



Merry Christmas
Everybody!

Dear Parents and Carers,

We've made it! It's been a long half term for students and staff, but I have been so impressed with everyone's continued enthusiasm and hard work right until the very end of term - well done everyone. I was particularly proud of our GCSE students who quizzed a local politician—Amanda Hack—on Education Policy. Future cabinet ministers in the making!

This week we've also been celebrating student success in house assemblies, with treats and prizes being awarded. We also reflected on how much we have achieved: from concerts to competitions; from charity events to community challenges. It really has been a fun term.



It was fantastic to see our first big scale celebration events this week, as part of our new 'Journey to Excellence' Awards. We hope the opportunity of another event in the Spring term will really motivate our students. Thank you to everyone who donated to our end of term non-uniform day—this will contribute to our student reward fund. If anyone knows of any local companies who may want to sponsor our student rewards, performances or sports teams, then please ask them to get in touch with Mrs Deacon at d.deacon@ivanhoe.co.uk

Thank you to the staff and students involved in our Christmas Concert. It certainly helped get us in the festive mood. If you have a child who plays an instrument, but is not in the orchestra, or would like to join the choir, please speak to our music department as there will be more performances in the new year. The Creative Arts Team also announced to students that next year we will be putting on a large scale musical performance of Matilda. Auditions take place in March.

We know there have been a few winter bugs around, but it is really important to encourage our children to keep up their good attendance, because we know that great attendance leads to better achievement at school.

I would like to send best wishes to the staff who are moving on from Ivanhoe this term; Mr Whitlock, Mrs Garner, Mrs Hill and Mrs Wood. Good luck for the future.

From myself, and all the staff at Ivanhoe we hope you all have a safe, fun and restful break this Christmas, and we look forward to seeing you all again in 2024.

Mrs Allford

INCLUDED IN THIS ISSUE

- Student Rewards
- Careers Update
- Eco Club
- Ivanhoe in the Community
- Clubs
- School Concert
- And more

STUDENT REWARDS

It's really important for us to recognise and reward those students who consistently show a fantastic attitude towards their learning. That means striving for great attendance, trying hard in lessons, having a a pro-social attitude and grasping every opportunity to do well.

This Christmas we introduced our new 'Journey to Excellence' Award recognising all of these elements. Students from Year 7 right through to 11 were treated to a Christmas movie and snacks if they received a golden ticket.

It was fantastic to reward such a large group of students, and we look forward to rewarding students in Spring and Summer with another reward event, so watch this space.

We also celebrated our form group efforts in our Year and House assemblies. Well done to all of those forms and students that got a mention this time.

	Air	Earth	Fire	Water
Best Attendance	10AJN	7EEG	7FRD	8WBH
	9ALH	7ECP	7FCG	9WAA
Highest Average House points	7ASY	7ECP	8FSS	8WBH
	8ATB	7EEG	7FCG	7WAR
Least Consequences	11AKL	7EEG	7FRD	11WRD
	10AJN	11ELD	7FCG	10WRT



SCHOOL MEAL UPDATE

In the new year there will be a number of small changes to our catering arrangements. These should not cause issues for students, but we wanted to let you know.

We will be moving to 'bought in' sandwiches and baguettes. These will all be to the same standard as our current offering including being allergen compliant. However, this means that we will no longer be able to offer grab bags as an option.

Breakfast Club: Our canteen is open for students wishing to grab food, or come to school early to meet friends or for other reasons. However, please can you remind your child that service is from 8-8.30 am only. Thank you for your support on this.

Finally we will be speaking with our Student Council next year about the possibility of running some themed lunches through the year.

YEAR 7 HEAD OF PROGRESS UPDATE

Mr Mills will be stepping down as Head of Progress for Year 7 from Christmas. We would like to thank him for all the support he has given the students. If you have any Head of Year queries for Year 7 please contact Mrs Boussida e.boussida@ivanhoe.co.uk.

