ICKNIELD HIGH SCHOOL

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NEWSLETTER

May Edition 2026



Welcome to the latest edition of our newsletter, where we proudly celebrate the many opportunities, achievements, and moments of excellence across Icknield High School. This edition highlights the dedication of our students, the commitment of our staff, and the strong partnerships we continue to build with parents and the wider community. From leadership successes and academic progress to positive attitudes and shared values, we are delighted to showcase how our school continues to thrive and move forward together, always striving for the very best for every learner.

Year 11 GCSE Examinations

We have been extremely proud of how our Year 11 students have begun their GCSE examinations. They have approached this important period with maturity, focus, and a positive attitude, which has been a pleasure to see. Their commitment and determination so far are a credit to both themselves and the support they receive at home.

As we move beyond the half-term break, we would like to remind parents that revision sessions will continue, although they will become optional. Despite this, we strongly encourage your child to attend wherever possible. These sessions offer valuable opportunities for targeted, specialised teaching and last-minute clarification ahead of the remaining examinations, helping students to feel confident and well prepared.

Thank you, as always, for your continued support. We wish all our Year 11 students every success as they continue through the Exam series.

Key Dates

1st June- GCSE Exam Season continues
3rd June Year 7 Parents Evening
8th June Year 8 and 9 Assessment Week
15th June Year7 Assessment Week
16th June Year 11 GCSE Finshes
17th June HPV Catch Ups
17th June Year 10 trial Exams Begin
19th June Year 8 Rewards Trip
30th June Town Sports
2nd July Year 6 Information Evening
3rd July Year 6 Transition Day
13th Juty Year 7 Careers Networking Event
14th July Sports Day
17th July Culture Day- Early Finish

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Leadership

Meet Our Associate Assistant Headteachers



Mrs Ali Abbas
Lead for Assessment and Homework and Designated Teacher for Looked After Children

As Lead for Assessments and Homework, I oversee the development and coordination of Assessments across the School. Ensuring accessibility and Quality. In order to support students and Parents prepare for the assessments, I collaborate with Departments to produce Topic Lists. These structured guides provide clarity for students and families, outlining exactly what should be revised in preparation for assessments and How to revise. By ensuring consistency and quality across departments, this work supports students in becoming more independent, confident learners and helps reduce uncertainty around assessment expectations. I also Lead on Quality of homework across all subjects, ensuring accessibility and

In addition, I am the Designated Teacher for Looked After Children (LAC). In this role, work closely with students, carers, social workers and staff to ensure that every looked after child receives the support, encouragement and care they need to thrive both academically and emotionally. This commitment plays a vital part in promoting equity and ensuring that vulnerable students are given every opportunity to succeed.

I am also the Lead Link for the Maths Department. Maths has performed within the top 3% nationally for attainment, and is currently the highest performing Maths department in Luton. Through close collaboration with the department, I support the continued drive for excellence, ensuring high standards are maintained and built upon.

Together, these roles reflect a strong commitment to high-quality teaching, inclusive practice and outstanding student outcomes ensuring that every student at Icknield High School is supported to succeed.

Contact: Mrs Ali Abbas
maliabbas@icknield.beds.sch.uk

Leadership

Meet Our Associate Assistant Headteachers



Ms Grunwald- Lead on Literacy and Parental communication

As Associate Assistant Headteacher for English and Literacy at Icknield High School, my role is all about helping students develop confidence in reading, writing and communication, whilst also supporting the leadership of the English department. I work closely with staff, students and families to make sure literacy is at the heart of school life and that every student feels supported to achieve their best.

A large part of my role involves leading the English curriculum from Key Stage 3 through to GCSE, helping to create lessons that are engaging, challenging and accessible for all students. I work with teachers on curriculum planning, assessment, intervention and sharing ideas that help students make strong progress in both English Language and English Literature.

Alongside this, I lead on whole-school literacy initiatives designed to encourage a love of reading and develop students' vocabulary, confidence and communication skills across all subjects. Programmes such as Sparx Reader, Bedrock Learning and targeted intervention sessions play an important role in helping students become more confident and independent learners.

I also really enjoy working with staff across the school through coaching, CPD and collaborative planning to continue improving teaching and learning. Building positive relationships with students and families is another important part of the role, as working together makes a huge difference in supporting young people both academically and personally.

