ICKNIELD HIGH SCHOOL

Newsletter

November 2023

Welcome to the November edition of our newsletter celebrating the opportunities and successes at Icknield High School.

It was wonderful to recently welcome back our Red Ties for their GCSE Certificate Evening. It is always a lovely opportunity to celebrate their success and hear about how well they have settled into the next stage of their lives.

Once again this has been an incredibly busy and positive month and it has been fantastic seeing our student body taking full advantage of what the staff offer the school community.

John Noble
Headteacher

Key Dates in November/December:

27th November – Year 8 & 9 Assessment Week Begins

4th December – Year 7 & 10 Assessment Week Begins

Calendar Dates:

19th December – Term Ends

3rd January – INSET Day

4th January – Term Begins

Raising achievement for all

Official outcomes: Students make exceptional progress in GCSE Mathematics

We are delighted to share with you the exceptional progress made by students at Icknield High School in Mathematics. Official results indicate that the school's students have achieved the highest progress in Mathematics among all schools in Luton and places Icknield High School Mathematics outcomes within the top 5% of highest performing schools nationally. With a remarkable progress score of +0.83, our students have truly excelled.

We are also proud to announce that an impressive 79% of our students have achieved a grade 4 and above in Mathematics, while 63% have attained a grade 5 and above. Furthermore, an outstanding 29% of students have accomplished a grade 7 and above, surpassing national outcomes by a significant margin. These remarkable results open up opportunities for our students to pursue their desired courses at post-16 level.

Additionally, over 30% of our students have chosen to continue their studies in Mathematics at A-Level. It is worth noting that students who engage in Mathematical subjects demonstrate high employability. These courses foster critical thinking, problem-solving, reasoning, and communication skills, which are highly sought after by employers. Obtaining these qualifications also grants our students a secure future, as evidenced by government data revealing that A-Level Mathematics students are among the highest earners.

Mr. Ahmed, Deputy Headteacher, expressed his pride in the Year 11 Mathematic students for consistently surpassing national outcomes and commended their dedication throughout their time at Icknield High School. He highlighted the overwhelming proportion of students achieving the highest grades in Mathematics and emphasised the positive impact this will have on their future endeavours.

We extend our congratulations to all the students for their outstanding achievements and wish them continued success in their academic and professional pursuits.

Book Fair

On Thursday 2nd November, our Head Boy Oliver, opened the Book Fair which was being held in the Learning Resource Centre.

The week long event had a wide range of books for sale, and was highly popular with both students and staff.

The event raised a total of £321.11, and resulted in a reward of £80.28 for the school library. Alongside other rewards, this meant we had a total of £260.70 to spend on books for the school.

Many thanks to all the students and staff that helped out with this event.







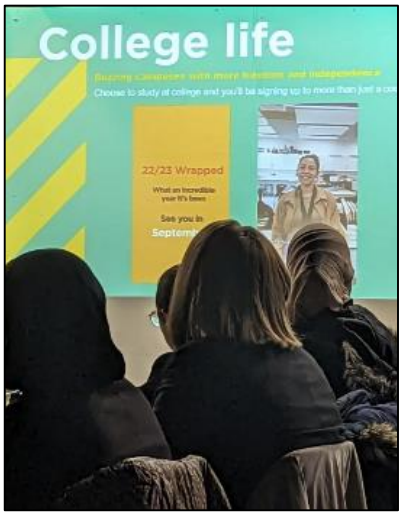


Post-16 Pathways at Barnfield

Our Year 11 SEND students & parents were invited to attend a presentation by Barnfield, where they learnt about all the exciting post-16 pathways offered, and heard from an inspiring former Barnfield student about her journey from high school to work.







Luton Post-16 Prospectus

The Luton Careers Hub have launched the 'Luton Post-16 Prospectus', an interactive guide with plenty of useful information and advice on your next steps after high school.

