



SET
IXWORTH
SCHOOL



IXCHANGE

Trinity Term 2023

Welcome...

As we come to the end of the academic year I want to thank all parents and carers for their support of their sons and daughters and of the school. The 2022/23 year has been another year of both challenges and opportunities as well as one of increased normality and one of very many more extra-curricular activities compared to the 18/24 months before.

This newsletter showcases a lovely range of achievements by SET Ixworth students - the variety is really good to see. From Duke of Edinburgh expeditions to Summer Enrichment trips to Rome and France, from sporting fixtures to student Art work – I hope there is something here of interest to everyone. I hope as well that it will inspire readers to want to try things and to persevere with things – and to take the opportunities that life presents. There is much that it is difficult in the wider world – and some of this impinges on us at SET Ixworth. But I hope that collectively we will retain a spirit of optimism and positivity – as well as of compassion for others.

Today we said good-bye to Mr Dexter who leaves us for pastures new after 5 years. Mr Dexter was the first member of staff I appointed back in January 2018 and I am immensely grateful to him for everything that he has given to our school as Subject Lead for Geography and Year Achievement Lead for Year 9. In September we will welcome Mr Boorman as Subject Lead for Geography and Mr Hakes as Subject Lead for Modern Foreign Languages.

I wish everyone a wonderful summer before we return in September ready for the challenges of the next academic year.

I look forward to welcoming everyone back to the new academic year.
Mr M Barrow



Duke of Edinburgh

In June we undertook the Bronze DofE Bronze expedition. We used our maps and compasses to ensure we were heading on the correct way up and across the correct fields. The further we walked the more tired we became but we all pulled together and looked after each other.

Overnight we cooked in two groups in order to replenish ourselves for the following day. We had trouble getting the tents down the following but were soon on our way and enjoying the challenge of day 2. Even Mr Spurin found this hard!

We learnt a lot doing the two days. Not to panic and how to work with others and how to talk through problems, particularly when we weren't reading the maps correctly.

After the trip we were exhausted, but happy, knowing the feats we had achieved over the two days.

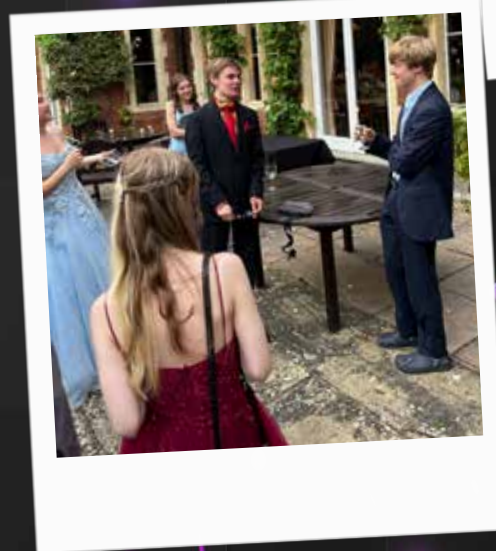
Thank you to Mr Spurin in particular and all the teachers and staff who supported us.



HOUSE POINTS LEADERBOARD END OF TERM FINAL SCORES		
	Coleman	6878 POINTS
	Moore	6812 POINTS
	Mandela	6682 POINTS
	Nightingale	6284 POINTS

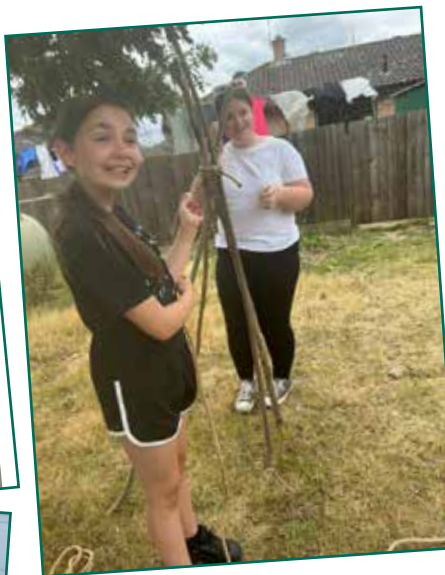


Year 11 Prom



Sports Day!



