an amazing day enjoyed by all.

Well done to any of the Year 10 students who were nominated and won awards in yesterday sports Awards and Subject awards. It just shows how incredible you all are.

Finally, today we held our final Success Assembly of the year, recognising and celebrating students' achievements. Congratulations to 10RB for achieving the best attendance in Year 10 this academic year and to 10CW for earning the highest number of positive points across the year. A huge well done to Alfie P who achieved his triple platinum award for positive points this academic year. This is an outstanding achievement!

I am pleased to announce that I will be continuing as Head of Year 11 in September, and I am excited to support this fantastic year group through their final year at Iceni Academy.

Thank you for your continued support throughout this year. I look forward to working with you all again in September.

Have a fantastic summer!
Miss Bartrum
Head of Year 10



Year 11 Prom 2026

What a fantastic evening we had at The Red Barn celebrating the end of an important chapter for our Year 11 students. And just like that, the Class of 2026 is on its way to exciting new adventures!

Last Thursday's Year 11 Prom was an amazing and unforgettable evening giving our students the opportunity to celebrate the end of their journey at Icen Academy in style. The Red Barn in Runcton Holme provided the perfect setting, where students arrived looking absolutely incredible in their finest attire and enjoyed an evening filled with laughter, dancing and memories that will last a lifetime.

As Head of Year, it has been a privilege to watch the students grow from Year 8 into the remarkable Year 11 students they are today. Over the years, I have seen them develop into great and unique individuals, each with their own talents and personalities. I could not be prouder of every single one of them and everything they have achieved. It has been a privilege to be part of their journey, and I have every confidence that they will go on to accomplish wonderful things.

While it is always difficult to say goodbye, we are excited to see what the future holds for each and every one of them. We wish all of our Year 11 students every success and happiness as they take their next steps, whether that is Sixth Form, college, an apprenticeship or employment. We have every confidence that they will go on to achieve great things.

Enjoy a well-deserved summer break, Class of 2026. We look forward to welcoming you back to Icen Academy on Thursday 20 August for GCSE Results Day. Good luck—we will be cheering you on every step of the way!

Ms Agoudjil



PE

Hello for the last time this year from PE.

The weather has been a real boss this term... we've gone from too wet to too hot and everything in between! Whilst we are obviously disappointed about not being able to deliver Sports Day to the children, we must focus on the positives from what has been a busy term in PE. We will be back stronger than ever in 2027, with an earlier Sports Day, allowing for cooler temperatures, away from the increasingly hot summer days. For lessons, this presents a lovely opportunity for summer sports participation in summer weather, but we are mindful of longer events being difficult for pupils with little shade to use.

We said goodbye to our Year 11 Cambridge National pupils, who have worked very hard. We are sure that they will be rewarded with the results that they deserve in the summer. Our Year 10s have finished their media unit. Their focus this half term turned to their remaining performance and leadership assignments, putting themselves in a strong position for Year 11 as we begin their exam content studies with them ready for next May! There have been some excellent performance both in and out of lessons this half term, across cricket, tennis and rounders and also some very competitive rounders fixtures played in KS3 against local schools.

Our Sports Awards Breakfast was a superb morning. All nominees and their adults were invited to celebrate their excellent performance and application levels to school sport this year. These events are such a highlight for us, an opportunity where we can tell the pupils exactly how proud we are of them.

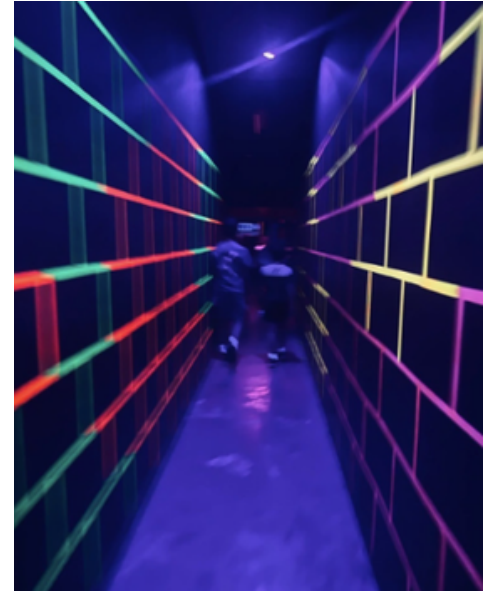


Our Outstanding Breakthrough Performance and Sport Personality of the Year winners

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 travel to Swaffham to take part in Year 7, 8 and 9 athletics meets. There were some fantastic performances across KS3. Well done to all involved. Standby for next year's fixtures!