Please scan the code or visit the link to make use of this fantastic new tool!

http://www.luton.gov.uk/Post16

Year 7 Careers Networking Event



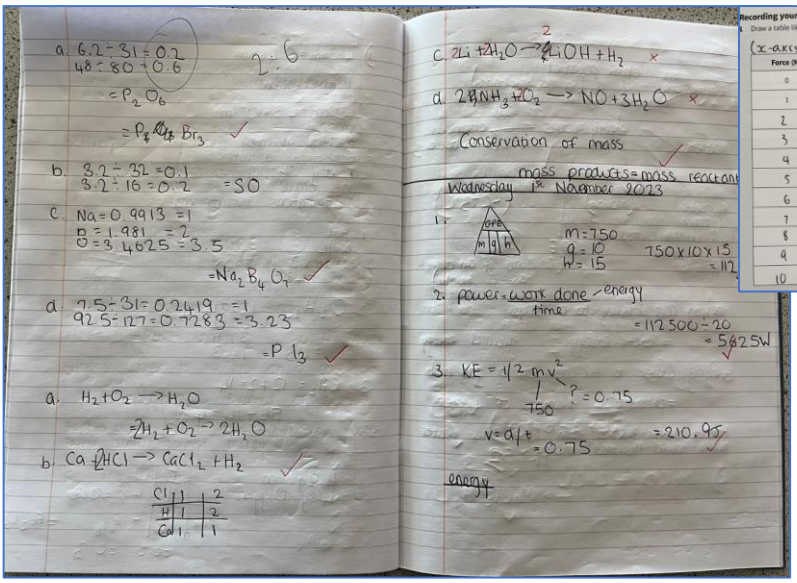
Thank you to all the volunteers who attended our October careers networking event. Our Year 7s had the chance to meet a variety of inspirational role models and learnt some valuable lessons about jobs and the future.

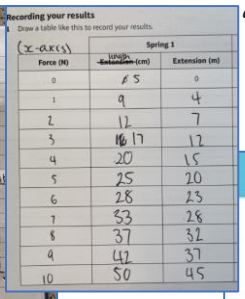




Year 11 Science

In recent lessons students have completed challenging activities on balancing equations, and completed their core practical's on 'Investigating Springs'.

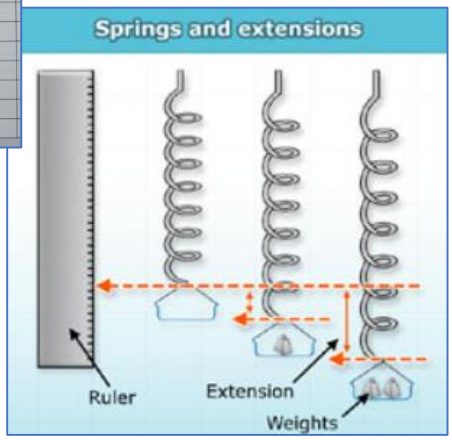




Recording your results

Draw a table like this to record your results.

(x-axis)	Spring 1	
Force (N)	Length (cm) / Extension (cm)	Extension (m)
0	5	0
1	9	4
2	12	7
3	16 17	12
4	20	15
5	25	20
6	28	23
7	33	28
8	37	32
9	42	37
10	50	45