YEAR 9 INTO YEAR 10 TRANSITION

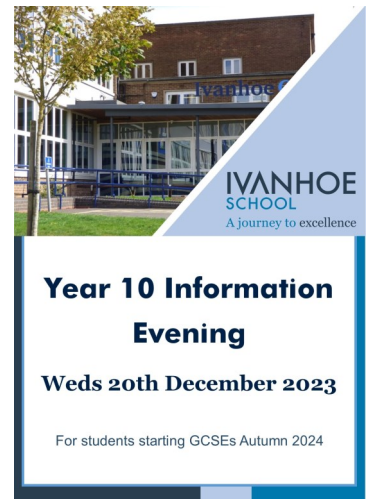
It was great to welcome so many families to our Options Information Evening this Wednesday evening. Students and parents were introduced to our new option block choices for those starting KS4 in September 2024, this will allow us to offer the widest choice to students whilst ensuring we have practical numbers to run and staff the courses.

If you couldn't make it along, you can find the options booklet on our website:

[GCSE Option Choices for 2024 | Ivanhoe School](#)

We will be opening the options form early in the new year, so keep your eyes open for that email reminder.

Students moving to Ashby school should have completed their option choices online by the end of Friday 22nd December.



CAREERS NEWS



In Ivanhoe, this term, the focus of the careers team has been to carry out 1-2-1 interviews with our Year 11 cohort to ensure that they understand their post 16 options. All of our Year 11 cohort have been offered a careers appointment this term. It has been great to see how engaged the students are in exploring options and identifying their next opportunities.

At the start of the Autumn term, our Year 11 cohort participated in mock Interviews with a number of local business contacts which gave the students some experience of what to expect and how to prepare for an interview.

We have also had some local employers from Terex, the NHS and the Fire Service come in to school to talk to our Year 8 cohort about careers. Our Year 8 and 11 cohorts have also had talks from local colleges.

In January, we have Loughborough college coming in to speak to our Year 9 cohort and an apprentice employer coming in to school to talk to our Year 10 cohort.

Furthermore, our Year 10 and 11 students visited the University of Oxford and the University of Leicester to participate in Chemistry and Creative Arts taster sessions and gained some insight into university life.

You can find out more about our Careers Programme as well as a range of resources to support students and parents on our online Careers Hub.

[Ivanhoe Careers Hub | Ivanhoe School](#)



**IVANHOE
SCHOOL**
CAREERS HUB

IVANHOE AND THE COMMUNITY

Tree Planting at Western Park

This term has seen some fantastic Eco club action in the shape of tree planting in the local community!

Members of our schools newly formed Eco club attended the Tiny Forest tree planting event held at Western Park in Ashby-De-La-Zouch at the end of November. Students demonstrated fantastic employability skills such as team working, resilience and problem solving when working together to dig holes to plant the trees, compacting down the soil around them and surrounding them with bark chippings and mulch.

We were part of a wider group within the community who planted an area of woodland with over 300 new trees. Students represented our school commendably and were particularly resilient as it was such a bitterly cold day! We received a short talk from the Tiny Forest/ Earth Watch team about sustainability and the planting model chosen to create a densely planted woodland area and educating us about why some tree saplings were tagged to ensure that growth can be tracked.

We have signed up for tree watching duties, volunteering to tend to the trees and ensure their growth and development. Watch this space as we return to watch the development of these trees and carry out these checks.



 **You're not alone this CHRISTMAS**

 03444 775 774 www.anxietyuk.org.uk	 16 123 www.samaritans.org	 0300 123 3393 www.mind.org.uk
 0800 068 41 41 www.papyrus-uk.org	 0800 1111 www.childline.org.uk	 0808 2000 247 www.refuge.org.uk
 TEXT YM to 85258 www.youngminds.org.uk	 0300 330 0630 www.switchboard.lgbt	 here for you 24/7 TEXT SHOUT to 85258 www.giveusashout.org
 0800 58 58 58 www.thecalzone.net	 0808 801 0677 www.beateatingdisorders.org.uk	 0800 9177 650 www.alcoholics-anonymous.org.uk

Other support organisations are available
Please don't suffer in silence

 **You're not alone**
0808 808 1677 www.cruse.org.uk

Many people can feel overwhelmed, especially at this time of the year. If you or your children are experiencing difficulties and need someone to talk to the following agencies may be of reassuring support.

