



ICENI ACADEMY NEWSLETTER

OCTOBER 2026

- Icení Reads
- Rewards
- Mountfitchet Castle Trip
- House of Commons Trip



Principal's Post

Dear Parents and Carers,

It has been an action-packed start to the academic year, with many successes and some really positive developments in the culture of our Academy.

Throughout the half term, we have welcomed a number of visitors who have commented on the positive learning environment, the smart appearance of our students, and the confident and respectful way in which they conduct themselves around the Academy. It is always pleasing to hear others recognise the progress we are making, and our students deserve real credit for the part they play in this.

One of the most significant changes this term has been the introduction of phone pouches. These have been very well received by our students, and I truly believe this is one of the most important things we can do to support their wellbeing. Removing the distraction of screens during the school day allows students to focus more fully on their learning, while also encouraging them to talk, socialise and spend time with their friends face to face.

Another highlight was our first ever Year 7 Big Camp Out, which formed part of our extended transition and induction programme. The feedback from students has been extremely positive, and it was a fantastic way for our newest students to build friendships, develop confidence and begin their time at the Academy together.

It has certainly been a busy half term. Alongside everything happening in lessons each day, we have had school photographs, our Open Evening and a trip to Mountfitchet Castle, as well as many other opportunities for our students.

Our Year 11 students have also made a positive start to their final year as they work towards their GCSEs. We already have a number of strategies and interventions underway to give them the support, challenge and opportunities they need to achieve the very best outcomes possible. I have been impressed by the way many have approached the year so far, and the hard work now needs to continue.

Finally, I would like to thank all of our parents and carers for your continued support throughout this first half term. Working together makes a huge difference to our young people, and your support for the Academy and the expectations we set is greatly appreciated.

I hope you and your families have a fantastic and well-deserved half-term break. We look forward to welcoming all of our students back to the Academy on Monday 2nd November, refreshed and ready for another successful half term.

Richard Rushton
Principal
Iceni Secondary Academy



Update from Mr Morris

As we reach the end of another busy half term, I would like to take the opportunity to thank our students, staff and families for their continued support. It has been particularly pleasing to see a positive reduction in behaviour incidents across the academy. This reflects the high expectations our students continue to demonstrate each day, alongside the strong relationships and support systems we have in place. Students are increasingly making positive choices, showing respect for one another, and contributing to a calm and purposeful learning environment.

You may also have noticed the significant improvements we have made to the academy environment. Over the summer holidays and past half term, considerable work has taken place to enhance displays, celebrate student achievements, and improve the overall fabric of the building. We firmly believe that a positive environment helps students to feel valued, take pride in their surroundings, and develop a stronger sense of belonging. It has been wonderful to see students respond so positively to these changes and take greater ownership of their school community.

Attendance remains a key priority, and I would like to sincerely thank parents and carers for their support. Regular attendance is one of the greatest contributors to student success, and we have much to celebrate. This half term, **213 students achieved 100% attendance**, while **320 students (58% of our cohort) achieved attendance above 95%**, meeting our whole-school attendance target. These figures are a testament to the commitment shown by our families in ensuring students are in school, every day, ready to learn. We want to continue to grow this number which will have a significant positive impact on students outcomes and chances in life.

To further support families, we will be holding our first-ever Attendance Coffee Morning. We understand that maintaining excellent attendance can sometimes be challenging, and this event will provide proactive strategies, advice and support to help families overcome any barriers that may arise. We will be sharing further details and inviting parents to attend during November.

I would also like to recognise the excellent start made by our new Student Leadership Team. They have embraced their roles with enthusiasm and professionalism, already making a positive contribution to academy life. Their commitment to representing the student body and helping shape future developments has been impressive.

One initiative that has been particularly well received is the introduction of our Student Voice Drop-In. Every lunchtime, students have the opportunity to meet with members of the Student Leadership Team to share ideas, raise concerns, and discuss ways we can continue to improve the academy. The quality of feedback has been excellent, and it reflects our commitment to ensuring that every student feels heard and can play an active role in making Icen Academy the very best it can be. Real Voice. Real Change. The Student Leadership team are already working on the feedback received.

Thank you once again for your continued support. Working together, we can ensure that every student at Icen Academy has the opportunity to Aim High, Work Hard and Be Kind.

I wish you a restful half term break and we look forward to welcoming all students back on Monday 2nd November.

Mr Morris



Update from Miss Staniforth

As we move further into the school year, I wanted to take a moment to reflect on some of the things I have particularly enjoyed this term. Alongside my role as Vice Principal, I have recently stepped into the SENCo role, and it has been a real privilege to get to know even more of our students and families. Thank you to the many parents and carers who have already been in touch. The partnership between home and school is so important, and I always welcome conversations about how we can work together to help every child thrive.

If your child has SEND and you would like to arrange a meeting with me, you can book a convenient time using the following link: <https://calendly.com/amystaniforthics/30min>

Similarly, if your child has a SEND need and you have not yet completed our "Getting to Know You" form, I would be grateful if you could do so using the links here: [Year 7](#), or [Years 8-11](#). This will help me refine or design One Page Profiles to help all our colleagues help our students with SEND needs.

I would also like to recognise the incredible work of our SEND team and, most importantly, the determination and resilience shown by many of our students with additional needs each day. It is a pleasure to work alongside them, celebrate their successes, and continue developing the support we provide.

Finally, it was fantastic to see so many Year 11 parents and carers at our recent Information Evening. Thank you for your support as we work together to help students achieve their very best. For anyone who was unable to attend, a recording of the session is available here: [Year 11 Information Evening Recording Link](#)

After half term, we will be launching our targeted intervention programme for Year 11 students. This will provide additional opportunities for focused support and challenge as we build towards the summer examinations. We are excited to share more details soon and look forward to working closely with students and families as we continue raising achievement and celebrating success.

Thank you, as always, for your continued support. I wish you all a happy and safe half term break.

Miss Staniforth



Year Team Updates

Year 7

Year 7 pupils have made an outstanding start to the academic year and have embraced every opportunity that life at Iceni has to offer. From the very beginning, students have demonstrated our school values of working hard, aiming high and being kind, setting an excellent standard for the year ahead.

One of the highlights of the term was the Year 7 Big Camp, which provided a memorable introduction to secondary school life. Pupils spent the night on the school grounds, taking part in a range of team-building activities designed to strengthen friendships, build confidence and develop resilience. It was fantastic to see students stepping outside their comfort zones, supporting one another and creating lasting memories as they established themselves as valued members of the Iceni community.

Since then, lessons have been in full swing, with Year 7 students approaching their learning with enthusiasm and determination. Teachers have been incredibly impressed by their positive attitudes, willingness to participate and commitment to achieving their best. Whether in the classroom, around the school site or during enrichment activities, our newest students have shown maturity, kindness and a genuine desire to succeed.

Their hard work has certainly been recognised. This half term alone, Year 7 pupils have achieved an incredible 79,000+ positive points. These achievements are celebrated each week through our Pupil Record of Achievement programme during form time, giving students the opportunity to reflect on their successes and take pride in their progress.

