

13<sup>th</sup> March 2026

Headteacher

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Next week is a key date in the Year 9 calendar when we continue the options process with our Options Evening on Thursday 19th March from 17:00-19:00. We are proud of the number of different subjects we offer; it is higher than many similarly sized or even bigger high schools in the area, this is because we want to offer students breadth to their studies in Years 10 & 11. Ofsted recognised our "overhauled curriculum" and our commitment to employing expert, specialist teachers. Due to this, we are seeing many more students achieving the top grades in Year 11.

We have secured further funding to complete the work to protect the walls on the ground floor of the building. This will be carried out over Easter. We will also be replacing the football goal posts on the top field with wheeled posts. This will allow us to carry out much needed maintenance of the grass around the existing goal mouths, and we will be able to host more football competitions.

We have received and responded to notification of changes to the planning application for housing off Crown Lane adjacent to our field. We have made it clear we do not object to new housing, but we are concerned about the existing congestion on Walsham Road and the potential for increased bus traffic if the access through to the planned primary school is agreed. We also want to ensure that the footpaths are retained for students walking to school, and that consideration is provided to parents dropping off students at Ixworth and the proposed new school, as this may increase traffic onto the new estate. It is very straightforward to offer feedback on the proposal by visiting <https://planning.westsuffolk.gov.uk/> and searching for DC/25/0666/HYB.

On Friday 20<sup>th</sup> March we are celebrating Red Nose Day 2026. We invite students to wear non-uniform, but this **MUST** include something red for a donation of £1.

Wishing you a restful weekend.

Mr Gibb

**Headteacher**

Travel

## Suffolk County Council funded School Travel for 2026/2027

Parents will be able to opt in (apply) for Suffolk County Council (SCC) funded school travel for the 2026/2027 school year from 2 March 2026. If your child is eligible, you must opt in by 31 May 2026 to ensure the school transport is in place for the start of the Autumn term.

SCC have prepared some information which helps to explain the School Travel Policy.

- [Schools guide to SCC funded school travel policy 2026](#)
- [Message to parents](#)
- [Poster](#)
- [Social media graphic](#)

Further information can also be found at Suffolkonboard - [Suffolkonboard - School Travel \(suffolkonboard.com\)](https://www.suffolkonboard.com/).

Alternatively, you can call the passenger transport team on 0345 606 6173 or email them at [passenger.transport@suffolk.gov.uk](mailto:passenger.transport@suffolk.gov.uk)

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## Pastoral Notices

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### 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 be registered with the School Office Team- [aaa@ixworthhighschool.org](mailto:aaa@ixworthhighschool.org) 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 child's name on the inside of the item.

### Safeguarding

Our Designated Safeguarding Lead is Miss Burgess; she is contactable via the school office.

We continue to push on high levels of attendance for our students across the school and in Forge. Thank you to the parents and carers in our community who support their children to make the right choice every day. Research tells us that 95% plus attendance adds one grade, on average at GCSE.

Below you will see the link to our Attendance and Punctuality Policy. This can be accessed on our website under Policies.

<https://www.ixworthhighschool.org/assets/Documents/Attachments/Attendance-and-Punctuality-Policy-2024.pdf>

## Key Dates

### Week beginning 16th March is Week A on our timetable

19 <sup>th</sup> March	Year 9 Options Evening
30 <sup>th</sup> March	Easter Break
13 <sup>th</sup> April	<b>PD Day- Staff ONLY</b>
14 <sup>th</sup> April	First Day Back- All Students
23 <sup>rd</sup> April	Year 8 Progress Evening
27 <sup>th</sup> April- 8 <sup>th</sup> May	Year 10 Mocks
4 <sup>th</sup> May	Bank Holiday
18 <sup>th</sup> May	DofE Expedition Week
25 <sup>th</sup> May	Half Term
1 <sup>st</sup> June	First Day Back- All Students

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## Subject Spotlight- Music Instrumental Tuition

### What are they?

Students can sign up for a range of instrumental or vocal lessons subject to tutor availability. Students will learn both the practical and theoretical aspects of the instrument. Once students are confident and able they will have the opportunity to complete graded exams if they so wish but are not compulsory as well as performing to audiences.