- [Childline | Childline](#)
- online support provided by the NSPCC
- [Home - Kooth](#)
- **Kooth** is your **online** mental wellbeing community. Access free, safe and anonymous.
- [Health For Teens | Everything you wanted to know about health](#)
- **Health For Teens** is a website that provides up-to-date and reliable information on various topics of health for young people, such as body image, sex, social care, knife crime, immunisation and anxiety.
- www.samaritans.org
We're here, day or night, for anyone who's struggling to cope, who needs someone to listen without judgement or pressure.

If you have a **safeguarding concern** during the Christmas Break, please do the following;

- If you think it needs a same day response, call Children's Duty at the local authority on 0116 3050005
- For other non urgent issues you can email them at childrensduty@leics.gov.uk
- If it is an emergency dial 999



ECO CLUB

Free trees and hedging for our schoolgrounds

We have benefitted from the Leicestershire District Council free trees scheme by receiving some trees and 30 metres of hedging which are to be planted within our school grounds. We are very grateful of this donation to kick start our Eco club work.



Bug hotels and environments for our wildlife

Our Eco club members have also used recycled materials such as food cans to create their own bug hotels to create a safe habitat for creatures within their gardens and outdoor spaces. Constructed in school, students then took them home to add to their gardens to await the arrival of wildlife.



Pumpkins! Reducing food waste

The themes of sustainability and food provenance are hot topics not just environmentally but, in our school, too. We were fortunate to forge a link with a local business, Cattows Farm who kindly donated pumpkins after Halloween for us to use within food lessons. This is allowed us to discuss the need to avoid food waste and encourage students to be resourceful with seasonal food when it is most plentiful. The pumpkins were used by students to make pumpkin cake, pumpkin pasta and as a roasted pumpkin filling within their fresh pasta ravioli.



Look out for more Eco school activities in the next newsletter and in the new year as we pursue more opportunities to encourage more wildlife into our gardens during the winter months by making seed bird feeders. We are also focusing on reducing food waste in the new year when we are looking to eat seasonably, sustainably and more economically after the excesses of Christmas.

Christmas Tub Plea

Before you pop your Christmas Chocolate Tub in the Recycling please consider sending a couple in to school for us to use in cooking classes for students without tubs to take home their cooked items,

CHRISTMAS CONCERT



Well done to everyone who gave such fantastic performances at our Christmas Concert.

It certainly got us in the Festive mood!



CHRISTMAS CARD COMPETITION

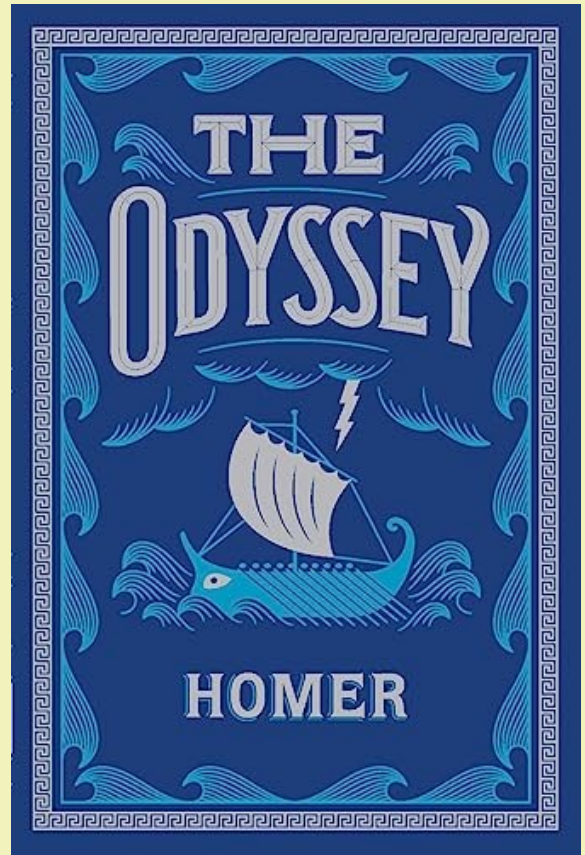


Congratulations to Suzanne Iselin in Year 9 who was the winner of this year's school Christmas Card competition.