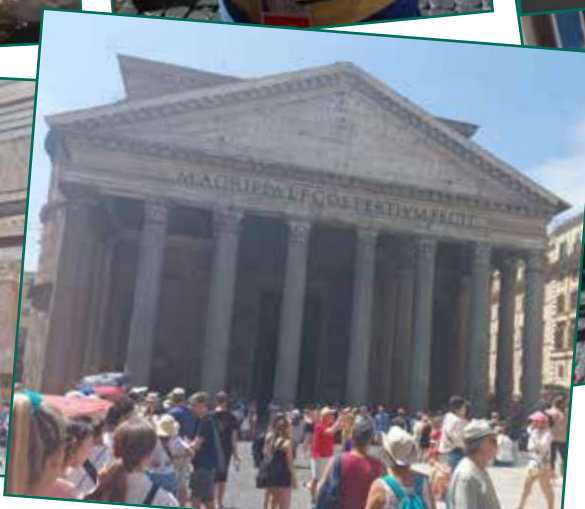
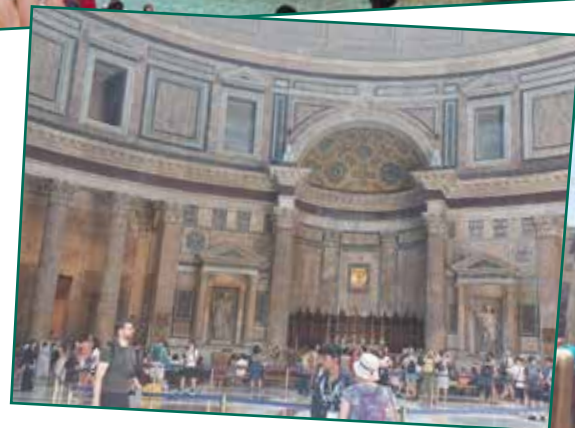
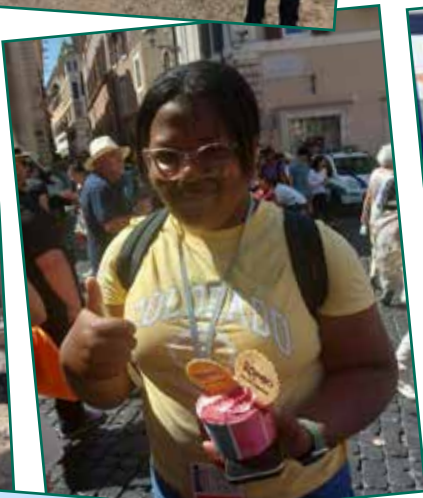


Normandy
& Bayeux

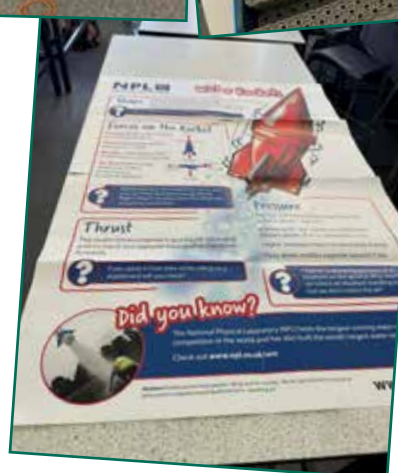


Summer Enrichment Week

In-School
Activities



Rome



Colchester
Castle

YEAR 10 STUDENTS REMEMBER

Alan Turing

Friday 23rd June was the birthday of computer scientist and mathematician Alan Turing.

Alan Turing, and his team of codebreakers, achieved the impossible at Bletchley Park in the Second World War. The odds on the success of their work were calculated as 158,962,555,217,826,360,000 to 1.

