

8th May 2026

Headteacher

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This week we held parent briefing sessions for students taking part in trips with overnight stays during the upcoming Summer Enrichment Week. The sessions were very well attended, and parents were highly complementary about the information provided. These trips form a vital part of our enrichment offer at Ixworth High School, they are difficult to organise without your support. As well as being an exciting experience for young people, they help to build resilience by placing students in a new environment, away from home, and encouraging them to engage in unfamiliar activities.

Year 11 GCSE examinations begin in earnest next week. This week, however, students have already completed assessments in Health and Social Care and Drama, as well as their French speaking exams. Their preparation has been evident, with students demonstrating strong independence, taking responsibility for their learning, and showing clear ambition to achieve the very highest grades.

Wishing you a restful weekend

Mr Gibb

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://suffolkonboard.com).

Alternatively, you can call the passenger transport team on 0345 606 6173 or email them at 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 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 11th May is Week A on our timetable

14th May	CoffeeHouse Performance
18th May	DofE Expedition
Week 25th May	Half Term
1st June	First Day Back- All Students
1st June	Year 9 start KS4 Options
18th June	Year 7 Progress Evening
19th June	Year 11 Prom
6-10th	July Year 10 Work Experience Week
13-17th	July Summer Enrichment Week
17th July	Final Day of School

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Exam Information

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Important GCSE Information

Arrive Promptly: Please ensure you are at the exam venue 15 minutes before the start time, ready to go.

- **Equipment Check:** Remember to bring your own clear pencil case with black pens, pencils, eraser, ruler, and any subject-specific tools (scientific calculator and compass are essentials).
- **PM Exams:** Please note that afternoon exams begin at 13:30. If you have approved extra time, your exam may finish after the school buses have departed. Please ensure you have arranged alternative transport home for these days.

Take a deep breath, read the questions carefully, and do your best! Good luck to you all—you've got this!

Best wishes,



Mr Beales & Miss Elmer

Free Schools Meals

The FSM allowance will be increasing to £2.66 from 1st September 2026.

This means that as per Trust policy all prices will rise in line with this change:

- Paid for meals at primary schools will increase to £2.66
- Set meal deals at secondary schools will increase to £2.66
- Staff meals at all schools will increase to £3.20 (VAT inclusive)

Aspens are aware of these changes and will be implementing them from the 1st September.

Subject Spotlight- Geography KS4



Subject Bulletin Spotlight:

This is aimed at helping to raise awareness about your subject and its curriculum with parents, share good news, information about competitions or key focus points as well as providing more range to the bulletin. It does not need to be extensive as it should all fit in a A5-A4 section of the bulletin including any additional small images to help illustrate it.

You will complete two per year – with the dates set in the separate document. This can be pre-prepared. It will need to have arrived by Thursday of the week you are allocated at the latest if you have not saved it into the file.

Subject =	
Why is your subject important in this key stage?	Geography is one of the most critical subjects in helping us to understand the complexities of the modern world and to construct solutions that benefit modern society and our environment. It has a valuable role to play in developing responsible citizens especially in relation to sustainable development education and global citizenship. Geographical topics like population, nationality, place, migration, landscapes, sustainability, climate change, energy, flooding, globalisation, poverty, inequality, health, transport, and access to diminishing resources like water, oil and food, should be a fundamental part of any child's education. It is also seen as highly valuable by employers as geographers tend to have a variety of transferable skills and a deeper knowledge of world issues.
Any teaching methods/strategies that would help people understand how teaching is taking place (implementation of curriculum)?	Students will have new skills/concepts modelled for them to ensure they see an example of what a good one looks like. Longer writing tasks will have scaffolding initially to help them at the outset of KS4, but this will be gradually removed as student progress through the course and get closer to their exams.
What are students covering in the Key stage/course? Any overarching themes, skills, concepts that are trying to be achieved.	At GCSE we follow the AQA exam board and have 3 exam papers, physical, human and geographical skills with fieldwork.
How this fits into the wider subject curriculum.	The key core processes are vital to students' geographical knowledge and having a sound understanding of these will enable them to link topics together. As well as giving them a good overview of the world in which students live in and gives them skills that will be of real benefit to them once they have left school.