### What are graded music exams?

Graded music exams (grades 1-8) are external qualifications which help track progress when learning an instrument. To achieve a grade students must demonstrate they have completed the syllabus and met the standard (Pass, Merit or Distinction) for that grade. Whilst there are no requirements to take graded music exams, grade 6+ exams have UCAS points which adds credits towards future university applications via UCAS.

### Who's invited?

All students are welcomed and encouraged to learn how to play an instrument or have singing lessons. All students learning an instrument are invited to join our lunchtime clubs e.g. the school band or create their own bands to gain extra experience as musicians, which is free

### How much do they cost and how do I pay?

Lesson fees are paid on Bromcom. Ixworth High School subsidises 50% of lesson fees for students in receipt of Pupil Premium. This option is labelled as PP in the Bromcom payment options. All lesson fees are paid half termly in advance.

Please note; if fees are more than three weeks in arrears, then the school may pause lessons until fees are paid.

- 30 min lessons: £17
- 20 min lessons: £13

### Venue

All lessons take place in the Music Practice Rooms

### Time

Lessons are weekly and take place during lesson time. Students need to check the Instrumental Noticeboard, so they know when their lessons are scheduled. Every effort will be made to rotate lesson times so that students do not miss the same curriculum lesson each week – however this is limited by how long the visiting music tutor is on site.

### What about instruments?

Students should have their own instrument so that they can practise between lessons. Please search this brand to hire an instrument from Rental Scheme - Balaams Music

### Contact and Signing Up

Please return a signed letter to reception or Mr Spurin to sign up. You can collect a letter from Mr Spurin by emailing [p.spurin@ixworthhighschool.org](mailto:p.spurin@ixworthhighschool.org)

### Missed Lessons and Cancellations

If your child is going to be away from school because of a school trip please contact reception in advance with a list of date(s) affected. If your child is absent unexpectedly due to illness, then a message to reception is always appreciated as this helps lessons to run more smoothly. To cancel lessons please contact reception or Mr Spurin on [p.spurin@ixworthhighschool.org](mailto:p.spurin@ixworthhighschool.org) – 4 weeks' notice is required before lessons may cease. However, if there is a waiting list then they may be able to stop sooner.

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## Careers

Thank you to all students, parents, employers, FE establishments and staff that supported and partook in the events during Careers Week. Please can we ask you to complete the form attached to provide valuable feedback, allowing us to develop the experience for you in the future.

[Careers Event Evaluation Form - March 2026 – Fill out form](#)

## Year 10 Work Experience

Once a placement has been found, students must complete the below:

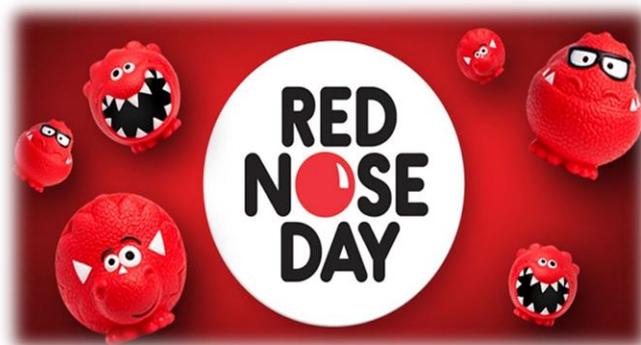
[Y10 Work Experience Application 2025-2026 – Fill out form.](#)

Once this form is complete, Mrs Heath will contact the employer with the correct paperwork so that all parties involved can collaborate to ensure that students receive the most out of this experience.

## Red Nose Day 2026

Red Nose Day 2026 is Friday 20<sup>th</sup> March. This annual event organised by Comic Relief combines humour and charity to raise funds for children and families facing challenges in their lives. [This years campaign encourages people to "Take Yourself Funny for Money," using laughter and creativity to make a real difference.](#)

We encourage students to wear non-uniform which MUST include something red for a £1 donation to Comic Relief.



