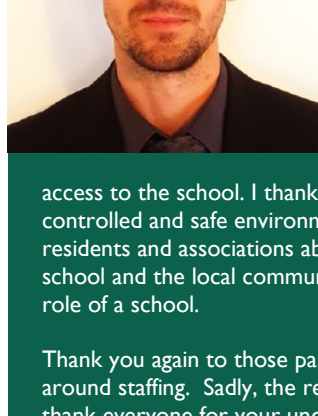




family BULLETIN



Welcome

This week will be the second meeting of the School Council this half term. We have a number of proactive students that wish to make a positive contribution both to the school and local community. Covid had seen an end to a number of our local interactions, it is my hope we can re-establish links with our local community to foster a healthy relationship.

Following a number of communications with our immediate neighbours on Walsham Road, we have improved the safety and access to the school. I thank all of our parents and carers for their part in making this a more controlled and safe environment for all. Additionally, we would like to extend an invitation to local residents and associations about rebuilding or creating afresh positive interactions between our school and the local community. This I realise will take time, however, it is an important part of the role of a school.

Thank you again to those parents and carers that have spoken to me recently about their concerns around staffing. Sadly, the resolutions for staff shortages are not able to be addressed instantly. I thank everyone for your understanding and have included some links below that I hope will illustrate better the challenges nationally for all schools in England at this time.

Sec-Ed - Record Number of Teachers Quit

The Guardian - Reduction in Number of Trainee Secondary Teachers Recruited

We are not alone in the challenges of recruitment and retention but we are being proactive. Adverts for vacancies are out, additional roles are being added and both the Sapientia and Seckford HR teams endeavour to secure supply on a daily basis. Whilst discussing the challenges with one of the numerous agencies I have been in contact with, I was informed of the issues they face with the ever-growing number of teachers leaving the profession.

It is worth noting that, in order to replace a number of staff in a school, we often have a half term wait due to the industry's mandatory notice periods. As a parent myself, I fully understand and appreciate the concern this has caused so many of you.

I think it is important we also recognise the effort from our staff in ensuring the school remains open to all year groups. As one parent noted, the staff that are in the school at **all** levels are carrying the burden of these vacancies and absences. Your support of their efforts is very much appreciated especially when we consider the impact on their wider duties as a whole.

Please be assured we are not ignoring the issue. If you have any concerns you would like to discuss, do please get in touch.

Mr Jackson
Deputy Head of School

SCHOOL DROP OFF / PICK UP

The school drop off and pick up is a very busy and potentially dangerous time for many. Cars are frequently parking, dropping off and picking up from the central roundabout area while the buses are trying to access the school site.

Can all parents please ensure they remain outside of this area between 8:00am and 8:30am and between 2:45pm and 3:45pm. The central roundabout in school is for the use of the buses only during these times.

Our site has three visitors car park spaces and a number of other spaces at the rear of the school building that you are available to access should you require Reception.

Thank you!

SCHOOL UNIFORM REMINDER

A big thank you to the vast majority of students for adhering to the school's uniform policy. Please support the school by ensuring your child is fully equipped and in the correct uniform each day. Details can be found on our website with the expectation that all students adhere to the policy.

Should there be an issue with your child's uniform for a temporary duration, please ensure you have made contact directly with their tutor to highlight the issue and when it will be rectified by.

School Uniform - Information and Policy

YEAR 11 UNIVERSITY VISIT

We have been offered an excellent opportunity for students in Year 11 to experience university life for the day at the University of Suffolk.

It is incredibly important that we offer opportunities for all our students to experience and understand the various routes they can take in their futures. We believe strongly in supporting all our students in making highly informed choices. As such, I hope all our Year 11 students will be in attendance. On the day they will experience lectures, finance talks and a campus tour. Students do not need to wear uniform and will require a packed lunch. If your child is eligible for free school meals a packed lunch will be provided.

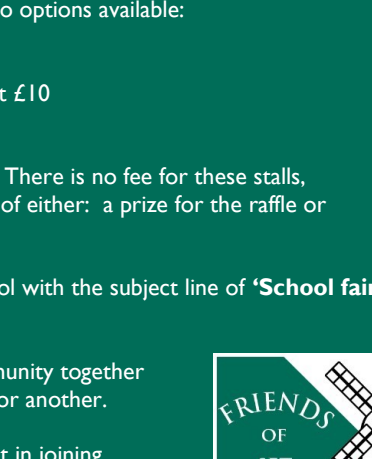
I hope they all enjoy the experience.

BORNEO TREK EXPEDITION

On Wednesday, Year 9 & 10 students had the opportunity to watch a presentation for an expedition to Borneo.

This is an exciting opportunity being organised in conjunction with the whole trust. Students will be able to travel to Borneo for 4 weeks, carrying out community work as well as touring an area of jungle and seeing the amazing wildlife including Orangutans!

On Wednesday 29 November, 6pm, parents and carers have the chance to attend a presentation evening for more detail about this incredible trip of a lifetime opportunity.