Reading has also been a major focus this term through Iceni Reads. Across the year group, pupils have been immersing themselves in a range of exciting and thought-provoking texts. Two forms are currently enjoying the adventure and wonder of 'The Hobbit', while other forms have recently completed 'The Blue Book of Nebo' and 'The First Year'. It has been wonderful to see so many students engaging enthusiastically with books, sharing ideas and developing their love of reading.

We are incredibly proud of everything Year 7 has achieved so far. Their positivity, ambition and kindness have made a brilliant first impression, and we look forward to seeing what they accomplish in the months ahead.

Well done, Year 7!



Year 8

It has been a really positive start to the year, and wonderful for staff to see just how much many pupils are flourishing and growing in confidence following their transition from Year 7.

It is wonderful to have so many from the year group really stepping forward to represent the very best of the school - from Dexter and Amicie as House Captains, Sophia and Hadi as our Heads of Year, to those pupils such as Sawyer who act as fantastic ambassadors for the Iceni Academy in their pursuits outside of school - there is so much to celebrate this half term and for the students to be proud of!

We have really enjoyed celebrating Year 8, too, and I have had the pleasure to hand out rewards for the top five positive earners in the year each week. It has been genuinely wonderful to see so many rewarded for their hard work and effort. I sincerely look forward to this continuing after a well-deserved break!

Year 9

Year 9 pupils have made a fantastic start to the year, embracing the opportunities and responsibilities that come with this important pre-GCSE stage of their education. As they begin to look ahead to Key Stage 4, students have shown impressive maturity, ambition and determination, demonstrating a real drive to achieve and make the most of every lesson.

Across the curriculum, pupils have been challenging themselves, engaging positively with their learning and developing the skills and knowledge that will prepare them for future success. It has been wonderful to see so many students taking ownership of their progress and beginning to think carefully about their next steps as they move closer to GCSE study.

A key part of Year 9 life this term has been Iceni Reads, which has introduced pupils to a range of engaging and thought-provoking texts. Students reading *Terror Kid* by Benjamin Zephaniah have explored a powerful and fast-paced novel that tackles contemporary issues surrounding identity, belonging and the dangers of extremism. The book's gripping storyline and important messages have prompted thoughtful discussion and reflection.

Meanwhile, pupils reading *Scythe* by Neal Shusterman have been transported to a fascinating dystopian world where humanity has conquered death itself. The novel raises challenging moral questions about justice, power and what it means to be human, encouraging readers to think critically about the society in which they live.

Others have been reading *They Both Die at the End* by Adam Silvera, a moving and memorable story that explores friendship, courage and the importance of making the most of every moment. The novel has sparked meaningful conversations about life, relationships and the choices we make.



Year 9 students have also been fully immersed in Inside GCSE, an exciting new initiative designed to help pupils gain a deeper understanding of GCSE subjects before making their option choices.

Throughout the term, students have been exploring what different subjects involve, learning about course content, assessment methods and the skills required to succeed.

Next half term, pupils will have the opportunity to take part in GCSE subject "sit-ins", allowing them to experience lessons first-hand before attending Options Evening. This will ensure that they arrive well informed, confident and ready to make choices that suit their interests, strengths and aspirations.

We are incredibly proud of the enthusiasm, maturity and ambition shown by Year 9 so far. As they continue their journey towards GCSE study, we look forward to seeing them build on this excellent start and continue aiming high in all that they do.

Year 10

I am pleased to say I have taken on the head of Year 10 and know that I have a group of form tutors, working alongside me, that are as dedicated as I am to help Year 10 make the best start possible to their GCSE years.

This year sees the start of the GCSE years and that means that year 10 really need to focus and support each other to help achieve.

I know we can do well; I am proud to help support you with your journey and your success.

I thank all the year 10s that work hard, aim high and are kind every day. I look forward to working with you all throughout the rest of the year-parents and students alike.

Many thanks.

Have a great half term.

Miss Tooze



Year 11: Coming Back Strong!

Year 11 have started their final year at Iceni academy with a positive attitude and a strong focus on success. It has been fantastic to see the vast majority of students engaging well in lessons and demonstrating a commitment to their learning.

Attendance has risen and is a significant improvement compared to this time last year. While this is a great achievement, we know there is still more work to do, and we encourage all students to continue striving for excellent attendance every day.

Students have also been working hard to demonstrate our school values, earning an incredible 63,305 positive points this half term. Every positive point reflects the effort, resilience, and determination shown by our students both in and out of the classroom.

A huge congratulations goes to 11 Orange, who achieved the highest attendance of any Year 11 tutor group with an impressive 94.4%. Not only that, but they also claimed the gold medal for the most positive points, earning an outstanding 15,220 positive points. A fantastic achievement!

We would also like to celebrate the students who have received the highest number of values awards this half term:

- **Aim High:** Alfie P and Lexi W
- **Work Hard:** Sophie G and Lottie D
- **Be Kind:** Peter D and Sarai S

These six students have consistently demonstrated our school values and are excellent role models for their peers. As a special reward, they will each receive the school's first VIP Pass during the first week back after half term.

Class of 2027 Leavers' Prom

We are pleased to announce the date and venue for the Class of 2027 Year 11 Leavers' Prom. The event will take place on Thursday 24th June at Red Barns, South Runcton.

The prom promises to be a fantastic opportunity for students to celebrate the end of their secondary school journey with friends and staff. Further details regarding tickets, timings, and arrangements will be shared in the coming weeks. Fundraising for the event will also start after half term.

Well done to all of Year 11 for a strong start. Let's continue to Aim High, Work Hard, and Be Kind as we move forward together.



PE

Welcome back to PE! What a busy start it has been! We have been very impressed with how pupils have applied themselves to lessons from the off. Our new Year 7s have made a strong start and have shown excellent organisational skills overall during their transition to secondary school. Well done, and keep up the good work! All KS3 pupils have now completed their first two units of work, with football, tag rugby, netball, basketball, multiskills, table tennis and dance lessons being taught across Year 7 to 9. Year 10 and 11 have been busy completing lessons in Capture the Flag, fitness, step, netball, football, tag rugby, dodgeball, table tennis and basketball. It has been excellent to see the high levels of effort in core PE lessons across the year groups. Keep it up during the next units of work!

Our Year 10s have made an excellent start to their KS4 examination PE course - Cambridge National in Sports Science. They have been busy completing fitness testing sessions to establish baseline fitness data for use in their assignments and have been working with real purpose and effort. Well done, keep up the good work.

Year 11 pupils have also made a cracking start to the year, in what is their final year of their Sports Studies course. It has been an absolute privilege to see the pupils lead their sports sessions this term. Pupils have planned a session, completed a risk assessment and have then led the session to complete their assessment for part of their Leadership and Performance unit. The sessions have been outstanding. In all honesty, I think the pupils have surprised themselves with just what they can achieve with focus, preparation and organisation. These pupils have been coming into school early or spending their break and lunch time setting up their sessions. That alone, sums up this group of children and how they have approached this part of their course. Fantastic! Pupils will now review their session to complete the final part of their current unit before we move to exam content towards the end of November. Well done, Year 11- you've got this!

