

28th November 2025

Headteacher

Responsible, Resilient, Ambitious

This week we were visited by the Dr Peter Prinsley the MP for Bury St. Edmunds and Stowmarket. He met with both students and staff, had a tour of the school and was briefed on the successes at Ixworth this year. Dr Prinsley spent time with some of our student leadership team and students completing the Citizenship GCSE, answering questions about the role of an MP.

An interesting point Peter made was that with the change in voting age to 16, a large part of the audience would be able to vote in the next general election, if the election were to be in August 2029 this would include students currently in Year 8.

We are advertising for a new cover supervisor, and we are also recruiting for an additional HLTA and TA. If you know of anyone potentially looking for a new position, please do let them know. The adverts are linked on our website and on the Suffolk and Norfolk County Council websites. We would consider applications from those seeking part time work or a job share.

A reminder that the school is closed to students on Friday 5th December for a staff training day.

Wishing you a restful weekend

Mr Gibb



Key Dates

Week beginning 1st December is Week A on our timetable

4th December	Year 11 Progress Evening 4-7 and Year 11 Mock Handouts
5th December	PD Day STAFF ONLY
11th December	Christmas Cabaret- <i>Tickets available on website</i>
18th December	Christmas Lunch and Jumper Day
19th December	Panto Performance by British Pantomimes- <i>Tickets available on website</i>

28th November 2025

Pastoral Notices

Responsible, Resilient, Ambitious

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

Tickets still being sold for our first ever Christmas Cabaret, taking place on **Thursday, December 11th, 2025!**

This festive evening promises a joyful mix of entertainment, carol singing, and seasonal performances. Treats and trinkets for the festive season will be on offer for purchase. Come and enjoy the talents of our students as they bring the spirit of the holidays to life on stage.

Event is at 5pm in the School Restaurant. Tickets available via Eventbrite link below!

Please bring the entire family! We would love to have you!

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



28th November 2025

Responsible, Resilient, Ambitious



Subject Spotlight- English and Food Tech

Subject- English	
Why is your subject important in this key stage?	Drama is an important subject for students because it develops a wide range of skills that go beyond acting or performing. Drama builds communication skills and confidence, encourages creativity and imagination, develops collaboration and enhances critical thinking.
Any teaching methods/strategies that would help people understand how teaching is taking place (implementation of curriculum)?	Teaching strategies used are reflection and analysis. Students are taught how to interpret scripts, evaluate performances, and make creative decisions, which strengthen their problem-solving and critical-thinking abilities
What are students covering in the Key stage/course? Any overarching themes, skills, concepts that are trying to be achieved.	Currently students are developing performing, presenting ideas, and working on character development to improve public speaking, body language, and vocal control—skills that are useful in any career or social setting.
How this fits into the wider subject curriculum.	Drama ties in with English (storytelling, character analysis), History (understanding contexts and cultures), and even Media and Technology (lighting, sound, production). It also opens pathways to careers in the arts, communication, teaching, and leadership.
Any competitions/House comps/ Homework you are running/have run and their results or aims.	Production Lunch time workshops- Singing, acting and dancing.
How can parents support or extend their child in your subject?	Encouraging discussions about performances, whether this be after watching a film or tv series. Ask questions like: <i>“What did you think of that character?”</i> or <i>“How did the actor show emotion?”</i> This helps them think critically about performance techniques and storytelling. Going to school production or a local theatre as this exposes students to different acting styles and staging ideas
Anything current in the news, new books or research links to websites etc. that students might find interesting/useful to access their studies or provide wider context and skills.	The website of National Drama has a “Research” section which curates relevant teaching & learning research about drama education.

28th November 2025

Responsible, Resilient, Ambitious

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

A-Level Drama or equivalent BTEC/performing-arts course: builds performance skills, theory and group work.

Vocational courses in theatre production, technical theatre, backstage work.

Doing drama extracurricular: school productions, local theatre groups, community arts.

Degrees in Drama, Theatre & Performance, Acting for Stage & Screen, Applied Theatre, etc. For example: a BA in Acting offers vocational training for stage, screen and digital media. Universities list what you can do after such degrees: for example, about the degree in actor, director, stage manager, arts admin, events manager, marketing, education etc

Career's:

Actor (stage, TV, film)

Theatre Director or Producer

Stage Manager, Set/Lighting/Costume Designer (technical roles in theatre/film)

Drama therapist or Community Arts Worker (using drama for social/therapeutic purposes).



TOP 10 Students (received a praise postcard)

- | | |
|------------------|---------------------|
| 1.C Lovering | 6.A Ketcher |
| 2.W Hodge | 7.F Bennett |
| 3.H Maudlin-Moss | 8.I Head |
| 4.S Cook | 9.L Kenvin |
| 5.J Smith | 10.I <u>Mitrusi</u> |

Each member of the class with the highest points received a house point

Class Leader Board

1	7 Minsmere	365.5
2	10 Severn	262.3
3	9 Yare	253.8
4	11 Nile	224.1
5	10 Ouse	195.1
6	9 Nene	195.1
7	8 Stow	192.4
8	7 <u>Butley</u>	176.5
9	9 Waveney	168.1
10	8 Yox	164
11	11 Tiber	148.9
12	7 Box	146.9
13	11 Indus	136
14	10 Trent	133.4
15	8 Gipping	133.4
16	9 Lark	131.6
17	10 Thames	119.7
18	7 Orwell	117
19	8 Dove	105.3
20	8 Brett	99.5
21	9 Chet	88.1
22	11 Amazon	54.7

28th November 2025

Responsible, Resilient, Ambitious

Subject- Food Tech

Why is your subject important?

