

#IceniAcademy



May 22



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PROUDLY
SHARING
OUR NEWS

'Individually Strong,
Unstoppable Together'

PRINCIPAL'S POST

Dear Parents and Carers,

What a fantastic half term it has been! You can see from this edition of the newsletter that students have been very busy. Trips are back up and running with gusto, and fixtures are really in full swing, with a cricket fixture about to kick off (bad metaphor!) as I write.

I would like to congratulate five students in particular, who are recipients of the 'Lunch with the Principal' reward. The Maths department have nominated Max K in year 7 and Poppy B in year 9. Max was nominated for always being helpful and well-mannered, working incredibly hard in lessons and always looking after his peers and supporting their learning. Poppy was nominated for having such a positive attitude every lesson and always giving her learning her very best. Science were pleased to nominate Zsolt M in year 7 and Caitlin M in year 10. Zsolt always shows real commitment to his learning, and Caitlin shows real determination, and has made fantastic progress. English wanted Flynn F to be recognised for the fact that he always works extremely hard in lessons and has a brilliant grasp of the texts he has studied this year. He is committed to his learning, gives perceptive verbal answers and produces fantastic pieces of written work too. I am sure that you will want to join with me in wishing them a hearty congratulations. I look forward to sharing Lunch with them tomorrow to find out more about their interests and thoughts.

As we head into the Jubilee half-term, it has been lovely to pop up to the SEND department and see their Jubilee party in full swing this lunchtime. I was slightly disappointed that there were no crowns to wear, but the children made me very welcome nonetheless! I hope that you all have plans to celebrate the jubilee with your families, and I look forward to the next half of term, which will see the end of the exam series and hopefully some warmer weather!

Best wishes,

Lesley Hogg.

Easter egg raffle

Dear Parents, and Carers,

I would like to thank you all for your contributions of Easter eggs and for buying tickets for our Easter egg raffle last month.

We had 70 Easter eggs donated which was a fabulous amount, this was a terrific response from you all.

The eggs were delivered to all students, staff, and members of the public leading up to the Easter period, I am sure there were many happy faces on those days.

I would like to thank a few special people who helped make this raffle possible and worked tirelessly, to raise vital funds for the School Prom and the British Red Cross appeal for Ukraine Mrs Rayner, Miss Breheny, and the following students Aimee B, Kai B, and Jordan G.

We raised the Grand Total of £160.15, this has now been split in to two and will make a huge difference to both causes.

Here is a photograph of the top prize winner :

This was a great School and Community effort, and here's to many more future collaborations.

Kind regards,

Mrs J. Hassey



NEWS FROM OUR YEAR GROUPS

Year 7

This half term seems to have flown by and year 7 have had another excellent few weeks. Across this half term they have been awarded a massive 3951 positive points! I am particularly pleased to see that 51 of these points have been given to students for 'Acts of Kindness' which suggests as a year group we are doing well towards our motto of 'work hard, be kind'. Our top 10 students for this half term are:

- George C
- Ryan TM
- Dylan W
- Connie H
- Elivia M
- Jack B
- Scarlett P
- Amelia D
- Rhys F
- Amelia R



Congratulations to these students for receiving the highest number of positives across the last 6 weeks.

Last week, I also had the pleasure of spending my lunch break with some of the students in our gardening club which Ms Williams kindly runs each week. It was great to see the hard work that they are putting in to planting and looking after the crops - especially with the sun shining it's a great use of a lunch time! Well done to Max, Robbie, Zsolt, Freddie and any other students who have helped to get the garden looking so brilliant.

Finally, as we move into the final few weeks of the school year, it seems crazy to think that we will soon be holding our transition week for the incoming new year 7 students. This means that our current year 7 students have very nearly finished their first year at Icen Academy and will soon be year 8 students. I am sure that they will give a warm welcome to our new students during transition week as they will all remember the familiar feeling of excitement and nerves!

We wish our year 7 students and their parents and carers a restful half term break and we look forward to seeing you back in the academy for the final stretch.

Mrs Cross, Mrs Doughty & the Year 7 Team

Year 8

Year 8 have had another overall positive term with a large number of students being awarded with "Player of the Week", "Head of Year Student of the Week" and "Tutee of the Week" awards. It has been great being able to celebrate some of our fantastic students in assemblies this term. A large group of year 8s also had a great trip to The Globe Theatre, this was an experience I am jealous of. We are heading into the final half term of the year, and I would like to take this opportunity to ask parents to begin having conversations with their children about what subjects they would like to choose for their GCSE options as this forms a large part of the students' year 9. I hope you all have a wonderful half term and I look forward to seeing everyone back in June.

Mr Brown



Year 9

As we move closer towards the summer break, Year 9 are due to receive the news they have all been waiting for, confirmation of their GCSE choices going into Years 10 and 11. Uptake for all subjects on offer was brilliant this year, meaning that all subjects are able to run. I am looking forward to seeing how the children get on in their chosen subjects and learning about all of the things they get up to in their new classes. Please remember though that some may have been allocated their second choice.

