

#IceniAcademy



December 22



@IceniAcademy

PROUDLY  
SHARING  
OUR NEWS

**'Individually Strong,  
Unstoppable Together'**

## PRINCIPAL'S POST

What a fantastic couple of days I have had, celebrating the success of so many of our students. I have handed out over 200 Bronze Icení Foundation awards, which recognise good attendance and positive behaviour. On top of that, each student has been nominated by a member of staff in one of the five Icení Foundations—Inclusion, Care, Expectations, Never Giving Up and Integrity. Students are already proudly wearing their bronze stars on the lapels of their blazers. I look forward to awarding more students who just missed out this time before we break at Easter, as well as giving out our first ever Silver awards.

This week has also seen the joyful Drama Club production of 'Grease'. Never have I witnessed such enthusiasm and professionalism. Miss Francis, Miss Ashman and Miss Laws have worked tirelessly after school for months. I will miss the singing practice as I sit in my office, but am confident that I now know all the words of 'Greased Lightning'!

The end of term brings sadness for us too, as we say goodbye to two long-standing members of staff. Mrs. Cutts, our Attendance officer bids us goodbye, and I thank her for all her hard work over the years. Mr. Carmichael is also leaving us, and will leave a huge hole in the academy. He has worked endlessly to make sure that our students are happy and safe. Countless children that have passed through Icení over the past 14 years have improved life chances because of his work; many of whom are unaware. On their behalf I thank him, and wish him well.

Wishing you all a restful break with your loved ones,

Lesley Hogg.

## NEWS FROM OUR YEAR GROUPS

### Year 7

What an amazing first term for Year 7 in their school journey here at Icení Academy. It has been a real pleasure working with students and families over the past few months.

Students have had a fantastic positive start at Icení Academy and have worked hard to produce amazing work in all lessons. This term year 7 have achieved 8352 positive points, which is amazing, and everyone should be very proud of this achievement. Our top 5 students in year 7 with over 100 positive points are:



Last week we welcomed Camouflaged Learning in to work with the whole of Year 7 around working with the RAF and STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Maths) work and students' worked on their resilience and teamwork skills. It was a great experience for them all to be involved in.

We have also had our first Christmas Dinner at Icení Academy last week and it was great to get the whole year together to celebrate an amazing first term and start the festive celebrations early.



Thank you to all students, parents and carers for your continued support. I hope you all have a restful Christmas and a happy New year!

Miss Bartrum

## Year 8 Advent Calendar Competition

## Year 8

This term, we ran a competition throughout all subjects for Year 8 students. I would like to say well done to our five Year 8 students who won the Advent Calendars this year. I am very pleased that their hard work was rewarded.

They are Lloyd S, Teddy DP, Robbie F, Chloe P, and Faith C.



We are really pleased to share Dylan W's news! He was recently presented with a Scouting award for completing The Norfolk Platinum Jubilee Challenge in the summer. This was presented to him by James Bagge, Deputy Lieutenant of Norfolk. Well done Dylan - what a fantastic achievement!

Wishing everyone a wonderful Christmas.

Miss Agoudjil

## Year 9

Another half term has gone very quickly and again it has been very busy. Many Year 9s have been involved in many things around school and have taken part in the following: The Remembrance parade, the dive trip, the fantastic musical 'Grease' that is lead by Miss Francis, many sports fixtures and the European Bake Off that was run by the MFL department. Well, done to all of those who have taken part in these fantastic opportunities.

Year 9, as a whole, continue to make progress and have collectively achieved 5179 positive points this term. With the top form being 9AB who have contributed 1133 to this amazing total.

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

Caitlyn F, Hollie K, Isaac C, Elliot S, Tyler S, Ari B, Harvey N, Molly P, Jemma B and Bleu M

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.

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.

All that is left for me to say is have a well-deserved break and I will see you all in January refreshed and ready to learn and start thinking about our GCSE options.

I wish you all a happy and healthy Christmas.

Miss Tooze

# Year 10

I am delighted to provide an update on how well Year 10 have continued to perform this term. It has been humbling to see so many pupils working hard in all lessons and engaging with their GCSE subjects and teachers. It has been fantastic to recognise the large number of positive moments that the Year 10 pupils have contributed to this year so far, with a collective total of over 3700 positive points to date, reflecting the hard work of all the Year 10 pupils.



This term saw the photography competition which encouraged the pupils to get outdoors and take a photograph of their natural surroundings. I am delighted to announce the winner of the competition was Lara B with this photograph.

