

#IceniAcademy



May 2021



@IceniAcademy

PROUDLY
SHARING
OUR NEWS

'Individually Strong,
Unstoppable Together'

PRINCIPAL'S POST

Dear all,

How lovely it is to at last be able to look through the newsletter and see how things are slowly returning to normal. Being able to walk down the Food Technology corridor and smell the cooking has been amazing! There is also plenty going on in the other areas of Technology, as well as some amazing creations in Art. You will read below of the exciting developments in Gardening Club also, which I am delighted with. We have an amazing new volunteer who is giving over so much of his time to ensure that this provision is the best that it can be—thank you, Mike. If there are any students out there who would like to be a part of this, please do contact Mr. Merenghi who will point you in the right direction.

In the more traditional areas of the learning, we have been working hard to raise the reading levels of all students. Miss Staniforth has tirelessly been reading aloud to all students during their 15 minute reading slot every day, who follow along with the text. In addition to this, we have signed all students up for Bedrock Vocabulary; an individualised online learning platform that allows students to widen their vocabulary and increase their reading ages. When you think that GCSE papers are written for a reading age of 15.7 years, you appreciate the need to ensure that all students can access these. The feedback from students around the programme has been very positive; please do have a look at it if you get the chance.

Students have been challenged this half term on the importance of being punctual to lessons, behaviour during lessons and their appearance. I truly believe that these expectations directly correlate to successful outcomes for all our students. We have high expectations because we know that our students can achieve amazing things. We, like you, want the absolute best for them all, and believe that high expectations and consistency of approach is the best way to achieve this.

Wishing you a restful half-term,

Lesley Hogg

Gardening Club

Well, what a year since last March and the first lockdown! Seeds had been sown for garden club which clearly wasn't going to happen! As the seedlings grew in to healthy plants we decided to sell them and donate the proceeds to Nelson's Journey (a very worthy charitable cause!) We managed to raise £50.

Garden club was left idle through the summer months and open to the elements. Unfortunately, during some inclement weather, the polythene tunnel was completely devastated by the wind rendering it useless.

During lockdown, whilst not quite so busy on reception, I put some feelers out to try and find a way to replace the polythene with little or no funding. I am glad to report through word of mouth, not only was I put in touch with a retired gentleman who was willing to do the work, but he was very keen to get involved with Garden Club as well. The only problem left was no funding. Thanks to our Estates Manager, John Potts, and his donation of £300, the project is now a viable one. Work is now underway and plans are being put together to redevelop the entire Garden Club area. The equipment for the polytunnel has been ordered and as soon as the weather warms up, work will begin. In the meantime the surrounding area is being tidied up, and the raised beds reinstated and replenished, with the hope of growing some salad vegetables this summer. Watch this space – exciting times.

Mrs Stone - Receptionist



NEWS FROM OUR YEAR GROUPS

Year 7

Year 7 have shown great determination and creativity this half-term. The bridge building challenge raised the stakes between the PL groups seeing Mrs Bradley group go to all lengths to prove their bridge was the best. However, even with their tenacity, theirs was the only bridge that couldn't withstand the egg balance test. Miss Francis' group ensured their bridge was sturdy but, also, ensured it would not be an eyesore for the judging panel. Their floral design wowed the panel. Following the results after the holidays, the winning team will put their engineering skills to the test with a second competition to prove that Year 7 the best year group, if not the most competitive. Good luck!

I would like to take this opportunity to thank a particular Year 7 (FD - you know who you are) for assisting Miss Francis in preparing activities for the Year 11 celebration day. This student has spent many breaks and lunchtimes helping to get the photo booth ready and has been practicing their photography skills in preparation for Year 11s to take wonderful pictures on the day.

Ms Colson

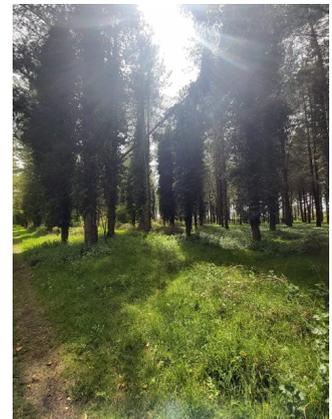
Year 8

Year 8 have been enjoying the improved weather and the opportunity to spend time outside. Leland W took these wonderful pictures while away for the weekend with his family.

In the classroom, Year 8 have already accumulated almost four thousand positive points as they are rewarded for their good choices and hard work.

A particular high point has been the challenge activity. The remit was fulfilled by every Y8 form group – every bridge held the egg. It then became very challenging to choose a winner. In the end, it was decided that 8EL should win because they had created an environmentally friendly design, using only six pieces of paper. We look forward to showcasing their skills in the final.