CHRISTMAS FAIR

The school would like to re-introduce the popular Christmas fair this year. We will be hosting this on Thursday 14 December, from 6 - 8pm.

If you would like to support the fair you can do this by joining the Friends of Ixworth School. Please contact the school office via email to let them know. All help is appreciated - from organising stalls to hanging tinsel! If you have ideas for the fair you'd like to share, please get in touch.

In the coming week we will be releasing information through the Student Council about how you can donate prizes for raffles etc.

Stalls

If you would like to be a stallholder at the fair we have two options available:

An indoor stall

This will be in the new hall or restaurant and will cost £10

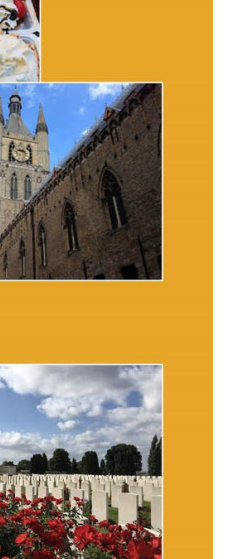
An outdoor stall

This will require your own canopy and tables/display. There is no fee for these stalls, however, we would ask for a donation to the school of either: a prize for the raffle or a small financial contribution following the event.

If you would like to book your stall, please email the school with the subject line of **'School fair stall booking'**

This is a wonderful opportunity to bring our school community together and I hope we will see many of you there in one capacity or another.

Further details follow next week. To register your interest in joining the Friends of Ixworth School or being a stallholder please email ixworth@seckfordeducation.org.uk



Everyone is invited!

ENRICHMENT

Summer Enrichment Week 2024

YPRES

YPRES, THE SOMME AND ARRAS
MONDAY 15 JULY - THURSDAY 18 JULY

DURATION: 4 DAYS/ 3 NIGHTS
TRANSPORT: COACH & FERRY

PRICE PER PERSON: £590
PLACES AVAILABLE: 40

Also included in your tour:

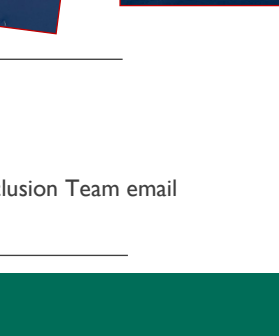
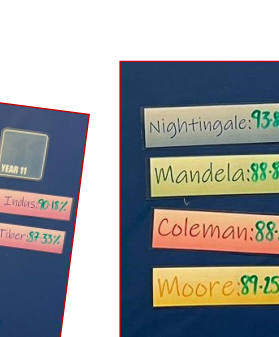
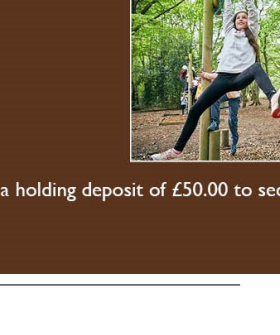
- Hotel accommodation and meals
- Visits to the great war cemeteries and memorials of the First and Second World Wars including: Menin Gate, Bayernwald Trench system, Newfoundland Memorial Park, Ulster Tower, Auchonvilliers, Notre Dame de Lorette, Vancouver Corner and much more.

Payment plan:

- 1st instalment required by 15 December - £108.00
- Four further instalments of £108 will be due in January, February, March and April 2024.

Sign up:

To sign up, please go to the Arbor Trips section and make the deposit of £50.00 to secure a place.



CUFFLEY

ACTIVE LEARNING CENTRE
MONDAY 15 JULY - FRIDAY 19 JULY

DURATION: 5 DAYS/ 4 NIGHTS
TRANSPORT: COACH

PRICE PER PERSON: £350
PLACES AVAILABLE: 60

Also included in your tour:

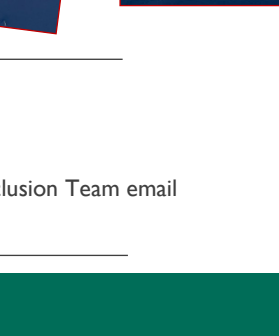
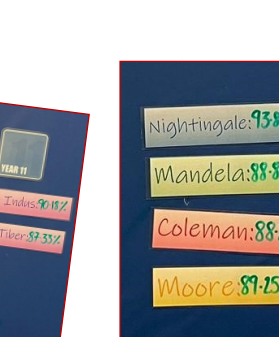
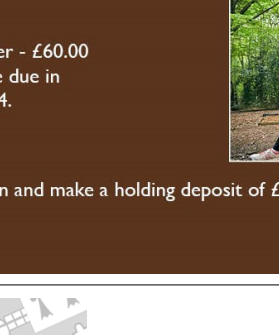
- Accommodation and meals
- Various camp activities including: Zipwire, Archery Tag, Orienteering, Climbing, Environmental Trail, Gladiator Challenge, Leap of Faith and much more!
- Evening activities and campfire

Payment plan:

- 1st instalment required by 15 December - £60.00
- Four further instalments of £60 will be due in January, February, March and April 2024.

