

#IceniAcademy



December 21



@IceniAcademy

PROUDLY  
SHARING  
OUR NEWS

'Individually Strong,  
Unstoppable Together'

## PRINCIPAL'S POST

Dear all,

I hope you enjoy reading what our students have achieved this term. They continue to impress me with their resilience in light of the ever changing demands that the pandemic continues to place on their everyday lives. I have been thrilled that we have been able to celebrate the approach of Christmas more than the previous year. The Christmas production—'What If Christmas Happened Today?' was so good! I was immensely proud of the students, and also Miss Francis and Miss Pyke who gave up so much of their spare time to ensure that the students had a chance to indulge their passion for Drama. It was hard to tell who enjoyed it more; our socially distanced audience, or the cast itself! The Christmas dinner also returned, with the catering staff also delivered a delicious offering for our students on Wednesday, in a gargantuan effort of organisation. Not a single sprout was left! Finally, our last day of term will be Christmas jumper day, which I am very much looking forward to. Year 11s have also been fundraising for The Benjamin Foundation, a charity that supports young people in challenging circumstances. Students have been donating money into tins with the pictures of SLT on the front. The one that accrues the most money will be wearing fancy dress in the academy on Friday. With Mr Carmichael over £50 ahead of the rest, I am not panicking in the slightest!

At the time of writing this, there is once again growing uncertainty surrounding schools and the response to the pandemic. Please be assured that we will continue to follow Government guidance to keep your children safe. Can I please ask that Father Christmas brings them a mask or two in their stockings? We are currently using about 150 masks per day at a not inconsiderable expense—money I would much rather be spending on educational resources! I would also ask that students test using a lateral flow device on the evening before returning in January. We will be testing those students that have consent during the first week back also, as per the current guidance.

So it just remains for me to wish both you and your loved ones the happiest of Christmases—I am confident that you are all on the 'Nice List'!

Best wishes,

Lesley Hogg

Principal



# NEWS FROM OUR YEAR GROUPS

## Year 7

Year 7 have had an excellent half term continuing to settle into life at Icen Academy, forming friendships and working hard in lessons. Across the half term I have been impressed by the number of students who have taken on board Mr Carmichael's kindness challenge whereby students were asked to do a kind deed and create a 'chain of kindness' to spread positivity throughout the year group. We have seen lots of students supporting each other, holding doors open for one another and being considerate of each other's feelings. Over the last half term, our brilliant Student Support Officer, Mrs Doughty, has been running a Christmas craft club which many students have enjoyed attending at lunch. Our year 7 office is now decorated with many of these crafts which has brought us all some Christmas cheer!

We wish all our year 7 students and their families a restful and happy Christmas break and we look forward to welcoming the year group back in January.

Mrs Cross



## Year 8

It has been a very varied first term as Head of Year 8 and I am very pleased to announce that 79 students in our year group have displayed consistently brilliant behaviour throughout this term, these students have received a postcard from me as recognition for always doing the right thing! So far this year, year 8 have gained over 6600 positive points so well done to all of those students that have contributed to this by collecting tokens from their teachers for going above and beyond in lessons and around the school. I have enjoyed these final few weeks at school going around to every form and seeing various Christmas activities taking place such as Secret Santas, the decorating of form rooms and the Food bank Christmas Box decorating competition, 8ZF's box was very impressive as they transformed it into a sleigh, a photo of this in progress can be seen below. I have also been amazed at the range of year 8 students who have been involved in the Christmas Panto, I have observed some of their rehearsals and they have all worked brilliantly to bring the performance together. Finally, I look forward to seeing everyone's Christmas Jumpers on the last day of term and I hope every student, parent and the rest of your families have a wonderful Christmas and I will see everyone in January when the hard work will continue!



## Year 9

What a term it has been for Year 9. In what can only be described as some of the most challenging times, Year 9 have taken it all in their stride and shown exceptional levels of maturity.

As a year group their end of term tests have gone well and many of our students have achieved greater than they expected, proving that their hard work and resilience definitely pays off.

In the new year, we will start to discuss 'options' allowing the children for the first time to take some control of their academic paths. This is definitely something I am looking forward to being involved in and cannot wait to get underway.

