

9<sup>th</sup> January 2024

Headteacher

Responsible, Resilient, Ambitious

Happy New Year to you all, and welcome back to our students and staff.

Some lovely words in the press this month about our school by Peter Prinsely MP who visited Ixworth in December; "I spent an enormously enjoyable morning with the students at Ixworth High School", "Ixworth is a wonderful school, and their students are engaging and bright".

Sadly, Miss Avlianou, our Cover Supervisor, moved onto a new school in the holidays as a promotion. We had recruited for the position, but our preferred candidate is unable to take on the role. Therefore, we are advertising again. If you are aware of anyone that might be looking for a new role, please direct them to our website.

We have received the draft Trust report from their visit in December to look at progress. The team consisted of the Deputy CEO (an Ofsted Inspector), the Director of Inclusion, and two headteachers from other secondary schools in the Trust. There were attendance and safeguarding audits in preparation for the visit in previous weeks. I am pleased to say that the number of strengths identified at Ixworth now far outweighs the areas for development. Some positives from the report were:

"Pupils across the school report feeling safe and well supported by staff"

"Pupils overwhelmingly feel the school has improved and that academic support has increased"

"There is a clear focus on raising ambition"

"Pupils with SEN say their lives are being transformed by the relationships they build in the school"

They recognised the progress with raising ambition and the further improvements in teaching since our Ofsted inspection. The areas they identified as requiring development are in line with our school development plan including around feedback and assessment, and personal development.

Whilst it is always pleasant to have the strengths of our school recognised; especially where the staff are working hard to improve an area, we do not consider Ixworth to be the finished article and will continue to strive for improvements in every area of the school.

On Thursday 15<sup>th</sup>, we have a Roman themed menu for our students. Please find the menu attached to this email.

Wishing you a restful weekend.

**Mr Gibb**

Headteacher

Key Dates

**Week beginning 12th January is Week A on our timetable**

**22<sup>nd</sup> January** Year 10 Progress Evening

**26<sup>th</sup> January- 6<sup>th</sup> February** Year 11 Mocks

**12<sup>th</sup> February** Year 9 Progress Evening

**16<sup>th</sup> February** Half Term

9<sup>th</sup> January 2026

2026-2027

Responsible, Resilient, Ambitious

**Sapientia Education Trust- Term Dates 2026/27****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

**Uniform**

Ixworth is very proud of its uniform, the students look superb and many of our visitors have commented on how professional students look in their uniform, how well presented they are and how impressed they are with their interactions.

While we recognise that items get damaged or lost, it is expected that all students arrive to school with their full uniform from the first day back. Please ensure that items are in line with the schools' expectations (This can be found on our website with useful guidance around the specific items and their appearance).

Link to website: [Uniform - Ixworth High School](#)

9<sup>th</sup> January 2024

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- [aaa@ixworthhighschool.org](mailto:aaa@ixworthhighschool.org) by 9:00 am.

**Lost Property**

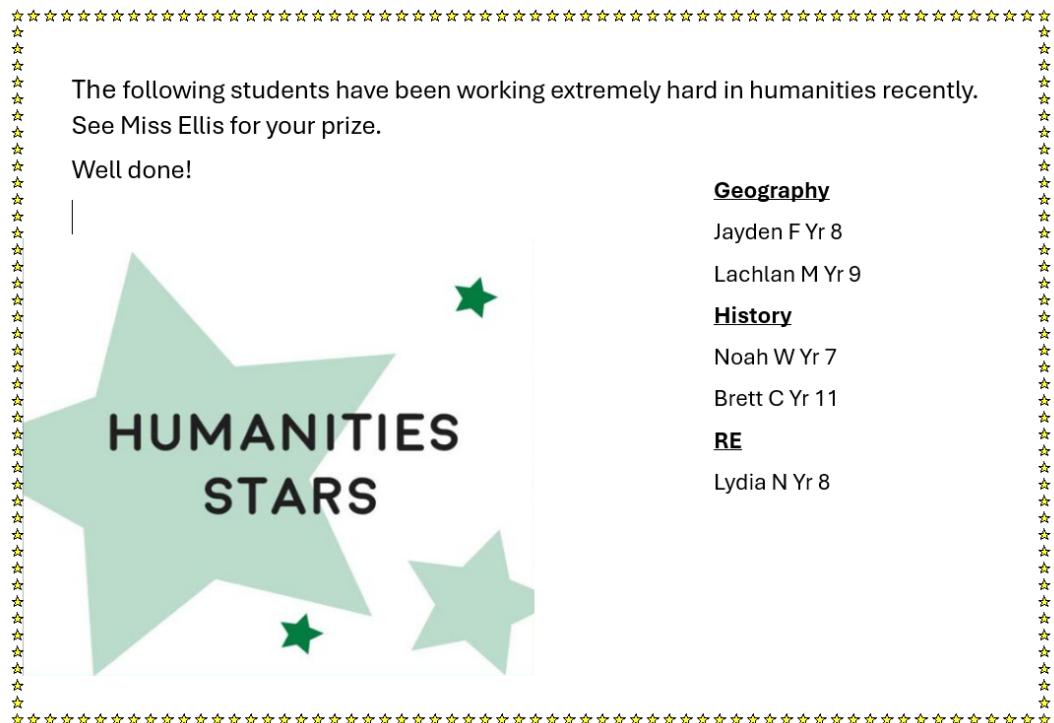
Items of lost property will be kept at the school Office. Please ensure you have all school uniform and sports kit clearly marked with your child's name on the inside of the item.

