

20<sup>th</sup> March 2026

Headteacher

Responsible, Resilient, Ambitious

Next week, we have the performance of High School Musical JR on Wednesday and Thursday. Our actors and technical team have been rehearsing hard, their ambition for a great performance and resilience in rehearsals is clear to see. There are a limited number of tickets still available- please find links on the last page of this bulletin.

Mr Harrison led another exciting opportunity for students to the Rotary Club Public Speaking competition held at County High School in Bury St Edmunds on Tuesday. Year 9 Options Evening was a great success and very well attended, this was the culmination of work by individual subjects and our careers curriculum to ensure that our students are fully informed to make these important choices. Year 9 students now have until 17<sup>th</sup> April to submit their option choices. If students were unable to attend, they must collect their option booklet from Mr Jackson.

Next week, we are saying goodbye to Mrs Bass after 10 years as a Science Technician at Ixworth. Mrs Bass is multi-talented and will be sadly missed. As well as supporting the Science faculty, she has also supported the Design and Technology department, numerous trips and is the go-to person and a font of knowledge for first aid. We wish Mrs Bass and her family the very best for the future.

We are also saying goodbye to Mrs Edmunds who leaves us after 14 months as our Head of Maths. She took the difficult decision to resign after an illness. We wish her and her family all the best for the future.

Ixworth has moved significantly up the table of comparable schools in terms of absence for the first half of the spring term. The DfE now ranks us as thirteenth out of 21 comparable schools for persistent absence (we were 18th). We are 0.4% higher than the median of these schools for overall attendance. Overall, we are ninth for attendance. Thank you to all parents for ensuring that absence from school is kept to an absolute minimum and supporting good attendance, everyday counts. If you do need support with attendance for your child, please contact us via [aaa@ixworthhighschool.org](mailto:aaa@ixworthhighschool.org).

Wishing you a restful and sunny weekend.

Mr Gibb  
Headteacher

Mocks and Exams

## Art and Photography Exams- Next Week

**Yr 10 Art Exam -24<sup>th</sup> March all day.** Non-school uniform and please bring sketchbooks with you.

**Yr 10 Photography Exam- 25<sup>th</sup> March P1 and P2.** School uniform as usual and please sure you have your log in and password and any props you need to help you with your final piece.

Individual timetables will be provided to students next week. These are also available on the Bromcom app and Student Portal, although some are still being completed. The following items have been added to the Bromcom shop for Year 10 & 11 students in preparation for the Summer Exam season:

- Clear exam pencil case containing; 2 x black pens, 1 x highlighter, ruler, protractor, compass, pencil, pencil sharpener and eraser **£1.32 each**
- Casio FX83GT CW+ Scientific calculator **£11.10 each**

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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 23rd March is Week B on our timetable

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

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## Subject Spotlight- PE KS3

### Why is your subject important in this key stage?

Physical Education develops far more than sporting ability. At KS3, students build fundamental skills and learn how to apply them in game situations through developing tactical awareness. Alongside this, PE builds resilience, teamwork and confidence, while promoting lifelong healthy habits. In an increasingly sedentary world, PE plays a vital role in supporting both physical and mental wellbeing.

### Any teaching methods/strategies that would help people understand how teaching is taking place (implementation of curriculum)?

Lessons follow a practical-first, concept-driven approach:

- **SEE – SAY – SLOW** demonstrations to break skills down clearly
- **Skill → Drill → Game** progression to ensure students can apply techniques in competitive situations
- **Game-based learning** to develop tactical awareness and decision making
- **Questioning and reflection** to support understanding of “when” and “why” to use skills
- **STEPS differentiation** (Space, Task, Equipment, People) to challenge all learners
- **Student leadership** opportunities through coaching and officiating

### What are students covering in the Key stage/course?

Students build on KS3 foundations by combining theory and performance:

- Applied Anatomy & Physiology (body systems and movement)
- Physical Training (fitness components and training methods)
- Sports Psychology (motivation, feedback, arousal)
- Socio-cultural Influences (media, participation, ethics)
- Health, Fitness & Wellbeing
- Practical performance in three sports and coursework analysis

### Any competitions/House comps/ Homework you are running/have run and their results or aims.

We run a broad extracurricular programme including fixtures, inter-house competitions and enrichment clubs. These provide opportunities for KS3 students to apply skills in competitive situations and for KS4 students to refine performance and leadership. Our aim is to increase participation, confidence and teamwork across all year groups.

### How can parents support or extend their child in your subject?

- Encourage regular physical activity and sport outside school
- Support involvement in clubs or teams to apply skills in real contexts
- Discuss games and tactics to build understanding
- Reinforce healthy habits (sleep, nutrition, hydration)
- For GCSE: support revision and coursework completion

### Anything current in the news, new books or research links to websites

Students are encouraged to explore:

- The impact of exercise on mental health
- Growth in women’s sport
- Advances in sports science and performance analysis
- Useful platforms include BBC Sport, The Guardian Sport and BBC Bitesize.

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## Careers links/ties to post-16/university etc.

PE supports pathways into:

- Sports coaching and teaching
- Physiotherapy and sports science
- Fitness industry careers
- Sports media and analysis

It also leads into A-Level PE, BTEC Sport and university courses in sport and health-related fields.

## Year 10 Work Experience

Once a placement has been found, students must complete: [Y10 Work Experience Application 2025-2026 – Fill out form](#) and [Ixworth High School Work Experience Medical Form - 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.

## West Suffolk Council

West Suffolk Council are running a work experience week 6 – 10 July 2026, specifically for year 10 students, to provide them with an overview of the different career pathways there are at the Council. Spaces are now filling up, so we urge your students to apply.

If you would like to find out more about our programme, the details and how to apply can be found on our work experience website page [Work experience \(westsuffolk.gov.uk\)](http://Work%20experience%20(westsuffolk.gov.uk)).

## CoffeeHouse- Performance

The next CoffeeHouse will take place on Thursday 14<sup>th</sup> May 17:00-18:00. For any students interested in taking part, please speak to Mrs Dungey or email [j.dungey@ixworthhighschool.org](mailto:j.dungey@ixworthhighschool.org)



## 9th March TOP 10 Students

- |                   |                   |
|-------------------|-------------------|
| 1. I Zorin        | 6. J Maudlin-Moss |
| 2. I Groves       | 7. M Evans        |
| 3. M Benn-Shallow | 8. S Darby        |
| 4. I Heavy        | 9. S Evans        |
| 5. W Hodge        | 10. I Mitrusi     |



## Class Leader Board

1	10 Severn	89.1
2	11 Nile	88.3
3	9 Yare	86.8
4	9 Lark	81.6
5	11 Indus	74.5
6	7 Butley	74.3
7	8 Stow	72.8
8	7 Minsmere	57.5
9	9 Nene	56.9
10	11 Tiber	56.3
11	10 Trent	54.3
12	8 Yox	51.4
13	10 Ouse	50
14	7 Orwell	49.3
15	7 Box	49
16	10 Thames	46
17	8 Dove	42.1
18	8 Gipping	40.8
19	11 Amazon	40
20	8 Brett	40
21	9 Waveney	38
22	9 Chet	34.5

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## High School Musical JR!

Last chance to purchase tickets- 25<sup>th</sup> and 26<sup>th</sup> March 2026

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>