YEAR 7 ENGLISH

Year 7 have been studying the Odyssey in English this term. Some excellent work has been produced by many students. The poem below was written by Talia in Year 7 who has been doing some further reading around the Trojan War. Well done Talia.

Oh, Calliope,
The Muse of Homer, Hesiod, and Ovid.
How many times people have commanded you to
Sing, speak, dance.
How many times your children have been stolen
And given to your sister Thalia.
How long did you wait, before you gave in?
How many offerings did they have to give you?
You don't deserve this, great Muse.
I'm sure you showed them
Images of Troy
Of all the women hurt by the war,
For you are a woman too.
I'm sure you were exasperated
When in turn, they turned them down.
"No one will listen to a poem about girl" and
"Women are weak".
They were insulting you, Calliope,
But you could make them pay.
You could take away the poetry,
The help, or the inspiration.
You are powerful, the Chief Muse.
You, daughter of Zeus, can be great.
You, daughter of Memory, are great.
You are powerful.
And now, you can bring power to the girls.
The girls that time forgot.



CERAMICS CLUB

Our school ceramics club has been meeting regularly after school all term. As well as learning a range of new techniques from Mr Samuel, students are able to pursue their own art interests and create pieces to their own design brief. Mr Samuel has been really impressed with the quality of work produced. If anyone would like to join in the new year the group meets on Monday after school. It is open to all year groups and may be of particular interest to those students who may wish to pursue ceramics at GCSE.



DEBATE CLUB



Debate Club began again at the start of the year and we have had another term of lively discussion! It is a relaxed and fun way to develop those all-important oracy skills. Our debates cover a wide range of issues from the serious to the silly: whether the UK Police Force should be armed through to whether pineapple should be allowed on pizza! New members are always welcome: look out for the messages on Moodle. The term has ended with - what is becoming our annual - Sleigh Debate where we debate which one gift should remain on Santa's sleigh!

Well done all, you've shown some great skills.

GEOGRAPHY FIELD TRIP

Our year 11 students recently completed the second part of their required fieldwork element, with a trip to Birmingham. At 6 different sites, students collected data about the quality of the urban environment, land use and assessed factors that would have a positive or negative impact on quality of life for people in Birmingham. Back in the classroom students will be presenting and analysing their data, as well as secondary sources of data, to show how and why quality of life varies across Birmingham.

Geography gives students the opportunity to gain the knowledge and skills they will need to tackle the social and environmental problems faced by the UK and the world in the 21st Century. Field work is an important part of the Geography GCSE syllabus. Students undertake 2 fieldwork investigations in contrasting physical and human environments. This gives students the opportunity to study Geography away from the classroom in the real world.



FRENCH

As part of our KS3 French Curriculum students enjoy the opportunity to learn about French culture as well as just learning the language.

This term Year 8s have been combining the 2 elements by using their French vocab to create posters promoting all the places and attractions you can visit in Paris.

As students progress on to GCSE being able to talk about a wide range of topics including travel will help them show off their skills particularly in their speaking exams.

Well done year 8 for all your hard work on this topic.



FOOD NEWS

Here is a round up of what has been happening in Food and Nutrition this term:

Mussels

We have been really fortunate to receive a donation of fresh, rope grown mussels to experiment with during our food lessons. The donation came from the National Fish Heroes programme, aimed at promoting the preparation, cooking and eating of seafood by young people. For the majority of our students this was the first time that they had handled mussels and valuable learning took place to ensure that the mussels were prepared safely to avoid the risks that can be associated with seafood.



