

21st November 2025

Headteacher

Responsible, Resilient, Ambitious

Our Year 11s have successfully completed their mock exams, well done to them all. We could clearly see that Year 11 students have taken responsibility for their learning by their attendance at revisions session and the resources they had prepared themselves to revise from. There has been a significant increase in the number of students sitting the Higher Tier paper in Math's, Science and French, demonstrating the ambition to achieve the very best grades possible, these papers can be graded up to the very highest grade of a 9. Less than 5% of grades are awarded at this level, last year we had 13 grade 9s compared to none in 2024.

We are continuing with our drive to improve the quality and purpose of homework. The evidence from the Education Endowment Foundation shows that high quality homework is a key driver in raising the attainment of all students. The number of homework detentions and warnings given by teachers has fallen significantly because homework is being completed more regularly, thank you to parents and carers in supporting this important strategy and building student resilience. Thank you also to those that have offered feedback on the systems, both positive and negative. We will use this to develop the homework offer and the systems around it.

We are offering a festive turkey lunch on 18th December, the price of the meal on this day will be £3.50, Free School Meal children will still be able to have the main meal as their usual entitlement. Mr Pilmer will also raise the daily spend limit on this day to ensure students can enjoy their usual break snacks.

The weather this week has been changeable! As I look across the playground now it is thick fog after a week of intermittent ice, snow, wind, rain and patches of sunshine. Walsham road is now slick with fallen leaves and there is an everlasting puddle midway up the road, thank you for driving cautiously in the vicinity of the school and keeping our students safe from the traffic while they are walking along the very narrow pavement. We remain in contact with both the parish and county council regarding the issues on Walsham Road.

Attached to this bulletin is the Enrichment newsletter from Mr Stacpoole.

Wishing you a restful weekend

Mr Gibb

Headteacher

Key Dates

Week beginning 24th November is Week B on our timetable

4th December	Year 11 Progress Evening 4-7 and Year 11 Mock Handouts
5th December	PD Day STAFF ONLY
18th December	Christmas Lunch and Jumper Day
19th December	Panto Performance by British Pantomimes- <i>Tickets available on website</i>
19th December	Last day of term
7th January	School reopens for all students

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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 still be registered with the School Office Team by 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 so if you do misplace anything it can be returned to you quickly.

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>

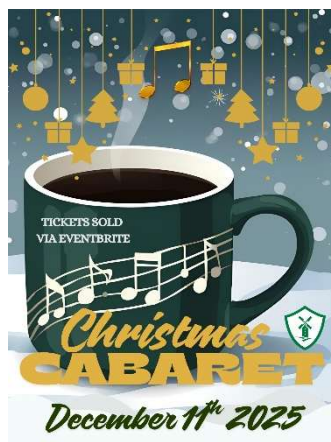
Christmas Cabaret

The Christmas Cabaret is on December 11th at 5pm- Tickets available on Eventbrite and the link below:

<https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/ixworth-high-schools-christmas-cabaret-tickets-1964845225963>