Mr Marenghi



## Year 10

Year 10 have had a positive half term and continue to adapt to Key Stage 4 Learning. Everyone has now settled into their option subjects and I have seen and heard of some really good work over the past 6 weeks. In Assemblies we have focused on being kind and developing our understanding of 'Pics' and appropriate responses to inappropriate messages and requests. We completed our last round of Post 16 visitors, and students have now heard about local colleges, apprenticeships and life in the RAF. We have struggled with attendance at points, and while we as a school appreciate the challenges of our current COVID situation, it is crucial that when we are fit and able we are in school. All the work we are doing in school could potentially be on our exams in Year 11. If you are unable to attend I would remind you that it is your responsibility to catch up on the work missed.

After Christmas we will start to have conversations about prefect roles and discuss a hand over of responsibilities from this year's prefect team. Now would be an amazing opportunity to start to show your qualities to strengthen any possible application.

As always it has been with great pride watching students develop this calendar year. With all that has happened with lockdowns and online learning I would like to thank both students and parents for their efforts. Enjoy a well-earned break and I look forward to seeing you all after the holidays.

Mr Falder

## Year 11

As the half term draws to a close, and Christmas looms, Year 11 have been incredibly busy!

They sat their first set of GCSE mock exams, and were praised by numerous staff for tackling these with great maturity; we have had even more Post-16 providers come in to speak to the year group, and lots of the students have submitted applications to various colleges and courses.

In addition to this, the prefect team have continued their fundraising efforts for both prom and our chosen charity for this term, the Benjamin Foundation.

As I leave the school at Christmas, I hand responsibility for Year 11 over to Mr Falder, who I'm sure will do a fantastic job looking after them for the remainder of their time at Iceni Academy. I would like to wish the students all the best for the future, and remind them that they are all becoming amazing young people with a lot to offer, and I have been so proud to be their head of year for the last few years. Good luck Year 11!

Miss Roche

# NEWS FROM OUR FACULTIES

## English

This half-term in English, Year 7 have been studying a play version of Frankenstein and have been focusing on Frankenstein's knowledge and ambition.

Year 8 have been continuing with The Time Machine and most of them have now finished reading the novel. They have been focused on why H.G Wells may have written the novel and what he may have been criticising the Victorian society for.

Year 9 are finishing To Kill a Mockingbird and have had some fantastic discussions on the Tom Robinson court case. We have been considering discrimination and prejudice and how Harper Lee's classic novel explores both these themes.

In Key Stage 4, Year 10 have mostly reached the end of Macbeth and have discovered what has happened to the tyrannical King Macbeth. In January, we will begin with 'An Inspector Calls', our second GCSE Literature text.

Last but not least, Year 11 have continued with their English Literature work and have been focused on unseen poetry since their mocks finished a few weeks ago. We are really pleased with how much they have taken away from poetry last and continue to develop their analytical skills. Well done, everyone!

Miss Hampson

## Maths

As we slowly draw closer to Christmas, we have been reflecting on all of the positives that have happened during the term. For the first time ever, students have enjoyed participating in the National Cipher Challenge run by the University of Southampton. With the support of the maths team, students have used code cracking and deciphering skills to learn more about Jodie's findings in the Lighthouse Conspiracy. The students have worked incredibly well as a team and have remained within the top 70 schools out of 800 for eight challenges. This is a huge achievement!

The Year 11 mocks have given us a huge insight into how well the students are coping with the challenges of GCSEs. We are proud of how focused and determined many students are to achieve grades that will support their next stages of education. Many Y11s have shown a willingness to improve and are looking forward to revision classes beginning after the holidays. We have high hopes that this cohort will achieve the grades they deserve.

Miss Colson

## Science

In Science this half term the decorating club have been busy turning the area outside of the classrooms into an Elf village complete with 2 Christmas trees and 1000 lights.

The ambassadors have also been helping to clean out the pond ready for after Christmas when we are going to restock it.