Ms Hodges



Year 9

Year 9 returned to moving around school for lessons and have been enjoying some normality in more practical subjects such as Art, Design Technology, Food Technology and Science. All students now have been made aware of their option choices and are looking forward to starting their journey on bespoke education. Combined Cadet Force has continued to have large numbers, with students practicing First Aid, preparing (and mostly eating) food rations and weapons handling.

9GB won this half terms challenge of bridge building due some controversial materials for 9PB and a doubling up by 9AH. They will be competing in another challenge for a chance to win a non uniform day for the Year Group! Let's all wish them the best!

All in all a successful half term and we get ever closer to Activities Week and the summer holidays!

Mr Falder

Year 10 & 11

Year 10 have made an excellent start to the summer term since returning from the Easter holiday; across the last seven weeks they have collected an impressive 1102 positive points! Well done Year 10, this is excellent! The year group have also started looking ahead to Year 11 and beyond as our Careers Advisor, Mrs Downing, has begun meeting with students to discuss their initial thoughts on what they would like to do after Year 11. It is never too soon to begin thinking about this and Mrs Downing is an excellent source of knowledge and support. Across the next half term, Mrs Downing will aim to meet with much of the year group before the summer holiday arrives.

In the coming weeks Year 10 will also have the opportunity to participate in Activities Week which parents and carers have already received information about. This week will give students the chance to enjoy activities away from their normal lesson timetable and provide a much-needed reward for working hard across what has undoubtedly been a trying year.



The half term break also signals the end of my time as Head of Year 10 as Ms Roche returns from her maternity leave, eager to resume the role. I have very much enjoyed working with Year 10 more closely across this term and will continue to be on hand to support Ms Roche and the year group throughout the summer term. On behalf of both Ms Roche and I, we wish Year 10 a restful half term break and look forward to welcoming the students back to complete this academic year.

Meanwhile, Year 11 have just completed their GCSE assessments, having worked incredibly hard over the half term. The last year has presented many of us with challenging times, but this has been particularly true of our Year 11s as they have navigated the changes to their GCSE assessments. We are incredibly proud of their hard work, focus and determination during this period and we look forward to celebrating all their achievements on GCSE results day on the 12th August. Prior to this, Year 11 will also have the opportunity to celebrate the end of their assessments on the 28th May with a BBQ and activities on the field. This is a well-deserved reward for the year group!

After half term, year 11 will be attending school every Friday until the 25th June which is their official leaving date. These Friday sessions will provide students with an opportunity to attend workshops focused on post-16 skills and also PSHE. If there are any students who feel they need further support with their transition to their post-16 course, or have questions about their college, sixth form or apprenticeship, our Careers Advisor, Mrs Downing, is still on hand to provide support as am I. Students will be busy Monday-Thursday, too, with remote work set on Teams to allow students to grow their independent working skills and prepare for their transition to their post-16 providers.

As we reach the half term break, it begins to signal the end of my time as Head of Year 11. It has truly been an absolute pleasure to work with the year group since I joined Icen Academy in 2019. I couldn't be prouder of all they have achieved in this time, both academically and personally. I have felt fortunate to lead a year groups of welcoming, intelligent and compassionate young people and I wish them the best of luck as they begin an exciting new chapter in their lives.

Miss Cross

NEWS FROM OUR FACULTIES

Humanities

The Humanities department and year eleven students have been extremely busy during this month of May setting, marking, moderating and sitting the assessments that will decide their GCSE grades, with both students and teachers contributing their all to this common end. Although this has clearly been the priority, we have also enjoyed the challenge of incorporating knowledge organisers into our lessons, homework's and the consciousness of year seven and eight students. We look forward to consolidating this process with Years Nine and Ten next half term.

Certain topics bring out the best in both our subjects and our students. For Geography this has been the year nine study of the Middle East, which has demonstrated its ongoing contemporary relevance in the news over the past fortnight. For History, it has been the year nine study of the Holocaust, which our students have shown tremendous maturity in understanding and in relating the lessons learned in History to the world around them in 2021. For this, we are immensely proud of them and look forward to their developing into first class GCSE students in the near future.

Mr Bedford

"Come with me, and you'll be, in a world of pure imagination."

This term product design and food tech have combined forces to create Icenis first chocolate factory. Both Year 7 and Year 9 have been designing miniature chocolate bars and boxes of chocolate. By creatively exploring every stage of the design cycle they have managed to produce a display of high standard professional packaging alongside their chocolaty treats. While in food tech they have investigated the art of being a professional chocolatier, food safety and hygiene and the importance of decoration.

We are already taking on applicants for next year's quality control and taste testers.

Ms Francis



Maths

We continue to make fantastic progress with our maths here at Icenis! Outstanding progress is being shown on Hegarty Maths with an unbelievable 178,625 questions answered which have contributed to a staggering 3498 hours of learning! WOW!! There has been excellent engagement in lessons with everyone quickly settling down to the routine of lessons and learning. The Maths team remain extremely proud of our students progress and all their hard work – Well done!

