

#IceniAcademy



October 22



@IceniAcademy

PROUDLY
SHARING
OUR NEWS

**'Individually Strong,
Unstoppable Together'**

PRINCIPAL'S POST

Dear all,

What a busy half term it has been! It has been lovely to see our new Year 7 cohort becoming part of the Icení community so quickly, under the expert guidance and encouragement of Miss Bartrum. We also appear to have some students who are very talented in sports, with a Rugby and Football team already formed and competing against other schools in the area. Some of them even volunteered to help out at the Open Evening, showing their new academy off to the visiting Year 6 students.

Please take time to read this newsletter, which has some extra sections this time to inform you of all the great things that are happening. A section on our reading strategy lets you know about the importance that we place on developing our students' vocabulary and oracy. Such is the success of this strategy, that Miss Staniforth has been invited to speak on the main stage of a national conference, attending by hundreds of other academies. We look forward to sharing our success, whilst taking great pride in the impact that it is having on the progress of our students.

In our SEND department, Miss Turner and her excellent team of LSAs have been busy completing training aimed at ensuring that all our students can access the curriculum following a short and intensive intervention programme. Alongside that, teaching staff have been looking at adaptive practice within the classroom, as well as their style of questioning. Ask your child about 'cold calling' - they will be experts!

We look forward to also having our first Parent Forum meeting in the next half of term—more information to follow. I hope you will join us as we work together to make Icení the academy that our children deserve.

Lesley Hogg

NEWS FROM OUR YEAR GROUPS

Year 7

Wow, what can I say, it has been an amazing start to the Year 7's school journey here at Icení Academy. It is a real pleasure working at the academy and to be their Head of Year this academic year.

All students have had a really positive 7 weeks at Icení Academy and have worked hard to produce amazing work in all lessons. This term so far Year 7 have received 4525 positive points, which is amazing and everyone should be very proud of this achievement. Our top 10 students in year 7 with 50+ positive points are:

Jacob K, Rosie T, Maxwell G, Sophie G, Megan J, Tobie B, James L, Rowen M, Phoebe S and Jack W.

Congratulations to all students in the year group who have all received positive points since their time starting at Icení Academy.

Massive congratulations to the following form groups for winning the fortnightly attendance competition: 7LG, 7MT, and the latest form, 7FA. Each fortnight the attendance trophy is delivered to the winning form group with goodies for the students to share their achievement.

It was fantastic to see so many Year 7s get involved and represent the school at our Open Evening back in September. It was great to see them sharing their positive stories of their time at Icení Academy and be proud to be part of our community. Year 7 students have also been involved in sporting fixtures to represent the school in Rugby and Football. A massive well done to all who represented the school.

It has been a fantastic first half term and can't wait to see what the next half term brings! Thank you to all students, parents and carers for your continued support. I hope you all have a restful half term and we look forward to hearing all about your holiday on your return!

Miss Bartrum

Year 8

Writing these newsletters always gives me an opportunity to pause and reflect on the half term so far. Welcoming our new Year 7 students at the start of the term made me consider how far our (now) Year 8 students have come in the relatively short period of time they have been with us. In some respects, it seems only yesterday that I addressed them as a year group for the first-time last September, and yet it is clear that over the last year many of our students have grown enormously since this point, both academically and socially. Year 8 have made an impressive start to the year having collectively received 1,366 positive points on Go4Schools. Our current top 10 students who have received the highest number of positives points are: Angel F, Jack W, Jack A, Harvey R, Ayana C, Hester D, Robbie F, Skye W, Diogo L, Alice W. Congratulations to all of these students and to everyone in the year group as all of you have contributed to our collective number of positive points! As we reach the half term break, it is also time for me to step back as Head of Year 8 and take a break from school to begin my maternity leave. I leave Year 8 in the capable hands of our brilliant form tutors, our Student Support Officer, Mr Ward, and Miss Agoudjil who will be stepping into my shoes as the new Head of Year. It has been a pleasure to work with our current year 8 students and I very much look forward to seeing how they are all getting on when I return to the Academy next year. Thank you as ever to our parents and carers for their continued support. Have a restful and enjoyable half term break.