Year 9 are continuing to show how well they are doing by receiving a great number of positive points. Collectively they have accumulated an impressive 1857 positive events since March, totalling 6510 points with Layla A and Alex being our greatest earners this time round.

Mr Marengi



Year 10

Year 10 have had a busy half term with both CCF Camps and Duke of Edinburgh Award trips running. My thanks to all the staff who facilitated this, I am sure these will be memories that the students carry with them for a long time.

Parents evening was brilliant; it was so good to pass on how well students have been doing and to start getting excited about Year 11. Within 3 school weeks it is strange to think we will be the oldest Year Group in the school! I am excited for us to be setting the high standards I know we are capable of, and to be the role models our community can be proud of.

In a few weeks we are facilitating a trip where students will be able to experience what College/ Sixth Form courses will be open to them in the future. My thanks to Miss Breheny for working tirelessly to ensure all students got spaces for their desired courses as they do usually go quickly!



Year 11

As we move to the final few weeks of school I want to pass on my thanks to staff who have been consistently holding high quality revision sessions. We all know the challenges this year group have faced over the last three years, and students in years to come will appreciate this work you are putting in. Thank you to all parents who are also enabling this for getting students in early or picking them up late, your support is much appreciated.

Finally I want to thank those students who are consistently meeting expectations. It is a tough time, with a lot of stress and I am very grateful to those who are continually working with staff and in and out of lessons to improve the chances of amazing outcomes in August. As a final message it has been a privilege to work so closely with this year group at this time, I wish them all the best for the next few week and beyond.

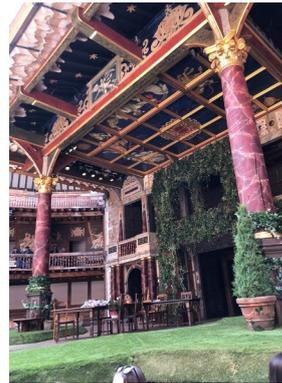
Mr Falder

NEWS FROM OUR FACULTIES

English

On Friday 6th May, we took a group of students to Shakespeare's Globe in London to watch a production of 'Much Ado About Nothing'. The students were brilliant all day and all seemed to enjoy themselves on their trip out. This trip followed our 'Love & Gender' unit for Year 8, which focuses on Shakespeare's 'Much Ado About Nothing' and in particular focuses on the character of independent Beatrice. Students were able to see this come to life in front of them and were able to experience the joy of the Globe!

We look forward to another half-term continuing new units and novels with our year groups. We wish Year 11 the best of luck with the summer exam season. We hope that they rise to the occasion with confidence, knowing that they have worked hard over the last two years despite the difficulties that may have been thrown their way.



Maths

At the beginning of this term, we launched Sparx Maths to Years 7 to 10. Sparx Maths is comprised of 4 working levels which is teacher generated and then adapted by Sparx to match the needs of each child so that every question provides a balance of challenge and support. In addition, Sparx Maths encourages students to earn more points by completing extra tasks on similar work, has work that challenges each child further and even has an independent learning experience where each child can revise topics of their own choice. This has generated a lot of competition, especially between Mr Brown and Miss Colson's Year 8 classes who are fighting for top spot on the leaderboard. Currently, Miss Colson's class are in the lead with two students racing to be top scorer of the entire year group. Well done Molly and Reuben for reaching 10,000 points already!

Year 11 have been eagerly preparing for their GCSE exams. The maths exams began on Friday with a non-calculator paper and then finish with two calculator papers after the May half-term. Revision sessions have been busy and very productive. The nerves are kicking in but we have every faith that they'll give it their best effort and will do themselves proud. Good luck Year 11!



NEWS FROM OUR FACULTIES

PE

HEADLINES

The PE department have enjoyed a great start to the Summer Term, kicking off with our summer sports such as tennis, cricket, rounders and athletics. We must start with last half term though, and congratulate Pankhurst for winning both the Community Indoor Athletics and Community Circuits competition after the publication of the last Newsletter.

Sticking with competition, well over 100 pupils represented the school in cricket, rounders and athletics (which took place at the UEA no less). It has been wonderful to see so many pupils participating in formal sport and we hope they have been positive experiences for all involved. Special congratulations to the Year 10 boys relay team for storming to victory in their event, and Year 7 girls for dominating the 800m and 1500m.

We must finish by wishing Year 11 all the best in their two GCSE PE exams either side of the half term break, and Year 10 sitting their Sports Science exam in the final week.



WHAT'S NEW?

Cricket, Tennis and Rounders club will remain on the club timetable. Sports Day(s) will also take place towards the end of the term, with pupils organising Community teams in the coming weeks.

SPECIAL MENTIONS

From our cricket fixtures, K. Murfitt, L. Fenn and A. Hewitt were excellent.

In the rounders, staff were very impressed with T. Barker, E. Brown, N. Muller, G. Smith and R. Edwards.