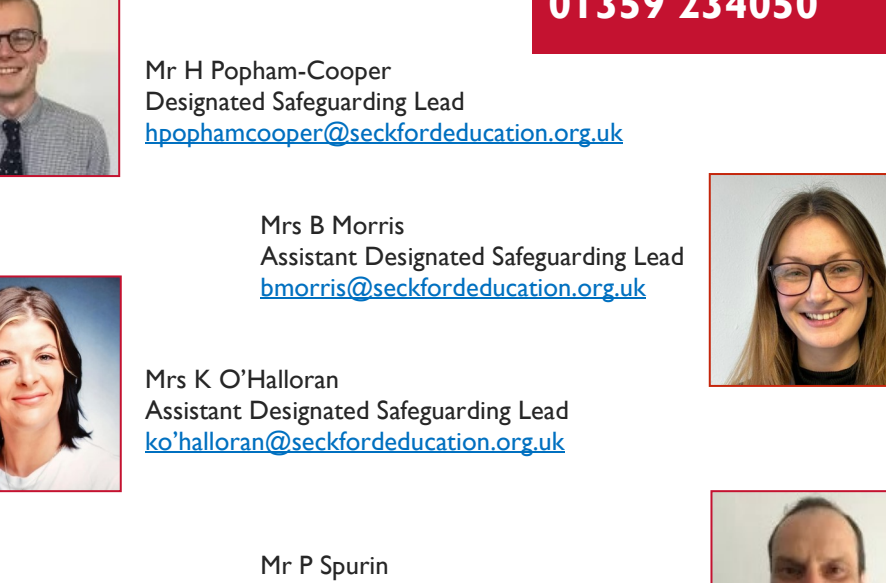
Sign up:

To sign up, please go to the Arbor Trips section and make a holding deposit of £50.00 to secure a place.



ATTENDANCE

Attendance for this week:



SEND TEAM CONTACT

Please send all communications relating to SEND need to The Inclusion Team email sendteamixworth@seckfordeducation.org.uk

STUDENT-RELATED ENQUIRIES

PLEASE NOTE - 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.

Please see the [staff list](#) on the website for tutor names and how to contact them.

FROM THE OFFICE TEAM

Free School Meals

For those entitled to Free School Meals, there is a daily entitlement of £2.55 which is refreshed each day. Please note, this does not accrue - meaning that if the total amount of £2.55 is not spent, any remaining amount is **not passed on** to the following day.

Students on free school meals may spend their entitlement as they wish during break and lunchtime. However, any funds spent at break will be deducted from the £2.55 total, meaning they will have less to spend at lunch.

If you would like your child to have additional options, you can add funds to their Arbor account. Alternatively you may send your child to school with a snack to have at breaktime instead.

A price list for all the food items available at break and lunchtime can be found on the website [here](#).

If you are having any issues, please contact the school office team.

Thank you!

Key dates 2023 - 24

Christmas break :
Last day of term - Friday 15 December
Return to school - Thursday 4 January 2024

Friday 24 November - PSHE Careers and Finance day
Monday 27 November - Options Taster Week 1
Tuesday 28 November - Year 8 Kitchens of the Globe, 12:30pm - 1:15pm
Wednesday 29 November - Borneo Expedition 2025 presentation for parents/ carers, 6pm
Thursday 30 November - Year 11 University of Suffolk visit

2024

Thursday 1 February - Year 9 options evening, 5pm - 7:30pm
Thursday 8 February - Year 10 Progress evening, 5pm - 7:30pm

Safeguarding Information

If you have any safeguarding concerns, please contact the school to speak to one of our safeguarding team.

01359 234050

Mr H Popham-Cooper
Designated Safeguarding Lead
hpophamcooper@seckfordeducation.org.uk

Mrs B Morris
Assistant Designated Safeguarding Lead
bmorris@seckfordeducation.org.uk

Mrs K O'Halloran
Assistant Designated Safeguarding Lead
ko'halloran@seckfordeducation.org.uk

Mr P Spurin
Assistant Designated Safeguarding Lead
pspurin@seckfordeducation.org.uk

Useful websites and helplines

Crisis - 0337261800
Child Line - 0800 1111
Customer First - 0808 800 4005
Samaritans - 116 123

Child Line - www.childline.org.uk
Children's Society - www.childrensociety.org.uk
Food Bank - www.trusselltrust.org
Kooth - www.kooth.com
Mind - www.mind.org.uk
NHS website - www.england.nhs.uk
NSPCC website - www.nspcc.org.uk
Place 2be website - www.place2be.org.uk
Young Minds website - www.youngminds.org.uk

For more information, please visit the [Safeguarding](#) page of our website.

School office:
01359 234050 / ixworth@seckfordeducation.org.uk