My favourite part of the job is seeing students grow in confidence and begin to believe in themselves. Whether it is a student speaking up in class for the first time, discovering a book they genuinely enjoy, or achieving results they once thought were out of reach, those moments are incredibly rewarding. I love helping students find their voice and realise what they are capable of.
Ultimately, my role is about creating an environment where literacy is valued, students feel inspired to learn, and every young person feels confident expressing themselves. It is a real privilege to be part of the Icknield High School community.

Contact: Ms Grunwald
egrunwald@icknield.beds.sch.uk

Celebration

Celebrating Our New Head Prefects

I am delighted to share the outcome of our recent Head Prefect selection process. Following a rigorous and highly competitive series of interviews, shortlisted students demonstrated exceptional commitment, confidence, and integrity. The process included a formal presentation on our CARES values, alongside searching questions on how they would contribute to further improving our school community and lead by example.



I am pleased to announce that the following students were successful:

•Head Boy Prefect: Mustafa 10GAS & Head Girl Prefect: Caitlyn 10GBR
•Deputy Head Boy Prefect: Abdurrahman 10GBE & Deputy Head Girl Prefect: Amara 10GBA

Each of these students impressed the panel with their maturity, thoughtful ideas, and clear dedication to serving the school. They have already shown strong commitment through their contributions so far, and I am confident they will represent our values with pride and ambition. We congratulate them warmly on this achievement and wish them every success as they take on these important leadership roles.

Celebrating Shakespeare Week in the LRC

Exciting news, the LRC celebrated the works of William Shakespeare for National Shakespeare Week. We organised some activities to do in the LRC and also a competition was set on April 23rd to mark his birthday.

The competition was to 'Design a Shakespeare Play Poster ' the winners will be announced in May

To mark the occasion the LRC had various educational and creative activities for the students to partake during break and lunch times. The LRC also has a fine collection of Shakespeare books that were on display to encourage student reading and engagement, these books can be used to help with their studies and revision material .





While the Years 7 and 8 have been having their Extra English lesson for Sparx in the LRC we did a quick quiz on how many Shakespeare plays they know, we have the winners!!



7z/Ee3 25 plays named

8y/Ee1 21 plays named

Each student in these classes will be presented with a Shakespeare badge/pencil when they have their lesson next congratulations to them all !!

Celebration

Outstanding GCSE Practical

Our Year 11 GCSE students delivered an exceptional performance in their final practical moderation exam. They demonstrated not only a high level of skill and preparation, but also professionalism and maturity throughout the process. The external moderator was highly impressed by both their conduct and the quality of their performances. This is a fantastic achievement and a testament to the hard work, dedication, and commitment shown by our students. Well done, Silver ties—we are incredibly proud of you!





County Success for Our Girls

Our Year 9 and 10 girls represented the school superbly at the county finals, delivering outstanding performances throughout the competition. Their teamwork, determination, and commitment were evident in every match, leading to a fantastic overall third-place finish.

Each student was awarded a well-deserved bronze medal—a wonderful achievement and a testament to their hard work. Congratulations to all involved for representing the school with such pride



Narrow Defeat After Strong Final Performance

Our Year 10 boys showed outstanding determination and teamwork as they progressed to the final of the football league. After leading for much of the match, they delivered an excellent performance against strong opposition. Despite their efforts, the game went to penalties, where they were narrowly defeated by Challney Boys. Although the result did not go their way, their resilience, skill, and commitment throughout the competition were exceptional. Well done to the team for reaching the final and representing the school with pride!



Celebration

SEND Football Team Triumph at Festival

Our SEND students showcased outstanding teamwork and determination at a recent Football Festival held at Redborn Upper School. A group of 11 students represented the school with pride, competing in a total of 10 matches against strong and highly competitive teams. Despite the challenging competition, the team put in an impressive performance, securing 3 wins and 2 draws.





The highlight of the day came at the end of the festival, where our students were awarded a trophy for being the best team overall. This was a fantastic achievement and a testament not only to their footballing ability but also to their exemplary conduct throughout the day.

Staff at the event specifically praised our students for their politeness, positive attitude, determination, and resilience, qualities we are incredibly proud to see demonstrated so clearly. Well done to all involved for representing the school so brilliantly!





Year 10 Reward Trip to Alton Towers

Our Year 10 students recently enjoyed an exciting and well-deserved reward trip to Alton Towers, celebrating their consistent effort, positive attitude, and strong attainment throughout the academic year.





