

#IceniAcademy



DECEMBER 2020



@IceniAcademy

PROUDLY
SHARING
OUR NEWS

'Choose to Succeed'

PRINCIPAL'S POST

Welcome to the first edition of the Icen Academy Newsletter. My first term as Principal has certainly been eventful. I don't think that anyone could have envisaged the challenges that we have had to face. The whole academy community has responded magnificently though, with staff and parents coming together to ensure that the experience for students returning to the academy following lockdown was a positive one.

In January, we look forward to welcoming new members of staff. Mrs. Clark joins us in English, and Ms. Jacobsz is joining the Mathematics department. We will also welcome Mr. Carter, our new Assistant Principal who will work with Mr. Carmichael on continuing to improve and raise expectations around behaviour and attitudes to learning. Mr. Brodie steps down as Director of Communications after transforming the attainment of our students in English; Miss Staniforth will be picking up the reins until we can find a permanent replacement. Mr. Spurgeon steps down as Director of Health and PE, with Mr Taylor taking on the position. Mr Spurgeon leaves a successful and well-respected department that students thrive in. I'm sure you will join me in thanking these two excellent teachers for their hard work and dedication.

NEWS FROM OUR YEAR GROUPS

Year 7

Year 7 have had a wonderful start to their five years at Icen. They have demonstrated great courage in beginning a new journey under such difficult circumstances and have thrived. They have raised to every challenge and, due to this, have earned the most positive points out of all year groups. In particular, 7JO have been the highest achievers out of every PL group in the entire school. Well done 7JO! The highest positive point students of each PL group have enjoyed their reward of spending time in the Community Building's Youth center playing pool, ice hockey, table football, arcade games and much more. In addition to this, Year 7 have been the highest attending year group each week. Out of the entire school, Year 7 have the highest number of students with 100% attendance. This is an incredible feat. It would be excellent to see this continue into the Spring and Summer terms!

Year 7 have been a delight to teach and get to know. Their PL tutors and I have enjoyed working with them on a variety of activities including the weekly quiz, Thanksgiving, decorating the languages Christmas tree and are now excited for their afternoon together. They have been busy preparing festive activities, awards, prizes and are looking forward to the big event, Secret Santa.



After successfully surviving a challenging term, Year 8 have thrown themselves into festivities. Showing Christmas spirit that Dickens would be proud of, the H Block is awash with decorations - including this tree handmade by 8HJJ. The glitter and the tinsel appropriately mark the end of a year where Y8 have shone both academically and in terms of independent sporting achievement.

Year 8

Year 9

After starting in form groups for the first part of the year, this half term Year Nine have been put in sets. We have seen some amazing work before and after this and many students have been doing well in lessons with some having to adapt to new form tutors. There was an amazing effort to collect items for food banks and all students have completed a secret Santa for the last day of term. The year group has been generous and sent loads of candy canes to each other to celebrate Christmas and support the Year 11s.

Year 10

Year 10, have returned this this year to an unfamiliar situation; lots of changes at school due to COVID-19, but also as they are now officially a GCSE year group! The students have started studying their option subjects - for many of them that means picking up a completely new subject they have never studied before which has been very exciting!

In addition to their academic commitments, Year 10 also generously contributed to a whole school food collection for the Harvest Centre in Brandon and a number of the students have begun work towards their Duke of Edinburgh award. We wish the students and their families a lovely (and hopefully restful) Christmas Break, and will look forward to welcoming all back in January!

Year 11

Year 11 have had an incredibly busy term, navigating the start of their final year, undertaking mock exams and being reunited with friends and teachers after a strange and prolonged Summer break.

We were so impressed with how our year 11s approached their mock exams. I know that this was a tricky time for some of our students and many of you worked incredibly hard throughout the three week period of exams. There were some excellent results achieved which are testament to the focus and hard work that many of the year group demonstrated. All students can approach the new term having received feedback on their mock results and with a good understanding of what they need to do to keep pushing forwards.

