



Dear Parent/Carer,

Welcome Back to a New Academic Year

On behalf of the Creative Arts Faculty, I would like to extend a very warm welcome to all students and families as we begin another exciting academic year at Iceni Secondary Academy.

We are looking forward to a year filled with creativity, innovation, achievement, and opportunity across our subjects of Art, Design & Technology, Food Preparation and Nutrition, Music, and our extensive extracurricular programme.

This year, we are particularly excited to launch our brand-new **Creative Arts Cup Competition**, an initiative designed to celebrate creativity, reward achievement, and encourage friendly House competition throughout the school year.

The Creative Arts Cup

Each half-term, students will have the opportunity to take part in a range of exciting curriculum-based competitions linked to Creative Arts subjects. These may include design challenges, baking competitions, artistic showcases, musical performances, and themed creative projects.

Points will be awarded within each class as follows:

- **1st Place:** 20 Creativity Points
- **2nd Place:** 10 Creativity Points
- **3rd Place:** 5 Creativity Points

These points will contribute towards each student's House total and help determine which House leads the Creative Arts Cup competition.

In addition, students who achieve **1st Place** within their class will receive an exclusive **subject-themed Creative Arts badge** to wear proudly on their blazer, recognising their outstanding creativity and achievement.

House Awards and Prize Draw

At the end of each term, Creative Arts Cup standings will be announced and celebrated across the Academy.

Students belonging to the House with the highest number of Creativity Points will be entered into our annual **Creative Arts Prize Draw**.

During our end-of-year celebrations on the final day of the summer term, one student from the winning House will be randomly selected to receive a **£50 Creative Voucher**.

We hope this initiative will encourage students to challenge themselves, showcase their talents, and engage enthusiastically in the wide range of creative opportunities available throughout the year.

Working Together for Success

The Creative Arts Faculty has worked hard to plan an exciting, engaging, and ambitious curriculum for the year ahead. Across Art, Design & Technology, Food Preparation and Nutrition, Drama and Music, students will have opportunities to develop their creativity, confidence, practical skills, and independence through a wide range of challenging and enjoyable learning experiences.

To ensure that our curriculum is successful and that all students can fully participate in the opportunities available to them, we greatly value the support of both students and parents/carers.

Food Preparation and Nutrition

As practical work forms a significant part of the Food Preparation and Nutrition curriculum, it is essential that students bring the required ingredients for each practical lesson. Students will be provided with a minimum of **two weeks' notice** of the ingredients they need to bring for each practical task, allowing sufficient time for preparation.

As in previous years, we remain committed to ensuring that all students can access the curriculum equally. Ingredients will continue to be provided for students eligible for **Pupil Premium support**. We will shortly be sending a form to parents/carers to enable us to organise this provision for the current academic year.

To maintain high standards and ensure the smooth running of practical lessons, students who fail to bring the required ingredients without prior arrangement will receive a **T2 Lack of Equipment sanction**. As students without ingredients are unable to safely participate in practical activities and their presence within the practical environment may present health and safety concerns, they will be directed to **Reflection**, where they will complete alternative written work relating to the lesson content.

We appreciate your support in helping students arrive prepared for their practical lessons and in reinforcing the importance of organisation and responsibility, which are key life skills alongside the culinary skills they will develop during their studies.

GCSE Art and GCSE 3D Design

Students studying **GCSE Art** and **GCSE 3D Design** are expected to bring their sketchbook and A3 portfolio folder to every lesson. These resources form an essential part of the GCSE course and contain ongoing practical work, research, development, and assessment evidence.

Students may choose to take their sketchbooks and folders home in order to continue working on coursework; however, they are responsible for ensuring that these materials are brought back to school for their next lesson. Failure to do so can significantly impact both the progression of their individual work and the flow of teaching and learning within the lesson.



To encourage students to develop positive organisational habits and to ensure they are appropriately prepared for learning, any student who arrives without their sketchbook or A3 folder will receive a **T2 Lack of Equipment sanction**. Unlike in practical Food Preparation and Nutrition lessons, students will remain in the classroom and will be expected to complete alternative work during the lesson.

In addition, from this academic year, students studying **GCSE Art** will be required to provide their own sketchbooks throughout the two-year course. Students will typically require **three sketchbooks** over the duration of their GCSE studies. This requirement will not apply to students eligible for **Pupil Premium support**, for whom sketchbooks will continue to be provided by the Academy.

This change offers several benefits. It allows students greater flexibility and ownership in selecting a sketchbook that suits their preferred working style, including its size, format, and presentation. It also enables departmental funds to be redirected towards enhancing the provision of specialist materials, equipment, workshops, and learning resources, ensuring that students have access to the highest quality creative experiences throughout their studies.

Parental Thanks

Thank you for your continued support of the Creative Arts Faculty and the opportunities we provide for our students. The strong partnership between home and school plays a vital role in helping young people achieve their full potential, and we greatly appreciate your assistance in ensuring that students arrive prepared, organised, and ready to learn.

Should you have any questions regarding the Creative Arts curriculum, equipment requirements, extracurricular opportunities, or if you require any additional support, please do not hesitate to contact **Mrs Zoe Francis-Pugh, Head of Creative Arts Faculty**, who will be happy to assist.

Yours sincerely

Mrs Zoe Francis-Pugh
Head of Creative Arts Faculty

