



IXWORTH FREE SCHOOL

"Providing a foundation for life"

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12 October 2018

Dear Parent / Carer

Where did the time go?

It still feels like the new academic year is in its infancy, and yet here we are at the end of half-term, with the clocks about to be turned back again and the darker mornings and evenings signalling that winter is on our doorstep.

This half-term has been incredibly busy. We have welcomed so many new students into the school, in Year 7 and elsewhere. As in previous years, we ran a number of evening events for families, to try and ensure useful information was given out as early as possible. In particular, year 10 and 11 students, who are entering the most important years of their schooling so far, have had small events where we went through expectations, support and Post 16 options.

Year 11 have started superbly this year, and have really focussed on their work. I'm grateful to the staff at IFS for their commitment - there are an enormous number of interventions going on before, during and after school in order to ensure that our students do as well as they possibly can. Year 10 have also started well and had a great half term with their new GCSE courses. It has also been a pleasure to see the new Prefects, who are great with all their responsibilities to ensure the school runs smoothly. So confident are we with conduct around the school that we will now be asking the students to show visitors round, answering questions honestly and with candour. We further say to visitors that nowhere is out of bounds because we are confident of the quality throughout the school.

Years 7-9 have also started well - in fact the school feels like it has settled quickly into a routine that reflects all of our 6Cs. Senior colleagues, including myself, try to walk into every classroom every lesson to check that pupils are as focussed as they can be and standards are very high indeed.

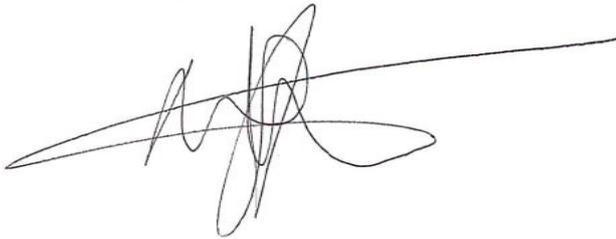
We also had an incredibly busy Open Evening and follow up Open Mornings and envisage a further increase in numbers in next year's Year 7.



With so many new families to the school you may have forgotten that students are never to bring food into school and that hoodies are equally not permitted. Further, it is sometimes the case that parents arrive at the school or contact the school asking for support or help, or with frustrations. I am really grateful to parents who recognise that our office staff and pastoral support staff do everything possible to be supportive and helpful. Occasionally, a very small minority can forget that their frustration does not lie with the colleague receiving that initial call and I would ask you to try to remember this. If we have made a mistake, we are always happy to learn from it; to investigate, and to talk it through to a resolution, in a manner that is in line with our values and home-school agreement.

Finally, I would like to take this opportunity to thank you again for your support this half-term. I'm delighted with the quality of the WW1 Extended projects and am pleased to confirm that we have been successful in securing a grant of £65,000 for our all new weather pitch. Further information can be found here: <http://www.ixworthfreeschool.org.uk/ixworth-free-school-secures-grant-for-new-sports-facilities/>.

Yours faithfully

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

Mr M Barrow
Headteacher