

#IceniAcademy



December 23



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SHARING
OUR NEWS

**'Individually Strong,
Unstoppable Together'**



Head's Headlines

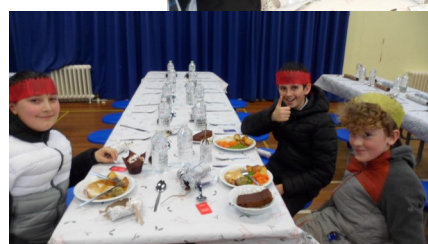
We have had a wonderful week celebrating the success of many of our students, Congratulations to all of the students that received awards, subject nominations and prizes at our Christmas celebration assemblies. You are a real credit to yourselves and the continuing success here at the academy. Well done!

We enjoyed getting into the Christmas spirit last week when we had our Christmas lunch, students thoroughly enjoyed getting into the festivities.

Wishing everyone a wonderful Christmas , and happy new year.

We look forward to welcoming students back into the academy on Thursday 4th January.

Mr Rushton



Headlines

This half term has seen KS3 pupils being taught basketball, dance, football and table tennis as they rotate activity, focussing on the values of teamwork, creativity and responsibility. Year 10 have rotated to volleyball, football and table tennis. Year 11 have continued their preferred pathways, seeing our traditional, social and alternative sport options selected. Year 10 Sports Science pupils continue their current coursework unit, whilst Year 11 come towards the end of theirs.

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

Fixture News

Football and netball league fixtures continue. The Senior boys are currently battling for top spot in the league having won all but one of their games, and I am delighted to say we recorded our first win for the Senior girls' team. Our Thursday afternoon fixtures have been basketball, with Year 9, 8 and 7 afternoons taking place. Mrs Bradley also attended an excellent cricket workshop for a number of pupils to get hands on experience with County Coaches.

Mrs Bradley is also keen to comment how well both our runners, and leaders, did at the Breckland Cross Country event: 'Pupils completed a number of roles in the morning including setting up, marshalling the primary school event, collating and processing results, guiding and encouraging the primary pupils round the course, running as lead runners and back runners for each race (years 3-6). They were an absolute credit to themselves, their families and to us. I was so proud of them and had some lovely comments from adults at the event about them. The afternoon involved each of the pupils running in the senior event. We had some great performances throughout the year groups. Headlines included:

S Chylli Year 7 1st, M Saunders Year 8 3rd, A Cleghorn Year 9 2nd, E Muller Year 9 1st, R Richardson Year 9 2nd.



And last, but definitely not least, our Panathlon pupils won the bowling event – great work all!



Special Mentions

B Martin Yr7	Superb commitment to lessons and extra-curricular sport.
A Cook Yr8	Superb commitment to football and basketball fixtures. Excellent attitude in Core PE.
J Sargent Yr9	Superb commitment and performance in the football team and his core PE lessons.
R Edwards Yr10	Superb commitment to the Girl's football team, and to her Sports Science Studies
E Brown Yr11	Superb commitment to the Netball, Girl's football team, and to her Sports Science Studies

I finish with a thank you to our student teacher Mr French, who moves on to his next placement. He has been a real asset to the department and pupils have really enjoyed his lessons. As ever, thank you to all pupils, parents and staff for all your contributions to PE and School Sport. Particular mention to my staff for all the opportunities they continue to provide pupils, including fixtures, clubs and the upcoming ski trip. Have a wonderful Christmas.

Mr Taylor

Year 7

Firstly, I would like to congratulate all year 7's on making it through a successful first term at Icen Academy. It has been a busy but exciting term for everyone. Within lessons we have seen pupils try new sports, learn new parts of history and practice new languages. All this has come with a record number of positives. All the positives have been fiercely competed in the rewards assemblies, currently 7DA are leading but a new year is a fresh start! However, positives cannot be earned without good attendance and this has become part of our assemblies. 7JD won the term award for attendance but it is important to recognise 7VB who had 100% attendance a few weeks back; well done! We have also seen Year 7 represent the school in netball, football, cricket, cross country and even bowling. I am so proud of every pupil that has pushed themselves and joined a sports team. I look forward to more victories in the new year.

