



## IXWORTH FREE SCHOOL

*"Providing a foundation for life"*

Walsham Road,  
Ixworth,  
Suffolk, IP31 2HS

T: 01359 234050

E: [enquiries@ixworthfreeschool.org.uk](mailto:enquiries@ixworthfreeschool.org.uk)

W: [www.ixworthfreeschool.org.uk](http://www.ixworthfreeschool.org.uk)

26 March 2018

Dear Parents and Carers

As we approach the end of this term - and in place of the Weekly Family Bulletin, I thought I would take the opportunity to write to you to update you on a number of fronts.

### **Staffing - saying good-bye**

As you may know, Mr Hudson and Mrs Van Holland will be leaving IFS at the end of this term. Mr Hudson has decided to pursue a career outside of teaching and Mrs Van Holland has been successful in securing a promotion as Head of Drama. We will be paying tribute to their considerable contributions to the School in this week's Celebration Assembly and in this term's Ixchange which will be distributed on Thursday. We do of course wish them both the very best as they explore the next stages of their careers and lives.

Having just said good-bye, Year 11 will continue to work with Mrs Van Holland for a short period of time after Easter as she has kindly agreed to return to us for one day a week to see her class through to their final written examination in May.

### **Staffing - promotions and looking ahead**

I am delighted to inform you that Mrs Parker has been promoted to Assistant Headteacher (Pastoral) from September 2018. Mrs Parker is currently Head of Upper School and will bring both experience and great skill to her new role as Assistant Headteacher and Pastoral Lead for the School. Other members of the Leadership Team will also be taking on new responsibilities; this includes Mrs Bell as SENCO with Trust wide responsibilities and Mr Beales as Senior Teacher.

Mr Pitcock has also been promoted to the new post of Senior Tutor for the Lower School and replaces Mr Hudson. He will take up this role as of April 1st, and after your child's Form Tutor, is your next point of contact for all matters relating to Years 7-9.

Finally, Mr Spurin will be leading on Duke of Edinburgh and will also be training to become a Designated Safeguarding Lead (DSL).



## **Staffing - new arrivals**

Mr Mannington joins us after Easter as teacher of boys' PE. He brings much enthusiasm to the role and has already devised next term's extra-curricular timetable and will be introducing new sports.

Mrs Hale has been appointed as teacher of Drama and English from September 2018. Mrs Hale is an experienced teacher and GCSE examiner and is relocating to Suffolk over the summer. For next term only, we will be joined by Miss Dimmick as teacher of Drama and Philosophy & Ethics.

Mr Clark will also be joining our History department and Mr Spurrier in September 2018; and Mr Dexter (Geography) will be moving to a full time post immediately after Easter. Mr Dexter has enjoyed a very positive start to his time at IFS and is looking forward to meeting his new classes at the start of next term.

I am delighted that we have such strong teachers joining us.

## **Site**

As you will no doubt be aware, our building works continue. The new fences at the rear of the school are now in place and over the new two weeks we will have completed the work on the new fences and electric gates at the front of the School. The new gates and fences are designed to further improve site security as well as the look of the School.

## **Looking ahead**

The Trinity Term really is the business end of the year. School will be busy throughout Easter with staff running support and revision sessions for our Year 11s - we are now only a few weeks away from the exam season.

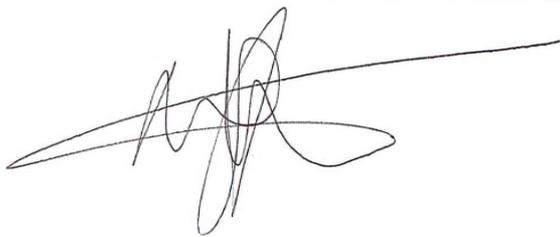
Having been through the GCSE season as a school last year, we know exactly how to organise ourselves so as to minimise disruption to the rest of the school as exams go on. Equally, we are not just focusing on Year 11 next term. We have new plans for enrichment and the Prefect system and will also be finalising our proposal for our own Combined Cadet Force (CCF) contingent, whilst writing various bids to raise funds for our all weather pitch. We will also be finalising Year 9 options, planning next year's curriculum and working with Year 4 and 5 students in a number of our local primary schools. And of course, there is next year's Year 7 to welcome!

I should also say that I am very much looking forward to working with the School Council on plans to improve the library and on a more sheltered outdoor space for use during break and lunchtime.

In the meantime, thank you once again for your ongoing support - and please do not hesitate to get in touch should you wish you to give me and any member of the Leadership Team feedback.

Have a very good Easter break.

Yours faithfully

A handwritten signature in black ink, consisting of several overlapping loops and a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

Mr M Barrow  
Headteacher