Our PD pathway in PE proved extremely popular. As part of the week, we enjoyed trips to Combat Paintball, High Lodge and Play2Day. Pupils enjoyed various strategic activities in the woods, disc golf, forest walking, laser tag, adventure golf and bowling. The pupils were impeccably behaved and a real credit to themselves, us, the academy and to you. We love spending time with the pupils outside of a lesson context and hope they enjoyed their time on their pathway. Thank you for a smashing week.



Lastly, a few reminders for September...

Please remember that Iceni branded PE items, or a non-branded plain navy alternative are appropriate for lessons. Socks should be Iceni PE socks or white sports socks only. As we return in September, the weather may still be on the warmer side. Pupils are encouraged to bring extra drinks, suncream and a plain baseball cap to use in lessons. Thank you for helping to support pupils to come well equipped for PE lessons this year, we really do appreciate the logistics that go into this. 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 get any new piercings at the start of the summer holidays, to allow healing for the new school year. Thank you for your support with this.



I wish you all a lovely summer. As a parent myself, I know how chaotic it can sometimes feel. Amid serving as taxi driver, chef, entertainment coordinator and cleaner, ensure you take time for yourself, enjoy a coffee in the fresh air. We've made it again, enjoy. See you in September.

Mrs Bradley, Specialist Leader of PE



Humanities

The Humanities Department has had a busy and productive term as we approach the end of another successful academic year.

Our Year 11 students have worked incredibly hard throughout their summer examinations, demonstrating resilience, commitment and determination. We are very proud of their efforts and wish them every success as they move on to the next stage of their education.

Meanwhile, our Year 10 students have been completing their mock examinations, providing valuable preparation and experience ahead of their GCSE courses. We would like to commend them for their hard work and positive attitude during this important period.

Beyond the classroom, our Year 10 geographers have enjoyed exciting fieldwork opportunities at Hunstanton and Norwich. These visits enabled students to collect and analyse real-world data, developing their geographical skills while bringing their classroom learning to life.

As the term comes to an end, we would like to thank all our students for their hard work and enthusiasm throughout the year. We wish everyone a restful and enjoyable summer break and look forward to welcoming students back in September.

We already have a range of exciting extracurricular activities and enrichment opportunities planned for the new academic year, so watch this space for further details!

Maths

This half term, the Maths Department celebrated the achievements of students who demonstrated outstanding commitment to their independent learning by earning the highest number of points on Sparx Maths and Seneca.

As a reward for their hard work and dedication, Year 7 and 8 students enjoyed an exciting day at Legoland Windsor, while Year 9 and 10 students had a fantastic day at Thorpe Park. It was wonderful to see students enjoying a well-deserved reward after putting in the effort to earn their place on the trip.

We look forward to seeing even more students earn their place on reward trips next year!



Art & Design

Creating, Experimenting, Achieving: Summer Term in the Art Department

This Term...

As we reach the end of another exciting year in the Art Department, it is a great opportunity to celebrate the creativity, hard work, and artistic achievements of our students. Across all year groups, students have explored a range of materials, techniques, and ideas, producing some fantastic outcomes along the way.



Year 7 & 8

Year 7 have completed their Fish Project, where they explored the formal elements of art and developed both drawing and sculpture skills. The project culminated in the creation of colourful clay fish sculptures. Students have now moved on to a Portraiture and Cubism project, exploring creative ways of representing the human face inspired by artists such as Picasso.