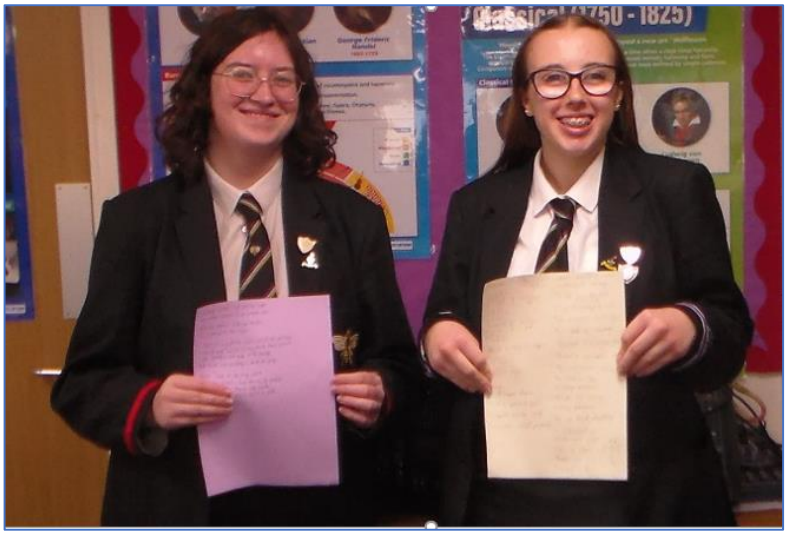


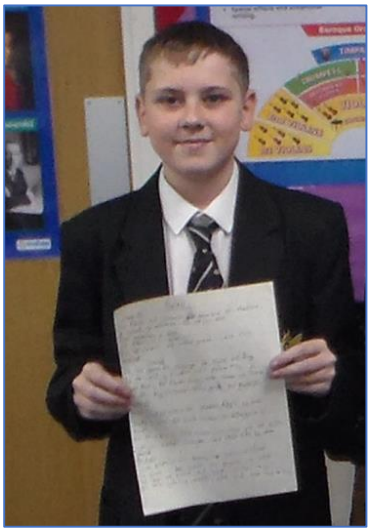
Song Writing Workshop



On 2nd October the Music Department hosted a Song Writing Workshop for students in Years 9 & 11. It was led by Lex Gibbons (pictured), a singer/songwriter who has released a number of her own songs, which you can find on YouTube. Following her insightful explanations of how to write a song and use rhyming schemes effectively, students began writing about their experiences. By the end of the day, the group had written about 'sitting on the sofa' and 'scrolling through their phones', 'GCSEs, I need to achieve', and most notably a boys group wrote about video gaming called 'Pixles'. Mrs Brooks wrote about her latest homework excuse 'And now it's all wet' whilst Mr Beaumont from the Maths Department popped in and wrote a song called 'Equations in Life'. Some of the song lyrics will be on display in the Music Department. Students even had a go at composing a melody to a set of chords creating a strong performance.

Mrs Brooks would like to a say a huge thanks to the following students for their participation: Iman B, Sophie H, Arisha A, Nicholas HT, Ayan M, Rehan I, Ethan B, Nicola D, Lilly C and Ridwaan A with further contributions from Kyla G, Taseenah, Joel H and Kai C.





Support for students who speak English as an Additional Language



If your child speaks English as an additional language (English isn't their first language), do take a look at our guide about how you can support your child at home. These are available in the following languages:

- English
- Urdu
- Bengali
- Romanian

If you need this translated into another language, please do let us know.

EAL Celebration

Did you know…?

- We have 977 EAL students
- Our students come from 18 countries
- Our students speak 35 different languages including Arabic, Urdu, Gujarati and African languages such as well as Shona, Luganda and Somali, European languages such as Italian, Ukrainian, Greek and Romanian and Asian languages like Chinese, Vietnamese and many more!

Learning English as an Additional Language Homework Club

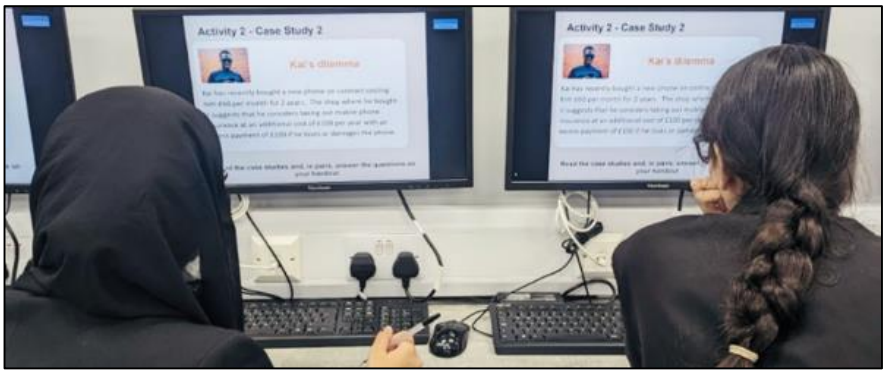


- Get help with homework
- Access a computer
- Practice speaking English
- A quiet place to do some extra study

Every Lunchtime in IT4
1.40-2.10

Business Studies Workshop





Our Year 10 business students recently attended a dynamic personal finance workshop focusing around decision-making and understanding financial risks.