Mrs Cross

Year 9

I cannot believe where the last few weeks have gone. The academic year is in full swing now and being your new HOY has allowed me to get to know you all in a different capacity.

The year will see us work together to help you make the big decision which will set you on to the next step to your future as you choose your options later in the year.

Year 9 have made a fantastic start to an important year and have collectively received 2819 positive points.

Our top ten year 9 students who have received the most positive points so far this year are:

Isaac C, Caitlyn F, Tyler S, Molly L, Seren M, Finley E, Elliot S, Hollie K, Bleu M and Molly P.

Well done to all of you who have contributed to the reward points.

I would like to say thank you to all the students who work hard every day and strive to do their best in everything they do.

The biggest positive you can have is being proud of yourself and putting that 100 percent in knowing you are doing everything to the best of your ability. In turn, this will put you in good stead for the next year as you go onto your GCSEs.

I look forward to working and guiding you throughout this coming year and beyond.

Thank you all, parents, guardians, the Year 9 form tutors, Mr Ward, our Student Support officer, and of course Year 9 themselves on the continued support.

Together we will succeed.

I wish you all a happy half term.

Miss Tooze

Year 10

I am delighted to see how well Year 10 pupils have settled into the challenges and difficulties of their GCSE journey. When visiting classes, it has been a pleasure to see the hard work and engagement that pupils are showing in their studies. This new academic year has been supported with various assemblies to support pupil development with the Year 10s taking part in assemblies focused on positivity, Black History Month and the importance of healthy relationships. The latter assembly was delivered by Paula Devaux, who is a specialist speaker on healthy relationships. This assembly was very well received, and we are looking forward to inviting Paula back specifically to deliver another assembly to Year 10 in the future. As a year group, I am excited launched a competition called 'Finding a View' which is designed to support mental well-being by asking pupils to get outdoors and photograph the amazing natural landscapes from their local area. I look forward to seeing and sharing the results.

Mr Magee

Year 11

It feels odd writing this as we come to the end of the first half term as Year 11! You may or may not know I started here formally with this year group in Year 7 and I feel very proud in seeing them through to reach their full potential. We are reaching a hugely exciting time in their lives, as they start to have assemblies on their options once they have left us and discuss their future plans. I for one get really excited hearing their aspirations and have every intention of supplying as much support as possible to help them reach their goals.

As you know we have Pre-Public Examinations after this week. It will inevitably be a stressful time for the students as they experience the environment that they will have in the summer. It will be a stressful time for parents as well, and I want to thank Miss Staniforth for her session this half term on how to manage exam stress in the home, and how to structure revision. Any parents or students who feel like they need further support and guidance as we move through this period please do speak to staff. Having been Head of Year 11 last year for a brief period I feel I have some idea of how we can support you all, but every year is different with its own unique challenges.

My final message is that I hope Year 11 cherish these last moments of school. Very soon it will all be over and we all think back on our school years as to what we could have done to be even more successful. But crucially I want the final year to be filled with memories that last a lifetime, of both achievement and friendship. I will be working as hard as I can to uphold this feeling as we finish the year.

Mr Falder



Child on Child abuse (CoCA) and Bullying – what we do about it

Child on Child abuse is not solely bullying, although this does form part of CoCA. CoCA is any form of abuse where there is any kind of physical, sexual, emotional or financial abuse or coercive control between children, both on and offline.

What is bullying?

We try to teach the children that understanding and managing conflict is an important part of growing up. We stress that bullying is not simply a 'falling out' but it is the repetitive, intentional hurting of one person or group by another person or group, where the relationship involves an imbalance of power. It can happen face-to-face or online. We know that it is essential that the children feel confident that when they tell us that something is going wrong that we will address it immediately.