Miss Williams



The PE department has seen a busy half term of pupils learning football, dance, handball, dodgeball, rugby, fitness and table tennis across the different year groups. Unfortunately Covid has halted our fixtures somewhat, with both basketball and cross-country having to be postponed. We have rugby, girl's football and cross country in the diary for the next half term, so it is with everything crossed pupils get to take part in these. We would like to say thank you to the Year 10 pupils who supported Mr Silvester in organising the Primary Cross Country event at the start of half term – Primary staff were very complimentary of our students. The highlight of the half term was the Inter-Community Cross Country. Pupils competed over 6 cross country or endurance style events, earning points for their Community throughout. 48 races took place. Pankhurst were victorious, taking the lead early on and never relenting. The other Communities changed throughout, with third and fourth only being decided on the 48<sup>th</sup> and final race!

## WHAT'S NEW?

There will be a refreshed club timetable after half term. Pupils will get a copy of the timetable via their Form Tutor.

### COMMUNITY CROSS COUNTRY: OVERALL RESULTS 2021

NIGHTINGALE	PANKHURST	ATTENBOROUGH	MANDELA
2056	2996	2324	2072

## SPECIAL MENTIONS

We have lots of pupils who have been nominated for termly awards, but we will let that be a surprise for when all subject nominations are awarded.

With regards to the Cross-Country competition, our top performers were:

- Year 7: L. Flack & A. Ratcliffe
- Year 8: M. Williams & I. Inder
- Year 9: A. Williams & L. Tinsley
- Year 10: J. Poole & A. Dewart

## Humanities

The Humanities department have been immensely busy in marking mock examinations and, even more importantly, feeding back to year 11 students in order that they can learn from their mistakes and build upon their successes in the February mocks and, ultimately, in their GCSE examinations in the summer. On a similar note, all years have completed common assessment tasks in History, Geography and RE and the feedback that they have received will provide them

With the necessary tools to make even more dynamic progress moving forwards.

I am also delighted to report that there has been an overwhelming response to the History field trip to the World War One Battlefields of Belgium and France, so overwhelming that the extra coach that I booked in anticipation has been filled, with several students on a waiting list in order of receipt of their deposit. Whilst appreciating this positivity, I am obviously disappointed with having to turn some students away, particularly those year tens that did not select History as an option, but who would have had the opportunity to participate had the trip taken place as planned when they were in year nine. I will do my utmost to secure an extra coach again next year and make the trip available to these students if I possibly can.

Finally, the inaugural Diwali Day was superbly organised and delivered by Miss Pyke and the RE department, involving year seven and involving students from our Hockwold primary partners. The students thoroughly enjoyed the day, which enhanced their knowledge and broadened their cultural appreciation to such an extent that further experiences of a similar nature are in the pipeline.

It just remains for me to wish you a very merry Christmas and a Happy New Year of festive cheer!

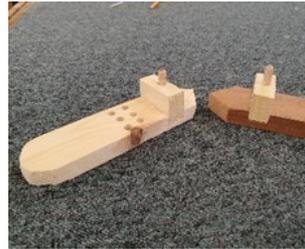
Mr Bedford

## Design Technology

This year with year 8 we have been making mechanisms. We gave the children the basic structure and then they used their imagination and ingenuity to create the model for the top. The children have made some excellent models three of which are pictured.



In year 7 we have been making boat pencil holders. The children have learned how to use basic workshop tools and some power tools. They have all made a housing joint as part of the project. There is a strong element of workshop safety to introduce children to working in this environment.



The year 9s have been doing some metalwork. Working metal can be quite hard and requires some effort and concentration to do it well. The students have excelled themselves in this department and will finish their sliding bevel gauges before too long.

After 20 years with Iceni/MHS I retire at Christmas. This is a great school with dedicated staff and smashing children, I wouldn't have stayed here so long otherwise. If I have taught you or anyone in your family, best luck for the future and have a wonderful Christmas.

Mr Bate

## MFL

Christmas Tree – our language ambassadors set up their first event this term and did a wonderful job! We now have a fully decorated tree with croissants, gingerbread man and dumplings in the Humanities area to help us get in the festive spirit!

Joyeux Noel / frohe Weihnachten

As a school we have subscribed to The Language Gym website and by now all year 11 students have set up an account. This is a great tool to help students with their revision, it is particularly good for practising their listening as there are a number of a listening games on there. If students have any problems with logging in, they will need to contact their language teacher who can reset their password. The website is:

[www.language-gym.com](http://www.language-gym.com)

Ms Pawsey

