

# IXWORTH ixchange

Ixworth Free School is a proud member of the Seckford Foundation Free Schools Trust

The newsletter for Ixworth Free School | *"Providing a foundation for life"*

## What's inside?

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**IXWORTH  
FREE SCHOOL**

"Providing a foundation for life"

[www.ixworthfreeschool.org.uk](http://www.ixworthfreeschool.org.uk)  
Ixworth Free School,  
Walsham Road, Ixworth, IP31 2HS

Dates for your

# Diary

Thursday 5 May 2016

Year 10 Progress Evening

Wednesday 11 May 2016

Cross Trust Competition - Debating

Wednesday 18 May 2016

Sixth Form Fair

Thursday 19 May 2016

Friends of Ixworth Free School Meeting

Thursday 26 May 2016

School Production - 'Into the Woods'

Monday 30 May - Friday 3 June 2016

Half Term

Monday 6 June - Friday 10 June 2016

Year 9 Examinations Week

Monday 13 June - Friday 17 June 2016

Year 10 Examinations Week

## Twitter

Please sign up to follow us on Twitter, which enables us to share what is going on in the school.

Follow us @IxworthFS. Please also check our webpage for regular news and events updates.

## Safeguarding Update

Should you have any safeguarding concerns, please contact Mr Ward, Designated Safeguarding Lead or Miss King, Assistant Safeguarding Lead on 01359 234 050 or for more information please visit [www.ixworthfreeschool.org.uk/safeguarding](http://www.ixworthfreeschool.org.uk/safeguarding) Ixworth Free School's named safeguarding governor is Mrs Burridge.

IXWORTH

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## Headteacher's Welcome

As we start the final term of the academic year, I hope you enjoy looking through the Ixchange and taking the opportunity to reflect on key elements the school has been involved with during the Lent term.

Our focus this term turns towards summer exams and so students are busy revising for their end of year exams before having the chance to participate in their Summer Enrichment Week.

We also start to welcome new students to our School community, who will be joining us in September 2016.

I do hope to see many of you at one of our school events - perhaps the School Production 'Into the Woods' or the Friends of Ixworth Fun Run and BBQ.

In the meantime, I wish our students continued success over the Trinity Term



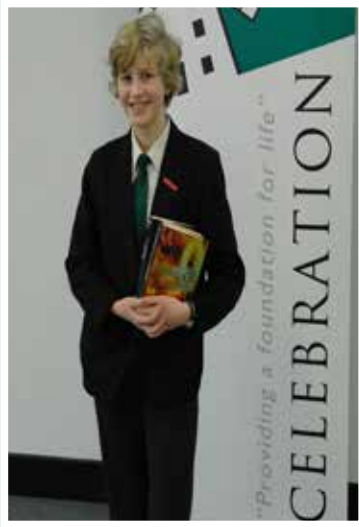
Miss King  
Headteacher

## Friends of Ixworth Free School Bingo Evening

The Friends of Ixworth Free School held another fantastic event at the school in March - a bingo evening! A huge thank you to everyone who came to this event, and of course to the friends group who organised it. Over £300 was raised in support of the school and great fun was had by all. We are now looking forward to their next event, the Fun Run and BBQ on July 1st.



# Emily is a Book Mastermind



Emily Martin (Year 8) came third in the area finals of the “Book Mastermind” competition, which is organised by Suffolk Library Services in order to get more young people into reading.

The competition works like the television show “Mastermind”, except that the specialist subject has to be a book, and is open to Year 7 – 9 students from across the county. “Book Mastermind” starts in schools in the Michaelmas term, with winners from each school then going onto compete in area finals in February.

The area competition was held at Bury St Edmunds Library and there were two rounds. First there were a series of questions on a book of the competitor’s choice, Emily’s was “Earth Girl” by Janet Edwards, which she had read 12 times since October! The second round was on general knowledge. Emily said “My house has always been full of books and I’ve read lots from an early age. I took about 400 books out in 2 years at middle school and I read the whole Harry Potter series in under 2 weeks! I really enjoy reading”.

Tiffany Hutton, Subject Leader for English, Literacy and Drama at Ixworth Free School said “Emily’s knowledge of her chosen book and her general knowledge was truly impressive. Her love of reading is inspiring and she did fantastically well in the competition.”

Congratulations to Emily from everyone at Ixworth Free School, on a very well deserved third place.

## Science Visit to Dulwich College

A group of 15 lucky students recently had the opportunity to visit the science department at Dulwich College and undertake exciting experiments, in all areas of science - Iodine experiments in Chemistry; looking at data mapping in Physics; and studying the exotic animals in the Biology lab.

A Key highlight was also to see Shackleton’s James Caird, which was bequeathed to the College on his death.



## Sky Sports Mentor visits Talented Sport Students



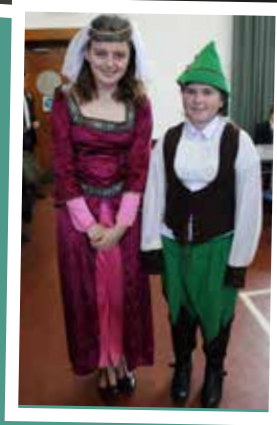
Team GB Olympic moguls skier Ellie Koyander has been inspiring our talented sports students; a fantastic learning experience! She gave an inspirational assembly on her journey to the top and also undertook some coaching during a second visit.

# World B

Can you name all the characters?