The workshop proved to be a remarkable learning experience as students delved into the reasons behind financial risk-taking, gaining valuable insights into the world of personal finance. They explored various types of financial risks, learning how to assess their levels of risk. Equipped with this knowledge, our students are now equipped to make informed choices aligned with their risk tolerance and financial goals.

Furthermore, the workshop shed light on invaluable strategies such as insurance, empowering our students to protect themselves against financial risks and navigate the unpredictable landscape of personal finance more confidently.

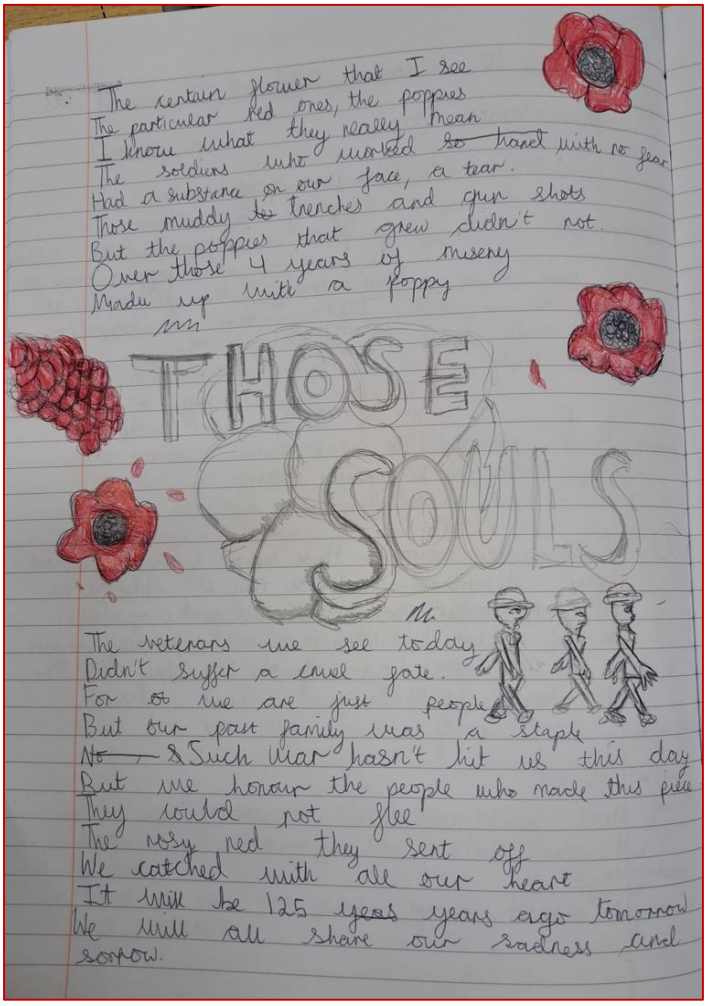
We were truly impressed by the active engagement and genuine enthusiasm displayed by our students throughout the workshop. Their thirst for knowledge is truly inspiring!