We continue to provide a wide range of extra-curricular opportunities for pupils here at Icen Academy. Pupils in years 7-11 have enjoyed fixtures in football and netball in the South Norfolk leagues and tournaments already this year. It has been great hearing about how keen the new Year 7's have been and how they have already picked up some great results. It was an absolute pleasure spending the evening at Wymondham College this week with the U16 netball team. What a fantastic group of girls, who demonstrated a real sense of togetherness on court against multiple teams.

Our affiliation with fellow ATT academy, The Nicholas Hammond Academy (TNHA), Swaffham, continues to provide an excellent opportunity for our KS3 pupils to be involved in extra-curricular sport. This half term, we welcomed teams from TNHA to the academy and completed football and netball fixtures in Years 7, 8 and 9. Already, these fixtures have seen over 100 pupils participating in sport; a real testament to both the enthusiasm of pupils and the hard work of the PE staff. The highlights of this round were several excellent performances on the netball courts and a 10-0 victory for the Year 7s! Next half term will involve our pupils travelling to Swaffham for the next round of fixtures, this time, in boys and girl's basketball.





Year 7 ATT football squad

Over half term, work will begin on improving a number of lesson facility areas in PE. These improvements will make ensure that pupils are able to complete their lessons in more inspiring and engaging environments. Our house team logos will become a feature of these improvements, just in time for our first House Cup event of the academic year in November. I look forward to writing to you at Christmas to share the results of what is always a hotly contested cross country programme of events, sharing what I hope will be a victory for the mighty Cavell! Good luck to all teams, may the best house win!

A superb first half term in PE! Thank you to our pupils for coming to PE lessons ready to learn, meet expectations and work hard. As always, a big thank you to our parents/carers for washing kits, signing countless permission slips and providing lifts for pupils after fixtures. A huge thank you to the PE team who work tirelessly and continuously to provide our pupils with high-quality lessons and countless opportunities for sporting activity.

A gentle reminder that:

- * All jewellery must be removed for lessons, this includes new piercings. We cannot allow piercings to be taped up in lessons and therefore pupils will be expected to remove them. Please encourage pupils to wait until July for new earring piercings. Thank you for your support with this.
- * Pupils must bring a note in their planner if they are excused from PE, as well as their kit to change into. Please refrain from emailing the office with such notes, as we can always guarantee that staff are able to pass these on in time. Ill/injured pupils will generally follow their group and be given an alternate role within the lesson. It is important that they have a clean, dry uniform to change back into after their PE lesson.



* If a pupil wishes to wear a non- Iceni branded PE kit item, this must be plain and navy. This is in line with the government pledge to make school uniform more affordable if branded items cannot be purchased. No branded items will be accepted and pupils will be asked to borrow kit.

* With wetter weather on the way, it is always a good idea to supply your child with a plastic carrier bag to put in their school bag ready to accept wet and muddy trainers! This will prevent the insides of their bags and any contents from being covered in mud.

I wish you all an enjoyable half term. A favourite of mine as we pair what feels like the very last bit of the milder weather with the first of the autumn walks, welcoming a new season and all the colours it brings. Grab yourself a coffee and try to enjoy some time and gentle exercise outside in the fresh air.

See you all in November!

Rebecca Bradley, Specialist Leader of PE.

Maths

It has been a positive start to the academic year for the Maths Department, with students settling into their learning well and making a great start to their studies. We are pleased to now be implementing the Trust Scheme of Work across Years 7, 8 and 9.

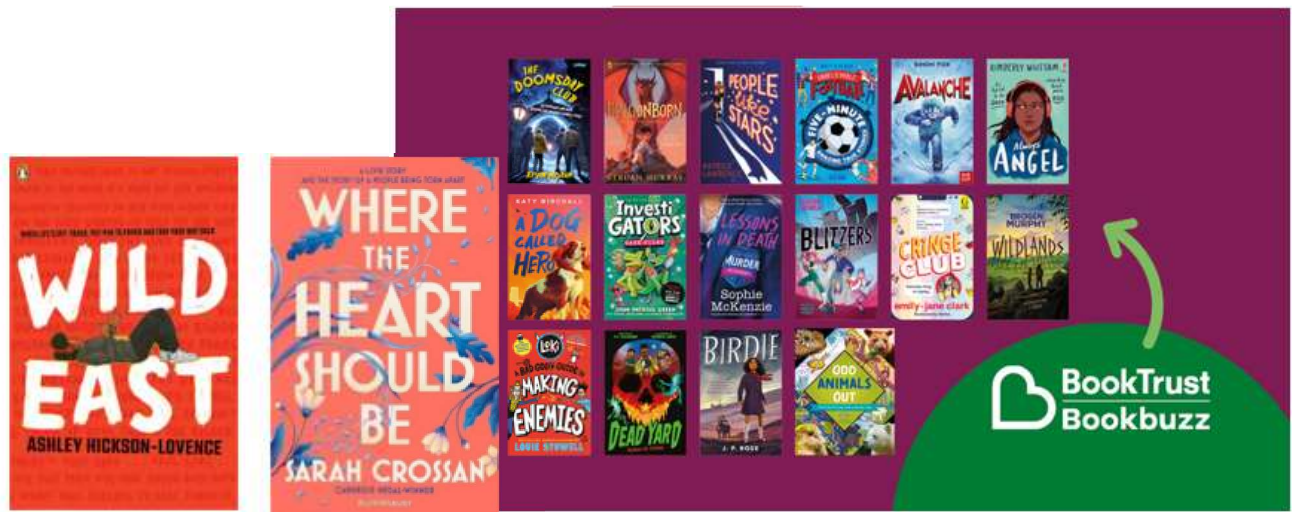
The three-strand approach is already proving beneficial, helping us to provide appropriate support and challenge for students in every class, ensuring that all learners have opportunities to develop their mathematical understanding, build confidence and reach their full potential.

We would also like to extend a warm welcome to Mr Flack, who joined us in September and will be working with the Maths Department throughout this academic year. We are delighted to have him as part of the team.

Miss Saunders
Director of Maths



English



A Brilliant Start in English!

We are delighted with the positive start students have made in English this term. Year 11 have approached their GCSE studies with enthusiasm and determination, with particularly high attendance at our lunchtime revision sessions. It has been fantastic to see so many students taking these opportunities to strengthen their knowledge and build their confidence.

Across the department, new texts are inspiring thoughtful conversations. Year 9 have been studying *Where the Heart Should Be* by Sarah Crossan, a stunning verse novel set during the Irish potato famine. It has been a pleasure to hear students and teachers discussing its characters, exploring its historical setting and responding to its powerful story.