Well done to all the entries, with the top 3 photographs being announced at the celebration assembly in the final week of term.

Christmas is always a time of reflection and as Head of Year 10, my reflection has been one of just how many amazing pupils we have in the year group, and I look forward to helping them succeed into the New Year. Thank you to all parent and carers who continue to support the pupils and I wish all, a very Merry Christmas.

Mr Magee

## Attendance:

In January we will be working with students and families more closely to ensure that students are attending school more regularly.

We will be having a focus on students being late for school and for lessons. Something to think about and to discuss with your children is being late to school and the impact that this can have on their attainment in school.



We aim for every child to have attendance of 95% or above. Those who have achieved this this half term have been celebrated in assemblies this week. Well done to all. We will be continuing to celebrate attendance throughout the year.

It is important to consider how many days off and how this equates to their attendance percentage. Every child under 90% is seen as 'Persistently Absent' and interventions will be put in place for these students to support with their absences.



# Raising Standards Leader Update—Year 11

In my capacity as the raising standards leader (RSL) for the academy, I wanted to take a moment in this edition of the newsletter to warmly congratulate Year 11 on a fabulous term. This term has seen students undertake their first set of Pre-Public Examinations (PPEs), which have given all our teachers the opportunity to see how they can target specific interventions, both in and out of class, to ensure students continue to make rapid and sustained progress towards their targets. Students behaved very well throughout the PPEs, and demonstrated their maturity, thoughtfulness and hard work. Well done, everyone.

It has been particularly buoying to see a number of students using GCSEPod to kickstart their revision. The earlier revision begins the better, as the more times we recall and retrieve information over time, the more likely we are to retain it and be able to recall it more easily. GCSEPod is a fantastic resource for this, and our top three GCSEPod users so far are:

- Mia B
- Holly C
- Oliver F

Well done to you all! If your child has not yet registered for GCSEPod, they can do so at [www.gcsepod.com](http://www.gcsepod.com). It is a fantastic resource we buy in for our students, and it has been proven, nationwide, that the students who use GCSEPod the most received results 3 grades higher across their subjects than predicted. I would love for our students to see this impact on their own results, too!

We also have some high points scorers in the year group for rewards and praise in the academy, with 1882 positive points awarded to students. Our top point scorers from September-December were:

- Sanaiyah J
- Kevin M
- Zanna S
- Raif S
- Jak W

The Spring term brings with it a real focus on preparing students for exams. Our after school intervention programme will commence (I will send a separate letter about this), and our focus in lessons will be on continuing to move students on from their Autumn Term PPEs, and close any gaps in their knowledge and skills so they can be as successful as possible.

We will also look at study skills, and how students can look after themselves well in the coming weeks and months to ensure they are ready and raring to go for their exams in the summer!

In January, the big countdown begins! There will be 75 school days left before Year 11's first exam, and so high attendance is more important than ever so that students can benefit from the expertise of staff in school. If we can support your child's attendance in any way, please do let us know.

For now, though, I wish all of Year 11—and their families—a happy and restful break, and we'll see you back in the academy, ready for a new term, on Wednesday 4th January 2023.

Miss Staniforth  
Vice Principal



# 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. We have heard some very interesting discussions about ethics and philosophy in relation to the play. Year 8 have been continuing with 'The Time Machine' and have been considering why H.G Wells may have written this novel and what he may have been criticising. Students have been debating how technology is used in modern society, and the advantages and disadvantages of our society being so reliant on technology to function.

Year 9 are finishing 'To Kill a Mockingbird' this week 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. We have also been linking this plot point to our prior knowledge about white privilege from last half-term.

In Key Stage 4, Year 10 have finished 'Macbeth' and have recently completed an assessment exploring how Macbeth can be seen as a violent character. We have read some excellent responses. Well done! In the Spring term, Year 10 will be studying 'An Inspector Calls'.

Year 11 have finished 'A Christmas Carol' and will now begin revising their English Language skills. Well done to Year 11 for all their hard work throughout their first set of PPEs. Keep up the hard work!

Miss Greenland

## Girls Rugby Development Days

## PE

This half term we were able to take U-12 and U-14 girls to Norwich Rugby Club to take part in a rugby development day.

The day was split into two halves. The morning students rotated on a series of stations working on different skills which included passing, tackling, defensive lines and rucking with the help of expert coaches of some of the local rugby clubs. In the afternoon, they took part in full contact matches. The progress was fantastic with some students having never played rugby when they arrived to tackling students in games who play on a regular basis.

