

#IceniAcademy



October 23



@IceniAcademy

PROUDLY  
SHARING  
OUR NEWS

**'Individually Strong,  
Unstoppable Together'**

## Head's Headlines

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 Icen community so quickly, under the expert guidance and encouragement of Miss Ashman. We have had lots of positive things going on this half term including lots of sporting fixtures, a 'Go Ape' trip at High Lodge, the Year 11 Academic Evening, and a successful open evening meeting Year 5 & 6 parents/ carers, and potential students.

We hope you have a lovely restful half term, and look forward to welcoming students back on Monday 30th November.

Useful dates for next term:

Year 7 Settling in evening: Thursday 2nd November

Year 11 Progress evening: Thursday 30th November

Year 11 Revision night: Wednesday 13th December

Mr Rushton

Safeguarding posters:

<https://icenimethwold.attrust.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/sites/9/2023/11/Bullying.pdf>

<https://icenimethwold.attrust.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/sites/9/2023/11/CYP-Mental-Health.pdf>

<https://icenimethwold.attrust.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/sites/9/2023/11/Self-harm-parents-guide-1-2.pdf>

# Vice Principal Update

Dear parents and carers,

Thank you for the warm welcome to the academy community. The first half term has passed in the blink of an eye.

We have seen some real success around our efforts to develop the culture of the academy, and we would like to take this opportunity to thank the vast majority of students that get it right, every day. Well done.

Have a positive and safe half term. Please remember that as the darker afternoons and evening draw in, you should have lights on bikes, and be wearing suitable clothing to safeguard you. We look forward to welcoming you back after the break.

## **Expectations**

In an effort to embed positive culture, and provide a solid foundation to build even further, we have asked all students and staff at the academy to adopt some simple steps.

<b>Aim high</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Arrive to school dressed appropriately, following our expectations regarding uniform</li><li>• Be equipped and ready to learn</li></ul>
<b>Work hard</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Attend every lesson</li></ul>
<b>Be kind</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Speak to each member of the academy with dignity and respect</li><li>• To promote a positive use of technology (eg. Social media)</li><li>• Use the Icení full stop – Please, Thank you, Sir/Miss</li><li>• Hold doors open</li><li>• Respect the environment</li></ul>

## **Ready to Learn equipment**

We have asked all students to be 'Ready to Learn'. This means that we would ask that all students have the following equipment every day. This will help them to succeed every lesson.

- Pen
- Pencil
- Ruler
- Protractor
- Calculator
- Student Planner Card

Mr Nicholls

## Safeguarding

This academic year we have an Icení Safeguarding Top 5. We will be working across the school to improve support for individuals and families as well as training and workshops for staff. We will continue to share updates throughout the year via newsletters.

1. **Derogatory and prejudice related language and related behaviours** - we have signed up with the Norfolk LGBT+ programme this year and will be working closely with these around staff training and workshops and support for students.
2. **Truancy, including internal and external**
3. **Substance Misuse, including vapes** - we are working with
4. **Harmful sexual behaviours (HSB)**- we are working closely with JIGSAW around sexual health support within school.

**Mental health, including self-harm and anxiety** - we have just teamed up with Breckland Mental Health Support Team and currently in the planning stages for this to be able to refer individuals for support and to complete staff and student workshops across the year.

At Icení we will be celebrating **Anti-Bullying Week, 13<sup>th</sup> - 17<sup>th</sup> November**. On Monday 13<sup>th</sup> November we will be celebrating by staff and students being able to wear 'odd socks' by taking part in Odd Socks Day. Students should be in normal school uniform but can wear any kind of socks for the day.



## Year 7

Year 7 have made a very positive impact on the academy; it is brilliant to see. During the first seven weeks at Icení, they have gained over 5492 positive points and every pupil has received over 5 positive points. I want to give a big shout out to the following 10 pupils who have the most positive points in year 7 and some have the best behaviour in the school. Well done to: Billie M, Filip S, Amelia H, Ebony SH, Holly A, Tyler B, Bobby C, Tyler M, Emilia L, and Connor T.

Attendance is also important in Year 7 and I wanted to recognise Mr Dyer-Jones' form (7JD) who have the best attendance in the entire school at 98%, well done! However, Miss Boulter's form (7VB) are in a close second with 96%. It is really important that every pupil attends every day to keep in the competition and to keep up to date with their learning.

From myself and Mrs Doughty we hope everyone in year 7, pupils and parents included, have a restful half term. We look forward to seeing you all on the settling in evening on Thursday 2<sup>nd</sup> of November.

Miss Ashman

Head of Year 7

## Year 9

I still remember at the end of last year when I told some parents that I could not believe that in September our Year 8 students will be Year 9 students. The first couple of days I still kept calling them my "Year 8 students"! 😊

I am looking forward to this new year to help our students make the right choices which will help them build their future. Year 9 is so important as we all know that it is the year when our students are still carefree but at the same time getting ready to choose their options to study for their GCSEs which will allow them to get on a new venture after high school.

I am so pleased with Year 9 students as all of them have made a great effort to have a positive start to the school year and have worked really hard to produce amazing work. A lot of them are so happy to have received many positives in lessons and I am so proud of their success.

This term so far Year 9 students have received a total of 1850 positives which is fantastic. Congratulations to the top 10 students in Year 9:

Hester D. , Aimee R. , Jack W. , Angel F. , Lewis A. , Dylan W. , Freddy H. , Eve B. , Ayana C. , Amelia D.

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. Keep believing that you can achieve anything you put your mind to!

Thank you as ever to our parents and carers for their continued support. I would also like to thank our Year 9 Form Tutors and Mr Ward, our Support Officer for all their hard work.

Have a restful and enjoyable half term break.

