



2nd September 2026

Principals Welcome

Dear Parents and Carers,

I hope you have all enjoyed a restful and enjoyable summer break. As we begin a new academic year at Iceni Academy, I am delighted to welcome both our returning families and those joining us for the first time.

Over the summer, we have continued our commitment to improving the academy and creating an environment of which our students can be proud. You will notice a number of exciting developments across the site, including new windows, refurbished corridor flooring, outdoor graphics and many other enhancements. Collectively, these improvements have given the academy a much-needed lift and created a brighter, more welcoming environment for our students and staff.

It was also a pleasure to welcome our outgoing Year 11 students back to the academy for Results Day. The outcomes demonstrated that the vast majority of students achieved the grades we had predicted for them, highlighting the increasing accuracy of our assessment processes and giving us confidence that we know our students well and understand their strengths and areas for development.

Whilst the results reflected the hard work and commitment of our students and staff, we are ambitious for more. We know there is still work to do to ensure even more young people achieve the highest possible outcomes and leave Iceni Academy with the qualifications and opportunities they deserve. This academic year, we will continue to focus relentlessly on improving teaching, learning, attendance, behaviour and student support so that outcomes continue to improve year on year.

This half term, I would like to draw your attention to a number of important dates:

3 September – Year 7 and Year 11 students return to the academy.

3 September – Our inaugural Big School Camp Out for Year 7 students. This is the first time we have hosted such an event, and we are incredibly excited about the opportunity it presents to welcome our newest students and further strengthen our academy culture.

4 September – All remaining year groups return to the academy.

17 September – Student Leadership Presentation.

24 September – School photographs for Years 7, 8, 9 and 10.

1 October – Vaccination Programme.

8 October – Open Evening for prospective Year 6 students and their families.

22 October – Year 7 Settling-In Evening, providing an opportunity to reflect on how our newest students have adapted during their first half term with us.

I would also like to take the opportunity to recognise **Mrs Walker**, who has made the decision to retire after nearly 20 years of dedicated service to the academy. Throughout her time at Iceni, Mrs Walker has provided unwavering support to countless students, families and colleagues, and her commitment to our community has made a lasting difference. Her experience, kindness and dedication will be greatly missed by all who have had the privilege of working with her. On behalf of the entire academy community, I would like to thank Mrs Walker for everything she has done over the past two decades and wish her a long, happy and well-deserved retirement.

As we embark on another year together, I would like to thank you for your continued support of the academy. The strongest schools are built on positive partnerships between students, staff and families, and your encouragement of high standards, good attendance and positive attitudes to learning makes a significant difference to your child's success.

We cannot wait to welcome our students back and begin another exciting year at Iceni Academy. Together, by working in partnership and supporting our shared values of Aim High, Work Hard and Be Kind, I am confident that we can continue to build an academy of which our whole community can be proud.

I look forward to seeing many of you at our events over the coming weeks and to working with you throughout the year ahead.

Mr Rushton

From the Vice Principal (Quality of Education)

I am really looking forward to welcoming our students back for another academic year. This year, alongside my continued work on the quality of education across the academy, I am delighted to be taking on responsibility for SEND. Having worked at Iceni for many years, I am particularly excited to bring together these areas of our work and ensure that every student is supported to succeed in the classroom.

There is lots to look forward to this year, including the continued development of teaching and learning, our new whole-school reading programme, Iceni Reads, and our ongoing work to ensure that students are known, supported and challenged to achieve their very best.

I look forward to working with students, staff and families throughout the year ahead.

Miss Staniforth

From the Vice Principal (Behaviour & Welfare)

I hope you have had a wonderful summer break and have enjoyed spending time with family and friends. We are very much looking forward to welcoming our students back to a refreshed and revitalised Iceni Academy this week.

The year ahead promises to be an exciting one. We will continue to develop our House system and rewards programme, launch a new student leadership team, and provide a range of opportunities for students to contribute to and take pride in their school community. We are also looking forward to



our second Personal Development Week, which will further enrich students' experiences beyond the classroom.

At Iceni Academy, we remain unapologetic in our commitment to maintaining the highest expectations in every aspect of school life. High standards of attendance, behaviour, effort and presentation create a culture where all students can thrive. By establishing clear routines and expectations, we equip our young people not only for success in their GCSE examinations but also for the opportunities, challenges and responsibilities they will encounter beyond Iceni and in the wider world.

One of the most significant developments this year is the introduction of our mobile phone pouch system, which has been communicated previously. We believe this change will have a profoundly positive impact on students' concentration, engagement in learning, social interaction and overall wellbeing. Our aim is to create an environment where students can focus fully on their education and build stronger relationships with their peers and staff without the distractions that mobile phones can often bring.

As we prepare for the start of term, I would strongly encourage all families to review our uniform expectations to ensure a smooth and positive start to the academic year. The guidance can be found here:

[FINAL-ICENI-Uniform-Expectations-2026-2027.pdf](#)

Mobile Phones

As outlined previously, all students will be issued with a mobile phone pouch on their first day back. Students will be guided through the process and expectations surrounding the pouch system to ensure they fully understand their responsibilities.

The pouch will be issued to each student and must be looked after carefully throughout the year. Any lost or deliberately damaged pouch will need to be replaced at the family's expense. Further details regarding replacement procedures and costs will be shared in the coming weeks.

Student Planners

Students will also receive their planner on their first day back. The planner is an important communication tool between home and school and can be used by both staff and parents or carers to record notes and messages.

Within the planner, students will complete their Personal Record of Achievement (PRA) each week. This provides a snapshot of attendance, conduct and achievement from the previous week, while also recognising students who achieve 100% attendance and zero negative behaviour points. PRA reviews will take place every Tuesday.

We would greatly value the support of parents and carers in checking the planner each week with their child. Celebrating successes together and discussing areas for improvement can have a significant impact on a student's progress and development. Further guidance on understanding and using the PRA pages will be shared shortly.

We look forward to welcoming **Year 7 and Year 11 students on Thursday 3 September**, followed by **Years 8, 9 and 10 on Friday 4 September**.

Thank you for your continued support. By working together, we can ensure every student has a successful, enjoyable and rewarding year at Iceni Academy.



I look forward to working in partnership with you over the coming year as we continue to encourage our students to Work Hard, Aim High and Be Kind.

Mr Morris

Mr Rushby A. Staniforth *John*