

Headteacher's Bulletin

Friday 9th May 2025

Dear Parents and Carers,

It's been great to settle back into term with a more normal week this week.

We marked VE day on Thursday commemorating the service of those who have gone before us. A massive thanks to Mrs Wild who provided resources for our whole team.

On a practical note, GCSE exams continue in earnest next week, and we want to wish each of our Year 11 students the very best!

Three important highlights:

- **Year 7 parents evening next week**– please book a slot. Check your emails for further details.
- **GCSE exams** – please read information on what your child needs on each exam day below.
- **An intro from Mrs Steere** – Ivanhoe School's new headteacher featured below.



Year 11 Exams - Wishing our students the best

We appreciate this can be an anxious time for our students who are undertaking exams particularly GCSEs.

In order to minimise stress, it is important that your child is fully equipped and has remembered their seating instructions

Here's what your child needs to remember:

- a clear pencil case
- a clear water bottle
- a calculator for Maths or Science exams
- to check their room and seat on the timetable ahead of each exam
- to gather on the tennis courts before each exam



All the best class of 2025 – you've got this!

An introduction from Mrs Steere, Ivanhoe School's new Headteacher



"It is a great pleasure to be able to introduce myself as the new Headteacher of Ivanhoe School from August. I am look forward to working with you all and with the incredibly dedicated and hardworking team here at the school. I am keen to continue and build on the excellent work of Mrs Allford and I am excited about the opportunity to work closely with the LIFE Multi-Academy Trust team.

I have been in teaching for over 20 years and have spent 14 years in senior leadership roles, working in a range of schools and communities. My most recent role has been in a new all-through school in Northampton as the Vice Principal and Secondary Phase Lead. Over the last seven years the school has grown from just two EYFS classes and 120 Year 7s to a fully operational school with over 1,500 young people learning together. That's not been without its challenges, but as a result, I am very used to change and well equipped to guide Ivanhoe School as we continue to adapt to our new Key Stage 4 curriculum and all through secondary phase status.

The nurturing ethos at Ivanhoe is one I was immediately struck by and admired when I first visited. It is beyond doubt a caring school with a disciplined family atmosphere. At home I am raising two boys, so I well understand the key role our school plays in young peoples' lives and how important it is that they feel safe and happy at Ivanhoe School. It is my goal to continue to ensure that every young person at the school knows that they are a valued member of

our community and help them to grow into the adults they want to be, working closely with families and supported by expert staff who know them well.

Away from school – and when I am not engaged with all that goes with bringing up a young family- I love sports, playing netball regularly for my club, visiting Welford Road as a dedicated Leicester Tigers fan and suffering as much as celebrating as a Grimsby Town supporter.

I look forward to meeting you all throughout the months to come and leading Ivanhoe on the next step of its journey."

Book Fair – Thursday 15th and Friday 16th May

We are excited for next week's Book Fair taking place on Thursday and Friday in the library. To purchase books this year it's a cashless process and students are able to purchase books online via the QR code.

[Students can fill in the wish list](#) then take it home for parents to view and pay online. They then bring the wish list to the library and receive their books!



[Check out the QR code and wish list](#)

[Pay for books here](#)

Happy reading, everyone! This ties in nicely with our weekly focus of 'Read every day.'

MAT Pledge to ensure child safety and to cultivate inclusive respect

At Ivanhoe, it is important that everyone feels safe, welcomed and included. All members of LiFE MAT are committed to ensuring that the whole Trust upholds the values and mission of their anti-racism statement and pledge.

As educators and leaders, we are committed to ensuring that ALL staff and young people are safe and truly belong in our schools, our organisation and the wider communities and families we serve.

We aspire to a zero-tolerance approach towards all discrimination and as such we:

- Improve the racial literacy of all our staff with the expectation that all staff would be advocates for Anti-Racism.
- Educate all members of the Trust about anti-racism in all its forms and how to be an Anti-Racist upstander.
- Develop our Anti-Racist policies and practices and engage in dialogue with others to ensure that we all feel proud to belong to an Anti-Racist organisation.
- Acknowledge racism as an inherent aspect of our safeguarding duty.

We pledge to educate our young people to be actively anti-racist and to understand the negative impact of racism on mental health and wellbeing.

We are committed to decolonising the curriculum in order to reflect the contribution and significance of people and communities from all cultures and backgrounds to global history and to the history of the UK. All of our schools are committed to empowering our young people to play an active role in anti-racism through the Stephen Lawrence Ambassador groups.

All members of LiFE MAT understand the pledge and how their actions uphold the statement. It is the duty of all adults to challenge and be challenged around misconceptions of what racism is.

Ashby Foodbank: Thank you for donations

A message from Ashby Foodbank:

"We'd like to put on record our thanks for the support you continue to give Asbhy Foodbank. During the last 6 months (1 Nov 24 - 23 March 25) you donated 170kg of food! This is a huge donation for which we are very grateful. It's generous donations such as this that allow us to support the clients who need to use the food bank's services so thank you very much."



Duke of Edinburgh Do it 4 Youth fundraiser

A big thank you too the staff members who took up the Duke of Edinburgh Do It 4 Youth 120-mile challenge to raise £320 in funds.

The Duke of Edinburgh a well-known scheme that many of our students' value and learn a lot from.

Mrs Allford and Mrs Cresswell completed some of the miles in a local lake – in temperatures below 10°C.



Ivanhoe Way Focus

Throughout the year in form time, we look at practical ways that the 'Ivanhoe Way' can be applied to help students achieve and be happy learners. Next week we will be focussing on:

Be Respectful

PSHRE and Wider Personal Development

Please find below information about next week's topics for PSHRE. If you have any queries regarding these, please contact our subject leader Claire Gee on c.gee@ivanhoe.co.uk. The curriculum resources for these all lessons are available for parents on request.

	PSHRE Topic	RE Topic
Year 7	Vaccination and Society	What are the Ten Commandments
Year 8	What is Radicalisation	What are Bar and Bat Mitzvah
Year 9	Careers Education 2	Careers Lesson 3
Year 10	Careers Education 4	Careers Lesson 5
Year 11	Independent Revision	Independent Revision

What's Coming Up

Wednesday 14th May	Year 7 Parent Evening face to face
Thursday 15 th and Friday 16 th May	Book Fair
Wednesday 21 st May	Year 7 Parent Evening online
Monday 26 th May – Friday 20 th May	Half term – school closed
Thursday 26 th June	2pm school finish (staff training)

That's all for this week. Have a lovely weekend.

Mrs Allford – Headteacher

COMMUNITY NEWS

InspireYouth Half Term Activities for 10-16yr olds

Please see the below from the InspireYouth Collective for half term activities. The rate is £10.50 per day including activities and food allowance.

HALF TERM FUN

Day 1: Wednesday 28th May (11:00am – 4:30pm)

11:00am – 12:00pm | Board Games, Watercolours
12:00pm – 3:00pm | Picnic & Summer Sports (Bath Grounds)
3:00pm – 4:15pm | Vision Board Creation
4:15pm – 4:30pm | Tidy Up

Day 2: Friday 30th May (11:00am – 5:00pm)

11:00am – 1:00pm | Clay Modelling, Board Games, DIY Tie dye totes
1:00pm – 3:00pm | Group Activity: Escape the Hub (Escape room clues)
3:00pm – 3:30pm | Break (snack and relax)
3:30pm – 4:30pm | Workshop: Jewellery Making
4:30pm – 5:00pm | Tidy Up