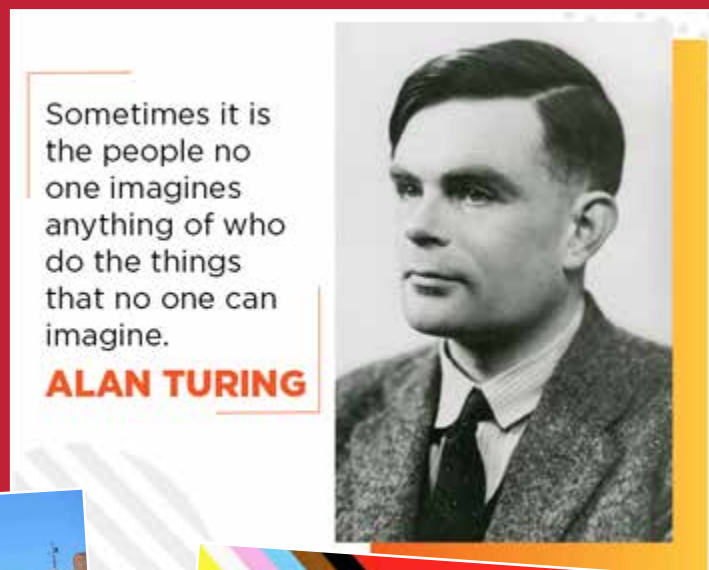
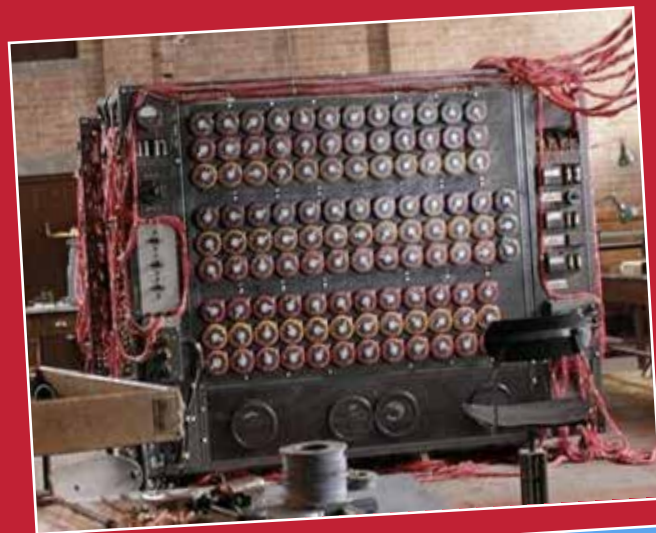
By building a code-breaking machine against Nazi evil, Mr. Turing, and his team of all sexes and genders, who were all equally important, played a key part in the Second World War and, in turn, effectively founded the modern computer we also all benefit from today.

In this LGBT+ Pride Month we celebrate the fact that Mr. Turing was gay.

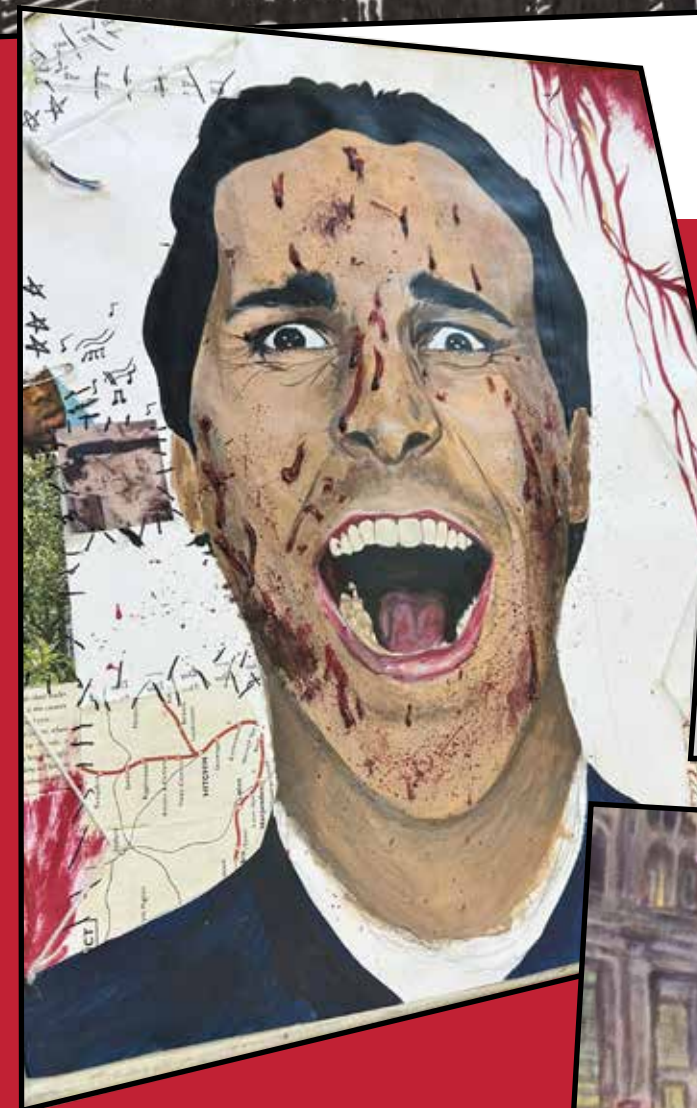
At the time, Mr. Turing suffered prejudice, discrimination, persecution and abuse for his sexuality.