Year 8 have explored mechanical forms and a variety of printing techniques before moving on to their current Still Life and Cubism project. Students have developed skills in observational drawing, watercolour painting, and collage, while also creating Pop Art-inspired responses in the style of Roy Lichtenstein.

Continued





Year 9 & 10

Year 9 recently completed their Food and Packaging Project, creating impressive three-dimensional cans using Mod Roc and clay. They are now taking part in a series of mini media workshops, using the theme of trainers to refine their practical skills and experiment with a range of artistic materials and techniques.

Year 10 have been working hard on their Objects Project, developing ideas through research, experimentation, and artist studies. Students are now beginning to follow their own individual creative pathways, producing increasingly personal and independent responses as they prepare for the next stage of their GCSE journey.

Creative Art Showcase.

One of the highlights of the year was our Creative Arts Showcase, which celebrated the outstanding work produced across the department. The event featured a wide variety of artwork from students across all year groups and provided a fantastic opportunity to share and celebrate their achievements.

A particular highlight was the display of Year 11 work, which served as a final showcase of the creativity, dedication, and skill they have developed during their time studying art. Their work was both inspiring and a fantastic example for younger students. The exhibition proved to be a real inspiration for other students, encouraging them to pursue their own creative interests and ambitions. It has been wonderful to see the positive impact this has had across the department.

We were also incredibly proud of one student's personal exhibition of animal portraits. Having devoted countless hours both in school and at home to developing this body of work, they produced a stunning collection of highly skilled pieces.



As always, we are incredibly proud of all our students and their artistic achievements this year. We wish everyone a happy, restful, and creative summer, and we look forward to seeing what they create next term.

SUMMER TERM



Design Technology

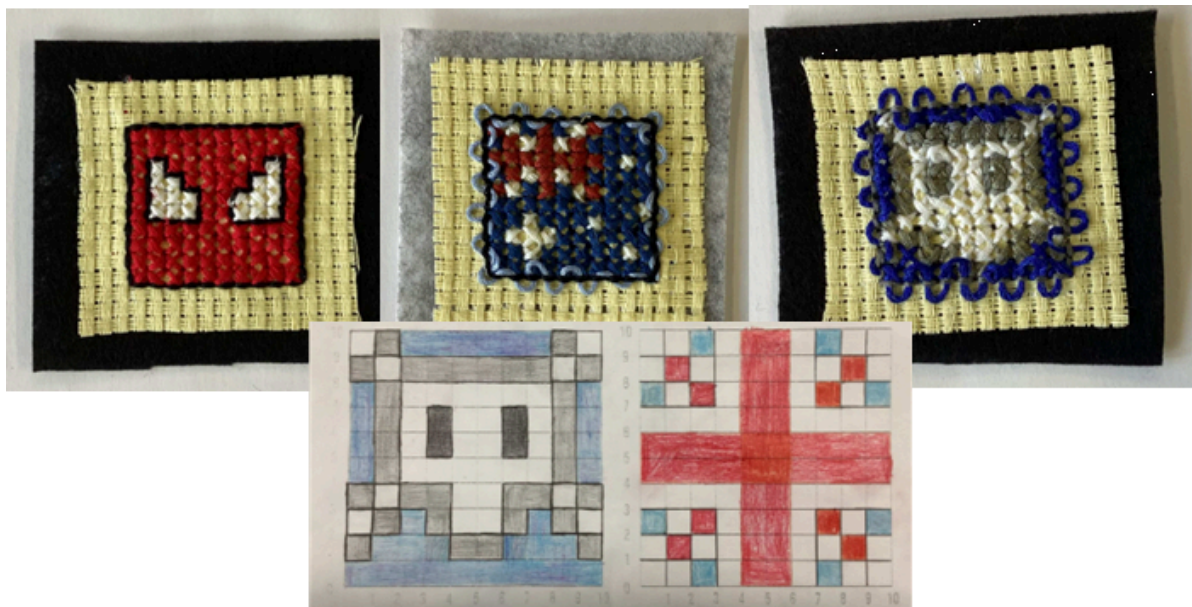
Year 7

Year 7 have finished off the year making their wooden boats. Within this section of the curriculum they have learnt how to, saw, chisel, drill, make a dowel, use a dowel joint and sand. They then personalised their boats by designing and adding flags.



