

30th January 2026**Headteacher****Responsible, Resilient, Ambitious**

We have now received our new football and netball strips courtesy of hamabeads.com and Vehicle Works Ixworth, they look very smart. Our students already stand out at fixtures because of their excellent behaviour and attitudes, now the new kit will make them stand out even more!

We have recruited a new Cover Supervisor this week and have Teaching Assistant interviews next week. We remain fully staffed for teachers. Sadly, we do have two teachers that are absent due to serious illness, we wish them a speedy recovery.

We have begun budget discussions with our Trust for 2026/27. Our student numbers are on the rise again, this coupled with good budgetary control over the last two years, means that we be able to maintain our staffing numbers. Finding and keeping high quality staff is key to school improvement, and this means that we can keep making improvements suggested by our Good Ofsted report in April 25.

We have received confirmation that we will have work carried out by the Trust in high traffic areas in the school to smarten up the spaces with a more modern look, but also offering protection to the walls and make cleaning easier. This work costing around £30k and will be carried out over the Easter and Summer holidays.

Well done to our Year 11's for the start of their mocks this week, good luck for next week's examinations.

Wishing you a restful weekend.

Mr Gibb

Headteacher**Key Dates**

Week beginning 2nd February is Week B on our timetable

26th January- 6th February Year 11 Mocks

12th February Year 9 Progress Evening

16th February Half Term

Year 11 Mocks- Important Information

- Students must register with their tutor first and then head to their allotted room on time. Lateness could result in no-entry.
- Students are not allowed headphones or mobile phones, these along with the rest of their belongings should be left in their lockers.
- Students must be in full school uniform and need to remove any writing on hands or arms, bracelets, rings, necklaces etc.
- Students will need their own calculators; this is the candidate's responsibility to provide them.
- Students' stationary needs to be in a see-through container not their blazers, and any water bottles must be transparent with no labels.

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2026-2027

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Sapientia Education Trust- Term Dates**Autumn Term:**

- Starts: Thursday 3rd September 2026
- Half-Term: 19th October - 30th October 2026
- Last day: Friday 18th December 2026

Spring Term:

- Starts: Tuesday 5th January 2027
- Half-Term: 15th February- 19th February 2027
- Last Day: Thursday 25th March 2027

Summer Term:

- Starts: Monday 12th April 2027
- Bank Holiday/ School Closed: 3rd May
- Half-Term: 31st May - 4th June 2027
- Last Day – Friday 23rd July 2027

Year 10 Work Experience

There is 7 weeks until all students need a confirmed placement and a completed application form. Deadline date is **20th March 2026**.

Over next week, Year 10's are working through "how to apply for work experience", using their booklets in their PSHE lessons. These are to be used at home and for parents/carers to support them with the process. Students need to contact their placements and ask those questions. Once they have a confirmed slot, they need to complete the form attached.

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

If you have any questions or concerns, please contact Mrs Heath d.heath@ixworthhighschool.org. Student appointments are available for additional support. Please ensure they speak to form tutors to arrange these.

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Subject Spotlight- Engineering KS4

Why is your subject important in this key stage?

Engineering equips students with practical problem-solving skills, technical knowledge, and resilience that are essential for modern life and employment.

The NCFE Engineering qualification supports students in:

- Understanding how products are designed, manufactured, tested and improved
- Developing employability skills such as teamwork, communication, time management and safety awareness
- Building confidence using tools, equipment, CAD software and workshop processes
- Making informed decisions about STEM careers, apprenticeships and further education

Engineering encourages students to think logically, innovate responsibly, and understand the impact of technology on society.

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

- Hands-on practical tasks in the workshop
- Design–Make–Evaluate cycles to mirror real engineering processes
- Explicit teaching of health & safety and safe working practices
- Use of CAD/CAM, technical drawings and modelling
- Short theory inputs followed by applied practical work to reinforce learning

What are students covering in the Key stage/course? Any overarching themes, skills, concepts that are trying to be achieved.

- Engineering materials
- Tools, equipment and machinery
- Engineering processes
- Reading and producing engineering drawings
- CAD design and modelling
- Quality control, testing and evaluation
- Health & Safety and workshop regulations
- Problem-solving through practical challenges.

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

- Discussing how engineered products are made at home or in everyday life
- Encouraging students to practise technical vocabulary
- Supporting revision of Health & Safety rules and processes
- Visiting museums, factories, or engineering exhibitions
- Encouraging use of online CAD tools or STEM resources
- Talking about career pathways and subject choices post-16

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.

- BBC Bitesize – Engineering & Design Technology
- STEM Learning UK
- Tomorrow's Engineers
- The Institution of Engineering and Technology (IET)
- National Engineering Day resources
- Autodesk Tinkercad (for basic CAD skills)

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

- A Levels or Level 3 Engineering qualifications
- T Levels in Engineering and Manufacturing
- Apprenticeships (mechanical, electrical, manufacturing, CAD technician)

University degrees in:

- Mechanical Engineering
- Civil Engineering
- Electrical/Electronic Engineering
- Aerospace Engineering

Subject Spotlight- French KS3

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

French at KS3 develops students' communication skills, cultural awareness, and confidence in language learning. It supports literacy, memory, problem-solving, and listening skills, while fostering curiosity about the wider world.

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

Beginning in Year 7, students receive balanced instruction across all key language skills— listening, speaking, reading, writing, and translation. More advanced grammatical structures, such as tenses, are introduced early through vocabulary and set phrases rather than as formal grammatical concepts, enabling students to build familiarity and accuracy over time. For example, Year 7 students learn phrases such as *je voudrais* without needing to understand the conditional tense, laying strong foundations for future success.

What are students covering in the Key stage/course? Any overarching themes, skills, concepts that are trying to be achieved.

Across all three years, students explore:

1. Identity & Self

Personal information, hobbies, descriptions, daily routine

2. Family & Friends

Relationships, personalities, family life

3. School & Future Plans

Subjects, timetables, opinions, ambitions

4. Leisure & Free Time

Sports, music, film, technology use

5. Home & Local Area

Describing where you live, your town, and what you can do there

6. Food & Culture

Meals, eating out, cultural festivals, traditions

7. Travel & Holidays

Directions, transport, booking trips, holiday experiences

How this fits into the wider curriculum?

Core skills developed include listening to comprehension, reading for meaning, spoken interaction, accurate written expression, and translation skills. Students also develop cultural understanding, grammatical awareness, and confidence in manipulating language independently.

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

Our department runs weekly homework clubs as well as GCSE clinics to support students with their learning.

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

In languages, when it comes to making progress, the golden rule is "*little and often*." Parents can support their child by ensuring they learn vocabulary regularly in small, manageable chunks, rather than the night before an assessment when there are too many words to remember. This approach helps develop long-term memory and supports faster, more secure progress.

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.

Quizlet (<https://quizlet.com>) is a free, interactive website designed to help students memorise vocabulary as well as key grammatical concepts. By entering the name of the textbook used in class (Dynamo 1 in Year 7; Dynamo 2 in Year 8; Dynamo 3 in Year 9) along with the lesson title, students can revise in a fun and effective way.

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

Learning French supports careers in the below and many more:

- **Business & International Trade** – sales, marketing, logistics
- **Travel, Tourism & Aviation** – airlines, cruise industry, tour operators
- **Translation & Interpreting**
- **Media & Communications** – journalism, PR, global media
- **Law & International Relations**
- **Hospitality & Events Management**
- **STEM careers** – working in multinational companies where French is an asset