

#IceniAcademy



February 22



@IceniAcademy

PROUDLY
SHARING
OUR NEWS

'Individually Strong,
Unstoppable Together'

PRINCIPAL'S POST

Dear all,

This half-term has absolutely flown by! It has been filled with some excellent work from the students, and I hope you enjoy reading through this newsletter to find out what has been happening. It has been lovely to see so many clubs starting up again. Tech club is a huge success, as well as Drama and Science, to name but a few. The after-school revision sessions for Year 11 have also been hugely popular. Due to high demand, we are switching the days for the Geography and History sessions to a Monday next half-term, to allow for less clashes. There are only so many days in the week, though, so if your child is unsure which session to attend, please get them to talk to their teachers. Some topics will be repeated to allow for students to attend later in the term. Trips are also starting up again, with students booked onto the Battlefields trip in the Summer term, and letters going out to years 7 and 8 for a maths trip to Norwich castle. We look forward to this return to normality, and will be announcing further trips and extra-curricular activities in the coming weeks.

We are delighted to announce that we have been able to recruit a new Geography teacher to start at Easter, to replace Miss Walsingham. We are also interviewing this week for a Science teacher, and hope to have a Food Teacher in the classroom for the Summer term. Mr. Carmichael has been invaluable, stepping in to ensure that the Year 11 Food students complete the course and are able to secure the grades that they need. He is also making jam tarts this afternoon with Year 10, so I am planning that my learning walk this afternoon heads in that direction! We do have a couple of vacancies for Learning Support Assistants, and are hopeful that we can recruit from the local community. If you know anyone who could be interested in joining this very hardworking and dedicated team, please let them know. The hours are 09:00-15:30, term time only.

We are excited at the work to improve the academy site is continuing. The heating system is to undergo a major overhaul in the Easter holidays, and new fire doors are to be fitted in the main corridors. In addition to this, we have taken delivery of 30 picnic benches for the students to sit during Break and Lunch, and they are really enjoying using these already. The Food Room is also due to be refurbished in the Summer Term.

Please be advised that the Year 11 mocks are happening over the first three weeks we are back. The deadline for Year 9 students to return their options choices is Monday 21st February and we look forward to meeting with Year 8 parents and carers on Thursday, March 31st at Parents' Evening.

Best wishes,

Lesley Hogg

Principal.



NEWS FROM OUR YEAR GROUPS

Year 7

Year 7 have had a fantastic half term and continue to settle into life at Icen Academy. This half term saw the year group participate in our first 'Good News' Assembly where students were encouraged to nominate each other for an award if they had done a kind deed for someone else. This was a lovely way to start our day and hopefully helped some positivity to spread across the year group.

In addition to this, Miss Francis' Graphics class have been completing some beautiful shading which Mrs Doughty and I have been very impressed with. We certainly have some budding artists in year 7! We've had several year 7's also joining Ms Garner and Miss Bhadrinath at the LGBTQ+ lunchtime group who were also lucky enough to have a visit from Fi from The Blah Project this week.

Lastly, Mrs Doughty and I have started discussing plans for a year 7 disco which we hope to be able to share more news about shortly!

As always, we hope that our year 7 students and their parents and carers have a happy and restful half term break. Thank you for your continued support.

Mrs Cross, Mrs Doughty & The Year 7 Team

Year 8

This half term, although short, has been an overall a positive one for year 8 and I am immensely proud of the progress that has been made since Christmas, year 8 have consistently gained the highest number of positive reward points out of the whole school and a number of students have vastly improved their behaviour from last term, keep up the great work everyone! It has also been a pleasure seeing the number of students in our year group that have started attending after school clubs such as Drama and Technology. The skills and experiences they are gaining in these extracurricular activities are invaluable.

I hope everyone has a brilliant half term and I look forward to seeing all of year 8 return ready to complete the second half of year 8. Finally, a date for your diaries: Year 8 Parents Evening will be on

Thursday the 31st March.

Mr Brown



Year 9

The time has finally arrived for Year 9 to take some control over their own learning. The options process has begun and it has been lovely to hear what the children are planning and hoping to study in their upcoming GCSEs. Options went live on Thursday 3rd February and closes on Monday 21st February.

Once we return after half term, the results will be collated and we will begin to organise getting your child into their first-choice options. Whilst we do our best to ensure that this happens, please bear in mind that unfortunately this is not always possible.

