



Choose to Succeed



Welcome to Icen Academy

I am very pleased to introduce you to the secondary phase of Icen Academy, a school at the centre of its community. Originally built as Methwold High School, we have been serving the village of Methwold and surrounding area for over sixty years and continue to bring excellence in education to the heart of rural Norfolk.

I can only show so much of what we have to offer over the next few pages. Please do contact us for a tour to see what a typical day looks like. You will find students hard at work and engaging in high quality lessons delivered by subject experts. Our passion for the subjects that we teach here will shine through. We are also passionate about our students and are deeply committed to ensuring that they have a rich and successful experience at Icen. We believe in equipping students with the knowledge, skills and confidence for the future and the dedicated body of staff here work tirelessly to support success for all. Our aim is that all students leave us as highly qualified, resilient and articulate young adults.

Wrapped around our excellent academic curriculum sits a pastoral team that contributes immensely to our culture of developing the whole child. Students at Icen learn kindness and respect, with their own well-being and that of those around them

of paramount importance. We expect students to positively contribute to the school community, improving and enhancing the experience, both for themselves and those that follow.

At this academy, we strongly believe in working in partnership in the best interests of our students. Parents/carers, students, staff, governors and community groups ensure that the young people in our academy enjoy their time with us and use the opportunity to achieve some exceptional outcomes.

I hope this prospectus gives you a brief insight into why I am so proud to be a part of Icen Academy.

Mrs Lesley Hogg

Principal





An Academy to be proud of

At Icen Academy every student is recognised as a unique individual. Students are allocated to small Personalised Learning (PL) groups when they join the academy and each group is led by a Personalised Learning Tutor who takes responsibility for the academic progress of each student in the group.

The first session of each day is dedicated “personalised learning” time and consists of a variety of activities including literacy, community service, careers, character development, development of independent learning skills and celebration of success.

Personalised learning time is very much focused on the whole child and the tutors periodically meet with students individually to ensure they are well placed to maximise on all of the opportunities available to them and to tackle challenges.

Students are expected to play a key role in their own development at Icen Academy and also in supporting their peers in their PL groups and in their wider school community. Students may get opportunities to act as mentors to others, present the views from their PL group at Icen Parliament and get involved in a whole range of other ways around the academy.

We believe that all students have the right to get the best exam results possible while maintaining a focus on providing character and cultural development opportunities. In lessons, teachers pride themselves on their ability to personalise the learning by focusing on each student’s needs in order to enhance progress, achievement and participation.

This is the students’ academy and we are committed to constantly reviewing and adapting what we do to best meet the needs of the students and their community. Students get regular opportunities to feed back through their Members of Parliament who attend the Icen Parliament, via questionnaires and also by using the diary room.





The Iceni Entitlement

All staff at Iceni Academy work hard to ensure that Iceni students leave the academy well qualified but also well-rounded as individuals. In return the expectation is that all students make a positive contribution to Iceni Academy and play a role in enhancing and improving it for others.

We want all students to **enjoy learning**. We have highly-motivated students, high quality teaching and supportive parents so exams results (currency) are very good. However, there is always scope to improve further and, with our students, parents, staff and community we are constantly reviewing what we do.

We want all students to **feel valued**. Our students are at the very centre of what we do at Iceni Academy. We expect students to be understanding, caring, kind, respectful and tolerant of others in the academy. We support our students in engaging with democracy and to appreciate the rule of law.

We want all students to **experience success** both inside and outside the classroom. We encourage students to grasp all of the opportunities to develop skills outside the classroom with a particular focus on leadership, organisation,

resilience, initiative and communication. We want our students to leave as well-qualified and well-rounded individuals ready to play their role in the community.

We are proud of our students and encourage them to continue to play a vital role at Iceni Academy when they leave by joining The Old Icenian's Association.

“Pupils discover new talents.”

“Older pupils participate in clubs and a cadet force.”

– Ofsted
March 2020





The curriculum

We are proud to offer a broad and balanced curriculum which we think helps prepare our students for life after they leave Icenia Academy. We want our alumni to play a role within their community and go on and achieve great things.

A celebration of the Arts

We are passionate about Art, Drama and Music and that students get the chance to develop performance skills. We have various productions throughout the year and plan to develop this further in the future. In addition to this we also have a range of peripatetic music teachers visiting delivering tuition on a range of instruments.

We encourage students to talk to their Creative Arts teachers about how they can fulfil their artistic potential. A small investment of a students' time in The Arts usually results in excellent progress across a range of subjects.

Excellent Design Technology Facilities

We believe that for some students the acquisition of practical skills is crucial and has benefit across a range of other subjects. We have a fully equipped graphics studio and are able to offer a combination of traditional drawing skills backed up by various computer packages.

Our resistant materials facilities are also excellent. Highly experienced teaching is enhanced by a range of equipment including 3D printing facilities. Food Technology is also a popular subject and we have specialist tuition and well-equipped learning spaces to support this.

Sports skills

We have teams in a whole range of sports and encourage all students to participate. You don't have to be a star performer (although we like those too) but you have to be committed and determined.