We are also excited to have joined Bookbuzz, a reading programme from BookTrust, for our Year 7 students. Each student has chosen a book from a selection of 16 titles, which they will receive free of charge as a gift from the school. Their books will be coming home in time for some half-term reading, and there may even be an opportunity to begin reading them in English lessons, too!

Bookbuzz complements our Icení Reads programme by giving students the chance to make their own reading choices. Having the freedom to choose a book encourages students to consider their interests, discover what appeals to them and take ownership of their reading. We hope these books will be enjoyed, treasured and shared.



There is plenty to look forward to next half term. Our Scholastic Book Fair will be visiting the academy for a week, giving students the opportunity to browse and purchase a range of books. More information will follow from Ms Horncastle soon.

In November, we will also welcome author Ashley Hickson-Lovence, whose novel *Wild East* features in our Year 8 Icen Reads selection. Year 8 students will work with him in reading and creative writing workshops, an exciting opportunity to meet an author, explore his work and find inspiration for their own writing.

Thank you to our students for such a promising start. We look forward to another half term filled with reading, discussion and creativity!



Icen Reads: Sharing Stories, Building Belonging

At the beginning of every academy day, something special happens: for 15 minutes, students across Icen pause to enjoy a book together. Through our Icen Reads programme, stories are becoming a shared part of daily life, bringing students and staff together through the pleasure of reading.

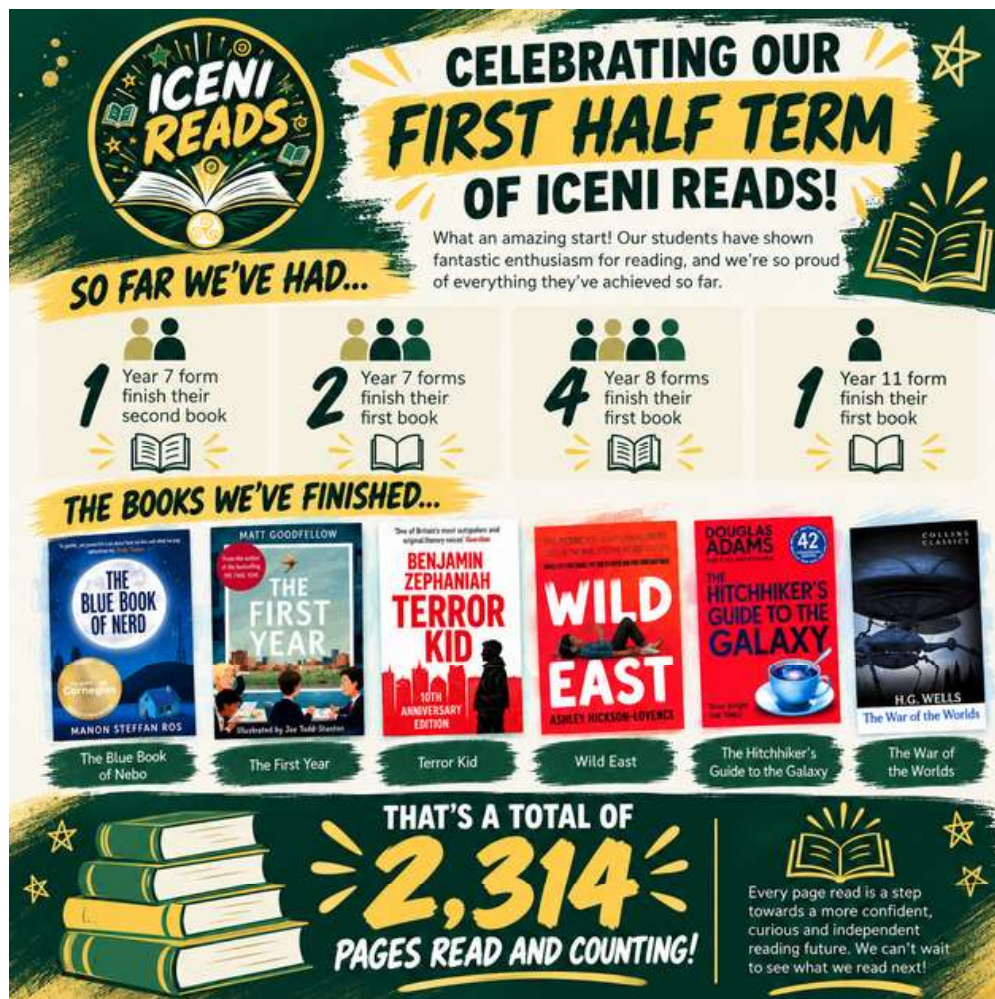
Our aim is to help every student develop a love of reading while discovering their own tastes. Encountering different genres, characters and perspectives gives students the opportunity to work out what they enjoy, and what they don't. Finding out which stories capture their imagination is an important step towards becoming confident, independent readers.

It has been a real joy to walk around the academy and see classes immersed in stories together. These shared experiences help build a sense of belonging: everyone can join the conversation, offer an opinion and discover how differently others might interpret the same events. It has been particularly wonderful to hear students and staff discussing characters, debating their decisions and wondering what might happen next. Our reading journey includes a wide range of exciting and thought-provoking books. Year 7 students encounter titles such as 'The Hobbit' and 'The Blue Book of Nebo', while Year 8's selection includes 'Wild East', 'Terror Kid' and 'The HitchHiker's Guide to the Galaxy'. In Year 9, books such as 'They Both Die at the End' and Neal Shusterman's 'Scythe' offer plenty to discuss. Year 10 explores texts including 'The Hate U Give' and 'Lord of the Flies', while Year 11's selection includes 'The War of the Worlds', 'The Great Gatsby' and 'Life of Pi'.

Some forms have already finished their first book and are moving on to their second - a fantastic milestone! We are delighted to celebrate students' achievements with certificates of completion at our end-of-term rewards assemblies.

Thank you to all our students and staff for embracing Icen Reads. We are excited about the stories, discoveries and conversations still to come!





Humanities

It has been a busy and exciting start to the half term for the Humanities team!

We were fortunate to take members of our Politics Club on a visit to the Houses of Parliament, where students had the opportunity to see British democracy in action and learn more about the political processes they discuss in club meetings. The students represented the school brilliantly throughout the trip and asked some thoughtful and insightful questions.

Our Year 7 students have also enjoyed a fantastic visit to Mountfitchet Castle. The trip brought history to life, allowing students to explore a reconstructed Norman castle and village, helping to deepen their understanding of life in medieval England.

Back in school, we have recently launched our new Humanities Club, which takes place every Tuesday lunchtime. The club explores a wide range of topics from across the Humanities family, including Geography, History, Politics, Religion and current affairs. It has been fantastic to see so many students getting involved, sharing ideas and developing their curiosity about the world around them.

We are looking forward to another exciting half term filled with opportunities for students to explore, question and discover more about our world and its past.