Alan Turing, voted the greatest icon of the 20th century in a BBC series of 2019, also features on the £50 note. The film "The Imitation Game" dramatizes Mr. Turing's work.

We can be very proud that our school features a classroom named after Alan Turing.



Celebrating
ART
at SET Ixworth



SET Ixworth – the new school day

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

IS THIS DECISION SIMPLY A COST SAVING EXERCISE?

This decision is not a cost saving exercise. In fact, there are no cost reductions associated at all with changing of the school day and term times. This decision has only been made to improve the education of pupils. Over time it is likely to cost slightly more, as some staff roles are term time only, with an associated increase.

WE ARE AWARE THAT RECRUITMENT OF TEACHERS IS CURRENTLY VERY CHALLENGING, BOTH LOCALLY AS WELL AS NATIONALLY. WON'T THIS DECISION MAKE IT HARDER TO RECRUIT AND RETAIN TEACHERS? WILL THIS THEN HAVE A NEGATIVE IMPACT ON THE CHILDREN IN THE SCHOOL?

We believe that teachers are overwhelmingly supportive of these changes. Currently, their school day extends to an hour extra per day compared to teachers in other schools. Many of our teachers continue to offer revision classes after school and spend time on planning and marking. In the most recent teacher workload survey commissioned by the department for education, the average number of hours that teachers work nationally per week is 49.5. Our teachers will work nearly five additional hours per week longer than this and this has had an impact on their well-being. These changes will support the retention and recruitment of teachers and will therefore have a significant benefit to the education of children going forward.

WE HAVE HOLIDAYS BOOKED ALREADY FOR NEXT YEAR. WHAT DO WE DO? WILL WE GET FINED FOR TAKING OUR CHILDREN ON THESE HOLIDAYS?

The school will not fine parents for school holidays that have already been booked until December 2024. Please write to the Headteacher of your school, outlining which dates you have already booked to go on holiday.

WE LIKE HAVING LONGER SCHOOL HOLIDAYS, IT HAS ALLOWED US TO GO ON HOLIDAY WHEN PRICES ARE SIGNIFICANTLY LOWER. HAVE YOU CONSIDERED THIS?

We understand that this has an effect on family budgets, particularly at a time when the cost-of-living crisis is so impactful. We are aligning the holiday times with the majority of other state funded schools in Suffolk. We believe that the educational benefits of this decision are our core priority and we can only acknowledge this unintended consequence to some of our parents.

WILL THERE BE ACTIVITIES AVAILABLE FOR MY CHILD TO ATTEND AFTER SCHOOL?