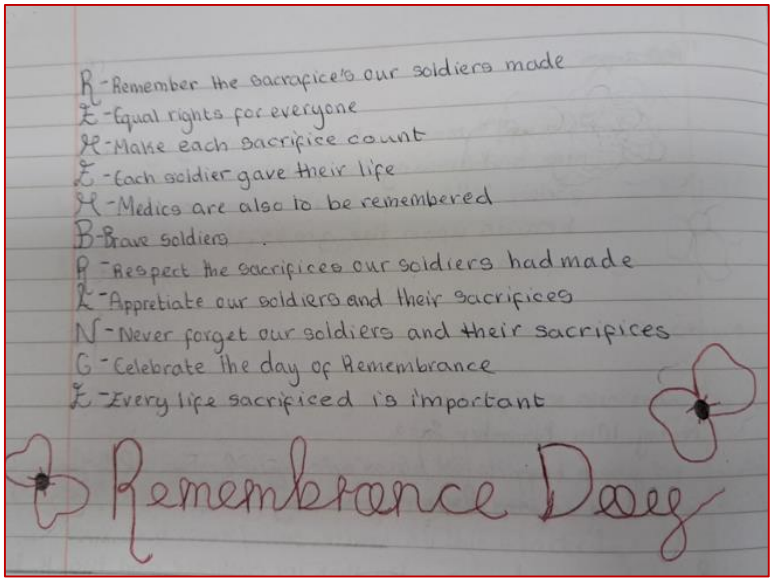


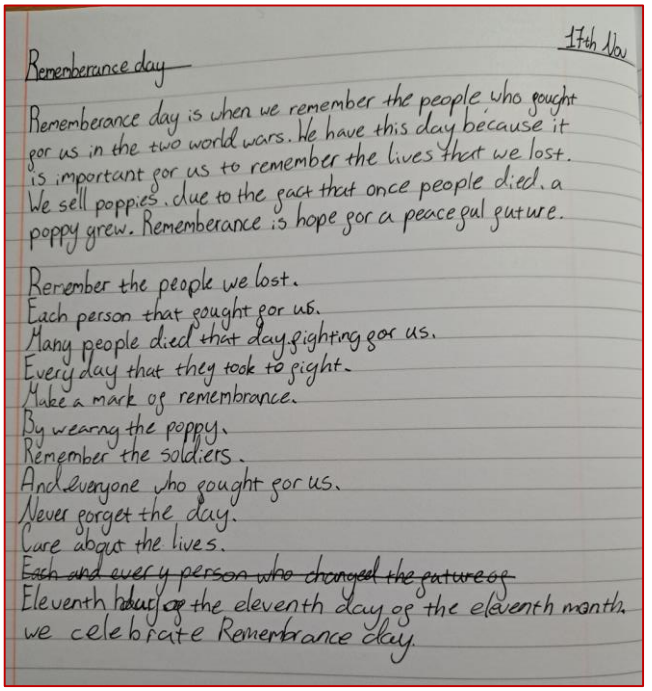
Remembrance Day – Year 7

For Remembrance Day 2023, KS3 students 'marked the moment' in their English lessons. We discussed what Remembrance Day is and why it is important to pause and reflect each year. The lessons were designed to get the students to think about why we remember each year and to explore Remembrance as a hope for a peaceful future. The lessons were linked to what they are currently studying in class.

Year 7 had the opportunity to discuss how and why we remember and different symbols to celebrate Remembrance. This prompted some thoughtful conversations and some brilliant poems, some examples are shown here.