All that is left to say is a big thank you to the students and families for supporting the Year 7 team this year. We hope you have a restful holiday and come back in January with correct uniform, correct equipment and a positive attitude. We look forward to continuing our work in 2024.

Thank you from Miss Ashman, Mrs Doughty and the entire Year 7 team.

Year 8

I recently took over as Head of Year 8 and am looking forward to getting into the role and meeting as many parents and carers as possible. Year 8 have had a positive start to the new academic year and we have just held our first 'celebration assembly'. Most notably the following students were congratulated on their achievements:

English – D Dinsdale

Maths – J Stanbridge

PE – A Cook

History – W Harwood

Geography – S Ozelton

RS – D Dinsdale

DT – R Gaze & M Bray

Art – A Koldobekas & M Childerhouse

Music – B Wypior

Drama – M Childerhouse

SEND – L Ennifer

Hub – C Webb

And its not just these students, across the board there are many students in Year 8 who are quietly going about their work and working really hard, so well done to you all. Special mention must be made to Miss Valentyna, she works tirelessly to support all of Year 8, so a big thank you from all of us in Year 8! Happy Christmas everyone and I look forward to seeing you all again in the new year and being there to support you.

Mr Lord



Year 9

Where has this term gone? I would like to congratulate many Year 9 students who have worked really hard this term. Some Year 9 students have also been involved in many activities such as the PE fixtures or the Harry Potter trip led by Miss Francis which was a great success. This term, four Year 9 students also won the Christmas Advent Calendar Competition that we started running last year. I am very pleased that their hard work was rewarded.

Can I also remind all parents that **the Year 9 Option Evening will take place on Thursday 11th January** and **Year 9 Parents' Evening will take place on Thursday 25th January**. I hope that most of you will be able to attend so that you can discuss with our staff the different option choices to help our students choose their GCSE options in Year 10.

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 to all our teachers.

Wishing everyone a wonderful Christmas.

Miss Agoudjil



Year 10

Well done year 10 on a fabulous start to your GCSE years. We have seen some hard work and dedication and some brilliant results.

The focus remains on behaviour and uniform and thank you for those that continue to do the right thing everyday and thank you for those that are working with us to make sure these areas are improved.

We have also focussed on respect this term and the way we treat each other and the environment around us.

To quote:

'Respect is a two-way street if you want to get it you've got to give it.'

Last of all I would like to thank all the families that continue to work with us and support us through these positive changes.

I would like to wish all and everyone a very happy and healthy Christmas.

Best wishes.

Miss Tooze

Year 11—Raising Achievement Update

Year 11 have had a busy term this term, getting ready for their PPEs in January. These crucial assessments will allow us to support Year 11s as they prepare for the 'real thing' in May and June—so well done to all our Year 11 students for their hard work! After school and lunchtime intervention sessions remain popular, with more than half the year group attending at least one session this half term. In addition to this, students can earn £1.50 (Amazon voucher or reduced prom ticket) for every five sessions they attend and participate in. The students earning the highest reward amounts are: Freddie R (£9.00!), Elizabeth D (£7.50), Chloe D (£7.50), Shay N (£6.00) and Rebecca B (£4.50). Well done, everyone. I wish you a safe and happy Christmas break, and look forward to seeing you all in January!

Miss Staniforth

Humanities

Once again, this has been an immensely busy term for the Humanities department! We would like to compliment every student for the progress they have made this term. Particular praise must go to our Year 11 students who have embraced the weekly revision sessions with gusto. These sessions will continue after Christmas. Could we ask for your continued support in ensuring as many of our students attend as many of these sessions as humanly possible? We know that those that attend the sessions are more prepared for the final exams! We also would like to wish all of Year 11 good luck for their PPEs which start in January!!