We had some great success in the games. U-12 beat Wymondham College and drew against North Walsham. The U-14 beat Thetford Academy and drew against Notre Dame.

We are hoping to get the students involved in more fixtures in the new year in the hope that some will take it up out of school.

Very well done to all involved. They really optimised one of our Iceni Values of 'Never give up'



Under 12 Squad



Under 14 Squad

## Humanities

Once again, this has been an immensely busy term for the Humanities department, not least because of the fact that the students were launched straight into pre-public examinations after the half term break. I would like to compliment Year 11 on their impeccable conduct throughout this time. The results were, on the whole, very encouraging and whilst I would urge them not to rest upon their laurels at this crucial time, I also believe that we can build something very special over the course of the remaining months.

To that end, it is the intention of both History and Geography to offer weekly after-school intervention sessions when we return from the imminent Christmas break. These will consist of virtual sessions via Teams. Could I take this opportunity to request your support in ensuring as many of our students attend as many of these sessions as humanely possible, as it is not rocket science to deduce that the most regular attendees in the past have been those that have excelled when it has come to the final reckoning.

All other years have tackled their Autumn common assessment tasks with aplomb in History, Geography and RE, whilst I am delighted to be able to report that the History field trip to the World War One Battlefields of Belgium and France will once again involve 80 Icenis students in July 2023. This is a fantastic opportunity for our students to experience learning outside of the classroom, enhancing the knowledge acquired this term in the very locations where it all took place.

In the meantime, our own Christmas Truce is upon us, so all that remains is for me to wish you a very Merry Christmas and a prosperous New Year.

Mr Bedford



## Maths

**SPARX MATHS**

As we slowly draw closer to Christmas, we have been reflecting on all of the positives that have happened during the term.

Students have engaged incredibly well with Sparx Maths. Year 7 and 8 have been leading the way with the highest completion rate. 3 students in Year 7 have nearly achieved their Level 1 with an incredible 9000+ points! In addition, 14 students in Year 7, 6 students in Year 8, 7 students in Year 9, 5 students in Year 10 and 5 students in Year 11 have achieved a whopping 5000+ points! The additional revision outside of the classroom has been supporting students in achieving their full potential.

The Year 11 pre-public examinations 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

There has been a buzz amongst Year 10 students who are looking forward to the upcoming trip to Disneyland Paris. We are excited to develop their knowledge of career opportunities, enable them to experience maths in a variety of different ways and open their eyes to cultures different from their own. We look forward to taking them in March!

Miss Colson

# PE

## HEADLINES

The first two weeks of this half term students took part in the inter college cross country competition. Despite being a team competition there were some impressive individual performances from the following students

Yr 7 Jack H, Jacob K, Vinnie W, Toby B, Lucy C, Millie S, Shelby O and Rosie P

Yr 8 Elodi M, Tilly B, Roman R and Edward G

Yr 9 Emily P, Holly K, Max W, Leon L and Riley L

Yr 10 Dylan W, Harry G, Eleanor B, Amy D

Community Cross Country Results 2022

1<sup>st</sup> Pankhurst, 2<sup>nd</sup> Attenborough, 3<sup>rd</sup> Mandela, 4<sup>th</sup> Nightingale.

## FIXTURES

As the evenings lose their light, rugby, netball and football fixtures are having their winter break. However, the regular fixtures against our sister school Nicholas Hammond have continued. Following football and netball last term, this term has seen the introduction of dodgeball matches for the first time. At the time of print the Year 8s and 9s have played, winning and losing respectively. The Year 7s are due to play the last Thursday of term to decide the series, good luck to those playing! The spring term sees Hammonds host basketball matches.

## SPRING TERM

Next term brings in the new year and the County Cross Country trials. Students will be competing in order to represent West Norfolk at the county trials. The event is on Tuesday 10<sup>th</sup> January at Neatherd High school Dereham. If you are interested in representing the school, make sure you stay fit over the holidays!!

Once the light returns in February, we will be starting rugby and football after schools clubs again. We are entered in the County 7's rugby tournament so need to be prepared. I am also excited to announce we have recently appointed in the academy's admin department, an ex-elite female footballer. Despite playing for Ipswich, Aimee Stretch has agreed to help launch girls football club once the light returns. We look forward to seeing if we have the next Lionesses here at Icenii!!

Clubs starting in January 3.30 till 4.30

Basketball Tuesday Badminton / table tennis & Fitness Thursday

Starting 31<sup>st</sup> January Rugby club, then every Tuesday

2<sup>nd</sup> February Boys Football club and Girl's ONLY football, then every Thursday.