Miss F. Agoudjil

## Year 10

A very busy half term has come and gone. Well, done for all of you that have settled in well to the start of your GCSE courses.

Many of you have worked really hard, organised, yourselves and come in everyday looking smart and ready for work.

We have in assemblies been looking at resilience and then this was nicely followed on by Miss Staniforth's on perseverance. These two things will help us get through the next two years.

Work hard, persevere and with resilience we will succeed

Hope you all have a happy and relaxing half term

Be good, be safe.

Best wishes.

Miss Tooze

## Year 11

Year 11 have settled well to the challenges of their final year at High School. As we speak they are busy considering their Post 16 Options assisted interior choices through guest speakers presenting in our Friday assemblies and during form time where they are led through weekly presentations about what's out there to help them choose what and where to study.

Next half term they will be busy working with their form tutors to complete references for their chosen provider. We will also be looking closely at revision techniques in preparation for the mocks.

## Humanities

There are lots of new faces in Humanities this year so, I would like to take the opportunity to publicly welcome our new members Jacob Dyer-Jones, Victoria Boulter and Steven Haymes. All who have 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 had the chance to experience all Humanities has to offer. From WW1 memorabilia, to roman swords in History, to an origami challenge in Geography, as well as a spiritual experience identifying key artefacts in RS. Hopefully, visitors were treated to a sample of what they can expect when entering Humanities and we look forward to welcoming them in September 2024.

As we look ahead to the forthcoming assessment window in January including the crucial first round of pre-public 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 school revision sessions 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 finalising plans for a number of trips across the department so watch this space for a number of exciting opportunities!



## Maths

Students have made a good start to their new year of learning. Most students have been keen to engage with the new mathematics material and get involved during lessons. We hope to continue to raise attainment in mathematics by ensuring students receive high quality education during lessons and through their independent learning.

All KS3 classes have taken part in a numeracy times tables challenge, and the winners will be announced before half term. Certificates will be awarded to the most improved student in each class. We plan to continue this numeracy challenge for the entire academic year.

We had an incredibly successful Open Evening with some of our year 11 mathematicians supporting the department.. It was great getting to know prospective children and their families. We enjoyed engaging in both discussions about maths education and getting involved in solving puzzles. We look forward to welcoming these students in the future!

Miss Saunders

## Music

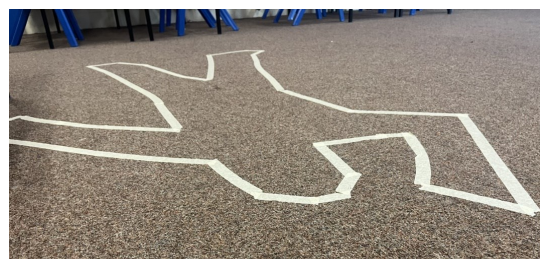
Music in Icen Academy is continuing to grow in strength! The new GCSE class is excited to have the journey of building up their skills in performance, composition and appraising to be able to match the way markers of the GCSE music course. We have been added to the Norfolk music hub that brings on the new software to make compositions (Yustudio - Charanga). Music club running every Wednesday after school brings the opportunity to band up and play. Whereas KS3 continues in building the trust and culture in Music with the new curriculum adapted to the school needs and the community.

Mr Rodriguez

## Drama

Drama at Icen is as busy as ever. Mrs Francis and Miss Ashman have restarted rehearsals for next years school musical 'Beauty and the Beast'. We have had lots of lovely Year 7s become part of the ensemble. Keep your eyes peeled for tickets after Christmas. During open evening, Year 10 and 11 impressed everyone with their murder mystery skills as we worked out who murdered Mrs Peacock. Within lesson time Year 7 are building on the skills to be a good performer, Year 8 are entering the world of comedy and Year 9 are focusing on physical theatre. If you get an opportunity, please ask the pupils what they are performing this term, they have some incredibly creative ideas!

Miss Ashman



## Headlines

## PE

This half term has seen KS3 pupils being taught two of football, netball, basketball, rugby, dance, table tennis and fitness, as we focus on the values of teamwork, creativity, resilience and responsibility. With our mirrored curriculum, activities which groups have not yet covered, will be rotated as the year and Key Stages progresses. Year 10 have started with netball, volleyball, football, fitness and table tennis, and will also rotate as the year progresses. Year 11 have selected their preferred pathways, seeing our traditional, social and alternative sport options selected. Year 10 Sports Science pupils have started their first part of R181 whilst Year 11 draw to a close on this major unit of work.

A whole host of fixtures have been taking place, but the stand out has been the formation and our first entry, to the South Norfolk Girl's football league, where we have played fixtures with both a Senior (U16) and Junior (U14) team. These league fixtures will carry on until Easter, taking a break when we lose the light next half term.

There will be a new club timetable circulated shortly, reflecting the changing weather and light available.



### **Fixture News**

As mentioned we have seen football league fixtures for both Senior and Junior Girls football. This is the same league system for the boys, with Senior, Junior and Year 7 team playing fixtures so far. We have also had a number of Senior and Junior Netball league games. Our Thursday afternoon fixtures have also been focused on boy's football and girl's netball, with Year 9, 8 and 7 afternoons taking place. It was superb to see nearly 60 Year 7 pupils sign up and participate in their afternoon. Thank you to my team for all the hours they have volunteered to these fixtures and clubs.

### **Special Mentions**

Miss Turner led a different type of PE trip this half term, with 32 pupils going for an adventure day to High Lodge to attempt the Go Ape High Ropes course as well as a forest trail walk. All pupils worked hard, were brave and took on the challenges thrown at them. Thank you to Mr & Mrs Preece and Mrs Griggs for helping.

As ever, thank you to all pupils, parents and staff for all your contributions to PE and School Sport in what has been an excellent start to the year.