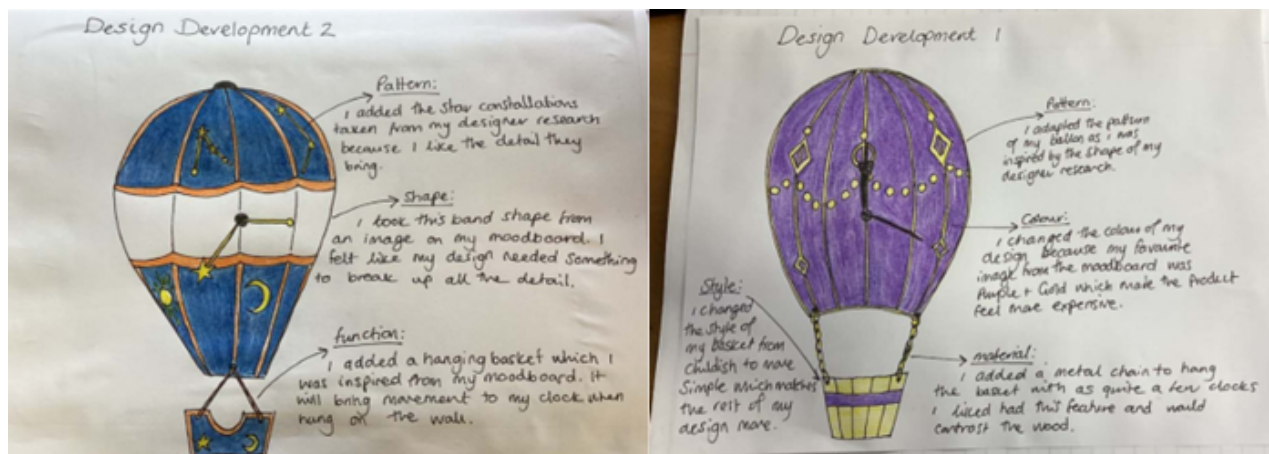
Year 8

Year 8 have been finishing their cross stitch practicals this half term. They had to practice some simple stitches, design and create their own cross stitch designs and then translate their designs into finished pieces.



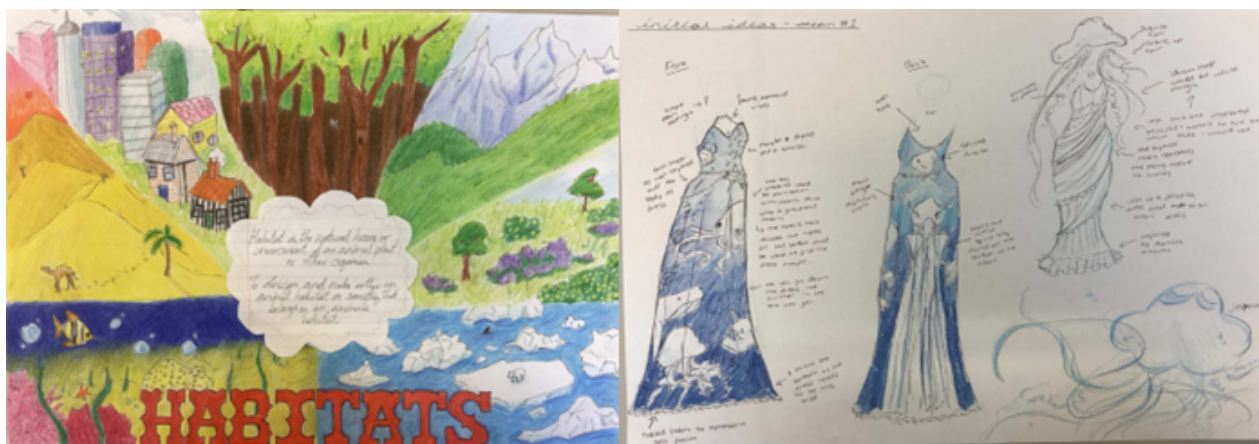
Year 9

Year 9 have been working on their final clock designs of their mini GCSE projects. Their brief was to design and make a functional clock on a theme of their choosing. They also had to make decisions on size and materials of the clock.