Students were carefully selected to attend based on their commitment to learning, excellent behaviour, and the progress they have demonstrated across their subjects. The trip served not only as a recognition of their hard work, but also as an opportunity to create lasting memories with their peers. The day was filled with excitement as students explored a wide range of rides and attractions. From thrilling rollercoasters to more relaxed experiences, there was something for everyone to enjoy. It was fantastic to see students engaging positively, supporting one another, and representing the school so well throughout the visit. Staff were incredibly proud of the students' conduct, enthusiasm, and maturity. Their respectful behaviour and positive attitudes made the trip a resounding success. We would like to congratulate all students who were selected for this reward trip your dedication and determination have truly paid off. We hope this experience inspires you to continue striving for excellence as you move into Year 11.

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Celebration

ECO POSTER COMPETITION

Student Voice's Eco Team set a challenge for students to get creative and design posters that share positive messages about looking after our planet and keeping our community clean and Eco-friendly. Here are some of the wonderful entries we received and a huge congratulations to Aathika YBE on winning the competition and the prize of a £10 Amazon Voucher."













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Aspiration

Inspiring Futures: Year 7 Careers Networking Event

We would like to extend a sincere thank you to all our guests who attended our Careers Networking Event. Your time, expertise, and willingness to engage with our students made the event a truly valuable experience for all involved.

Our Year 7 students had the fantastic opportunity to speak directly with professionals from a wide range of industries, including Law, Sports, Travel, and STEM. Through these conversations, students explored different career pathways, listened to personal journeys, and gained practical advice about the world of work.

The event sparked curiosity, broadened horizons, and encouraged our students to begin thinking about their own future aspirations.









Celebrating Success at the University of Oxford

Congratulations to our outstanding Red Tie Scholars who have successfully graduated from The Brilliant Club's Scholars Programme. This remarkable achievement reflects their dedication, resilience, and commitment to academic excellence.





To celebrate their hard work, students were invited to the prestigious University of Oxford for a special graduation ceremony. The visit provided a valuable opportunity to experience life at one of the world's leading universities, inspiring our students to aim high in their future aspirations.

During their time at Oxford, students explored the historic Balliol College campus, gaining insight into university life while reflecting on their own academic journeys. The day was a fitting celebration of their achievements and a memorable milestone in their educational experience.

We are incredibly proud of our Red Tie Scholars and look forward to seeing all they will go on to accomplish.



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Aspiration

LUTON YOUTH COUNCIL ELECTIONS

We are extremely proud to announce that after producing a manifesto, planning and delivering a speech and answering questions in relation to that speech, Autumn has recently been elected as Vice Chair of Luton Youth Council! This is a huge achievement and a fantastic role for her to have direct impact on the development of Luton as a town and the opportunities available to the young people who live here. She has already been completing some excellent work in her role as she explains herself below:



AUTUMNS LYC UPDATES

Meetings (Encouraging young people to vote) - 26/03/26:

“Before the election I was given the opportunity to participate in a Teams meeting with Members of Parliament: Rachel Hopkins, Sarah Owen, and Amy Nicholls on March 26 to converse about Voting at 16. During this session, we discussed what the government needs to do to encourage young people to want to get involved with elections and what issues we find most important. I contributed by expressing my views, engaging in discussion, and sharing perspectives on the proposals being considered. I mentioned how students need unbiased education within schools on each party to be motivated to participate and how it's important to nurture curiosity.

Conference (Luton 2040 Annual Conference) - 24/04/26:

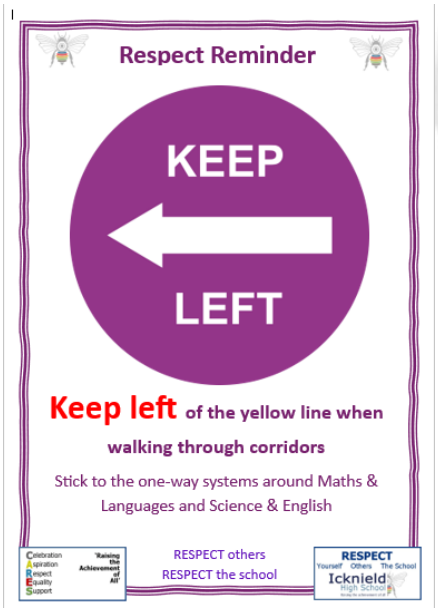
In addition to this, I also took part in the Luton 2040 annual conference where I was a panellist in front of an audience of around 500 attendees, including the mayor, local councillor's and stakeholders. This was the first official event the new cohort of the Luton Youth Council was invited to get involved in. The panel consisted of myself as Vice Chair, the Chair, and a representative from the previous cohort. During the session, we were tasked with the responsibility of asking questions to four panellists representing different organizations: London Luton Airport, Luton Rising, Department of Business & Trade, Goodman. I actively engaged with their initial responses and asked a follow-up question that pushed further into their planned answers, encouraging them to be more open about opportunities for Lutonians. After the applause, the host informed us of a brief change in script to allow the panellists to ask each of us a question. Many later commented that our responses were excellent. The event was a great chance for networking and was wrapped up with the farewell of Hazel Simmons who is standing down after 20 years as the leader of Luton Borough council.”