All other years have tackled recent end of unit tests in History, Geography and RE, and the initial results of these are encouraging. We are delighted to announce we will be offering an international trip to Iceland. This will be launched to all Year 8 students after the Christmas break. This is a fantastic opportunity for our students to experience learning outside of the classroom, enhancing the knowledge acquired in the classroom and applying it in the real world.

From all of us in Humanities we wish you all a very Merry Christmas and a prosperous New Year.

Mr Haymes + Mr Dyer-Jones

Food Technology

Again, the food room has been busy and we have been creating some wonderful smells and some fabulous dishes. Year 7 have learnt about radiation heat transfer with pizza toast, Year 8 have learnt what a roux is through the making of macaroni cheese and Year 9 have learnt the panne method making some lovely scotch eggs.

Year 10 have been very busy with theory and have also perfected their pastry making skills making flaky pastry sausage rolls and puff pastry pies. All have done extremely well and performed well on their first experience of a Food exam paper.

Year 11 have been working hard on their NEAs and I will look forward to seeing what they make in their trials in January and their final practical exams in March.

From the Food department-use your skills and make some lovely Christmas treats at home.

Drama

It has been a very busy half term in the drama department. Year 7s have been performing their fairy tales in front of an audience for the very first time! As their drama teacher, I am incredibly proud of all them for overcoming fears and worries. This has resulted in brilliant performances. Year 8 have been performing their Italian historical comedies and we have all had a good laugh! Finally, Year 10 and Year 11 have been working hard on 'Blood Brothers' and have created some really detailed responses for their exam papers. Next term the focus for all years is script work. Year 7 are looking at 'Romeo and Juliet' whilst Year 9 discover the world of 'Harry Potter and the Cursed Child'.

However, drama does not finish after the bell! The drama club have been making amazing progress on this year's summer performance of Beauty and the Beast. The acting skills are extremely impressive and I am so excited to be working on this production. The pupils have set really high standards. A school production is not all about acting and when they have a moment the cast have been creating some amazing props such as the bread in the photo.



Maths

This half term Maths have launched Sparx homework. Many students are successfully completing their homework. I would like to give a special recognition to the following students for being the top student in their year for earning the most XP points on Sparx.

Year 7 - A Yang

Year 8 - O Oakley

Year 9 - R Martinez

Year 10 - A Back

Year 11 - V Carver

Verity is the highest pupil in the whole school!





We have had a very exciting first term in Design and Technology. Our first KS3 projects have been focused around graphic communication and developing skills in sketching ideas realistically that can be used later in practical projects. Year 10s have settled well into their new 3D Design coursework and we have some incredible results from their first independent workshops. Year 11s are currently working very hard juggling their theory and coursework and we look forward to seeing their amazing ideas come to life in the next coming months.

Year 9 Harry Potter Trip

Year 9's had the fantastic opportunity to visit Harry Potter Studios in London. The focus of this trip was to explore the many possible career opportunities available to students who excel in both Design and Technology but also Drama. We had a private lesson with the staff at Harry Potter Studios where we got the opportunity to see props and designs not available to the general public. The students then got 3 hours to independently explore how design and making is used within films and TV, and some even got to enjoy a cheeky broomstick ride. We look forward to rolling this out as an annual trip for year 9.



Year 7 Tech Club

We have also relaunched the year 7 tech club this term where the students have worked exceedingly hard to create wooden trinket boxes of all shapes and sizes. We would like to congratulate Harry P in winning the skills award and a delicious box of chocolates. This club will continue into the new year and the next project will be a large mechanical pendulum clock.

From everyone in the Design and Technology team we sincerely wish you a merry Christmas and a happy New Year.