Students were taught how to identify those that could be used and which ones needed to be discarded. Students experimented with a range of different mussel recipes- some with a tomato based sauce, others using crème fraiche and herbs or with a Thai style sauce. Year 10 students worked in groups to carry out a Masterchef style challenge to cook and present up their own researched mussels dish recipe. The results were amazing and the food looked delicious! This is fantastic practice for when students need to research their own dishes and present them up professionally for their practical coursework when in Year 11.



Celebrating festivals and traditions- Diwali

Some fantastic collaborative learning and team work also took place as Year 10 Food and nutrition students explored the unit of celebrating cultures and traditions. This focused on the traditional dishes of several countries as well as looking at foods that were forbidden. We chose to focus on the festival of Diwali which took place in November and made some dishes that are traditionally eaten to celebrate. Students worked in small groups to create these dishes which were then added to a communal table and were shared. This was a great way of developing cultural awareness, extending practical skills and trying out new flavours.



Festive Feast

Year 11 students are preparing for their final practical exam next year where multiple dishes will be prepared and are currently learning about dovetailing recipes to



ensure good time management. As a practice for this students created a mini Christmas dinner during only an hour, deciding upon which tasks to prioritise due to cooking methods and length of cooking time. They demonstrated and recapped roasting, parboiling, boiling, caramelising, handling and cooking raw meat, along with use of a food probe to ensure that the food was thoroughly cooked. Some students even made their own fresh cranberry sauce as an accompaniment. Great revision and great fun too! This also means that students are fully equipped to help out at home with the preparation and serving of the Christmas lunch! Have a great Christmas break!



What Parents & Carers Need to Know about SETTING UP APPS, GAMES AND SOFTWARE

Millions of new phones, tablets, laptops and games consoles will be nestling under Christmas trees this year. However, even if parents and carers have gone to the trouble of setting up these new devices and enabling the safety features, there are still potential hazards in the apps, games and software that children will want to install and use. Knowing what to look for and discussing those risks with your child may help avoid any nasty surprises this Christmas. Here are our top tips for ensuring that unwrapping this year's presents doesn't unleash any unexpected dangers.

TAKE NOTE OF AGE RATINGS

Back when most games were bought in shops, checking the age rating was easy: it was on the front of the box. Now that most games are downloaded, it's tougher – but not impossible. All reputable download stores show a game's age rating at the point of purchase, and you can check the suitability of a specific title your child wants to play at videostandards.org.uk/RatingBoard/games.

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'FREE' ISN'T ALWAYS FREE

The games market has changed radically in recent years. Many titles are free to download, but then tempt players to pay for cosmetic items (as in Fortnite) or to unlock additional content. There can be huge peer pressure for children to pay for these items. Agree a budget for in-game purchases before the game is downloaded, and make sure children can't authorise in-game purchases by themselves.

DISABLE IN-APP PURCHASING

It's not wise to leave children with devices that can make in-app purchases without your permission. Ideally, set up computers, consoles and phones so child accounts need an adult's authorisation to buy anything. On shared devices (like iPads, which don't allow user accounts), check the settings to ensure that in-app purchasing requires the account holder's password, fingerprint or face ID.

CHECK THE SPECS

To avoid let-downs, check a game's specs before buying – especially for PC or Mac, where games often need a particular graphics chip or processor to work. Sites like systemrequirementslab.com can scan your computer to see if it will run certain games properly. On consoles, make sure you're buying the right version: some newer Xbox or PlayStation games won't play on older consoles.

MONITOR IN-GAME COMMS

Voice chat with friends is part of the fun of modern gaming – but danger lurks here too. Many titles have open chat systems, meaning that children could speak to strangers or hear adult language and verbal abuse when games get particularly competitive. Using a shared family area (as opposed to alone in bedrooms) for online gaming is a good way to keep an occasional ear on what's being said.