Mrs Edwards



We were able to offer clubs once again this half term as we slowly return to 'normal'. Rain has affected play some what, but hopefully better weather will come along as we continue through the term. There may be a slight tweak to bubble nights after half term which will be shared with pupils.

PE

We have been exceptionally impressed by the commitment of the GCSE PE pupils who have been attending their booster Basketball

We are delighted Curriculum Enhancement Week will be going ahead this year. Although we can't make it to France for our usual Watersports trip, we are really excited pupils have the opportunity to complete the 'Back to Wilderness' experience at Thetford Forest. Please do return your letters so we hopefully have enough interest to run this trip.



We are creeping towards Year 11's final weeks at the Academy; a year group we will sorely miss. They have some exceptional achievements. The ones that spring to mind were those who were part of the U14 Football team that won the South Norfolk league in 2019. We also had some excellent athletic achievements in Partnership competitions. And, of course, who could forget the legendary Sports Tour of Spain 2019 and the unforgettable memories of the South of France Watersports Trips. A very talented, but more importantly, a fun loving, friendly bunch. Good luck in the future, stay in touch!

Mr Taylor

MFL

We would like to say a huge well done to our Year 11 French and German students. They have worked hard in class and at home preparing and completing their assessments this half term. In particular, we were impressed with their preparation for the speaking assessments which were conducted by Miss Trichet and Miss Agoudjil.

Year 7 & 8 students have now completed the form in school to complete their language preferences for next academic year. From September they will be studying two languages up until they start Year 10 when they will continue with at least one of those languages at GCSE.

English



In the English department, we have just launched Bedrock Vocabulary with Years 7-10 and we are absolutely thrilled with how hard students are working on it! In the first week alone, one student achieved enough points (120) to be eligible for the nationwide technology competition, and another improved her vocabulary knowledge on the block she is studying by 115%! We are looking forward to celebrating more of these successes with our students in the coming weeks and months.

We are also coming towards the end of our whole school read of *The Hunger Games*, which students have really enjoyed - and we are now swamped with suggestions for our next whole school book, from *Wonder* to *The Hobbit*, and *Lord of the Flies* to *Five Feet Apart*. It will be a difficult choice, we have no doubt!

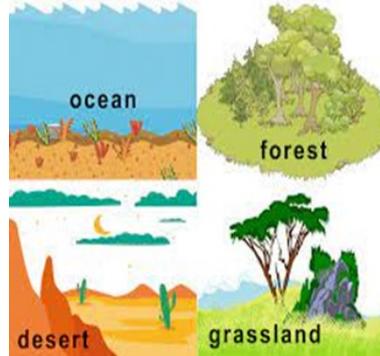
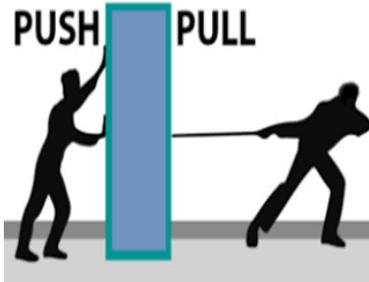
We are preparing for our curriculum enhancement week this year and the whole team are really excited to run activities with students. We are running a 'musical in a week' project, taking a group of students and putting on a cut-version of a West-End musical, and we will also be writing and illustrating our own children's books based on teaching morals, and exploring aspects of young children's social, moral, spiritual and cultural development ready to share with our local playgroups and primary schools.

Finally, we are so proud of Year 11. You have worked exceptionally hard and we all wish you a the very best for the future. We know you are on to amazing things in your lives.

Miss Staniforth

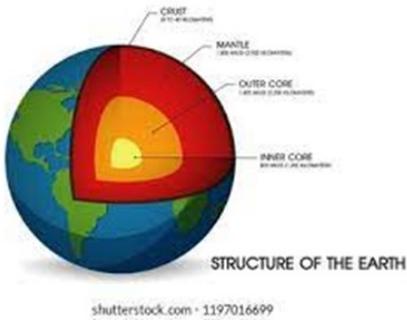
**THIS HALF TERM
WE HAVE BEEN
STUDYING:**

Science

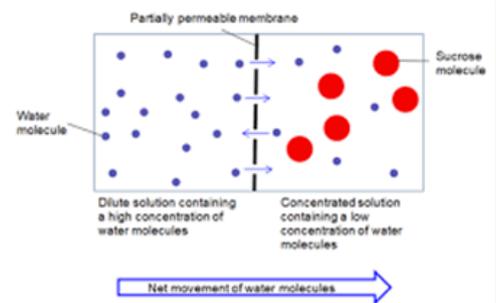


**Year 7
Habitats and Forces**

**Year 8
Forces at Work
and Earth
Structure**



**Year 9 Cell Transport
and Energy Resources**



**Year 10 Radioactivity
and Chemical Changes**