As soon as we are informed about an alleged incident of bullying, we will investigate it by speaking to the children who were either involved or may have witnessed the incident or incidents. We will, unless inappropriate, inform the families of the children who are involved so that they can support both their children and the school throughout the whole process.

The children's form tutors will check in with them every week for at least a month to make sure that the bullying behaviour has stopped, their Head of Year will check in with them at the end of the first week and then again at the end of the half term to make sure that there had been no further incidents. We will only close the incident if both parties agree that there have been no further issues.

Sometimes further incidents will occur and it is really important that we are informed so that we can take further, stronger action.

If you have any questions about our CoCA policy then please speak to your child's form tutor or look at our Anti Child on Child Abuse policy, which can be found on our website. [Our Policies - Iceni Academy - Methwold \(atrust.org.uk\)](https://www.atrust.org.uk)

Mr Carmichael

Reading at Icen

At Icen Academy, reading is so important to us. Reading opens up new worlds, lets us explore others' ideas, thoughts, experiences and opinions, helps us answer our unanswered questions and also allows us to enjoy stories told by others. We do this in lots of ways: through our English curriculum, through the texts we read and the vocabulary explore across the curriculum and how we approach reading during form time.

In form time, students engage with 'Register and Read', an opportunity to explore real-world, current affairs stories and discuss and debate their contents. Students tackle tricky vocabulary, make predictions about the article based on its title/image and then read with their class. Topics this half term have included the new Amazon Prime Lord of the Rings series, the story of Holly Willoughby and Philip Schofield at Her Majesty the Queen's lying in state and the actions of Just Stop Oil activists in London. This year, we have also been able to purchase a wide range of texts to be read by tutors to their students. This is a development from last year's approach, where all students watched a recorded reading video - we read some great books last year, and the best is still to come! These books form the Icen Reading Canon - the books we would like all our students to read and enjoy during their time in the academy. You can see a small selection of these, below.

This year we are also proud to launch our Icen Reading Rewards. You can read more about these in your child's student planner. Students can receive lapel badges and prizes for reaching various reading milestones - beginning with having read five books for a bronze award. In addition, we are excited about two larger reading competitions: 13 before 13, and 16 before 16. There are two lists of books (one for students in Years 7-9, and the second for students in Years 9-11) packed with fantastic reads which we think all students should read before they turn 13 (or 16!). If students read 13 of these (or 16, for the second list!) they can be in with a chance of winning some amazing prizes later in the year.

Our reading programme at Icen Academy is having a measurable impact on our students' reading ages and engagement with reading, and we are so proud of their effort and hard work with this. To support your child at home, please encourage them to read as often as they can. Not only does reading frequently help your child improve their reading age (and thus better access the curriculum, and statistically perform better in their GCSEs), but also supports wellbeing and reducing stress.

We are lucky to have lots of fantastic local public libraries nearby which are entirely free to access. In addition, Norfolk library services also has an ebook lending scheme, meaning we can all access a wide range of books without having to travel to a library on our own devices at home. All you need is a free library card, and the catalogue will be open to you - for free! You can find out more, here: [eBooks, eNewspapers, eMagazines and eAudio - Norfolk County Council](#). The service allows you to change the font size, translate the text into one of 17 languages and also is enabled with 'read aloud', so you can hear the book aloud as it is read.

Miss Staniforth
Vice Principal



NEWS FROM OUR FACULTIES

English

In English, we have settled into the new academic year and made a fantastic start to learning after the summer holidays. We have been particularly impressed by the resilience and positive attitudes to learning from our Year 7 students. They have settled in incredibly well to their study of English at Icen! This half-term, Year 7 have been learning all about the History of Language, exploring novels such as 'Utopia' by Thomas More and 'Robinson Crusoe' by Daniel Defoe.