Away from the world of exams, at the start of the term we officially launched our Student Parliament and introduced the rest of the school to our successful Parliament Ministers and Prefects. In addition to this, our Prime Minister, Martyna, and our Deputy Prime Minister, Poppy, chaired our first Student Parliament meeting of the year. So far this year, the Minsters have helped to decide on our chosen charities and they have also launched our new 'Student Concern' boxes which are now up in each year group area of the school. A brilliant start!

Lastly, some of our year 11s brought some Christmas cheer to the Academy last week as they started fundraising for their end of year celebrations, selling candy canes to the rest of the school. Thank you to all students and staff who donated money to this cause!



HARVEST CENTRE COLLECTION

This year ahead of Christmas Jumper day on Friday 18th December, instead of monetary donations we have been collecting donations for the Harvest Centre in Brandon to support our local families. We couldn't be more proud of our students, staff and their families who have donated so generously! Thank you so very much to everyone who has contributed!



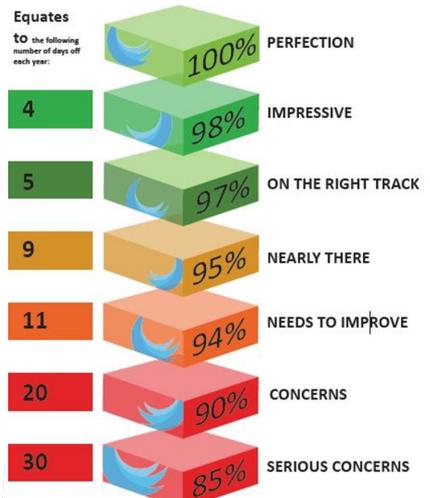
BEST ATTENDANCE REWARDS

Our Parliament have asked for 'One4All' vouchers for our attendance prizes. These will give the winners the opportunity to spend them in 130 different places, so hopefully they can buy something they would like in reward for their excellent attendance. Attendance figures and results from our 'Get to Green' attendance challenge have been checked and the prizes will be handed out during Success Assemblies which are taking place throughout the last week of term. We also gave a voucher for the most improved attendance.

During the Success Assemblies, we handed out £10 Amazon vouchers, selection boxes, sweets, Iceni Academy pens and water bottles to name a few of the prizes. Well done to all of you who received awards for your hard work his term. Despite the many constraints we have faced as a result of Covid-19, you have not let this stop you working hard in order to reach your full potential. Have a restful break and come back refreshed, ready to go again!



ATTENDANCE



We wish all of you a merry Christmas and a happy new year! Please remember there is always support available, even when the academy is closed.

SAMARITANS

Whatever you're going through, a Samaritan will face it with you. We're here 24 hours a day, 365 days a year. Call 116 123 for free or visit their website.



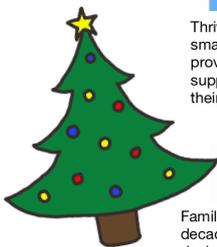
Thrive is an evidence-based smartphone application providing in-depth tools and support for anyone to improve their mental wellbeing.

ONLINE AND MOBILE SAFETY from Childline
Having a mobile phone and going online is great for lots of reasons. But it's important to be aware of the dangers too. Learn how to stay safe online.



YOUNGMINDS

YoungMinds is a charity which provides support for children and young adults who are struggling with their mental health. Their website provides a huge number of resources for parents who have children in this situation. Call the Parents helpline 0808 8025544



Family Lives is a charity with over three decades of experience helping parents to deal with the changes that are a constant part of family life. Get advice and support whenever you need it. Online or by phoning the helpline 0808 800 2222



Mind can help you make choices about treatment, understand your rights or reach out to sources of support.



MindEd has some fantastic resources and training modules to help you to understand teenage mental health, and to equip you with extra strategies to support your child.



www.thinkuknow.co.uk
ThinkUKnow provides support and guidance for parents when dealing with online concerns.



Are you worried about online sexual abuse or the way someone has been communicating with you online? Scroll to the bottom of www.icenimethwold.org.uk



Mumsnet - A site for parents on current issues, including Internet Safety.