So proud of you Autumn, Well Done!!

Respect

Respect Reminders from Mr Chopra

We continue with Mr Chopra, our Assistant Headteacher, respect reminders to ensure a successful and supportive school community. We encourage parents to take a moment to discuss these reminders with their children, reinforcing the importance of respect both in and out of school. By working together, we can ensure that respect continues to guide everything we do at Icknield High













Respect Reminder

RESPECT YOURSELF, OTHERS AND THE SCHOOL – SAY NO TO BULLYING!

At Icknield High School, bullying is NEVER tolerated. Every student has the right to feel SAFE, HAPPY and RESPECTED.

CARES – Embrace differencies
ASPIRATION – Aim high together
RESPECT – Treat everyone kindly
EQUALITY – Fairness for all
SUPPORT – Help each other

WHAT IS BULLYING?

Bullying is repetitive, intentional hurting of a person or group by another where there is an imbalance of power.

PHYSICAL
hitting, kicking, pushing

VERBAL
name-calling, insults, threats.

CYBER
online abuse, nasty messages

HOMOPHOBIC/ GENDER-BASED
targeting someone's identity

WHAT TO DO IF YOU SEE OR EXPERIENCE BULLYING

1. **SPEAK UP** – Tell the person to stop if you feel safe.
2. **REPORT IT** – Talk to:
   - Tutor or Class Teacher
   - Pastoral Leader
   - Anti-Bullying Ambassadors
   - Assistant/Deputy Headteacher
   - DSL (Mr King-Mand)
   - Or use the Year Room Post Box/Online Form
3. **SUPPORT EACH OTHER**
   Be an upstander, not a bystander.

REMEMBER: BULLYING IS ANTI-SOCIAL AND WILLNOT BE TOLERATED. RESPECT IS OUR CULTURE.

RESPECT
Yourself Others The School
Icknield High School

United Against Bullying School

Celebration
Aspiration
Respect
Equality
Support

Equality

Supporting Wellbeing Through Essential Care

We are incredibly grateful to The Hygiene Bank for their recent donation of essential personal care products to support some of our most vulnerable students. Access to everyday hygiene items can make a significant difference to a young person's wellbeing, confidence, and ability to fully engage in school life.
Thanks to this generous contribution, we are able to discreetly provide students with the items





they need, helping to remove barriers and ensure everyone feels comfortable and supported in our school community.
We would like to extend our sincere thanks to The Hygiene Bank for their kindness and commitment to tackling hygiene poverty. Their support is making a real and lasting impact on our students' lives. Please support the Hygiene bank by making donations, details in this newsletter





SEND Cricket Team Shine in Tournament Final

Our SEND Cricket Team delivered an outstanding performance at the recent cricket tournament, demonstrating commitment, teamwork, and resilience throughout the competition.



The team progressed all the way to the final, where they faced Denbigh in a closely contested match. In an impressive display of skill and determination, our students scored a remarkable 131 runs and secured 4 wickets. Despite a strong effort, they finished in an excellent 2nd place overall.

Reaching the final is a fantastic achievement, and the team should be incredibly proud of their efforts. A huge well done to all students involved for representing the school so brilliantly—what a fantastic achievement!





SUPPORTING YOUR LOCAL PROJECT



FUNDS MEAN THAT WE CAN BUY WHAT WE NEED

CAN YOU DONATE TO US?

