

IXWORTH ixchange

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The newsletter for SET Ixworth School

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Important Date!

Tuesday 20 April

**Students begin
Trinity Term**

*Cover image -
Creative Arts at SET Ixworth*

Latest News

**Twitter
Facebook
Website**

To keep up to date with the latest news and events from the School, please remember that you can follow SET Ixworth School on Twitter: @SETIxworth. Please also check our website for regular updates, and our Facebook page, just search for SET Ixworth School on Facebook.

Safeguarding

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

Head of School's Welcome

In reflecting on a Lent term which presented our school with many new and unexpected challenges, it has been a blessing to recognise the stability the SET Ixworth 6Cs of Commitment, Confidence, Co-operation, Challenge, Celebration and Community have provided.



Mrs P Parker
Head of School

Despite the vital need to physically distance and 'stay home' for the first few months of this year, the school have explored different ways of maintaining the strength of our community, seeking out news routes to be social with others within our own and the wider community. These included online assemblies, Tutor time activities and many of our Google Classrooms had 'Chat' streams full of students helping each other, sending links to useful videos or explaining how to submit the work. We have all been so proud of the culture of community our students and staff have maintained in these challenging circumstances.

During the lockdown period the school worked with students to ensure that online learning provision across all areas of the curriculum and live lessons were exciting, engaging and maximised student safety with well-being at their core. Safer Internet Day took place on Tuesday 9 February and was celebrated in the UK with the theme 'An internet we trust – exploring reliability in the online world' and around the world under the slogan, 'Together for a better internet'.

The day followed on from the previous week's children's mental health events, at SET Ixworth this supported our focus in working with our young people on how to get the best from the online world safely whilst maintaining their well-being.

SET Ixworth School was delighted to welcome all students back into school from Monday 8 March. As a school we recognised the excellent effort and engagement our community had shown both in school and online during the lockdown. In fully re-opening we had every confidence that the future weeks and months would be a time of great success for all. The calm and positive return was without hesitation in providing students with moments of awe and wonder in their return to learning. From new sports in PE such as Kin Ball, to a wealth of STEM events promoting Science across all year groups to our Modern Foreign Language department embracing the world of pop music, in-school learning at SET Ixworth returned with renewed energy and vivacity.

We look forward to welcoming students back to school for the start of the Trinity term and continuing on their learning journeys on Tuesday 20 April.

Mrs Parker, Head of School



SCIENCE

The return to school was packed full of STEM activities as the Science department launched British Science week, including Tutor time activities and live events.

Students in Year 7 had a virtual meeting with Ashleigh Marshall, a PhD student at the Zoological Society of London who studies the reproductive biology of rare birds. Ashleigh explained to the students how her work can help us understand why some species are threatened with extinction. Students asked Ashleigh questions about how she came to be doing this job and what she liked about it.

Year 10 students joined other schools from the region in a live link up organised by West Suffolk College, where they participated in a dramatic role play scenario based at the CERN particle accelerator in Switzerland. After hearing about the problems with a cloud chamber and learning about the science behind how it works, they voted on the next steps to be taken to fix it. Along the way they witnessed several mind-boggling demonstrations on the effects of temperature and pressure on changes of state.

STEM activities continued apace with events for Years 8, 9 and 10, starting with a virtual visit by audiologist Alice Hurst, who spoke to Year 9 about her work with the NHS. Students were intrigued to find out about how easy it can be to damage your hearing and were able to ask questions about career development.

Year 8 attended a virtual show of Science demonstrations carried out by Peter Wright from Wonderstruck, which complemented students' learning from the Waves unit studied earlier in the year and was themed around Sound. Students saw how scientists can convert sound waves into a laser pattern that can be used to test the safety of materials in machines or vehicles that vibrate and find out how to make ear-piercing noises that can shatter wine glasses. Students were also given a tutorial on making loudspeakers, after which students constructed their own working loudspeaker in their Science lesson and tested these by actually managing to play music through them from the radio.

Year 10 students were visited via Teams by Niall Tutt from the engineering firm Jacobs. He spoke about the journey from school to the world of work and gave an insight into the varied STEM pathways out there. He emphasised how practical skills and experience can be as important as grades and how other subjects, such as Art, English and Design can all be relevant to a STEM career.

We are grateful to all our virtual visitors last week and would like to congratulate the students for their focus and participation.