Last but not least, stand out performers in the athletics were: T. Barker, E. Muller, K. Charlesworth, F. Buckle, W. Purdy, G. Stannard, N. Rolph, J. Poole and O. Saunders.

MFL

I would firstly like to say a huge well done to the year 11 students who have recently sat their speaking exams. This can be a really nerve wracking experience, but they approached them really maturely and with a positive attitude. After half term we go straight into the German writing paper. A letter has been sent home inviting students to a breakfast revision session that morning.

We look forward to launching our first Icen Language Day since the pandemic. This will take place in June and will involve year 8. The idea behind it is to highlight the importance of languages in the wider world. We are hoping to involve some different languages as part of the programme, including some Art and orienteering! Watch this space for more details...

Science



Gardening Club had a wonderful donation of plants from Mrs Clarke and they are now planted and growing. We have also harvested our first crop of radishes. We hope to have a stall selling our produce to staff next half term.

Year 7 have been studying Ecology and Forces this half term.

Year 8 have been looking at Forces at work and Earth Science.

Year 9 are well underway with studying GCSE content and have been looking at Chemistry and Biology units recently.

Year 10 are currently looking at Electricity and Rates.

As summer approaches we have put Science club on hold at the moment as there is lots of work to do in the Garden but this will start again in September.

Humanities

Priorities for the Humanities department have inevitably focused on the imminent GCSE examinations; indeed, Year 11 students are presently engaged in completing History paper 1 as I write, having attended their breakfast revision session at 7.45 am today! On that note, may I take the opportunity to thank those who have helped to support the students by ensuring that they have been able to attend after school and holiday revision sessions in both history and geography. I cannot stress how significant these sessions are in terms of enabling students to reach and exceed their potential. Indeed, these sessions will continue on Monday evenings until both History and Geography examinations are completed, whilst we are providing a holiday session on Monday 30th May, 9-12 for history and 12.30-3.30 for geography. In addition, extra sessions will take place the evening before each exam, with a breakfast session on the morning of the exam in each case. Please do your utmost to support the students in these endeavours.

We are continuing to look forward to the history trip to the battlefields of Belgium and France with great anticipation. To this end, may I take the opportunity to remind you that the current advice is still that students will need either evidence of full vaccination or a negative PCR test within 72 hours of travel in order to participate, as well as their own passport. I do intend to hold a parent's meeting in the coming weeks, so please watch this space for information. Similarly, planning for Year 10 geography fieldwork is in full swing and expect an update shortly on an exciting day of both physical and human Geography on the North Norfolk coast and, of course, fieldwork is a compulsory requirement of the Geography GCSE.

Elsewhere in the department, Miss Pyke has continued to thrust RE into the forefront of our student's priorities. This has involved excellent, thought provoking assemblies to all years on homophobia and an eye catching display on the same subject outside room 7. Please encourage the students to stop by and take a minute to appreciate the continuing importance and relevance of this in our academy.

DofE

Miss Colson, Mrs Warren, Miss Francis and Mr Charlesworth supported 13 Year 10 students on their silver Duke of Edinburgh assessed expedition weekend. The students were self-sufficient for 3 days; cooking delicious meals, erecting tents, navigating using only a map and compass, carrying massive rucksacks and surviving the heat of a sunny weekend. There were many moments that made us laugh - exploding eggs in the firepit, cat and dog noise competitions at lights out and the 3 hours it took one group the cross a golf course. They learnt to work together as individual teams and as a group and, in doing so, gave each other the support to cross the finish line. A special shout out to Esmee who ensured everyone was wearing suncream, kept spirits high and didn't complain once. The group showed immense determination and resilience. Well done Year 10! Finally, A massive thank you to the families and staff that supported this expedition and made it a success.



ART



This term the students at Key Stage 3 have been introduced to the work of Henry Moore (Yr9), Giuseppe Arcimboldo (Yr8) and Andy Warhol & Pop Art (Yr7).



Year 9 students are developing ideas for three dimensional sculptures inspired by the modernist, surreal work of Henry Moore, and will be creating their organic forms using chicken wire and paper mache techniques.

Year 8 students are creating two dimensional art pieces in the style of Arcimboldo using fruits and vegetables within their portraiture compositions. They have been developing their drawing and coloured pencil skills through studies of a range of fruits and vegetables using direct observation.

Year 7 students are developing observational drawing and acrylic painting skills in the production of Pop Art paintings of everyday items.





Iceni Art Competition



A wonderful opportunity presented itself to our students this term; to be a part of the local Queen's Jubilee celebrations by producing a piece of artwork with relevance to Her Majesty the Queen's Jubilee and/or reign.

The three winning entries from Key Stage 3 students have been awarded extensive watercolour art packs, and a special gift went to Georgia D. (Yr10) who we commissioned to produce an outstanding pencil portrait of Her Majesty. The winning entries at KS3 were from Jemma B. Griffin S. and Leon L.

The art will be displayed in St George's Church, Methwold on the 2nd June 2022.