Since our return to the academy after Christmas year 9 have made an amazing effort to settle back in and engage with their learning. This is clearly shown by the number of positive points they have received collectively; an impressive 1448. Henry and Sapphire are our biggest earners this time round.

For the first time in a long time, clubs are starting to return and many of the year 9 students have been working well and taking part in the wide variety of different activities that are on offer. I'm certainly looking forward to seeing what they have been building in the very popular tech club.

Mr Marengi

Year 10

In Year 10 I have seen signs that students are embracing becoming the positive role models any school needs to thrive and I have been very proud of this. A reduction on some of the poorer behaviours and increase in positive ones has been noticed and I will be bringing this up in assembly this week.

There have been some long periods of absence for some students in the year group. I would encourage all students to catch up on work missed, or if they feel they are falling behind to come and be open with teachers or myself. Covid aside, students should be in school completing GCSE work which is crucial to their future prospects. As a school I feel we have been understanding of the complex situations surrounding COVID, but I am cautious that next year's exams will not get the dispensation that our current Year 11s will receive. This is obviously a concern as we are aware students have missed out on classroom time, however there has been no lockdown since they started GCSE material so the expectations will be high. If you are worried your child is falling behind, please do get in touch with the relevant teachers who will signpost you to support.

As we open up as a country we are hoping to run more trips, including ones specific to further education and careers. We will let students know about this as they are planned and booked!

Year 11

Thank you to all students and parents for their support in my first half term as Head of Year 11 and 10. Students have been very understanding of this situation and both myself and Miss Breheny appreciate it!

Hoodies have all been confirmed and we hope to get these to students as soon as possible. Miss Breheny is working extremely hard along with the prefect team to fundraise for the first school prom in three years! Ideas have included me and some other willing participants waxing their legs, to a staff afternoon tea. Hopefully one will be less painful than the other!



Mrs Hogg has been working to guide students on revision, including a really helpful revision session and resource. All subjects are doing their bit to help us be as prepared as possible and I would like to take this time to thank them for their efforts. By the time you read this all schools in the country will have received guidance on the content of the GCSEs in the summer. This is a dispensation granted due to the huge amount of learning they missed over various lockdowns. All departments will be guiding the final stretch of learning based upon this, feel free to ask Mrs Hogg, Directors of Faculty or myself about this.

Overall, I believe we have come back after Christmas with a more mature attitude towards our learning and each other. I have been really encouraged by the amazing turn out at revision sessions afterschool and I hope to see us reap the benefits on the February Mocks.

Mr Falder

NEWS FROM OUR FACULTIES

English

This half-term in English, Year 7 have started reading David Almond's novel 'The Fire Eaters' and have started thinking about the theme of friendship and coming-of-age.

Year 8 have started reading Shakespeare's Much Ado About Nothing and enjoying the comedy war between Benedick and Beatrice. We are exploring the theme of love and gender, which involves focusing on marriage and love in the Elizabethan times and the expectations of men and women.

Year 9 have started with Shakespeare's Richard III this term and have been learning new key vocabulary, such as duplicitous and Machiavellian. We have been considering power and villainy and how Richard is introduced to us as a villain from the very beginning of the play.

In Key Stage 4, Year 10 have mostly started reading J.B. Priestley's 'An Inspector Calls' as our second GCSE Literature text. We have been exploring the economic system of socialism and capitalism and understanding how the Birlings have impacted Eva Smith's life through their actions. They have enjoyed discovering how each member of the family has played a part in her untimely death.

Last but not least, Year 11 have continued with their English Language and English Literature revision in lessons in preparation for their next round of mocks after half-term. We are looking forward to seeing how they get on in the next set and wish them luck. Well done everyone!

Miss Hampson



Maths

It has been a very busy half-term in the maths department. We have been running after-school revision sessions each week for Year 11 which have been well-attended and are key to the development of their learning. These sessions have supported the cohort in revising important topics for their upcoming exams and have helped with identifying the most effective ways to revise.

Alongside History, the maths team have been planning a trip to Norwich Castle for Years 7 and 8. We are excited to launch this trip to students and provide them with experiences of maths in real life and give them an opportunity to explore events from the past.

The maths team are delighted to welcome Mrs Purdy, an enthusiastic trainee teacher to the department during the next half-term. Students will benefit from the additional support within the classroom and will develop their understanding through different styles of teaching. I hope that you will join us in warmly welcoming Mrs Purdy and providing her with a great teacher training experience.