Year 8 have started reading 'The Time Machine' and investigating technology and the advantages and disadvantages of this. There have been some fantastic discussions in lessons debating if we are addicted to technology. Year 9 are currently reading 'To Kill A Mockingbird' and are contributing excellent ideas on unit's theme of prejudice, courage and good vs. evil. There have been some very interesting conversations surrounding the Black Lives Matter movement and white privilege.

In Key Stage 4, Year 10 have started their GCSE study with *Macbeth*, whilst Year 11 have been focusing on *A Christmas Carol* and revising their Language content. We are very impressed by Year 11s positive mindset as they begin their final year at Icen. Keep up the hard work!

Miss Greenland

Humanities

September 1st dawned fair and bright to welcome another new academic year full of challenges and possibilities for the Humanities department. Firstly, I should like to take the opportunity to publicly welcome our new member of the Humanities Faculty, Charlotte Coates, who is teaching RE and PSHE and has already made an impact in the Academy.

It has been an extremely busy term already for all of us, including Open Evening, where prospective students grappled with the opportunity to build an earthquake proof house made of spaghetti and blu-tac, played a range of Tudor games, took part in a Humanities department quiz and had a spiritual experience traversing a range of faiths. Hopefully, visitors were treated to a sample of what they can expect when entering the Humanities realm and we look forward to welcoming them in September 2023. Geography also made a substantive contribution to the Full Academy Review, experiencing a 'Deep Dive' in the constant search for development.

As we look ahead to the forthcoming assessment window in November, including the crucial first round of mock examinations for Year 11, may I take this opportunity encourage families to continue to support the students in their efforts, particularly revision, which is a critical element in preparing for examinations of every kind. For Year 11, there will be opportunities to attend after school revision sessions in History and Geography after Christmas, which have historically elevated access to the higher grades for those that attend regularly. More information on these to come in the future.

We are also in the process of sending out letters for the History department trip to the World War One Battlefields of Belgium and France, scheduled for 6th-7th July 2023. Similar to last year, we have the option of a second coach, which enables us to open the trip to both Year 10 and Year 11, in addition to Year 9. Anyone who has ever participated in this trip can vouch for what a powerful emotional and learning experience it is, throwing into sharp relief the Year 9 focus on the First World War and contributing to a better understanding of injuries and treatments on the Western Front, critical for Paper One of the GCSE. It is excellent value for money at £200, including a £60 deposit, with the option of paying by instalments, and I can heartily recommend it.

Mr Bedford



Maths

Students have made a good start to their new year of learning. They have been keen to engage with the new mathematics material and get involved during lessons.

We have experienced a successful re-launch of Sparx Maths for homework and independent learning. It has been very positive to hear that parent emails have encouraged students to complete their homework on time and that students are enjoying using Sparx.

We hope to continue to raise attainment in mathematics by ensuring students receive high quality education during lessons and through their independent learning. Thank you for your support with this.



We had an incredibly successful Open Evening with many students from a variety of year groups supporting the department with their excellent maths skills. It was great getting to know prospective children and their families. We adored engaging in both discussions about maths education and getting involved in solving puzzles. We look forward to welcoming these students in the future!

Miss Colson

PE

HEADLINES

We have seen an excellent start to the new year with Mr France joining the team and covid restrictions being fully lifted. This has seen a full range of clubs and fixtures back on the calendar. After half term the pre-public examinations mean we lose our sports hall, therefore all students are outside doing cross county!

Following last years success, we have continued out fortnightly fixtures against our sister school Nicholas Hammonds from Swaffham. The aim is to try and get as many students as possible playing competitive sport who may not have done so in the past. This half term we have hosted A, B and C teams playing Football and Netball.

Next half term sees us travel to Swaffham for dodgeball matches.