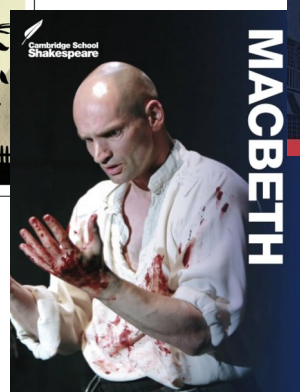
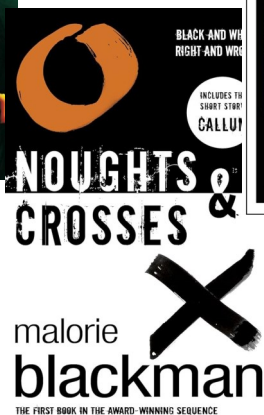
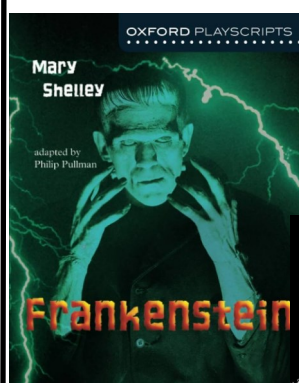
English

It's been a very busy term in the English department! Year 7s have been studying how knowledge and science is presented in literature, using the playscript of 'Frankenstein'. They have also produced some beautiful creative writing, developing monsters of their own. Year 8 have been looking at literature through the lens of justice, reading Malorie Blackman's bestseller, 'Noughts & Crosses'. They will continue with this after the break. Year 9 have also been engaging with a novel, looking at how prejudice, courage and good vs evil is presented in Harper Lee's 'To Kill a Mockingbird.' Year 10 have made a fantastic start to their GCSE studies, and have recently completed their study of Shakespeare's 'Macbeth'. After the break, they will begin their next text: J B Priestley's 'An Inspector Calls'. Finally, Year 11 have finished their final text of the course: a very festive choice of Charles Dickens' 'A Christmas Carol'. After Christmas, they will be embarking on their revision for English Language and Literature, further developing the skills needed for their two GCSEs.

The break also brings with it some farewells. I would like to thank Miss Rogers for all her hard work in the department this term, and wish her all the best for her new role at her new school. I would also like to thank Mrs Pittman for her work as Director of English over the last year, and I know the whole team joins me in wishing her all the very best for her new role in January. Mr Meneghello joins us after Christmas as Director of English and Communications, and I am looking forward to where he takes the department, next!

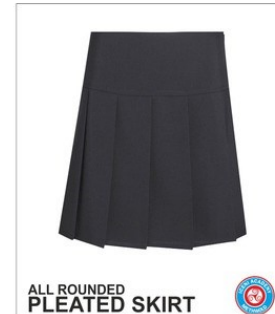
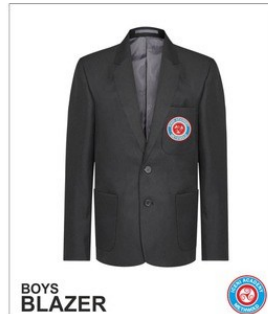
Thank you for all your support, and I wish you all a very happy and merry Christmas, and a wonderful new year.

Miss Staniforth



Uniform reminder

Thank you to all of the families and students that support our uniform drive here at the academy. The students responded well, however we have noticed a few issues have started to creep back in. Checks on the gate will resume in January as a reset point, please can we ask that any uniform issues are addressed before the return to school. Thank you for your support.



In particular

- Students would all benefit from a warm winter coat.
- Blazers should be worn.
- Any jumper should be plain black. No hoodies or sports tops are allowed.
- One stud per ear. No nose piercings. No other jewellery.
- Nails should be natural in length and colour.
- Make up should be discrete.
- Shoes must be plain black.

Ready to Learn equipment

A key part of being ready to learn at school is having access to basic learning equipment. Students are expected to have the following items: a pen, a pencil, a ruler, a protractor and a calculator. Please can you check that your children have these items with them for January.

Staying safe

With the winter nights and dark afternoons and mornings truly with us, please can we advise that students consider their visibility when out and about. Bicycles should have lights and be well maintained. Colours of jackets and coats should be considered for visibility in the low light.