Miss Colson

MFL

The MFL team have welcomed Mr McGill, who has taken on the Mandarin classes to teach both French and German. He has started an MFL Singing group, which runs on Tuesday lunchtime. Please come along if you fancy having a go at singing some French or German songs in a group!

Year 9 have started thinking about their language choices for their GCSE Options. Should they require any further advice from any of the MFL team, please encourage them to come and see us or chat to us in class.

Year 11 have been busy getting ready for their last set of mocks after half term. The speaking exams have been taking place this week, and we have been really pleased with how well most students have prepared for these. All students have access to the Language Gym website, which they will need to log into and is great to help practise vocabulary and listening as they prepare for their other mocks and final exams.

Revision classes will continue to run after half term, French is on Tuesday and German is on Thursday after school.

Miss Pawsey

NEWS FROM OUR FACULTIES

This Half Term Science has been busy with its clubs!



We have been preparing the beds ready for the new poly tunnel.

Gardening club has been busy re-potting plants and cleaning the patio area.



We have prepared the strawberry beds.



Decorating club have been busy getting the Science department ready for Chinese New Year.

PE

The PE department has seen a busy half term as pupils rotate activities learning football, dance, badminton, dodgeball, rugby, fitness and table tennis across the different year groups. Unfortunately, Covid again postponed some of our fixtures including rugby and girl's football, but these should hopefully go ahead in the next half term. Year 10 and 11 football does start up in the final week of this half term and we have had some very successful Cross Country performances. We took a coach full of pupils to represent the Academy in the first round competition, from which A. Williams, L. Tinsley, J. Poole, A. Dewart, T. Rickard and J. Cook all qualified to represent West Norfolk at the County finals. A. Williams and A. Dewart were exceptional in this round, both winning their respective age group races. At the County finals, these pupils again excelled, all finishing in the top 22 in races which had up to 100 runners. A. Williams was again exceptional, and after finishing 8th, he will now go with the other best runners in the County to represent Norfolk in the Regional Event. Well done to all, and very best of luck to A. Williams.

We have a planned revamp of our fitness suite, which will see the standard of equipment improved. There will be a refreshed club timetable after the break, details of which will be on the whole school extra-curricular timetable. GCSE PE revision sessions will also begin.



Humanities

The first half of the Spring Term has been a busy one in the Humanities department. In History and Geography, we commenced our weekly GCSE revision sessions in preparation for the first public examinations in three years. We have been reasonably encouraged with the turnout, but students have been faced with the insidious choice of either History or Maths on a Tuesday and Geography or Science on a Thursday. In view of the fact that these sessions have made a significant contribution to the historic success of both subjects, we have been concerned that the students have been faced with such an impossible choice. Therefore, I am delighted to announce that Mrs Hogg has agreed to History and Geography sessions taking place on Monday evenings, thus removing the jeopardy. Happily, students can now attend all sessions without clashing with Science and Maths. Students studying both History and Geography can attend each on alternate weeks. Having made the effort to secure such an eventuality, we would really appreciate students attending regularly where humanly possible, as the impact of these sessions really cannot be understated. We will also be providing additional sessions in the Easter and May holidays; more information on these to follow.

The New Year also heralds the commencement of the options process for Year Nine. All students are required to select either History or Geography but can select both if they are wise enough! We are also extremely excited about the substantial developments that Miss Pyke's energy, enthusiasm and expertise have brought to RE as a subject and to the Humanities department in general and believe that this will help to generate a discrete GCSE group in this subject for the first time in many years. As a department, we are extremely proud of our record in attracting students to our subjects and of their subsequent success at GCSE and the excellence of the RE department can only make a positive contribution to this record.

Otherwise, we are gearing up for our second round of mock examinations in Year Eleven and for the Spring Term Assessments in other year groups. I need not remind you of the importance of these exams for our students going forward and would urge you to support them in preparing with the utmost diligence, regardless of their year group. Our aim is excellence and we consistently strive for that outcome in all of our endeavours.

Mr Bedford

Tech Club



TINKER
EXPLORE
CREATE

This half term we have launched our new afterschool Tech Club. Every 4-6 weeks, the tech club will focus on a new specialism and material within the design and technology umbrella. The current project is woodwork, where the students are learning skills in accurately measuring, sawing, sanding, types of wood and hinges. At the end of the project they will be able to proudly take home a small trinket box, which will hold keys, jewellery, make up or money. So far the students have excelled, and have produced some really high quality work. We cant wait to see the end result and work on future projects.