At Icenia Academy we believe the lessons you learn from Games / PE go way beyond the lesson itself. Team work is crucial whatever career you pick, sometimes you will have to be part of a team and sometimes you will have to lead it.

We want our students to learn humility in success and also to learn lessons when things (occasionally) don't go to plan on the field.





Key stages

Key stage 3

Students at Icen Academy follow a broadly traditional range of subjects during Key Stage 3 including Art, Drama, Technology, Languages (including Mandarin) and PSHE. We believe in working with our local primary schools to plan for a seamless transition between Years 6 and 7.

It is our aim that students should accelerate their academic progress throughout the academy. Students are challenged and stretched through engaging and personalised lessons leading to high levels of enjoyment and an excellent foundation for Key Stage 4.

To be successful at GCSE and beyond, we help students develop the ability to work collaboratively and to increase resilience, confidence, independence, and an awareness of their strengths. Most importantly, students need to know that they can and will succeed. We believe in celebrating all achievement at Icen Academy and encourage students to take pride in all that they do.

Key Stage 4

Students maintain a focus on their core studies throughout Key Stage 4. All students study for GCSEs (or qualifications of an equivalent standard) in English (Literature and Language), mathematics and science (Triple or Double). In addition to their core studies, students will choose three additional GCSEs (or equivalent).

Students are guided in their Key Stage 4 studies through highly personalised careers information, advice and guidance. Students are given time throughout all Key Stages to explore their future plans and career pathways. It is our aim that the curriculum offer will reflect students' hopes and needs.





Pastoral care

Our work on culture goes towards helping students understand who they are. The well-being of all students is our primary concern throughout Iceni Academy. We measure progress not only by exam results but also by the journey of children into confident, happy and caring young people.

Our students develop understanding through our bespoke learning programme, which they follow during PL time (form time). This is a highly adaptable and well resourced programme which we tailor for the needs of each year group.

Students learn kindness and we ask them to have a “mind to be kind” and to take opportunities to support other students both in terms of how they are in the academy and also the academy itself. Our students take pride in, and respect, their physical learning environment. With their PL (form) groups they take turns to help maintain it.

We believe that the quality of pastoral care is as valuable as the quality of teaching in the classroom. Bespoke social and emotional development programmes are followed by some students and, when it is appropriate, visiting speakers offer specialist information raising awareness in relation to Personal, Social and Health Education aspects.

A pastoral team, including the Intervention team, Tutors and Heads of Year, oversees students as they progress through each year group, offering support, mentoring and guidance. The team regularly monitor attendance, support students returning after absence and take the necessary actions to prevent prolonged absence.



“Pupils say they feel safe in school and inspection evidence supports this.”

– Ofsted
March 2020



Beyond the classroom



Through our work on character students learn how to relate to those around them. We have a specific focus on LORIC skills which are: Leadership, Organisation, Resilience, Initiative and Communication including Oracy.

As an academy that is always looking to improve we think a focus on these skills will provide students with the best possible opportunities when they leave us and go on to the next stage in their learning journey.

The LORIC Edge programme will allow them to develop and be accredited for these five essential attributes. They have been especially chosen for their formative qualities in character development as well as their desirability by employers.

We want to ensure that students leave Icen Academy with not only the best qualifications possible but also with a myriad of personal attributes allowing them to stand out from the crowd and achieve their goals.

Competition for University places and employment opportunities is always increasing and we think that by embracing this programme our students will have the edge over others and be more employable.

We believe that currency (exam results) gets you to the door of opportunity but it is character development that gets you through that door!

“The curriculum is broad and balanced.”

– Ofsted
March 2020





Our community

We are passionate about playing our role in our community both in sharing our facilities and also in making sure that the young men and women who leave us are ready to make their contribution to help others.

We work with a number of key partners in the community including the local primary schools, local church and local youth group. Our partnerships help us improve the opportunities for our students.

Old Icenian's Association

We believe that our students can play a crucial role at Icen Academy once they have left. Future students can get enormous benefit from working with them and they can help shape the future of Icen Academy. For this reason we recently set up the Old Icenian's Association. We already have over 100 members and they get involved in life in the academy in a variety of ways.

Recently some Alumni really enhanced an enrichment day, about careers, by talking about their careers and pathways in to their work. We also have reunions planned as well as opportunities for Alumni to catch up informally and get involved in academy life.

Parent Teachers' Association

We formed our first PTA in 2017 and already our willing and enthusiastic volunteers are working hard to enhance the lives of students at Icen Academy. So far they have arranged a fashion show, bingo nights, car boot sales and a number of other events.

Details are on our website if you would like to get involved.

www.icenimethwold.attrust.org.uk





History

In recent years Icenia Academy has achieved some of the best results in West Norfolk. The academy has a long history of success as Methwold High School.

Methwold High School became Hockwold and Methwold Community School in September 2011. This was as a result of the merger of Hockwold Primary School and Methwold High School. The school then became an academy in 2013 and was renamed Icenia Academy. It continues to operate on two sites (Secondary in Methwold and Primary in Hockwold).

The current building was built in 1957 with an official opening in 1958. It has evolved since then but at it's core still has the same solid roots of history and tradition.





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