**PE Kit socks** Please make sure you bring and are changing into you PE socks for your PE lessons. Starting from next term unless you have a good reason, you will be given a detention if you aren't in correct kit, you have been warned!

**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!!



## SPECIAL MENTION

The end of term sees us say goodbye to Mr France. He has been with us since September and I thank him for all his help, particularly with our Yr. 10 Cambridge National group. We wish him all the best in his next school and hope he stays in contact.

Lastly, I am pleased to announce that following his work with the English football team, Mr Taylor will be returning to lead the faculty next term, he couldn't stay away!!

Mr Spurgeon



European Bake off competition!

Wow, Icenis students did us proud... we had so many entries for the bake off and they all looked and tasted incredible!!

We had an English crumble, Scottish tablet, Latvian honey cake, French truffles, Austrian Sachertorte and Black Forest gateau, Hungarian poor man's cake and so many more! We even had two incredible cakes decorated as suitcases, what a brilliant idea!

Thank you to everyone that entered. It was such a difficult decision choosing our winners.

We had joint winners for the 'tastiest cake': Alfie and Tommy in year 9

The winner for the 'best decorated': AJ year 7.

We look forward to handing out prizes and certificates in success assembly!



Language ambassadors!

We had a fantastic number of applications from students in Year 7 and 8 to be Language Ambassadors, this year. It was a very difficult decision to choose, we would have liked to accepted you all. Badges have been ordered and will be distributed in the new year.

Well done to the following students that were chosen:

**Year 7**

Seb B, Phoebe BK, Sophie G, Megan J, Ellena M, Rosie T.

**Year 8**

Dylan W, Chloe P.

They will join our already motivated group of ambassadors:

Ayana C, Elyse P, Angel F, Jack A, Logan J, Molly P, Sienna W, Amber J, Rose H.



The ambassadors have already been busy this week getting our MFL Christmas tree decorated.

This week in lessons we have been looking at how Christmas is celebrated in Germany and France and some vocabulary linked to Christmas. We would like to wish all our students and community a very Merry Christmas and look forward to seeing you all in the New Year!

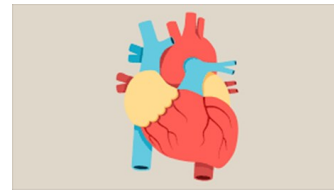
*Joyeux Noël – Frohe Weihnachten.  
Miss Pawsey, Miss Trichet, Mr Boudiba and Ms Agoudjil*

Year 7 have been learning about Particle, Matter and Energy, and Systems and health.



# Science

Year 10– Organisation & Energy Changes



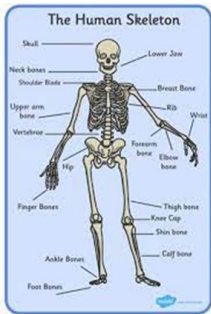
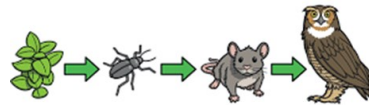
Year 8—Genetics & Evolution, and Atoms, Molecules & Mixtures



Year 9– Energy & cells



Year 11– Food chains & Waves



The design and Technology department has been buzzing with all things practical this half term. Students from all years have been expanding their knowledge and experience in a wide range of materials and making some incredibly high-quality outcomes.

**Year 7** have been split, with half the classes beginning their journey in textiles where they are developing their understanding in the basic hand sewing stitches and using this to recreate a design of their choosing in cross stitch. The other half have been starting their first ever project focused on modernising narrow boat designs by using inspiration from four designers and exploring different ways to use prototypes to communicate their ideas.



Year 7 Designer Inspiration



Year 8 Fabric Pencil Case

**Year 8** have been expanding their prior experience in hand sewing to create and sew together a new fabric pencil case with a zip fastener. (*Now they have no excuse to not have their equipment!*). As well as learning about basic mechanism and movement which they will use to create a wooden toy at the start of next term.

**Year 9s** have had fun experiencing metal work for the first time in a project focused on the history of the military dog tags and its inspiration in fashion.

The **Year 10s** have just completed their Architectural design project where they have made to scale dioramas of clients appartement based on individual client briefs.



Year 9 Two-Point City



Year 10 Client Diorama

Finally, our **Year 11s** have made a fantastic start in their final coursework project and will be starting to develop their design ideas more practically next term.

**From everyone in the Tech Arts department, We wish you a merry Christmas and a happy new year.**

**Miss Francis**