Mr Haymes and Mr Dyer-Jones



Rewards

The hugely successful Personal Record of Achievement (PRA), which gives pupils a weekly opportunity to reflect on their successes from the previous week, continues this year as part of the Student Planner. Alongside this, staff have been asked to consistently recognise the positive behaviours, effort and attitudes we see every day. Pupils continue to respond superbly to rewards, showing a real shift in the culture to want to achieve.

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

- 2025-26 **saw 123,499** positive events recorded by staff compared to 67,111 in 2024-25.
- Over **27,000 positive events** have already been recoded by staff this half term alone.
- Weekly VIP queue jump passes continue to be issued to the top five pupils in every year group.
- Pupils will once again be working long term towards their Bronze, Silver, Gold, Platinum, Double Platinum and Triple Platinum recognition in Success Assemblies.

These figures reflect the outstanding effort, conduct and commitment shown by our pupils. We hope to see many pupils also striving to be invited to the Subject Awards Evening, which was so successful at the end of the last Academic year:



House System

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



A-C

**ATTENDANCE
CUP**



D-J

**SPORTS
CUP**



K-R

**KNOWLEDGE
CUP**



S-Z

**RECOGNITION
CUP**

**CREATIVE ARTS
CUP**

The House system enters it's second year with the healthy competition and excitement remaining. Pupils have fully embraced opportunities to represent their House and are wearing their newly issue House badges with pride.



Nelson were crowned House Champions 2025-26 winning four of the House Cup competitions through the year. This is now reset for the new academic year, but Nelson is the first House name to be added to the Roll of Honour Board.

We also welcome two new competitions to our established three. The Attendance Cup will be based on House Attendance per term, with the winning House taking both the Cup and earning a House non-uniform day. The second new addition is the Creative Arts Cup being led by this subject faculty, with six in-class competitions to decide both the House winner and individual pupil winners.

The Sports, Knowledge and Recognition Cup remain. The first Sports and Recognition Cup will be up for grabs next half term, and the first Knowledge Cup taking place on Friday 23rd October. The winning House will receive a non-uniform day, which we will confirm via letter.



Student Leadership

Student Leadership have started the year fantastically. Many of the team supported various roles at Open Evening, from meeting and greeting, speeches to families, organising refreshments and organising car parking.

They now have their own office, which is manned every lunchtime. This gives the pupil body chance to report any worries, improvements or ideas which Student Leadership can then action during their formal meeting with Mr Taylor and Mr Morris.

Heads of House have also been particularly busy organising teams for the upcoming Knowledge Cup, with record numbers signing up to take part. We would like to take this chance to thank our Student Leadership team for all they done so far.

Some of the Student Leaders have also be involved in interviewing candidates for vacancies within the Academy, representing student views on prospective staff.

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

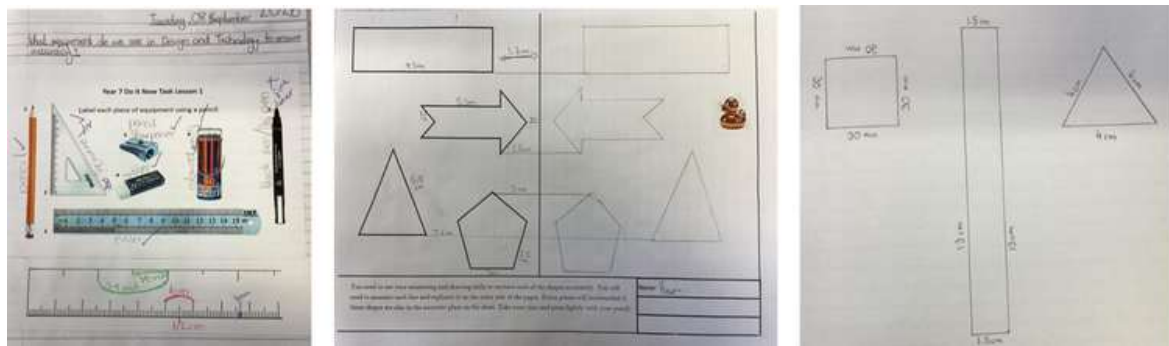
Mr L Taylor and Mr J Morris





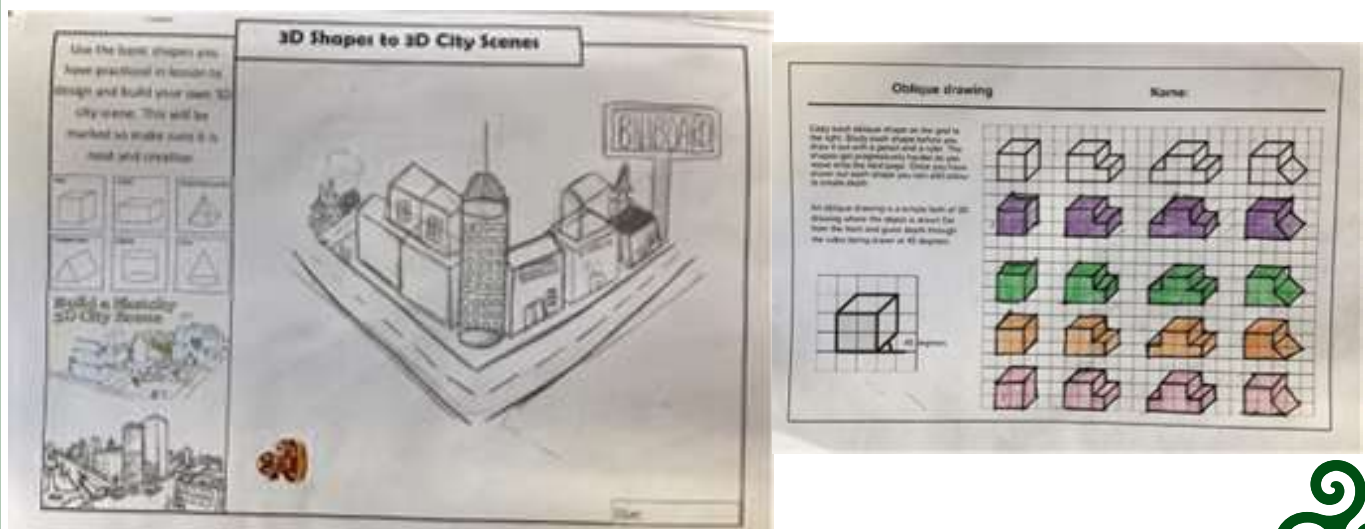
Year 7

Year 7 technology students have started the year building skills in accuracy and measurements ready to start their first project after the holidays. They have been taught all about the different types of measurements, their uses and which are used within the design and technology lessons. We then used these measurements to accurately draw straight lines at varying lengths and simple 2D shapes, before being set an independent challenge of drawing and measuring.