FOR LUTON

FOR ST ALBANS/HARPENDEN

THE HYGIENE BANK

FOLLOW US ON SOCIAL MEDIA

@hygienebankluton

@hygienebankharpstalbans

DONATION DROP OFF POINTS

LUTON:

- Boots, The Mall
- Bushmead Christchurch
- Boots, Quadrant Dunstable
- Dunelm, Dunstable

ST ALBANS:

- Boots, St Peters St
- Boots, London Colney retail park
- Jade Pharmacy, St Peters St
- Cafe on the Corner, Catherine St
- Budgens, The Quadrant, Marshalswick
- Emmaus, Hill End House
- Nottingham Building Scoiety, St Peters St
- Howdens Insurance, London Road

HARPENDEN:

- Boots, Harpenden High St
- Manor Pharmacy, Leyton Rd
- Manor Pharmacy, Southdown
- Musicale, near St Georges School

VILLAGES/OTHER:

- Manor Pharmacy, Wheat'stead
- Village Surgery, Wheat'stead
- Barefoot Accountant, Redbourn

www.thehygienebank.com

Charity number: 1181267

Support

Autism Central

NHS

Autism Central

National peer education programme



Autism Central is a free service for families and support networks of autistic people of all ages. We offer families education, coaching, and connection through resources, one-to-one peer support, and community events.

Group learning
Join us online for events including drop-ins, education family guide sessions and reflective sessions.

One-to-one coaching
Book confidential, personalised coaching from trained peer guides with lived or family experience. Practical guidance and signposting.

"Connecting to someone who gets it."
"Being able to talk freely with ease."
"It was amazingly helpful."

Delivered by Anna Freud

autismcentral.org.uk

WANTED FUN YOUTH CLUB

ALERT!

SPACES AVAILABLE

10 - 17 YEAR OLDS





THURSDAY'S 7PM - 9PM





LUTON

Autism Bedfordshire

FOR MORE INFORMATION, GET IN TOUCH
ENQUIRIES@AUTISMBEDS.ORG

SUPPORTING YOUR AUTISTIC TEENAGER

PARENT/CARER COURSE

£25 Per Person + Booking Fee

When?

Monday 8th, 15th and 22nd June 2026
(Attendance at all sessions is required)

6:30pm to 8:30pm

Autism Bedfordshire Head Office,
1 Hammond Road,
Elms Farm Industrial Estate,
MK41 0UD



Delivered by Sarah Polack - Parent, Cognitive Behavioural Therapist & DBT Practitioner. Across three sessions, Sarah will share real life experiences, positive approaches and valuable insights into supporting autistic teenagers.

Aims of the session:

- Help you to understand your teenager and learn strategies to help them thrive
- Recognising their strengths and potential
- Offer a safe environment to share experiences with other parents

To book your place: Click below or scan the QR code to book!
https://tinyurl.com/y7u2s8s6

Support

Are you a parent or carer to a 10-16 year old?

Join our FREE 9 week "living with teens" program

- Learn skills and strategies' to help understand your teen and their emotions
- **strengthen relationships**
- Improve communication and listening
- **Greater confidence in managing challenging behaviour**
- Delivered by parents within your community

Futures House Marsh Farm
Starting **16th September**

9:45am-11:45am term time only

To book a place or for more information contact: **linzi.mcskimming@nhs.net**



EMPOWERING PARENTS EMPOWERING COMMUNITIES
Flying Start part of Luton Family Hubs
NHS East London NHS Foundation Trust

Year Team Newsletter

We would also like to encourage all parents and carers to look out for the weekly Year Group Bulletins sent out by Heads of Year. These bulletins are a great way to stay updated with important information, celebrations, upcoming events, revision support, and key reminders specific to your child's year group. We are proud of the strong partnership between home and school, and these weekly updates help keep families informed and involved in supporting students throughout the year

Support

Are you a parent or carer to a child aged 2 to 13 Year old?

FREE 9 week

"Being a parent course"





- Delivered by parents in your community, for parents.
- This free 9-week course helps you understand your child's behaviour
- Learn positive strategies to help you as a parent.
- Learn the importance of looking after yourself.
- Get practical support for the day to day challenges of being a parent.
- Meet other parents within your community and share experiences

"I enjoyed the course, I got to learn new skills and tools of parenting, that were delivered by parents who use them in their own homes"

Starting 24th September 2026 Every Thursday at Luton Central Library Family Hub 09:45am-11:45am (Term time only)

For more information or to book a space please contact:

linzi.mcskimming@nhs.net

NHS East London NHS Foundation Trust

Flying Start part of Luton Family Hubs

EMPOWERIN PARENTS EMPOWERIN COMMUNITIE

Icknield High School
Raising the achievement of all

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