New Clubs starting after half term 3.30 till 4.30

Fitness Thursday All years
Basketball Tuesday (after pre-public examinations)
Badminton Thursdays

SPECIAL MENTIONS

PE Kit socks Please make sure you bring and are changing into you PE socks for your PE lessons. We are starting to see a few classes where this is becoming more common.
Please donate ! If you have grown out of PE kit and have no further use for it please donate it to the spare kit stock. We are in desperate need for shorts and socks!!

Sponsor for school teams. If you know of any person or business who would like to sponsor a team please contact Mr Spurgeon via email james.spurgeon@atrust.org.uk

FIXTURES

Football. This term we have seen the U14 and the U16 play Dereham Neathred. Despite controlling the game the U16 went down 3-2. The U14 had to call upon Year 8 players after a poor no show from some Year 9s. Although they lost, we were very competitive considering lots of our players were made up from the younger years.

Rugby. Our boys in Year 7, 8 and 9 teams once again took part in the emerging schools competition at North Walsham Rugby club. The majority of our students don't play rugby out of school, however, they were more than competitive and greatly improved their skills.

Netball

The girls have been practising every Thursday after school and also played U14 and U16 matches against Neatherd.



Year 11 Pre-Public Examination Speaking Exams

MFL

As we are now fast approaching the mock exam period, we are preparing for the Pre-Public Examination Speaking exams for both French and German.

These will take place w/c 14th November with Miss Trichet, Ms Agoudjil and Miss Pawsey. Students will be given their start time from their class teacher, this time will include the 12-minute preparation time and 12 minutes for their exam.

Students will be tested on all 3 elements: role play, photo-card task and general conversation. In class students have been preparing their answers for their conversation and will need to learn these ready for the exam. Should anyone need any further support, please speak with their MFL teacher.

The Language Gym

We have another subscription this year for the online learning platform: The Language Gym Language Gym - Home (language-gym.com).

Students have been setting up their accounts in school in class using their school email address. These accounts can also be accessed at home on a device.



**THE
LANGUAGE
GYM**

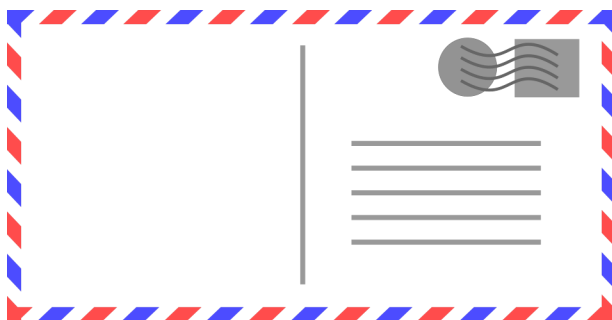
European Bake-Off competition

What this space... look out for our exciting European Bake-Off competition next half term. We'll be asking students to bring in their European themed food: cake, dessert, or any other tasty masterpiece! Miss Tooze, Head Judge, will be deciding who will be crowned our Icenen winner!



Icenen holiday postcards

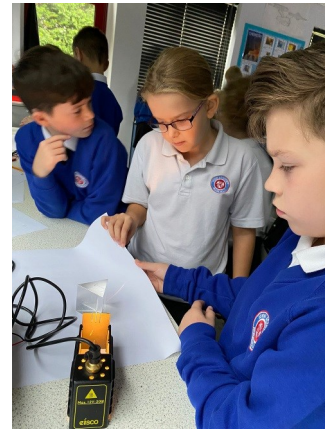
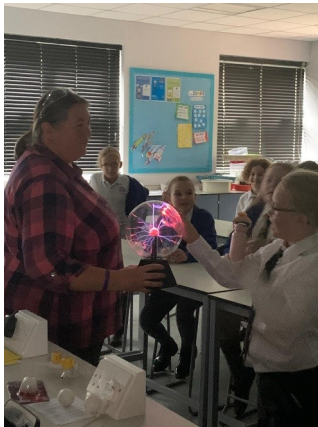
Finally, thank you for sending in your postcards from your summer holiday! We received some wonderful postcards from Norfolk, Thailand, America, and Norway! Please keep them sending them in if you are away over October half term and don't forget to add a message in the language of the country you are visiting. We can add them to the fantastic display in Room 1!