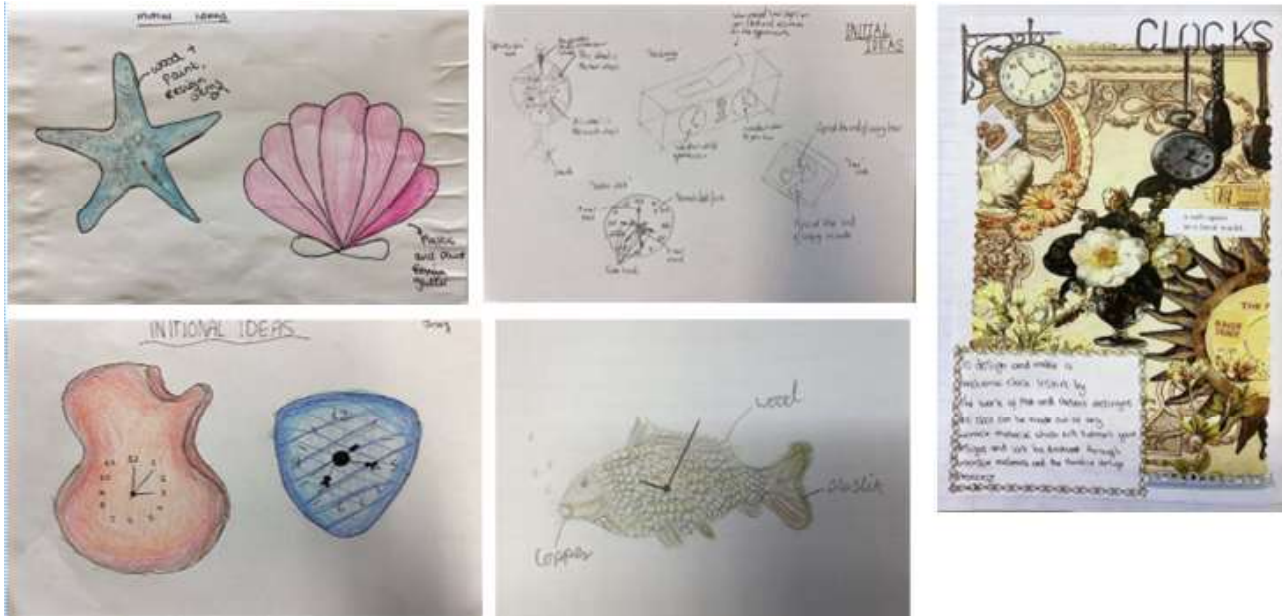
Year 8

Year 8 technology students have started the year developing their technical drawing/graphic communication skills. In Year 7 we start our graphic communication journey in 2D accurate drawing involving simple measurements. We build up from this by introducing six of the most important 3D shapes, and how these can be used to create most 3D drawn ideas. These shapes are then used to create their own 3D city drawing by adding detail and layering. We have then started exploring the difference between oblique and isometric drawing, which are two different techniques of 3D drawing. By providing the students with these skills they will be able to effectively draw their own ideas of products they wish to make using the realistic form of 3D.



Year 9

Year 9 technology students will be spending the year completing a mini-GCSE design project, where they will follow the iterative design cycle with the finished product being a clock of their choosing. Students will need to justify their choices, research their ideas and test out techniques in order to effectively develop their work. This will give them an insight into how the 3D GCSE works and is assessed ready for them making their choices in the new year.



Year 10

Year 10 3D students have just started their first GCSE project with the theme of architecture. They have completed a series of different graphic communication workshops based on an architect of their choosing. Within this they have completed a freehand sketch using no tools of support, a digital CAD drawing and a one point perspective drawing all taking inspiration from their chosen architects work. They will then evaluate which style of graphic communication works best for them and which they will use within the later stages of their project.



Year 11

Year 11 students are moving towards the end of their second GCSE 3D project with the brief 'Habitat'. This project has been designed to allow students to be independent and creative with their ideas and has resulted in students designing a wide variety of products, from musical instruments to dresses and from children's toys to human scale puppets. We cannot wait to see some of these ideas start to come to life outside of the pages of their sketchbooks.



Tech Clubs

This year's tech clubs have started with a bang. The Year 7 club is thriving with new energetic, passionate students eager to learn and create more practical products. They have started this year by making some beautiful wooden trinket boxes. Year 8 tech club have started the year with a bit of engineering, making a suction engine out of scrap and demonstrating these beautifully at our recent open evening. Year 9 tech club is all things soap box after our outstanding success at this years Hunstanton soapbox race. We now have 3 teams exploring and researching potential ideas for next years competition.



Iceni Academy Students Race to Success at Hunstanton Soap Box Derby

Rural Academy Celebrates Double Podium Success as Students Turn Workshop Scrap into Award-Winning Soapboxes

Students from Iceni Academy Secondary, Methwold have reason to celebrate after an incredible showing at this year's Hunstanton Soap Box Race, where determination, creativity, and teamwork helped secure two of the three podium positions in the Under-16 category.

Members of the school's Technology Club spent months transforming discarded materials and workshop scrap into a fully functioning soapbox racer without any financial backing. Through careful research, detailed planning, innovative design work, and countless hours of hands-on construction, the students proved that ingenuity and dedication can achieve remarkable results. The Iceni team, consisting of Charlie T, Mikey T, Logan B, and Anastacia 'Anabree' S, worked tirelessly throughout the project, applying engineering and problem-solving skills developed through the club. From the initial concept sketches to the final build, every stage of the soapbox's development was completed by the students themselves using reclaimed materials sourced from around the workshop.

Their hard work paid off spectacularly on race day, as the team powered their way to an impressive third-place finish in the Under-16 category. Following their podium success, each team member was presented with a medal by the Mayor of King's Lynn, marking a proud moment for both the students and the academy.

Adding to the celebrations was fellow Iceni student Harvey Andrews, who has spent the year supporting the team during the construction of their soapbox. He inspired the project due to Harvey's previous experience in making and competing in soapbox events.

His efforts resulted in an outstanding performance, with Harvey racing to first place in the Under-16 category, securing the top podium position against strong competition. Staff at Iceni Academy praised all of the students involved for their commitment, resilience, and innovation.

"This achievement demonstrates everything we value at Iceni Academy," a spokesperson said. "The students showed outstanding creativity, teamwork, and determination. To build competitive soapboxes entirely from recycled materials, with no financial input, is an incredible accomplishment. We are immensely proud that our students secured two of the three podium places in their category."





The success highlights the growing strength of practical technology education at the academy, where students are encouraged to apply classroom learning to real-world challenges. By combining engineering principles with sustainable design practices, the students not only produced race-winning vehicles but also demonstrated the value of recycling and resourcefulness.

For the young engineers of Iceni Academy, the Hunstanton Soap Box Race was far more than a day of competition. It was the culmination of months of hard work, collaboration, and perseverance, resulting in a memorable achievement that the school community will be celebrating for a long time to come.