Year 10

Year 10 are currently working on their second GCSE project with the title 'Habitat'. Their brief is to design and make a functional product that can be used within a habitat or is inspired by a habitat. This is a fantastic project and we are really starting to see the students creativity and innovation.



Tech Clubs

Year 7 tech club have been working on some beautiful hand crafted side tables within their sessions this half term, taking them proudly home. They explored techniques such as cross halving joints, biscuit joints, accuracy and sanding.

Year 8 tech club made wooden storage stools and even had a go at learning to do bricklaying with Mr Moy out on the playground, as well as creating some incredible bat boxes for the school.

Year 9 tech club have been working collaboratively on a soapbox cart to hopefully race at this years Hunstanton Soapbox race in September.





PD Week Technology Pathway

We offered a 3 day furniture making workshop for this years PD Week. Students were asked to make a high quality wooden side table. Students worked incredibly hard over the three days and created some incredible pieces of furniture. It was enjoyed by all and the students even created their own sanding competition to see whose had the softest finish.

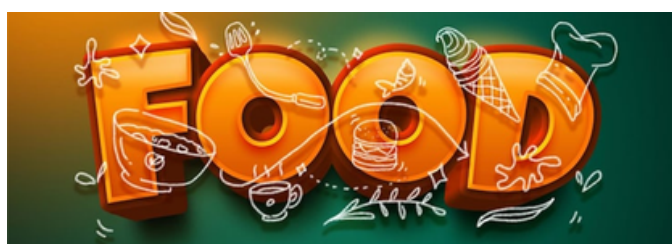


Y6 Transition

We happily welcomed the Year 6s in Design Tech this year, where we put on a thermos-forming keyring workshop. The students had to design a simple stamp out of a wooden block, double sided and different sizes and thickness of wire.

We then heated their chosen plastic in our thermos forming oven and stamped their design onto it. All the students enjoyed the workshop introduction and proudly took their keyrings home.

We also offered some extra transition days within the workshop for our new SEND students to get them used to the workshop environment. The students had a great time making their own Wirlygigs to take home and learned some valuable skills to bring into technology next year.



Year 6 Transition

It was lovely to welcome some of the Year 6s into the Food room. They all had a little taste of what to expect from the Food department when they start full time in September. They worked in pairs and made some yummy chocolate chip cookies which if I do say so were a success. Lots of students enjoyed what they had made. The food department looks forward to making many more delicious things with you in the future.





Year 7

It's all been about vitamins for year 7 and what the benefits are of having certain types of vitamins. We learnt what foods we need to eat to help us with different things. For example, carrots provide you with Vitamin A and help keep your eyes and vision healthy. So yes, carrots do actually help you see more in the dark! Alongside this, Year 7 made some vitamin rich flapjack and some hearty vegetable stir-fry.

Year 8

Year 8 have been learning about GM (genetically modified) crops and British foods. They have loved learning what dishes are popular in the UK and where foods come from. The great popular classic cottage pie was on the menu for Year 8s - a healthy, fulfilling meal made in half an hour! They smelt lovely.



Year 9

The Year 9s have been doing a mini-NEA project like the GCSE students undertake when they start Year 11. The Year 9s have enjoyed researching different dishes from different cultures and loved making either an Italian, Indian or Chinese inspired meal.



Year 10

The reasons for food choice have been thoroughly researched in Year 10, and students have taken a close look at different medical conditions and how these affect the diet. Students also made a few different dishes to round off their first GCSE year in Food, including their own puff pastry and sausage rolls.

Also, a big shout out to the Year 10s who helped bake some yummy things for the Creative Arts evening. They all went down very well.



Y6 Transition

It has been a bit Harry Potter crazy over in the Drama department this last half term. We welcomed our new Year 6s on Transition Day with a fun and interactive workshop with drama games and a mini-script task taken from the films. This workshop was designed to build confidence and start to bring students together to work as a team. Lots of fun and laughter was heard from down the corridor and the students especially liked acting with the props.