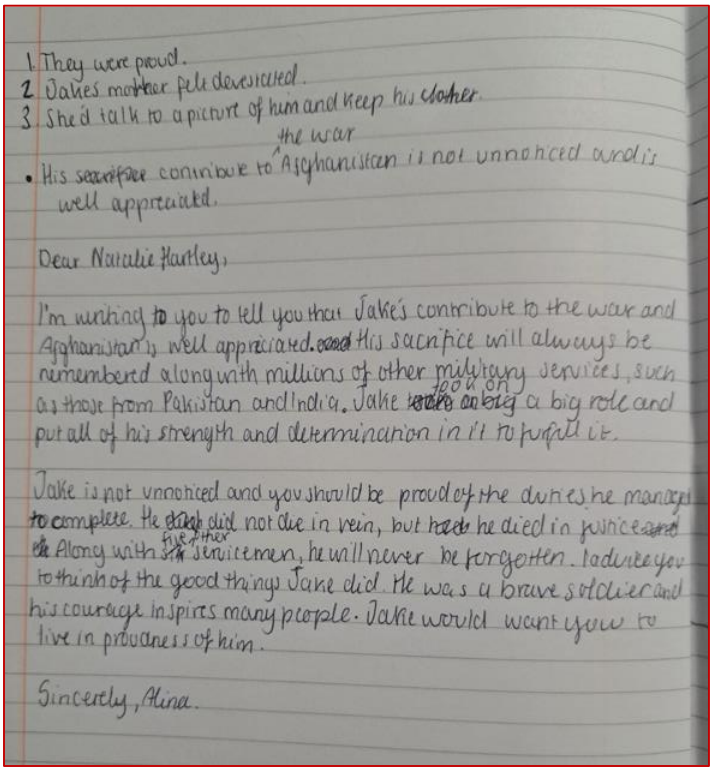






Remembrance Day – Year 8 and 9

Year 8 looked at Dr Watson's experience in Afghanistan in The Adventures of Sherlock Holmes and how it impacted him. In the lesson they engaged with a modern story of a soldier in Afghanistan in 2012 and the impact war had on him and his family. The students had the opportunity to develop empathy as they discussed a range of emotions that families might go through around Remembrance Day.



1. They were proud.
2. Jakes mother felt devestated.
3. She'd talk to a picture of him and keep his clothes.

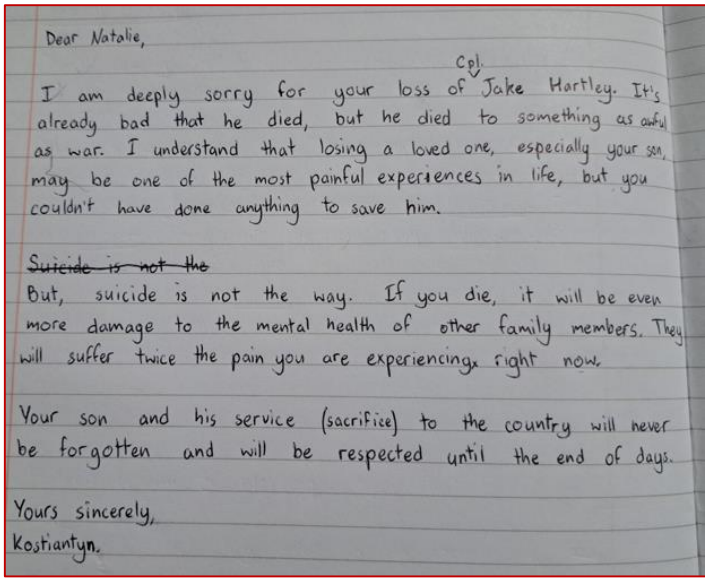
- His sacrifice contribute to the war in Afghanistan is not unnoticed and is well appreciated.

Dear Natalie Hartley,

I'm writing to you to tell you that Jake's contribute to the war and Afghanistan is well appreciated. His sacrifice will always be remembered along with millions of other military services, such as those from Pakistan and India. Jake took on a big role and put all of his strength and determination in it to fulfill it.

Jake is not unnoticed and you should be proud of the duties he managed to complete. He did not die in vein, but he died in justice and along with the other servicemen, he will never be forgotten. I advise you to think of the good things Jake did. He was a brave soldier and his courage inspires many people. Jake would want you to live in proudness of him.

Sincerely, Alina.



Dear Natalie,

Cpl.

I am deeply sorry for your loss of Jake Hartley. It's already bad that he died, but he died to something as awful as war. I understand that losing a loved one, especially your son, may be one of the most painful experiences in life, but you couldn't have done anything to save him.

~~Suicide is not the~~

But, suicide is not the way. If you die, it will be even more damage to the mental health of other family members. They will suffer twice the pain you are experiencing right now.