Results – Under-16 Category:

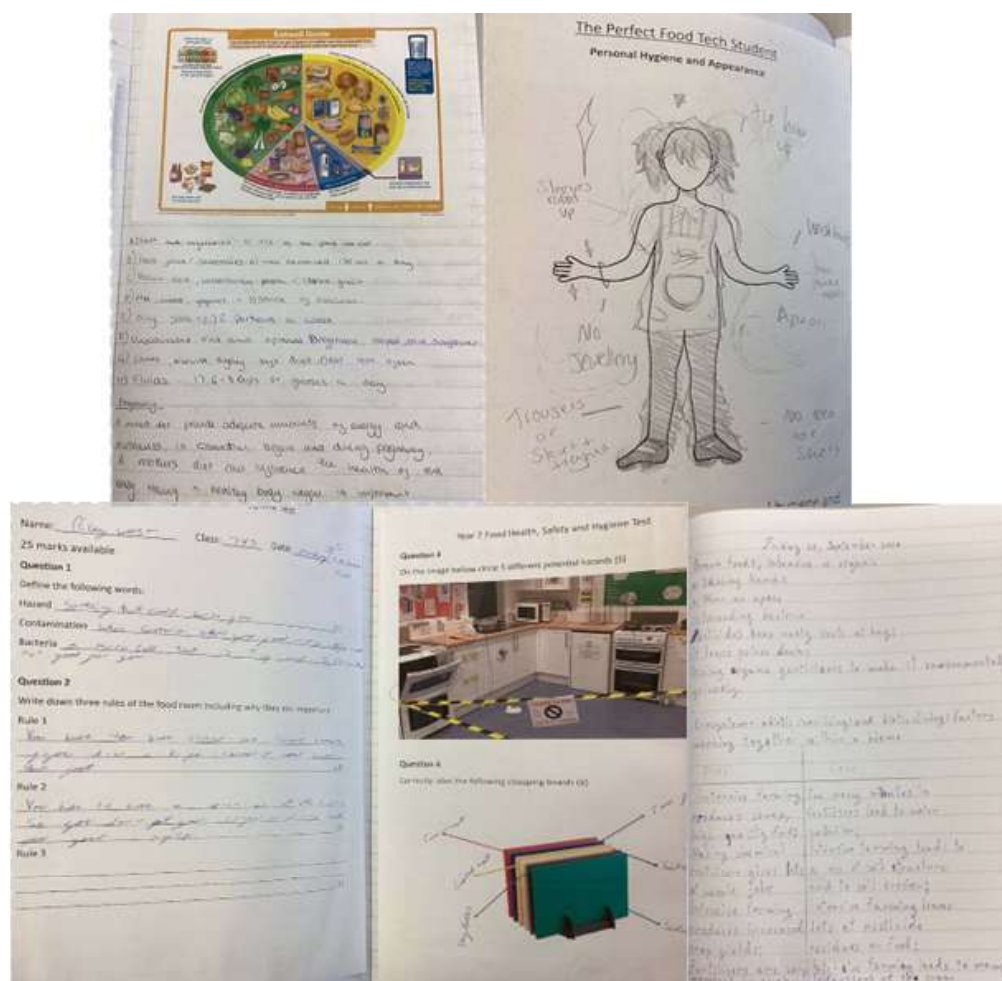
- 🥇 1st Place: Harvey A (Iceni Academy Secondary, Methwold)
- 🥉 3rd Place: Charlie T, Mikey T, Logan B and Anastacia 'Anabree' S (Iceni Academy Secondary, Methwold)





KS3 7, 8, & 9

Year 7 Food students have started the year focusing on basic food and personal hygiene within their theory lessons. Exploring the different coloured chopping boards, personal hygiene rules within the food practical room and different methods of knife skills ready for their first practical of fruit fusion. Year 8 students have started the year thinking about the social, moral and economic factors linked to the food industry. Within their first theory lessons they have evaluated the differences between organic and intensive farming practices and how different foods are grown. This leading seamlessly into their first practical: bacon and pea risotto. Year 9 food students have been exploring nutrition and different nutritional needs in more detail. Evaluating the different nutritional needs for all stages of life and the effects that could occur if these needs are not met. They are then going to make an iron-rich burger and sweet potato fries, targeted at an adolescents' nutritional needs.



KS4 Year 10

Year 10, this term, have been looking at all things carbohydrates and have explored the chemical and functional properties of these. This included a taste testing session of different types of bread to create a sensory analysis star diagram looking at different attributes. We have also looked at primary and secondary processing and how raw ingredients get turned into different food products such as how wheat is processed into flour, and flour baked into bread. We are now starting to look at food fortification and modification and the pros and cons of adding different ingredients into food to enhance flavours, colours or nutritional values.

Alongside this we have made some beautiful bread products including focaccia and shaped bread rolls as we explored the roles each ingredient played in the making of the bread.

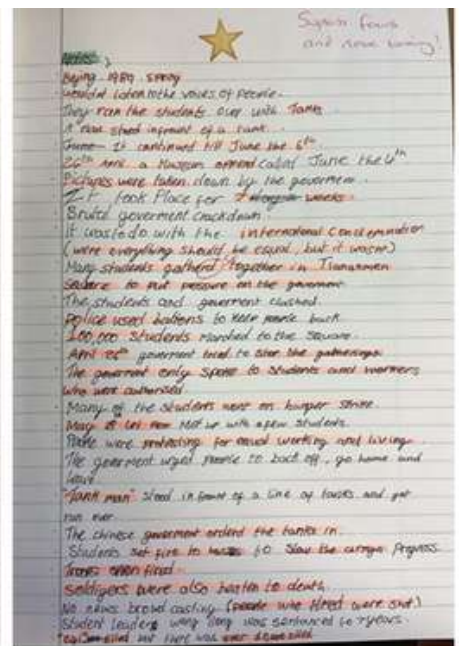
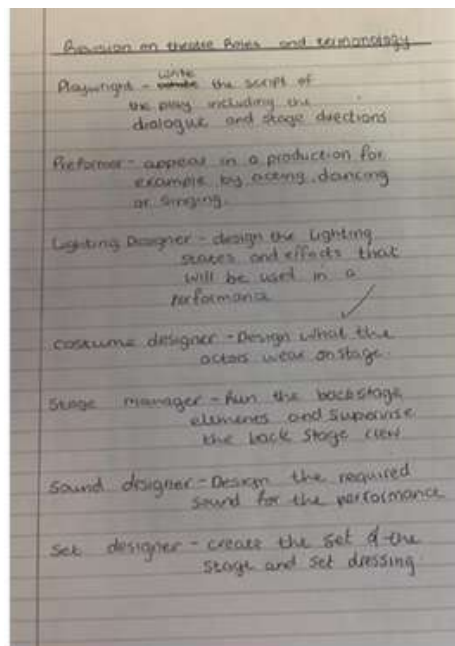
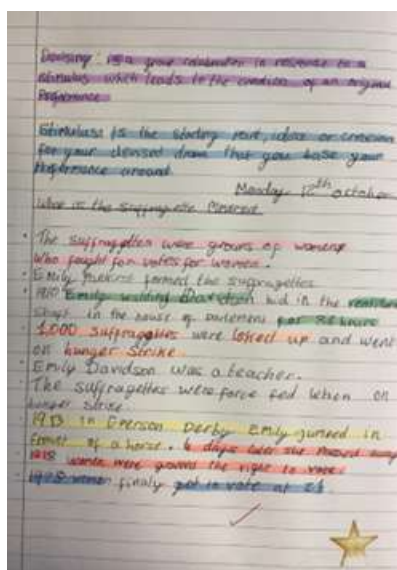
Year 11

Year 11 have started their first piece of official NEA coursework exploring how enzymic browning works and what is the most efficient way to prevent it. They have completed extensive research and came up with their own hypothesis to test within the practical experiment. They are currently collecting and analysing the data collected from the experiment and concluding their investigations.





