

4th April 2025

Headteacher

We are fast approaching two key points in the academic year, Year 11 Public Examinations beginning on 8th May, and the final resignation point for staff.

Our Year 11s have been working hard, early indications are that we will easily go beyond last year's results, there are some brilliant results so far with students reaching and surpassing aspirational target grades at all levels. There have been a very high percentage of the key Grades 4 and 5 and above in Maths and English, and some Grade 9s across all subjects. These are predictions based on a range of measures, including mock exams, coursework and on the expectation that students will be working and supported in school right up to the exam day.

In terms of resignations, our staff generally move on for career progression, teachers can only tender resignations at three points in the year, this is part of their Statutory Pay and Conditions. It creates a "log jam" in recruitment as a school cannot recruit until a teacher officially resigns, and inevitably all the schools are recruiting at the same time, in a small school like Ixworth it has a greater impact. However, in terms of resignations we are much better positioned than in previous years, we held interviews this week for staff positions in September from an excellent field of candidates, and appointed to the Head of Computer Science, Head of Science and an additional part time Science Teacher.

After the holidays we will welcome Miss Allard as a permanent Art and Photography teacher and Mrs Wheeler will become full time in Maths. Mrs Harniess will also return to the science faculty, but later in the half term.

We are currently working on our budget for 2025/26. The funding arrangement with the DfE did penalize the school in previous years, but as our student numbers have become higher, and more stable our budget has improved next year. In the current economic climate our budget is still tight, but we are working with our Trust to ensure we capitalise on our improved budget, but plan sensibly for the future.

I wish you all an enjoyable break and look forward to welcoming our students back on Tuesday 22nd April.

Mr Gibb

The new menu from Aspens for after the holiday is attached to this bulletin.

County Cricketer

Congratulations and well done to Albie Howe who was the U11 Suffolk cricket Captain last year, we are waiting to find out if he has been appointed as the Captain this year for the U12s, we wish him the best of luck with this.

I have attached a link below regarding Albies cricket from last year.

<https://www.gray-nicolls.co.uk/blogs/the-game/albies-cricket-journey>

Key Dates

Week beginning 22nd April is Week B on our timetable

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|-----------------------------|-------------------------------|
| 22 nd April 2025 | School reopens for all pupils |
| 28 th April 2025 | Year 10 Mock exams begin |
| 5 th May 2025 | Bank Holiday |
| 23 rd May 2025 | Half Term |

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Arbor

Please ensure that Arbor accounts are topped up for your child. We are not usually permitted to allow accounts to go into arrears. If you do not top up their account please send a packed lunch.

Our new website can be found here: www.ixworthhighschool.org

Uniform

The turnout of our students is admired by the many visitors we have at our school. Thank you to all parents that support this aspect of the school and creating a sense of belonging amongst our students. We have tried to be pragmatic in allowing a mix of old and new school uniform and using non-branded items as part of our uniform. Just a reminder that canvas or part canvas trainers are not permitted as part of our uniform, they must be all black and "polishable".

Our uniform policy is widely shared and explained on a daily basis to students in our meet and greet at the door, our students are fully aware of what is, and what is not acceptable uniform.

PE kit consists of PE shirt (white polo or new black polo), black shorts or skort or skirt & PE trainers.

Additional items such as school hoodie / leggings are optional extra if they are cold. Leggings should not be worn without shorts/skort/skirt/tracksuit bottoms over the top.

We would also strongly advise students bringing football/rugby boots to lessons in case they are on the field during wet weather lessons.

Pastoral Notices

Student related enquiries

General enquiries about students or student-related incidents should always in the FIRST instance go to their Tutor. If for any reason this does not resolve the issue, please then contact the Head of Upper or Lower school, whichever is relevant to your child.

Student absence

Student absences should still be registered with the School Office Team by Phone **01359 234050 by 9:00 am.**

Lost Property

Items of lost property will be kept at the School Office. Please ensure you have all school uniform and sports kit clearly marked with your name on the inside of the item so if you do misplace anything it can be returned to you quickly.

Safeguarding

Our Designated Safeguarding Lead is Mrs Hale, she is contactable via the school office.

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Nut free school

A reminder that we are a nut free school, we have several students and staff with severe allergies to nuts. The ban includes all nut based products (Nutella etc.), foods containing nuts including sweets (Snickers etc.) and whole nuts. A simple error in allowing these foods into school could result in a life threatening reaction for some students and staff.

Summer Enrichment Week

The deadline for sign-up/payment has now passed and many activities are now full. Form tutor's will now be sending reminder emails regarding sign up for SEW. Please do make sure you have done this as soon as possible to avoid the disappointment of your child missing out on their first choice.

There is now a Dragons Den for year 7-8 students so please do check Arbor for this if you have not already signed up for an activity.

Work experience extension for Year 10 students is only an option if agreed with the school. Please send any correspondence for work experience extension to Mr Jackson.

Information evening for residential trips (France/Camp/Shakespeare) will take place on Thursday 8th May. Start time to be confirmed.

Non-residential trip information will be sent out via PowerPoint from the trip leaders. If you have any further questions regarding these trips, you can email the trip leaders directly.

Lastly, a reminder for students on the French trip, please check passports to make sure they have not expired. If you have any questions/issues surrounding passports etc, please contact the school office.

Mr Stacpoole