Science

This half term Oak class from Hockwold primary school joined us for a morning of Science!

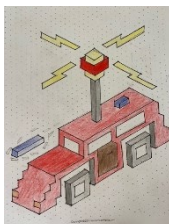
We worked on electrical circuits and acid and Alkalis. We ended with a little demonstration of turning water into wine and wine into milk!!



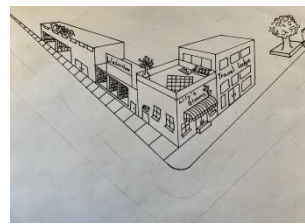
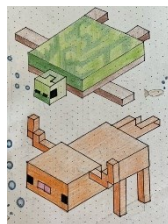
We have had a fun and energetic start to our technology journey with all KS3 years beginning with a graphic communication topic. This is designed to build on accuracy while developing their technical drawing and communication skills. Year 7 have been studying the importance of accuracy and measuring, then using these skills to create a technical drawing of navy signal flags that correlate to their names. In Year 8 we extend these skills into more three-dimensional drawing. They learn the difference between Oblique and Isometric. They are then assessed on creating an Isometric robot design inspired by the popular game Minecraft, which builds 3D objects/environments using single cubes. Year 9s focus is on 3D perspective and the difference between one-point and two-point technical drawing, taking inspiration from architectural design. At the end of the unit, they are tasked with designing a high street using their two-point perspective knowledge. Year 10 have also begun a small graphic communication project with the focus on computer aided design and its differences from technical hand drawing. For their task they were given an image of a building which they had to accurately recreate within Sketch Up.



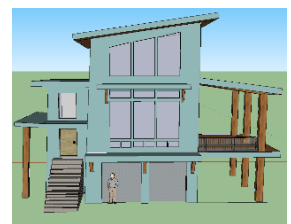
Year 7 Flags



Year 8 isometric Robots



Year 9 Two-Point City



Year 10 Sketch Up

Special Educational Needs News!

Wow! What a start to an academic year this has been. We have had lots of exciting things happening with SEND.

First, we welcomed two new Learning Support Assistants, Mrs White and Mrs Clucas. They both bring a wealth of knowledge and have already put their skills to good use, and have made a great contribution to the team, increasing the capacity to support our students.

We also now have a SEND Hub based within the Humanities blocks. The hub has enabled us to increase the range of support we can put in place. In H2 we have created a therapeutic / mental health support space. H8 is our academic support base where interventions around literacy, numeracy and English as an additional language support is being offered, and then we also have H7 which is our social space for students to use during break times. Within this space we are also developing our sensory space, as well as our 'Just Read' area. This room provides a safe space for students to chat, play games, build things with Lego and spend time together away from the hustle and bustle of the other social spaces within the school.



Alongside this, Mrs Hassey, Mrs Griggs and Mrs Warren have completed Drawing and Talking training, with one more member of staff to be trained in this fantastic therapeutic programme. Plus Mrs Rayner, who is going to be our Thrive Practitioner has begun her yearlong training programme, and will start to work with students on this programme.



We currently have some literacy and numeracy interventions running, however to develop this further we are going to have some of our LSAs trained in Read Write Inc Fresh Start phonics programme and Speech Link – a speech, language and communication programme. These programme will provide a greater range of support we can offer to students so that they are able to fully access their learning across the curriculum.

A PLEA!!! – if anyone has any Lego that they no longer use and would be willing to donate, we gladly take this off your hands for use in H7 at social times and also to further develop Lego Therapy with Mrs Clucas.

Finally, I would like to offer a personal thank you to all of our staff and in particular, the team of LSAs for their hard work and commitment towards supporting our students.

Sarah Turner - Assistant Principal - SENCO