Mr T Budden, Lead Practitioner Science



CREATIVE ARTS

During lockdown Key Stage 3 Creative Arts students produced work on the brief 'The Future Is Bright'. Here are just some of the many fabulous pieces of work we received. Students have also been submitting entries to the Creative Arts Showcase and Exhibition via email to which any art form is welcomed.



Red Nose Day

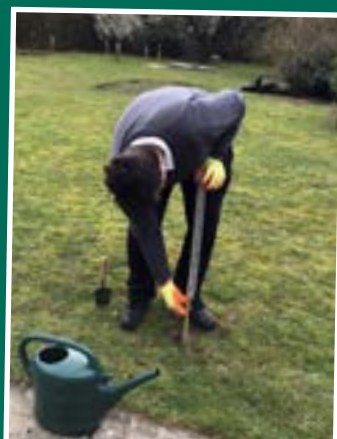
The school's Enrichment lessons on the afternoon of Wednesday 17 March were full of smiles and laughter as students' activities focused on this year's Red Nose day theme of the power of humour. This was followed on Friday 19 March by the wave of red that swept across the school as students participated enthusiastically in supporting Comic Relief, donating their £1 to wear something red. From hoodies to shoes to bandanas to bow ties the school proudly added hundreds of pounds to the Comic Relief total of over £45 million to help tackle hunger, homelessness, domestic abuse and mental health stigma. Thank you to all our students for their compassion and generosity.



Spring and new beginnings

Our Forge students have been busy developing and helping our environment by tree planting. As part of their Outdoor Learning sessions, students at Forge had been thinking about how to improve the school environment to make it better for wildlife. They decided one thing they could do was improve the diversity of trees and shrubs to help provide a range of food and shelter. Forge staff member, Mrs Harrison found a charity that promote tree planting in UK schools and Forge students successfully requested fifteen Dog Rose saplings that will form a beautiful hedge in a few years' time.

Steph Dickson, Lead SEND Teacher Forge



Careers Week

As a follow up to the successful Careers drop down day in the Michaelmas term, SET Ixworth School supported National Careers Week through tasks and links set in their Tutor Group Google Classroom, and directing students to other virtual opportunities. There was a wealth of opportunities available for students during National Careers Week, including information on careers from over 40 national organisations, including the NatWest Group and NHS Health Careers, an online Virtual Careers Fair, and a short Believe film, created to support young people to imagine and believe in their potential.

Careers Guidance

Although featured as a separate section in our Ixchange publication, the reality is that careers education, information and guidance (CEAIG) is embedded in the learning journey for all students throughout their time at SET Ixworth. Across the curriculum, Tutor times and in PSHE, students are learning the essential career management skills of resilience, curiosity, self-knowledge, preparation, planning, networking, researching and presentation, to name but a few. And the list of skills needed keeps growing as digital research skills become increasingly vital as well as the softer skills embracing optimism and motivation. Many of these skills rely on a wide range of activities in order to grow, and of equal importance is access to information in order to build a broader understanding of all the opportunities that are out there waiting to be embraced. Along with regular availability in school of the independent Careers Advisor, Careers Leaders and various members of staff are helping with GCSE choices, CV building, applications to Post-16 provision as well as mentoring and individual support.

A lasting legacy of lockdown is the GCSE Forum in Google Classrooms to which all Year 11 students have access. There is a goldmine of links to events, videos, information and all the brilliant new content being created online to inspire and inform. Every week this is added to, so students should take a regular look for booking information on gaming events, virtual work experience and lots more.

Mr P Rearden, Careers Lead

Focus on our former students

Former student and Head Boy, Lucas, has an offer to read Natural Sciences at the University of Cambridge (Sidney Sussex).

Lucas left SET Ixworth in 2019, having gained eight grade 9s and two grade 8s, which took him to Hills Road Sixth Form College to study Physics, Maths, Further Maths and Chemistry.



In 2018 Ed achieved fantastic GCSE results at SET Ixworth School with three grade 9s in Chemistry, Physics and History, as well as three grade 8s, three grade 5s, an A* and an A.

Ed was awarded a scholarship at Woodbridge School to study Maths, Further Maths, Physics, and Chemistry.

In 2020, Ed received two As and two Bs in his A Levels results. He is studying Economics at the University of Exeter.



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Contact us...

We welcome your feedback, news and comments.
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