There will be activities available for children every night until 4pm. Therefore, children will be able to stay at school for as long as they previously would have. These weekly activities will include: a homework/supported study club three times a week (with access to ICT); three sporting clubs led by members of the PE department; a debating and public speaking club with Mr Barrow; Art club; Board games club; Science experiments club.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN WITH THE BUSES AND TAXIS?

The School is waiting to hear back from Suffolk County Council with timings for September. They have confirmed that they are working on their revised routes.

For the buses and taxis that are tendered by SET Ixworth, we can confirm that drop off and pick up times reflect the changes to the school day.

WILL THE SCHOOL CHANGE SIGNIFICANTLY? ARE YOU STILL COMMITTED TO ENSURING THAT THERE IS A NURTURING ENVIRONMENT ALONGSIDE A HIGH-QUALITY EDUCATION.

We are absolutely committed to ensuring the schools continue to have a nurturing environment for children. We currently oversee 21 schools across Norfolk and Suffolk and we have a strong track record of school improvement. For example, Stradbroke school, which is the most local school to the three Seckford schools, achieved the highest GCSE results in Suffolk in 2022. Numerous Ofsted reports recognise the strength of personal development and the extensive range of extra-curricular activities across our schools.

HAVE YOU CONSIDERED THE IMPACT OF THIS ON PUPILS WITH SPECIAL EDUCATIONAL NEEDS & DISABILITIES (SEND)?

In making this decision, we have taken due regard to pupils with SEND. We believe that these changes will support pupils with SEND and we have used the listening exercise to inform our equality impact assessment. The changes are intended to support pupils with SEND, by offering a longer school year – in line with the overwhelming majority of pupils nationally and locally.

PLEASE COULD YOU LET ME KNOW WHERE THE SCHOOL MENUS ARE AVAILABLE TO VIEW?

The school menus can be found here:
<https://www.ixworthschool.org.uk/for-students/restaurant/>

WHAT ARE THE TIMES FOR THE SCHOOL DAY?

The school day will operate from September 2023.

At Ixworth the new school day will be from 8.30am to 15.10 daily.

8am	Breakfast Club (optional)
8:30am	Year Group student briefings and tutor time
8:45am	Period 1
9:45am	Period 2
10:45am	Break
11:05am	Period 3
12:05pm	Period 4
1:05pm	Lunch & extra curricular activities
1:50pm	Afternoon Tutor Time and Assemblies
2:10pm	Period 5
3:10pm	End of Day
3:15pm	A programme of homework clubs, extra-curricular activities and independent study
4pm	School closed to students

TERM DATES 2023 - 2024

MICHAELMASTERM 2023

Thursday 31 August, Friday 1 September,
Monday 4 September 2023

Staff Professional Development Days

Tuesday 5 September 2023

First day of term Year 7 only

Wednesday 6 September 2023

Start of term Years 8 – 11

Monday 16 – Friday 27 October 2023

Michaelmas Half Term

Friday 15 December 2023

End of Michaelmas Term

LENT TERM 2024

Wednesday 3 January 2024

Staff Professional Development Days

Thursday 4 January 2024

First day of term

Monday 19 – Friday 23 February 2024

Lent Half Term

Thursday 24 March 2024

End of Lent Term

TRINITY TERM 2024

Friday 12 April 2024

Staff Professional Development Days

Monday 15 April 2024

First day of term

Monday 27 – Friday 31 May 2024

Trinity Half Term

Friday 19 July 2024

End of Trinity Term

If you have any safeguarding concerns, or need additional help during the school holidays, you can find further information here: [Safeguarding | Seckford Education Trust](#)

Please also find below a list of useful websites and helplines:

Child Line – www.childline.org.uk

Children' Society – www.childrenssociety.org.uk

Food Bank – www.trusselltrust.org/

Kooth – www.kooth.com/

Mind – www.mind.org.uk/

NHS website – www.england.nhs.uk/

NSPCC website – www.nspcc.org.uk/

Place 2be website – www.place2be.org.uk/

Young Minds website – www.youngminds.org.uk/

Crisis – 0337261800

Child Line – 0800 1111

Customer First – 0808 800 4005

Samaritans – 116 123