Student safety at the front of school - picking up and dropping off

Please can parents and carers consider the safety of all students and staff when dropping, and collecting students from the school car park. We have had a few near-misses reported to our Reception, and observed by staff. Safety is everyone's responsibility and it is important that all members of the academy community are kept safe.



What Parents & Carers Need to Know about SETTING UP APPS, GAMES AND SOFTWARE

Millions of new phones, tablets, laptops and games consoles will be nestling under Christmas trees this year. However, even if parents and carers have gone to the trouble of setting up these new devices and enabling the safety features, there are still potential hazards in the apps, games and software that children will want to install and use. Knowing what to look for and discussing those risks with your child may help avoid any nasty surprises this Christmas. Here are our top tips for ensuring that unwrapping this year's presents doesn't unleash any unexpected dangers.

TAKE NOTE OF AGE RATINGS

Back when most games were bought in shops, checking the age rating was easy: it was on the front of the box. Now that most games are downloaded, it's tougher – but not impossible. All reputable download stores show a game's age rating at the point of purchase, and you can check the suitability of a specific title your child wants to play at videostandards.org.uk/RatingBoard/games.

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'FREE' ISN'T ALWAYS FREE

The games market has changed radically in recent years. Many titles are free to download, but then tempt players to pay for cosmetic items (as in Fortnite) or to unlock additional content. There can be huge peer pressure for children to pay for these items. Agree a budget for in-game purchases before the game is downloaded, and make sure children can't authorise in-game purchases by themselves.

DISABLE IN-APP PURCHASING

It's not wise to leave children with devices that can make in-app purchases without your permission. Ideally, set up computers, consoles and phones so child accounts need an adult's authorisation to buy anything. On shared devices (like iPads, which don't allow user accounts), check the settings to ensure that in-app purchasing requires the account holder's password, fingerprint or face ID.

APPS ARE AGE RATED, TOO

Like games, apps in the major stores have age ratings, too – so you can see in advance whether an app's appropriate for your child. Additionally, phones' parental control settings allow you to set age limits, preventing young ones from downloading unsuitable apps themselves. These ratings aren't infallible, however: we've seen TV apps featuring adult shows with an age rating of 3, for example.

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CONSIDER STORAGE

Most apps and games will tell you in the online store how much space they need on a device. Check this carefully – especially with games, which can run into hundreds of megabytes and beyond. If you don't have enough free storage on a device to run the game or app, you won't get a refund from the store. You can normally check a device's available storage space through the settings menu.

WATCH OUT FOR IMITATORS

Even in the official stores, untrustworthy rogue apps can slip through the net. Common tricks are apps or games that have a slightly different name to the genuine article (Fortnite rather than Fortnite, for instance) or use logos which deliberately look very similar to the official app. To avoid downloading these imitations, read the app's description and check who the publisher is listed as.

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LEGAL APPS THAT BREAK THE LAW

There are many apps that are perfectly legal but enable illegal activity – streaming apps which let people watch football matches, say, without paying for Sky or BT Sport. Prosecution for using such apps is rare, but they can lead to risky behaviour like viewing rogue streams on sites teeming with malicious links. Watch for children installing unusual apps with 'TV', 'stream' or 'sport' in the name.

IN-APP REGISTRATION

It's common for apps and games to ask users to register: entering personal details like email address, date of birth and other information you might not want your child to divulge. Ask them to get your permission before giving any personal info to an app – and consider using your details rather than the child's, so they're not targeted by marketing spam or put at risk of having their data stolen.

STAY UPDATED

Most games and apps are subject to regular updates, which not only offer new content and features but also provide critical security improvements. Children tend to ignore such updates – usually because they don't understand why they're important, or they simply want to get straight on with gaming. Check your child's devices periodically to make sure these updates are being installed.

Meet Our Expert

Barry Collins has been a technology journalist and editor for more than 20 years, working for titles such as the Sunday Times, Which?, PC Pro and Computeractive. He's appeared regularly as a technology pundit on television and radio, including on Newsnight, Radio 5 Live and ITV News at Ten. He has two children and has written regularly about internet safety issues.



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