

IXWORTH ixchange

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The newsletter for SET Ixworth School

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Head of School's Welcome

In a start to the academic year which has been dominated by the current global pandemic, it has been both reassuring and inspirational to share in the many, many successes of our SET Ixworth students. There has been no compromise in our 6C values or on our high expectations and the school as a whole have risen to the challenge of the 'new Covid-safe normal'.



Mrs P Parker
Head of School

Innovation and community have been driving forces in the past months. From outdoor creative lessons, to staggered lunch times, Science experiments in the New Hall, daily temperature checks on arrival, Remembrance Day in year group bubbles, CAT assessments and GCSE mock examinations, House competitions, Tutor group based Enrichment, online learning and live lessons – at each point our focus has been on how we can deliver and engage in all that we value. We would like to take this opportunity to thank you, our community, for the positive, proactive and thoughtful way in which new protocols have been adopted, keeping our school Ready, Respectful and Safe.

As we make our plans for the final days of term, we look forward to students and staff celebrating the triumphs of the term along with the Christmas festivities.

With best wishes to all our community for a happy, healthy and safe Christmas and New Year.

Mrs Parker, Head of School

Lower School

After a long break from education, Year 7 made an impressive entrance to SET Ixworth School and our Year 8 cohort returned raring to go. I have been overwhelmed by the students' enthusiasm for the House Naming and Logo Designing competitions. I am also very proud of the way our students have remained committed to their learning through some very challenging and unusual times.



Mr R Pitcock
Assistant Head of School

Throughout the Michaelmas term, Year 7, 8 and 9 students have demonstrated excellent engagement across all areas of their academic study. The addition of the school's new IT suite has provided an inspiring learning resource in which Key Stage 3 learning, knowledge and understanding can be explored or assessed; for example in Geography Year 8 students worked collaboratively to create presentations summarising their learning on urbanization and completed online Sign Language courses as part of Enrichment.

With the launch of our new House names, a number of curriculum areas have been swift to seize the opportunity to set up competitions such as ballad writing in English and international Christmas cards in Modern Foreign Languages, providing an ideal platform for students to demonstrate knowledge, research and creative skills.



After taking time to support all members of our community in the initial return to school this September, by the fourth week of term we were ready to effectively re-introduce more formal testing, commencing with the bi-annual reading comprehension and spelling assessments across the whole school. The ICT Suite was again an excellent resource as the additional CAT and PT formative assessments were completed by all students across Years 7, 8 and 9. Assessments such as these are a most valuable tool to ensure that the challenge and support for each and every one of our student's is well-balanced and personalised.



Mr Pitcock, Assistant Head of School

Safeguarding

Should you have any safeguarding concerns, please contact Mr Cooper Designated Safeguarding Lead on 01359 234050 or for more information please visit www.ixworthschool.org.uk/safeguarding. Ixworth School's named safeguarding trustee is Mr Richard Lane.

Upper School

What a whirlwind start to the year! Year 9 students have adapted well to the variety of restrictions in place due to Covid-19. We now turn our attention to the beginning of the options process which many have been looking forward to. All students will experience a taster session in each GCSE option before being presented with key details about the subject itself. This is an exciting time for Year 9 students with a raft of possibilities ahead. I am looking forward to guiding students through this process over the coming months.

Year 10 have made a strong start to Key Stage 4. Students are focused, committed and taking pride in their work. I have been impressed with the progress made so far and look forward to this continuing throughout the Key Stage. In addition, many of our students are accessing additional opportunities like the Duke of Edinburgh Silver Award and employability skills.

Students in Year 11 should be very proud of their achievements so far. The challenges faced and the way in which our students have met them is a credit to their commitment to GCSE study. Mock exams were sat for the first time in November and attest to their determination to succeed. Students will use this progress check point as a springboard to motivate them to future successes.

Mr Jackson, Assistant Head of School



Mr M Jackson
Assistant Head of School

Forge

The first term at Forge has been an overwhelming success with a diverse and exciting range of learning activities. Students have begun creating our fire pit area and completed excavation of the pit before the weather turned on us! We have learnt ratios through the creation of cement and have installed posts ready for an area to be transformed into our chicken coop as well as erecting a shed, requiring teamwork and not inconsiderable negotiation skills.