1	10 Severn	110.1
2	9 Yare	102.7
3	8 Stow	74.3
4	11 Nile	73.9
5	9 Lark	68.7
6	11 Indus	66.6
7	7 Butley	64.8
8	9 Nene	58.9
9	10 Ouse	58.3
10	7 Minsmere	58.2
11	11 Tiber	54.8
12	8 Yox	54.2
13	10 Thames	47.6
14	10 Trent	46.4
15	11 Amazon	44.3
16	9 Waveney	43.1
17	7 Box	42.9
18	9 Chet	39.5
19	8 Dove	39.5
20	8 Brett	36.9
21	8 Gipping	35.5
22	7 Orwell	34.7

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## Technology for a Sustainable Future Day

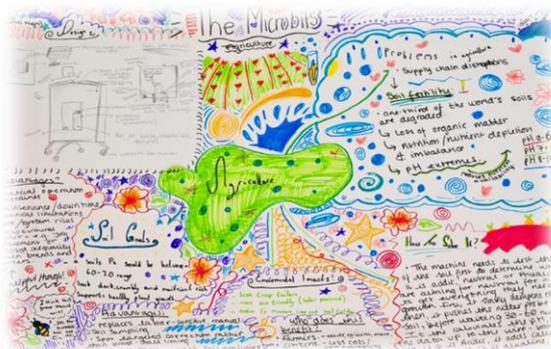
### Innovative Student Solutions Tackling Waste, Roads, Traffic, and Agriculture

Technology for a Sustainable Future Day, hosted by Eastern Education Group and BT, brought together an inspiring group of students dedicated to designing creative solutions for some of our most pressing environmental challenges. There were 22 teams from 7 schools in Suffolk and Norfolk. Students were asked to think about on issues such as waste management, road and traffic congestion, and agricultural efficiency, participants harnessed the power of innovative technology to propose and build real-world prototypes.

Students collaborated in teams to identify local and global problems and brainstorm ways in which technology could offer sustainable answers. Some groups developed smart bins equipped with sensors to sort and monitor waste automatically, aiming to reduce landfill and promote recycling. Others devised intelligent traffic systems using data analysis and IoT devices to optimise traffic flow, minimise congestion, and lower emissions in urban areas. In agriculture, teams engineered prototypes for automated irrigation and crop monitoring, utilising drones and remote sensors to increase yields while conserving resources.

The day culminated in a showcase where students presented their prototypes to peers, educators, and community members, highlighting not only their technical skills but also their commitment to sustainability. By encouraging problem-solving and innovation, Technology for a Sustainable Future Day served as a platform for young minds to demonstrate how creative thinking and cutting-edge technology can help build a greener, more efficient world for generations to come.

The winning team for the whole event was an Ixworth high school team made up of Alice, Caitlyn and Lydia! They came up with an idea for an automated robot to test the soil and apply nutrients locally where needed instead of the whole field. Their showcase piece wowed the judges and their robot stood proud as it did laps to show off their invention.



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## High School Musical JR!

**Disney's High School Musical JR.** is playing at Ixworth High School on the **25<sup>th</sup> and 26<sup>th</sup> March 2026**. The fun-filled 60-minute musical, designed for high school-aged performers, is based on the 2006 Disney Channel Original Movie and the subsequent National Tour. The cast includes 60 students, ranging from tech team to performers directed by Mrs Howson.



### CALLING ALL WILDCATS!

This up-beat throwback to the ins and outs of high school drama is a nostalgic romp for young and old alike! Adapted for young performers, this musical includes favourite *High School Musical* songs such as "Get'cha Head in the Game," "Stick to the Status Quo," and "We're All in This Together." With its inspiring message of friendship, self-discovery, and teamwork, you'll be singing and cheering along! Tickets are available via the links below:

Cast 1- Wednesday 25th March at 17:30

<https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/1982669013391?aff=oddtcreator>

Cast 2- Thursday 26th March at 17:30

<https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/1982682025310?aff=oddtcreator>