# ook Day!



World Book Day took place on Thursday 3 March 2016. An excellent atmosphere was created throughout the school as students and teachers dressed up as their favourite book characters. There was every character you could think of from Miss Oatridge as The Golden Snitch to Maddie Beckett as Rey from Star Wars, Sasha Garnham as Little Red Riding Hood, Ellen Doyle as Mary Poppins, Ellie Robertson as Varjak Paw and many more.

A quiz also took place in the library at lunch time, which saw a group of students battle it out to prove their knowledge of literature was better than everyone else's - a fun, but competitive atmosphere was certainly created! The students raised an incredible £127.60 on the day, which was donated to Bookaid International, providing children in less fortunate countries with access to books.



## United Kingdom Maths Trust Regional Champions!

On the 20 April 2016, Lucas Measures, Lilley Currie, Kim Goss and Elizabeth Bolton competed in the regional finals of the UKMT team challenge. They were competing against 18 local schools, including a number of private and grammar schools and ended up winning the event, therefore qualifying for the national finals in London on the 20 June 2016. The UKMT team challenge is a national competition for the most able mathematicians and this year there were over 1700 schools entered of which only around 70 qualified for the national finals. This was a massive achievement and proves just how talented our students are. Good luck to them all for the finals.

## Primary Maths Day

We recently held our 'Young Mathematicians of the Year' competition for students at Barnham, Ixworth and Walsham-le-Willows primary schools, which involved a series of mathematical challenges



Congratulations to Ixworth Primary School who won the most challenges on the day and so were crowned this year's winners.



## Food Bank Collection

A fantastic collective effort by students and staff to collect extra tins/packets of food that were then taken to Thetford food bank. Well done everyone for your efforts



## Year 7 Assembly at Barnham Primary

Some of our Year 7s recently had the opportunity to revisit their old school, as we joined Barnham Primary School for an assembly on friendship. They were also joined by Sam Finlay-Ayles (Year 10) who played the guitar.



## Swimathon

Congratulations to all students who took part in the Rotary Club charity Swimathon in March - a huge 266 lengths achieved.



# Cross Trust Competition Fame Lab

A team of young scientists from Ixworth Free School travelled across to Saxmundham Free School on 2 February 2016 to compete against Beccles and Saxmundham in the latest Cross Trust Competition – Fame Lab. The competition, open to Year 7, 8 and 9 students from the three schools in the Trust, saw each team of students give short presentations on a science topic of their choice.



Beccles Free School did incredibly well to retain the title they won last year and were presented with a special 'Cross Trust' trophy as the overall winners, after their students from Year 7 gave an excellent presentation on global warming, and students from Year 8 did an exciting demonstration of the science behind bubbles. Ixworth Free School meanwhile was announced as Year 9 winners after giving a fascinating insight into how glow-sticks work. All presentations, which varied from fire breathing to the solar system, were judged by Izzy Botfield from Eastern and Otley College and Eric Spicer OBE, who runs a STEM enrichment class at the Free Schools.



Dr Rob Cawley, Principal and CEO of the Seckford Foundation Free Schools Trust, said: "The Cross Trust Challenges are a great opportunity for students from all three of our Free Schools to come together to compete, have fun, discover new skills and talents and make new friends. The challenges set reflect our Trust-wide approach of helping students to develop a love of learning for life, which will guide them beyond the school gates.



"I am delighted that so many students demonstrated a real passion for science at the 'Fame Lab'



competition. Well done to all involved for your exciting experiments and well prepared presentations, and particularly well done to the winning year groups from Beccles and Ixworth Free Schools."

A huge well done to all the students who took part on behalf of Ixworth Free School, the standard of the competition was incredibly high and we all look forward to competing against Beccles and Saxmundham again at the next Cross Trust Event. Congratulations to our Year 9 team for winning their Year group competition.

# Ixworth Free School

## Official Opening

On February 25, The Lord-Lieutenant of Suffolk, Lady Clare Euston, unveiled a commemorative plaque at Ixworth Free School during the grand opening of the new facilities. The opening event celebrated the end of the two-stage, £4.4 million refurbishment programme which has been ongoing since the school opened in September 2014.

The school was in need of expansion and refurbishment to accommodate growing student numbers and to provide more modernised learning spaces. The building work has included a new 200-seater multi-purpose hall, a versatile outdoor learning space, new entrance and reception areas and complete refurbishment of classrooms.



As part of the upgrade of facilities Ixworth Free School becomes the first local school to create a 4D interactive classroom which brings teaching and learning to life. The £40,000 investment in the 4D 'immersive' technology means 'real life' sensory experiences such as walking in space or in a rainforest can be created, blurring the line between the physical and digital world.

The Lord-Lieutenant of Suffolk, Lady Clare Euston, said: "I thoroughly enjoyed seeing the inspiring new facilities which the students of Ixworth Free School are now enjoying."

Niki King, Headteacher at Ixworth Free School, said: "The new and refurbished facilities are an excellent addition to the school, providing fresh, inspiring and motivating learning environments for all students to enjoy. Thank you to all involved in the refurbishment programme, we're looking forward to using the new facilities this school year and for years to come."

## Year 5

# Open Evening

30 June 2016 5pm - 7pm

## Save the Date!

### Contact us...

We welcome your feedback, news and comments...  
email us: [enquiries@ixworthfreeschool.org.uk](mailto:enquiries@ixworthfreeschool.org.uk)



**01359 234 050**

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