Food Preparation and Nutrition equip students with essential life skills in cooking, nutrition, and food science. It promotes healthy eating habits, sustainability awareness, and understanding of global food issues. The subject also fosters creativity, independence, and problem-solving through practical and theoretical learning.

Any teaching methods/strategies that would help people understand how teaching is taking place?

Lessons combine theory with hands-on practical work. Students engage in demonstrations, sensory analysis, experiments, and independent cooking tasks. Retrieval practice, visual aids, and group discussions help reinforce key concepts. Assessment includes written tasks, practical evaluations, and practice NEA (Non-Exam Assessment) activities.

What are students covering in KS4 (Each must be spoken about over the two sessions but may not always be in the same spotlight)

KS4 (GCSE): Students study five key areas: Food, Nutrition and Health; Food Science; Food Safety; Food Choice; and Food Provenance. They complete 2 NEA tasks including: a food science investigation and a practical exam showcasing their technical skills, plus a written exam paper.

Students complete two Non-Exam Assessment (NEA) tasks as part of their GCSE:

NEA 1: Food Investigation - Students explore the scientific principles behind food preparation. For example, they might investigate how different types of flour affect the texture of bread, the impact of raising agents on cake volume, or how cooking methods influence the sensory qualities of vegetables.

NEA 2: Food Preparation Task - Students plan, prepare, and cook a three-dish menu based on a given theme. Examples include a menu suitable for a teenager following a vegetarian diet, dishes inspired by international cuisine, or meals suitable for someone with a specific dietary need (e.g., gluten-free, low-fat).

28th November 2025

Responsible, Resilient, Ambitious

<p>Any competitions/House comps/ Homework you are running/have run and their results or aims.</p>	<p>Homework tasks often involve recipe development, food diaries, and research into food and nutrition initiatives and current food trends. Students are celebrated in assemblies and work is displayed during some school events.</p>
<p>How can parents support or extend their child in your subject?</p>	<p>Parents can encourage cooking at home, discuss food labels and nutrition, and explore cultural dishes together. Watching food documentaries or cooking shows can spark interest. Providing opportunities for independent meal planning and preparation helps build confidence.</p>
<p>Anything current in the news, new books or research links to websites etc. that students might find interesting/useful to access their studies.</p>	<p>News: Rise in plant-based diets and food sustainability debates. Websites: The Importance of NEA1 Food Science Investigations, https://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize/subjects/zdn3r82, https://www.foodafactoflife.org.uk/, https://www.nutrition.org.uk/, National Diet and Nutrition Survey 2019 to 2023 - GOV.UK Books: AQA GCSE Food Preparation and Nutrition, Salt, Fat, Acid, Heat by Samin Nosrat; The Science of Cooking by Dr. Stuart Farrimond.</p>
<p>Careers links/ties to post-16/university etc.</p>	<p>This subject links to careers in nutrition, dietetics, food science, hospitality, catering, product development, environmental health and agriculture. Post-16 options include Level 3 Food Science and Nutrition, Hospitality courses, and apprenticeships. University pathways include Food Technology, Public Health, Nutrition and Human Health and Culinary Arts.</p>



28th November 2025

Responsible, Resilient, Ambitious

Computing Competitions

Bebras Problem Solving Competition

Between the 10th and 21st November in computing lessons, students have taken part in the national Bebras problem solving competition. 307 students in Years 7 to 10 have taken part to compete against other students from around the country. Last year, around 460,000 students took part across the country. Students will receive a certificate which will rank them in the school (Merit- top 50%, Distinction- top 25%, Best in school for their age group) and may even get a Gold certificate too which shows they are in the top 10% of students in the country in their age group.

Results should be available within two weeks.

Students who are in the top 10% in the country will be invited to take part in a coding competition in March.

Cyber First Girls Competition

We are gearing up to the Cyber First girls' competition. This is aimed at Year 8 girls to show what a career in cyber security might look like. It is open to all year 8 girls and they will work in teams of up to 4 to solve problems. There is still time to sign up. The winning team from each region will get a laptop for every student.

This will start on Monday and run for 10 days. Students will be able to use Turing before school, after school and during most break and lunch times to work on problems and will have the option of coming out of some classes to work on the problems too. They can also work on them at home.

The challenges are usually a lot of fun and lots of skills are learned through the process.

Please speak to Mr Sexton if you are interested or go to Turing at lunch time on the 1st December.



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. Tickets are much cheaper than our performances in other theatres, so make the most of it!

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

British Pantomimes

28th November 2025

Responsible, Resilient, Ambitious




Ixworth
High School

100% ATTENDANCE REWARD

4TH DECEMBER

congratulations

If you achieve 100% attendance from the 1st to the 4th December, you will be rewarded with an early lunch pass and a hot chocolate from us!




Ixworth
High School

FOOD DRIVE

**DECEMBER
1ST-4TH**



We are excited to announce our first collection where we aim to come together as a community to make a positive impact on the lives of those facing food insecurity. Items will be donated to a local food bank.

DROP-OFF LOCATION

 **Ixworth High School**
Miss Burgess Office

ITEMS NEEDED

- ▶ Canned Food
- ▶ Pasta
- ▶ Long-life dairy
- ▶ Dry Cereals

For More Information : b.morris@ixworthhighschool.org