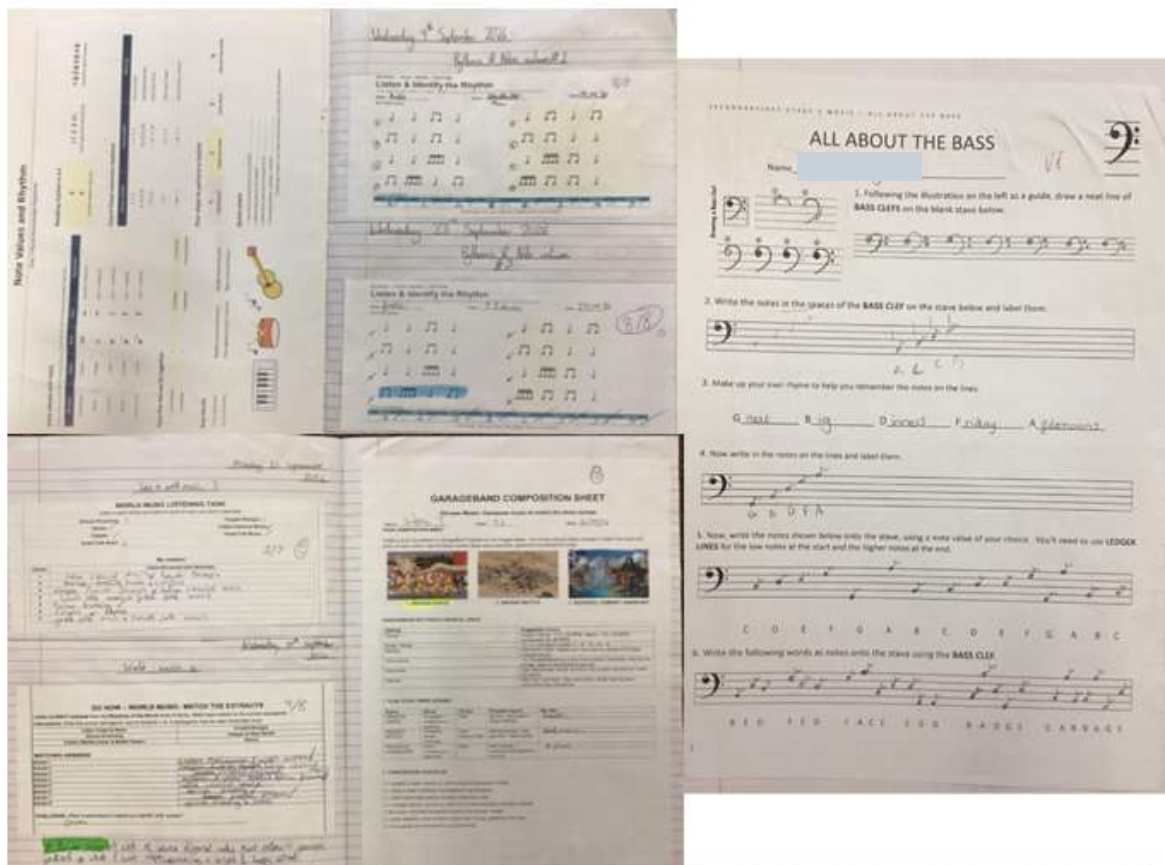
This term in GCSE Drama, Year 10 have enjoyed learning the rudiments of theatre, staging and all technical aspects. Using this knowledge, the class have begun to work on the practical skills of a devised performance. We are also delighted to share that we have acquired tickets to see a performance of 'Blood Brothers' at Norwich Theatre at the start of next year. 'Blood Brothers' is the set text for the GCSE examination, so this will be the perfect opportunity for students to experience the play in a live format.



There has been lots of exciting learning taking place in Music! Year 7 are building the foundations of their musicianship by developing their understanding of music notation and rhythm, learning how to read, recognise and perform a variety of rhythmic patterns. Year 8 are progressing onto the bass clef, exploring bass melodies and bass lines and putting their knowledge into practice through keyboard performance. Meanwhile, Year 9 are beginning their new topic on Musical Fusions and Reggae, exploring how different musical styles, cultures and influences can come together to create distinctive sounds.



It has been fantastic to see students developing their musical knowledge, practical skills and confidence across all year groups. We look forward to hearing their musical skills continue to grow throughout the term!



Year 7

Year 7 Art students have started off the year building up their basic art skills under their first project title 'Fish'. So far they have learnt about the theory of tone, how its used and how it is created. They have practiced their sketching by continuing an image of a fish and applied their new skills in tone. They will then be moving onto mark making techniques and applying this to the same drawing.

Year 8

Year 8 Art students have started a project called mechanical forms which will be a textiles based project exploring patterns and collage. They started off exploring pattern inspired by mechanical form, creating a mixed media layered collage within their sketch books. They have now moved onto studying a British based printmaking artist Eduardo Paolozzi.



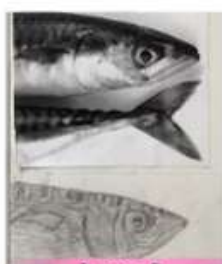
Year 9

Year 9 Art students have been working on their new project of food and packaging. So far they have tried some different experimental drawing techniques such as continuous line and blind drawing. They have then created a high quality tonal drawing of a custard cream.

Year 10+11

KS4 are working incredibly on their own independent GCSE projects. Year 10 have settled so well into the course and are already creating some incredible work within their sketchbooks.

THE ART ROOM



Humanities

On Friday 16th October Year 7 travelled to Mountfitchet Castle to explore the grounds of a reconstructed Motte and Bailey Castle from the Norman Conquest. The students had a great time exploring the defensive features and building an understanding of what life would have been like for people living in an early Norman settlement. The enthusiasm and focus of our students were impressive as they got their first real experience of this important period of English history.

Mr Dyer Jones



I recently took members of the Politics Club and Student leadership on an educational visit to the House of Commons, where they had the opportunity to see British democracy in action. The tour gave students a fascinating insight into the history and workings of Parliament, including the role of MPs, the legislative process, and the importance of debate and representation. Throughout the visit, students demonstrated excellent curiosity and engagement, asking thoughtful questions and making links to topics discussed in school. Feedback from students regarding the visit highlighted that the experience provided a valuable opportunity to deepen their understanding of politics and to take an even greater interest in current affairs and public service!



Miss Power







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