

11th October 2024

Headteacher

In this bulletin we have summarised the recent Parent Focus Group held by Mr Beale to look at our new homework strategy. We gained some valuable feedback that we will now act on. Homework recorded as set for students is being monitored, as are submission rates, there has been a huge increase in both areas, thank you for your support with this. The next Parent Focus Group will be after the next reports to look at the reporting process for students, we will ask for volunteers closer to the time.

We have received some requests from parents about how we structure our lessons at Ixworth and what strategies we use to help students learn. In this bulletin I have provided some information about this, beginning with a short explanation of how we all learn new things.

Please note that we have a Professional Development Day on Monday 14th October, and the school is closed to all pupils. School photographs are being taken on Thursday 17th October.

Wishing you all an enjoyable weekend.

Mr Gibb

Drop off and Pick Ups

Can we respectfully remind parents that the school drop off and pick up is a very busy and potentially dangerous time for many. The central roundabout in school is for the use of the buses only during this time. We have had cars parking, dropping off and picking up from this area while the buses are trying to access the school site. Can all parents please ensure they remain outside of this area at our busiest times: between 8:00am and 8:30am and between 2:45pm and 3:45pm. Our site has three visitor's car park spaces and several other spaces at the rear of the school building that you are able to access should you require reception, please park there to leave the roundabout area clear.

General Information

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

We are working to update everything, if you have any question, please do not hesitate to contact the school.

Key Dates

Week beginning 14th October is Week A on our timetable

14th October Staff INSET Day, school is close to pupils

17th October School Photographs- staff and pupils

17th October Coffee House

26th October Half term commences, school reopens on 4th November

4th November Yr11 mocks commence until 15th November

15th November Yer 7,8 & 9 Flu Immunisations

20th December School closes for Christmas Holidays

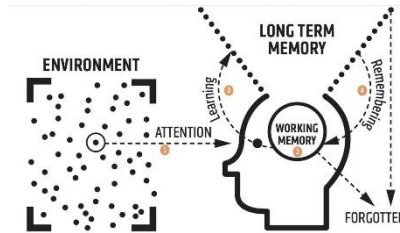
Learning Theory

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We follow certain “routines” in every classroom at Ixworth. The reason for this is that there is now a widely held view around how everyone learns new things. If we think about when we have truly learnt something, we will almost certainly recognise some of these routines as part of that process.

We have 5 Teaching Routines and one common lesson focus routine called SLANT. Our teaching routines are:

1. Questioning
2. Modelling
3. Feedback
4. Literacy
5. Excellence for all



Willingham's model of the mind.

The image above is called Willingham's simple model of the mind, it describes how we all learn. We pay attention to some new piece of information in our environment, this moves into our working memory, we process it, and it is then added to our existing network of knowledge in our long-term memory. We can also use the information in our working memory to recall existing information in our long-term memory, and then work with it to answer questions or solve problems. The working memory is small and can hold a limited amount of information, the long-term memory is thought to be unlimited. If we don't move the new knowledge into the long-term memory or we don't practice with the knowledge it is forgotten.

This is why we:

1. Use SLANT (Sit up. Lean forward. Answer and ask questions. Nod. Track the teacher) to gain attention and make sure the working memory isn't cluttered with other non-essential information.
2. Model in chunks so that the working memory isn't overloaded.
3. Ask questions to practice remembering from long term memory, and practice things repeatedly.
4. Provide feedback, to correct misconceptions, add detail to retained knowledge and achieve mastery.

Parent Homework Focus Group

Mr Beales met this week with a group of parents to discuss homework. Parents liked the structure of the online platforms especially the Methodmaths site as they offer instant feedback. Since moving to the Arbor system parents said homework is much more regularly set. They also said that having it on the student and parent portal meant it was easier to track and by having access to the same information it was easier for them to help with homework. It was commented on that they appreciated how swiftly issues with the submission button were resolved.

Also discussed was the student portal giving students access to target grades has led to a useful discussion around targets so as a result all upcoming reports will be shared on both the Parent and Student portals to give students access to them and to help promote those conversations at home. Two next steps that we will take on board are to space the ks3 creative homework's out more across the half term and to avoid bulk setting as the large list growing can be off-putting. Secondly give some of the lesson time the following week over to addressing misconceptions that homework has flagged up. Thank you to all the parents that attended, a very useful opportunity to get your feedback. I will advertise after the next PCP point to invite parents to feedback on reports.

Mr Beales

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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.

CoffeeHouse- October 17th 2024

A Coffee House is a western style open mic night/ variety show event. The name "coffeehouse" is derived from the limited menu which is typically available at the social event: coffee is usually the featured beverage, together with other non-alcoholic beverages such as soda, juice, and teas. Desserts and snack foods may round out the menu. Students have auditioned to give you a night of their best performances, with warm drinks and sweet treats to enjoy a musical night with.

Doors open at 5pm and tickets can be bought on Arbor for £2.50 + VAT. Please join us to celebrate these talented students!

Miss Dungey



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Mock Timetable

Following a request from the parental focus groups this timetable will also be shared via Arbor assignments to keep all information in one place. In addition, subjects will be posting their revision lists and suggested resources on Arbor assignments in the same way as they do the homework tasks. All PP students will receive revision guides (where available) before half term.

	Week 1				Week 2		
	Lesson1	Lesson2	Lesson3		Lesson1	Lesson2	Lesson3
Mon A	Macbeth 60 mins	English Lang 135 mins		Mon B	Maths Paper 2 90 Mins	Maths Paper 3 90 Mins	Catch Up
Tue A	Chemistry	Biology	Poetry 60 mins	Tue B	ART ALL DAY Picasso & Matisse		
Wed A	History 1	Maths Paper 1 90 Mins	French & German Reading	Wed B	Statistics 90 Mins	Physics	Catch Up
Thu A	History 2	Catch Up	French & German Writing	Thu B	I Media GCSE 90 mins GCSE PE 75 Minutes	Catch Up	Catch Up
Fri A	Photography ALL DAY Picasso			Thu B	3D Design All Day Foster		
Fri A	Drama, Comp Sci 90 mins	Catch Up	Catch Up	Fri B	Geography 1	Geography 2	Catch Up
	Food Tech 105 mins						

Online Safety

The digital online world can be daunting for us as adults, and it is often tricky to work out whether the behaviours our children are involved in online are age appropriate. I have attached two guides along with this week's bulletin to help you categorise and make sense of what your children are doing. If you are worried about anything at all, please speak with your child first and then approach your child's tutor.

Remember, if your child is under 13, as part of the GDPR, they are not capable of giving consent for their data to be collected online.

The Safeguarding Team

ATTENDANCE MATTERS!

ATTENDANCE DURING ONE SCHOOL YEAR	EQUALS APPROXIMATE DAYS ABSENCE	WHICH IS APPROXIMATELY WEEKS ABSENCE	WHICH IS APPROXIMATELY LESSONS MISSED
95%	9 days	2 weeks	40 lessons
90%	19 days	4 weeks	80 lessons
85%	29 days	6 weeks	120 lessons
80%	38 days	8 weeks	160 lessons
75%	48 days	10 weeks	200 lessons
70%	57 days	11 ½ weeks	230 lessons
65%	67 days	13 ½ weeks	270 lessons