From a creative point of view Forge students have designed their own pinch pots in self-drying clay as well as illustrating a Thanksgiving Tree detailing what they are thankful for. In English the students have explored 'War of the Worlds' and 'A Christmas Carol' using the texts as a stimulus to write newspaper articles and analysing the language. Maths and Physics have incorporated space and our solar system, identifying the planets and their various properties. PSHE has also been incredibly successful with a daily lesson exploring topics such as anti-bullying, relationships and religions of the world.



Finally (although I could go on with dozens of more examples) students have been developing their personal/life skills through work on AQA Unit Award Schemes which encourage them to explore areas of interest and transferable skills. These include units such as hand washing hygiene, pizza making, hair and beauty, circuit training and stop motion animation.

Mr Hale, SENCo



Community

Charity and Community have been at the fore of the Michaelmas term. The first event of the school year was Jeans for Genes week, followed by the annual events of Remembrance Day on Wednesday 11 November and Children in Need on Friday 13 November. This year's Children in Need theme 'Come as Yourself' was a huge success with students celebrating their individuality by adding to or replacing an article of their uniform to reflect the spirit of this theme. November also highlighted the anti-bullying campaign with Odd Socks Day as co-ordinated by the Anti-Bullying Alliance, based at the National Children's Bureau, raising awareness and uniting us as a community against bullying. At a local level the Friends of Ixworth have adapted their annual fundraising events, and there has been an excellent community response to these such as the Bags2School scheme.



Challenge and Commitment

Students' consistent commitment to their learning continues to be a great asset and it has been impressive how quickly the school have adapted and developed new ways of working to maximise learning and achievement. An excellent example of this was the positive and focused engagement our Year 11 students demonstrated towards their mock examinations at the beginning of November. Their diligence has been sustained as students have undertaken reflection and development work, building a good understanding of strengths and areas for action in each individual GCSE subject to support their journey to success in the summer of 2021. Interventions such as 1:1 Tutors and small group work have been further extended through the My Tutor programme, providing individualised support for each and every student.

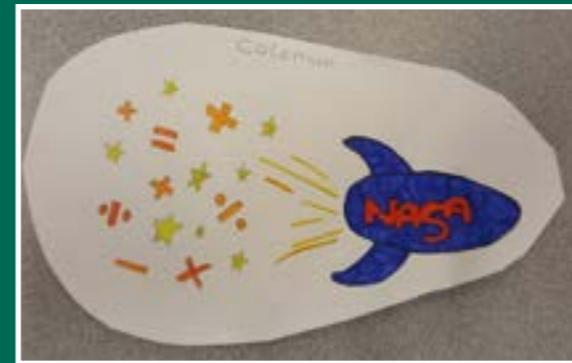
New steps in our academic learning in school have included the Science department's work in enabling students to engage in practical experiments outside of the classroom in Covid-safe formats. Another highlight has been the introduction of 'Live Lessons' via Google Meet for Year 10 and 11 Geographers and Historians in Mr Debenham's and Mr Dexter's classes.

Alongside SET Ixworth's own virtual open events and videos created to provide new families with an experience of our school from the comfort of their own homes, Year 11 students have accessed post-16 settings via virtual talks such as those from West Suffolk College and Abbeygate Sixth-Form.



Celebration

A major change this term has been in the renaming of our school Houses through the power of student voice. Our new House names, as nominated by SET Ixworth students, of: Moore, Coleman, Nightingale and Mandela, have provided our community with an excellent set of diverse and aspirational role models. Across Tutor times students have explored the context, challenges and achievements of these heroes, from ground breaking mathematical calculations for NASA to unprecedented fundraising. It was a pleasure to read our students' House name nominations and to share in their understanding of how our 6Cs have been realised and embodied in the choices and actions of outstanding individuals such as Captain Tom Moore, Katherine Coleman, Florence Nightingale and Nelson Mandela. Our current students have created an inspiring legacy for those who follow them in the years to come.



Coleman design winner:
Charlotte Year 8
(in Nightingale House)



Mandela design winner:
Isabelle Year 7
(in Coleman House)



Moore design winner:
Mia Year 7
(in Coleman House)



Nightingale design winner:
Josh Year 8
(in Moore House)

Contact us...

We welcome your feedback, news and comments.
Email us: ixworth@seckfordeducation.org.uk



www.ixworthschool.org.uk

01359 234 050

SET Ixworth School, Walsham Road,
Ixworth, IP31 2HS