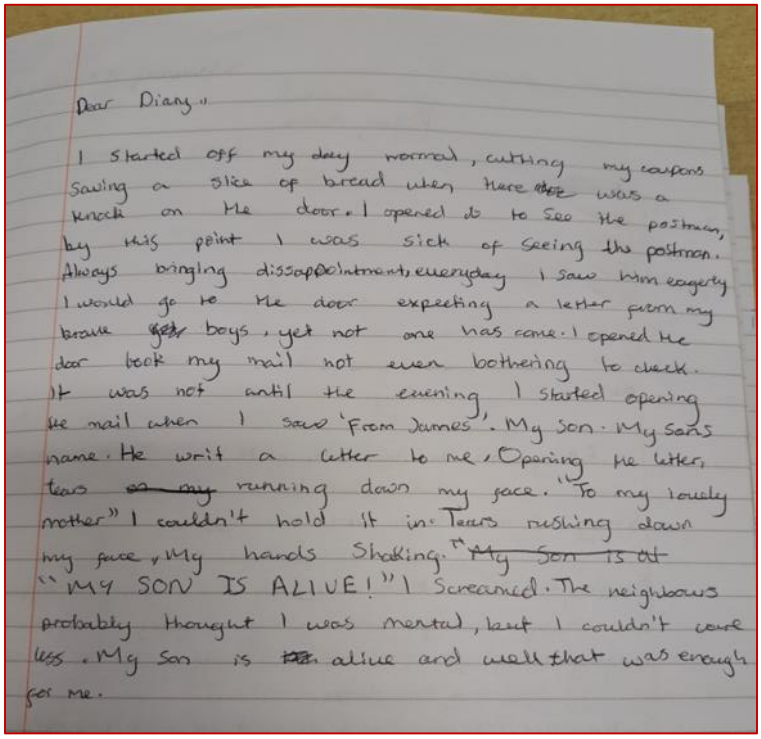
Your son and his service (sacrifice) to the country will never be forgotten and will be respected until the end of days.

Yours sincerely,
Kostiantyn.



Year 9 focussed on letters, as part of the narrative in The Woman in Black is communicated through letters. As a result of Victorian Education Reform, all soldiers in WW1 were literate. This meant that for the first time the common man had a voice. We discussed how this would impact the narrative of the war and how it empowered people. Students were asked to consider what kind of things you might want to say to someone who was going on a journey for a long time. Students sensitively discussed the emotions involved and then wrote their own letters. The students had the opportunity to consider the impact of conflict and the importance of Remembrance Day. Examples of work are shown on the next page.

Remembrance Day – Year 9



Dear Diary,

I started off my day normal, cutting my coupons saving a slice of bread when there was a knock on the door. I opened it to see the postman, by this point I was sick of seeing the postman. Always bringing disappointment, everyday I saw him eagerly I would go to the door expecting a letter from my brave boys, yet not one has come. I opened the door took my mail not even bothering to check. It was not until the evening I started opening the mail when I saw 'From James'. My son. My sons name. He writ a letter to me, Opening the letter, tears running down my face. 'To my lovely mother" I couldn't hold it in. Tears rushing down my face, My hands Shaking. "My Son is alive" "MY SON IS ALIVE!" I Screamed. The neighbours probably thought I was mental, but I couldn't care less. My son is alive and well that was enough for me.

Anti-Bullying Week



On Thursday 9th November, Alex Holmes, Deputy CEO of The Diana Award, led a series of thought provoking assemblies on Anti-Bullying for students in year 7-10. Following on from this he led an excellent workshop with our Anti-Bullying Ambassadors.

This was then followed by 'Odd Socks Day' on Monday 13th November, when students were encouraged to wear odd socks to school, to show their support for our cause against bullying and discrimination.

Sports

Physical Education

Reward trip

The PE department ran a reward trip for 45 students to watch Tottenham v Chelsea at the Tottenham Hotspur Stadium on Monday 6th November. The students had a fantastic time and thoroughly enjoyed the 4 - 1 thriller.





Year 9 girls Basketball

The girls have been brilliant so far this season. They won against a very difficult Chiltern Academy team and narrowly lost to a Talented Cardinal Newman team.





Sports

Year 7 and 8 girls and boys indoor athletics competition

25 students attended the annual indoor athletics competition. The students did really well, especially the year 8 girls who walked away with bronze medals.

ICKNIELD HIGH SCHOOL

Physical Education





Year 8 girls and boys table tennis

The year 8 girls and boys qualified for the county table tennis competition which was held on Friday 10th November. Overall the girls finished 5th and the boys finished 6th.

Sports

Year 7 boys Basketball

The year 7 boys basketball team have completed their season. They have enjoyed participating against lots of Luton schools and are already looking forward to playing basketball in year 8.



Year 7 girls Netball

The year 7 girls won their first match against Challney girls.



ICKNIELD HIGH SCHOOL
Physical Education

Congratulations to all!