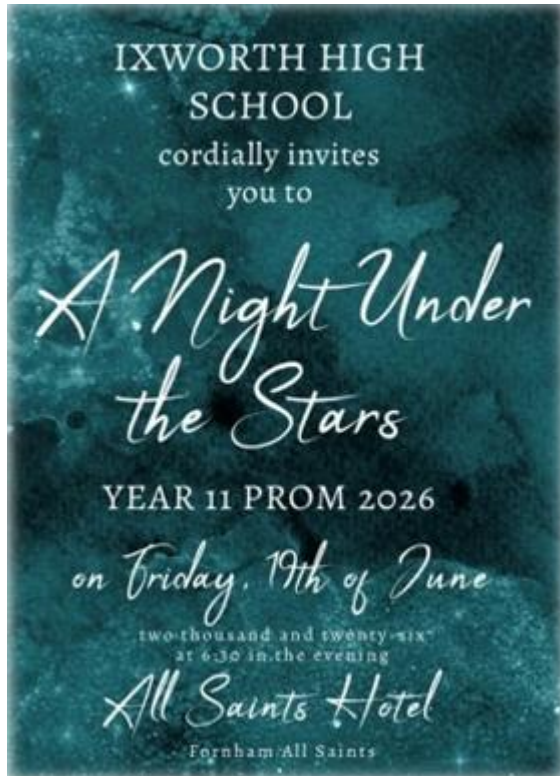
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<p>How can parents support or extend their child in your subject?</p>	<p>Ask questions, if you have looked at the news, ask students how it links to geography, is it human or physical? Does it link to any topics they have covered in school? When you go on holiday, ask students what geographical features they can see.</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 or provide wider context and skills.</p>	<p>Internetgeography.net is a really useful website that not only helps students with subject content but it helps to support students with how to revise.</p>
<p>Careers links/ties to post-16/university etc.</p>	<p>Geography qualifications are highly desirable as they provide lots of skills that employers are looking for. Some key careers links for geography are</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Architectural technologist • Business analyst • Cartographer • Data analyst • Environmental consultant • Geographical information systems officer • Marketing executive • Nature conservation officer • Social researcher • Sustainability consultant • Town planner <p>Top universities for geography include:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Oxford 2. Durham 3. Cambridge 4. Manchester Met 5. Sheffield

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READ FOR GOOD READATHON LAUNCHING THIS SUMMER!

WE ARE DELIGHTED TO ANNOUNCE THAT WE WILL BE LAUNCHING OUR READ FOR GOOD READATHON DURING THE SUMMER TERM! THIS EXCITING INITIATIVE CELEBRATES THE JOY OF READING WHILE SUPPORTING AN INSPIRING CHARITY THAT BRINGS BOOKS TO CHILDREN IN HOSPITAL SCHOOLS ACROSS THE UK.

THE READATHON ENCOURAGES PUPILS TO READ WHAT THEY LOVE, CHALLENGE THEMSELVES AS READERS, AND MAKE A REAL DIFFERENCE THROUGH THEIR EFFORTS. IT'S A FANTASTIC OPPORTUNITY TO BUILD READING FOR PLEASURE, PROMOTE KINDNESS, AND COME TOGETHER AS A SCHOOL COMMUNITY.

WE CAN'T WAIT TO GET STARTED AND LOOK FORWARD TO SEEING OUR PUPILS ENJOY GREAT BOOKS FOR A GREAT CAUSE. MORE DETAILS WILL BE SHARED SOON!



<https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/1985822780393?aff=oddtcreator>



Ixworth Bulletin



Ixworth
High School

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