



IXWORTH FREE SCHOOL

"Providing a foundation for life"

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Dear Parents/Carers

I hope you all had an enjoyable break over the Christmas holiday. It has been good to welcome students back for the Lent term and hear their news from the festive period. Many things are planned for this term and so I thought it would be useful to provide an initial update on some key information.

Teaching Staff

At the end of the Michaelmas term we said goodbye to Mr Dawkins (Maths), Mrs Spall (Science) and Mr Pashby (Music). All have moved to new schools closer to their respective family homes.

As a result, we welcome three new members to the staff team to replace them:

- Mr Beales Subject Leader for Maths and Numeracy
- Mr Budden Teacher of Science
- Ms Kelly Teacher of Music

They have settled in extremely well to the school community and look forward to meeting parents/carers shortly.

Summer Enrichment Week 2016

Thank you for submitting your child's preferences for this year's Summer Enrichment Week. Staff are currently finalising the allocations for each trip and a letter will be sent to individual students next week, outlining what they have been assigned, with the necessary payment plan.

Information Evenings will be held for each trip with lead staff later in the year, in order that further information can be communicated relevant to each trip. In the meantime, should you have any queries or questions regarding the enrichment week, please contact your child's tutor in the first instance.

Uniform

This term we are likely to continue to face quite changeable weather. I would appreciate if parents/carers would encourage their child to wear a coat to and from school to keep warm. Hooded or fleece tops of any nature are not permitted as a substitute and will be removed if worn.

We are also experiencing a large quantity of uniform items being left around the school by students. The School Office would appreciate if all uniform items could be labelled for ease of return if found. Moreover, I ask that parents/carers remind students to utilise the use of their lockers and take greater responsibility for collecting and looking after personal items to avoid items being lost.



Dates and Events

I would like to draw your attention to some key dates for the Lent term:

- 13 January 2016 Year 9 Progress Evening, 4.30pm-7pm
- 20 January 2016 Friends of Ixworth Free School meeting, 6pm-8pm
- 21 January 2016 Year 10 Progress Evening and Mock discussions, 4.30pm-7pm
- 12 February 2016 Finish for half term break
- 22 February 2016 Students return to school after half term break
- 25 February 2016 Official Grand Opening of the School, 5pm-7pm
- 1 March 2016 Local Governing Body Meeting
- 9 March 2016 Friends of Ixworth Free School meeting, 6pm-8pm
- 18 March 2016 Gala Dinner, 7pm-11.30pm
- 22 March 2016 Tutor Evening, 4.30pm-7pm
- 24 March 2016 Finish for Easter break

We do hope that in providing advance notice of these events you might be able to join us at those relevant for your child.

Free Schools Trust

Finally, I am writing to let you know about a change in the strategy of the Seckford Foundation Free Schools Trust (the 'Trust').

The Trust's original strategy to open a fourth Free School in Suffolk will not be carried forward at this time. Instead, all efforts will be focused on the current Free Schools at Beccles and Saxmundham, and of course here at Ixworth, to ensure further progress and improved results.

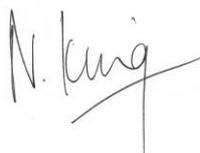
Consequently, the Trust's central leadership services are changing and Dr Robert Cawley, Principal and CEO of the Trust, will leave the Trust at the end of August 2016. Dr Cawley was instrumental in opening the three Free Schools and his leadership and dedication in carrying out a truly superb job have been second to none.

Dr Cawley will remain fully involved with the Trust for the rest of the academic year and he will be working closely with the Trust in the coming months to continue the very positive work on improving results. He will also be working with the Trust and the Seckford Foundation to put in place the new operating structure of the Trust.

If you have any questions please do not hesitate to contact me.

Happy New Year!

Yours sincerely



Miss N King
Headteacher