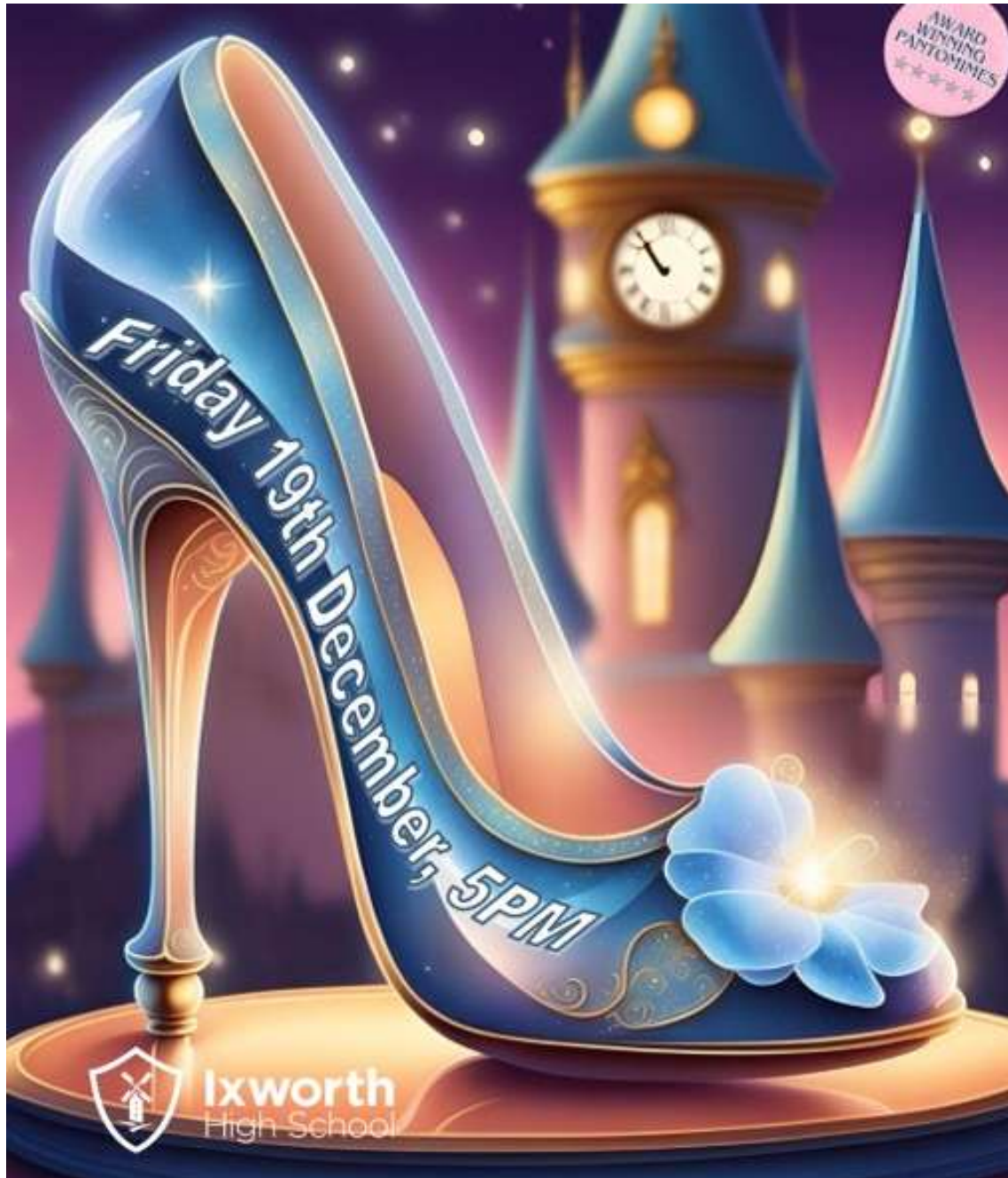
Love Christmas? Love performing? Or just love a good laugh? Then don't miss out on our first ever Christmas Cabaret! Whether you sing, dance, act, play an instrument, or just want to bring some festive fun to the stage — we want YOU! Students to sign up with Mrs Dungey on **Monday, November 10th** to be part of the show. All years and talents welcome — as long as it's Christmas themed! Any questions, please email

j.dungey@ixworthhighschool.org



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Get ready for a magical journey this festive season as Cinderella comes to life from the award-winning team at British Pantomimes. A dazzling family pantomime filled with laughter, sparkle, and a sprinkle of fairy dust! Join Cinderella, her hilarious best friend, the charming Prince, and of course her Fairy Godmother, in this fun-packed adventure that's perfect for all ages. With toe-tapping songs, belly-laugh comedy, stunning costumes, and magical moments, it's the perfect treat to kick off your Christmas season.

Experience a Pop-Up Pantomime like no other! At British Pantomimes, we have consistently set new standards with our groundbreaking productions. We are looking forward to hosting Cinderella at Ixworth High School in Suffolk.

<https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/cinderella-british-pantomimes-tickets-1768337608389?aff=oddtcreator>

British Pantomimes

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Careers

If you or someone you know owns a business or works for a company that would be willing to offer work experience to Year 10 students at Ixworth High School in July 2026, please ask them to contact Donna Heath on d.heath@ixworthhighschool.org

Their support and dedication to widen our students' ambitions and opportunities will be appreciated.

Year 10 parents - further information with regards to work experience will be released by 28th November 2025.

Mrs. D Heath

Student news

Alex, Y11, was given the opportunity to take part in a flight experience day at Wattisham Airfield along with a group of Cadets. He arrived early in the morning, in time to see several Helicopters landing and taking off before undergoing a series of security checks. As he completed these checks the C17 that would take them up was landing. Alex was given a Health and Safety Briefing before being told about the aircraft and its functionality. While the flight took place, he was strapped in but unable to see outside the aircraft, which he described as being 'like riding a rollercoaster with your eyes closed!'.

Alex thoroughly enjoyed the day, wishing to become a Fighter Pilot when he completes his studies, however, as a result of his experience, he said he would be equally happy flying multi-engine planes like the C17. He is now looking at what qualifications he needs to fulfil his ambitions of flying for the Armed Forces.