**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>



9<sup>th</sup> January 2026

Responsible, Resilient, Ambitious



## Subject Spotlight- Computer Science

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

Computing equips students with essential skills for the digital age—problem-solving, logical thinking, and creativity. It helps them understand how technology works and how to use it safely and responsibly.

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

We use interactive lessons, combining practical programming tasks, group problem-solving, and real-world scenarios. Students learn through coding projects, digital investigations, and discussions about technology's impact on society.

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

This term, KS3 students are exploring:

- Programming basics using Scratch and Python.
- Algorithms and logical reasoning.
- Cybersecurity and staying safe online.
- How computers represent data (binary and images).

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

We're taking part in the Bebras Computational Thinking Challenge this term—an international competition that tests problem-solving skills. House points and certificates for top performers!

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

Discuss online safety and explore how technology is used in everyday life and encourage your child to practice coding at home using free sites like:

<https://scratch.mit.edu>

<https://pythontutor.com>

**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.**

AI is everywhere! Check out <https://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize/subjects/z34k7ty>

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

Computing leads to careers in software development, cybersecurity, AI, and game design. Post-16 options include A Level Computer Science, T Levels in Digital Production, and apprenticeships.

9<sup>th</sup> January 2026

Ixworth Fire Station

Responsible, Resilient, Ambitious

My name is Robbie Green, and I am an On-Call Watch Manager at Ixworth Fire Station, part of Suffolk Fire and Rescue Service.

Ixworth Fire Station plays a vital role in protecting our local community. At present, our appliance availability is being impacted by low crewing levels, which is why we are actively seeking people who live or work locally and may be interested in serving their community alongside their main job or family commitments.

To support this, we are holding an Information Evening at the fire station where people can find out more, ask questions, and see whether the role could work for them:

 Ixworth Fire Station

 Monday 2nd February

 19:00 – 21:00

On-call firefighters come from a wide range of backgrounds. No previous firefighting experience is needed — full training is provided, the role is paid, and it offers nationally recognised qualifications, fitness development, and the opportunity to make a real difference locally. Suffolk Fire and Rescue Service actively encourages applications from people of all ages, genders, and backgrounds.

Anyone interested is very welcome to attend the information evening, register their interest using the QR code below, or contact me directly for further information:

 [robbie.green@suffolk.gov.uk](mailto:robbie.green@suffolk.gov.uk)

Thank you very much for your time and for supporting opportunities that benefit the local community.

Scan the QR code to register your interest in becoming an On-Call Firefighter at Ixworth Fire Station.



9<sup>th</sup> January 2026

Cinderella Panto

Responsible, Resilient, Ambitious

The National Pop-up Panto team were extremely nervous when they arrived having not performed to a secondary school previously, they quickly realised just how amazing our students and staff are! Year 7-9 fully engaged with the cast in their performance creating a superb atmosphere for the final day of term, students cheered the 'goodies', jeered the 'badies' and sang along with the cast.

After lunch, we were pleased to host our local primary school whose students also got to experience Ixworth at the end of the year as the character Buttons led the team through their full repertoire! Feedback from the school has been outstanding, we were very happy to have been able to offer them this opportunity and look forward to future interactions with them.

Finally, the evening show was opened to members of the public and all our feeder schools, who also enjoyed a wonderful experience. Following the three shows, the cast spoke to us about how much they had enjoyed visiting Ixworth, 'Cinders' commented on how she had never felt so good after a show and 'Buttons' shared that it was the best response he had had in the tour from any of the audiences! They all agreed that their visit to Ixworth had made their tour for them.

We hope to offer the same opportunity again for our students next year, please keep an eye out for the announcement in the new academic year when we reveal which Panto will be dropping in to Ixworth next Christmas, along with other shows.