BE WARY OF GIFTS

Titles like Roblox, Minecraft and Fortnite have in-game currencies, which can be earned through progress in the game – but can also be bought with real money. A common scam is for a young player to be offered currency if they click a link, visit a certain site or contact another user directly. Warn your child about such offers; they should show you if they're in any doubt over an in-game gift.

APPS ARE AGE RATED, TOO

Like games, apps in the major stores have age ratings, too – so you can see in advance whether an app's appropriate for your child. Additionally, phones' parental control settings allow you to set age limits, preventing young ones from downloading unsuitable apps themselves. These ratings aren't infallible, however: we've seen TV apps featuring adult shows with an age rating of 3, for example.

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CONSIDER STORAGE

Most apps and games will tell you in the online store how much space they need on a device. Check this carefully – especially with games, which can run into hundreds of megabytes and beyond. If you don't have enough free storage on a device to run the game or app, you won't get a refund from the store. You can normally check a device's available storage space through the settings menu.

WATCH OUT FOR IMITATORS

Even in the official stores, untrustworthy rogue apps can slip through the net. Common tricks are apps or games that have a slightly different name to the genuine article (Fortnite rather than Fortnite, for instance) or use logos which deliberately look very similar to the official app. To avoid downloading these imitations, read the app's description and check who the publisher is listed as.

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LEGAL APPS THAT BREAK THE LAW

There are many apps that are perfectly legal but enable illegal activity – streaming apps which let people watch football matches, say, without paying for Sky or BT Sport. Prosecution for using such apps is rare, but they can lead to risky behaviour like viewing rogue streams on sites teeming with malicious links. Watch for children installing unusual apps with 'TV', 'stream' or 'sport' in the name.

IN-APP REGISTRATION

It's common for apps and games to ask users to register: entering personal details like email address, date of birth and other information you might not want your child to divulge. Ask them to get your permission before giving any personal info to an app – and consider using your details rather than the child's, so they're not targeted by marketing spam or put at risk of having their data stolen.

STAY UPDATED

Most games and apps are subject to regular updates, which not only offer new content and features but also provide critical security improvements. Children tend to ignore such updates – usually because they don't understand why they're important, or they simply want to get straight on with gaming. Check your child's devices periodically to make sure these updates are being installed.

Meet Our Expert

Barry Collins has been a technology journalist and editor for more than 20 years, working for titles such as the *Sunday Times*, *Which?*, *PC Pro* and *Computeractive*. He's appeared regularly as a technology pundit on television and radio, including on *Newsnight*, *Radio 5 Live* and *ITV News at Ten*. He has two children and has written regularly about internet safety issues.



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UPCOMING DATES

Mon 8th January	Back to School
Sat 27th January	Deadline for MAT consultation
Weds 7th Feb	Year 8 Face to Face Parents Evening
Weds 14th Feb	Year 8 Online Parents Evening
Weds 14th-16th Feb	Year 9 Whitby Trip

CONCERNS OUTSIDE OF SCHOOL HOURS

We seek to do everything we reasonably can to ensure the safety and wellbeing of our students. I am sure you will appreciate that there are limits to this outside of school hours and especially during the holidays.

We would therefore recommend that you:

- Monitor closely your child's activity on social media. Most of the problems we have to deal with at the start of each term relate to antisocial behaviour that has taken place online during the holidays. If your child is being seriously abused online, contact the police. <https://www.ivanhoe.co.uk/protecting-your-child-online>
- Let us know if there have been any issues that we need to be aware of as soon as possible so we can respond promptly and appropriately when school reopens. We cannot guarantee that we will be able to respond to emails etc. out of school hours.
- Contact Social Services if you feel they should be aware of an issue.

You can call the Social Services Central Duty Team on 0116 305 0005 or

make an online referral via the following link <https://www.leicestershire.gov.uk/leisure-and-community/community-safety/report-abuse-or-neglect-of-a-child>

- Contact the police on 999 straight away if you believe a child is in immediate danger.

Thank you for your support on this matter.

Emma Boussida

DSL/Assistant Headteacher