PD Week Drama Pathway

Continuing on with the Harry Potter theme, alongside the furniture workshop we offered a performance art pathway all focused around the sage show cursed child. The students had the opportunity to watch the show on the big screen and then audition for their chosen roles. We then worked hard practicing and perfecting 10 scenes to be performed on the stage on the last hour of Wednesday. The students also had the opportunity to design and make their own wands and props to be used within the production. We couldn't be prouder of the students who took part in this pathway, as most were not experienced or confident in acting. But by the end of the week they beamed with pride as they did an incredible job within their performance. Hope to see some new faces at drama club this year.





This year we hosted our first ever Creative Arts Showcase that brought together ever aspect of the Creative Arts Faculty in one celebratory evening. The event provided the students with the opportunity to perform their talents on stage to an outstanding audience. We had a full variety of acts from bands to solos, from acting to dancing.

Alongside this the GCSE food tech students made and sold refreshments to the public and the art and design team put on a fantastic exhibition of students work produced within the lessons. The event was an incredible success and we cannot wait to host another next academic year.





Iceland Trip 2026

In May 2026, twenty Icení Academy geography students and three members of staff travelled to Iceland for an unforgettable five-day field study visit. From glaciers and volcanoes to geysers and waterfalls, the trip provided an incredible opportunity for students to experience first-hand many of the geographical processes they have studied in the classroom.

Based near the small town of Hvalsöðullur on Iceland's south coast, students enjoyed an action-packed itinerary that took them across some of the country's most spectacular and geologically significant landscapes. Every day brought new opportunities to explore, investigate and ask questions about the dynamic forces that continue to shape this remarkable island.

The adventure began at the Lava Centre, where interactive exhibits helped students understand how Iceland was formed and why it remains one of the most volcanically active places on Earth. They then visited iconic locations including the breathtaking Skógafoss waterfall and the famous black sand beach at Reynisfjara. Standing beside powerful waterfalls and beneath towering basalt cliffs gave students a real appreciation of the scale and power of the natural processes they have studied in lessons.

For many, the highlight of the trip was the guided glacier walk on Sólheimajökull. Wearing helmets, crampons and carrying ice axes, students stepped onto the glacier with experienced guides and explored a landscape unlike anything they had seen before. The experience provided a fascinating insight into glacial environments and offered a powerful reminder of how climate change is affecting these fragile ecosystems.

The group also visited some of Iceland's most famous geographical landmarks along the Golden Circle route. At Gullfoss, students witnessed the immense power of glacial meltwater carving its way through the landscape, while at the Geysir geothermal area they watched boiling water erupt high into the air from Strokkur. A visit to Þingvellir National Park allowed students to stand between the North American and Eurasian tectonic plates, bringing the topic of plate tectonics vividly to life.

Another memorable day was spent exploring the Reykjanes Peninsula, an area at the centre of Iceland's recent volcanic activity. Students walked through landscapes transformed by recent eruptions and examined fresh lava fields, seeing first-hand how quickly volcanic processes can reshape the environment. Visits to geothermal hot springs, coastal lava fields and the famous Bridge Between Continents further enhanced their understanding of tectonic activity,



geothermal energy and Iceland's unique position on the Mid-Atlantic Ridge. The trip was not all about physical geography. Students also had the opportunity to experience Icelandic culture and daily life. A visit to the Secret Lagoon allowed them to enjoy one of Iceland's natural geothermal pools, while time in Reykjavík gave students the chance to explore the country's vibrant capital city. The group also visited a family-run dairy farm, where they learned about sustainable food production before sampling some of Iceland's famous homemade ice cream. Throughout the trip, students represented Icení Academy superbly. Their enthusiasm, curiosity and willingness to embrace new experiences were evident at every stage of the visit. Whether hiking on a glacier, investigating volcanic landscapes or exploring Iceland's unique cultural heritage, they approached every activity with maturity and a genuine desire to learn.





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