ICKNIELD HIGH SCHOOL

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NEWSLETTER

October Edition 2025

Welcome to the first edition of our school newsletter for this academic year.

I am delighted to report that our students once again demonstrated exceptional dedication and achievement in their recent GCSE examinations, attaining record-breaking results. This is a testament to their hard work, resilience, and the unwavering support from our staff and families.

We are immensely proud of our Ex-Yellow Ties and extend our heartfelt congratulations to each of them. As they embark on the next chapter of their educational journey, we wish them every success and happiness.

In this edition, you'll find important dates, updates, and guidance designed to support both you and your child throughout the term. I encourage you to take a few moments to read through the contents carefully.

Please also keep an eye out for the **Year Group Newsletter**, sent by your child's Head of Year every week. It includes important updates about what your son or daughter's year group has been doing, as well as key reminders, upcoming events, and curriculum highlights. Reading these newsletters is a great way to stay connected with your child's school life.



Mr K Ahmed

Headteacher

Key Dates

3rd November- Back to school

5th November -Book Fair begins LRC

10th November -Yr 11 Trial Exams begins

26th November- Tutor Evening 4pm-7pm

1st December - Yr 8 and Yr 9 Assessment week

8th December-Yr 7 and Yr 10 Assessment week

19th December-Talent Show

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info@icknield.beds.sch.uk

Celebration

Raising the achievement of all

Icknield High School is proud to celebrate another year of exceptional academic achievement, as our students have delivered a record-breaking set of GCSE results. This year, an impressive 74% of our students secured Grade 4 or higher in both English and Maths, demonstrating a solid grasp of these core subjects. Even more notably, 57% of students achieved Grade 5 and above, reflecting a high level of academic excellence and commitment. These results not only surpass national averages but also highlight the strength of our teaching, the dedication of our staff, and the resilience of our students.

Measure	2025 Outcomes
Attainment 8	5.0
Achieving 5 GCSEs including English and Maths at grade 4+	67%
Achieving 5 GCSEs including English and Maths at grade 5+	49%
% Grade 4+ in English and Mathematics	74%
% Grade 5+ in English and Mathematics	57%
% Grade 7+ in English and Mathematics	20%

Such outstanding outcomes pave the way for our learners to confidently pursue their chosen post-16 pathways, whether that be A-levels, vocational qualifications, or apprenticeships.

The doors are wide open for them to take the next step in their educational journey, equipped with the skills and knowledge they need to thrive.

On behalf of the entire school community, I extend heartfelt congratulations to all our students. Your hard work, determination, and perseverance have truly paid off, and we are incredibly proud of each and every one of you. These results are a testament to your character and the support you've received from your families and teachers. As you move forward into the next exciting chapter of your lives, we wish you continued success and happiness. Keep striving, keep believing, and keep achieving.

Celebrating Excellence: Outstanding Individual Achievements

There were some fantastic individual achievements and the highest performers are listed below, all securing an average grade of 7 and above, across all subjects:

Ruhama C	Aysha C	Ali K	Muazzin R
Grace H	Meriam A	Haleemah S	Sofia K
Syed A	Rayyan H	Harrison I	Ben M
Zakariya F	Shifa M	Faizan M	Naima M
Anarthiha K	Namanpreet S	Hafsah H	Suliman K
Aryan C	Amaan M	Foziya I	Ihsan A
Leonardo G	Atiyah H	Halima U	Aarash A
Manha U	Hope N	Hifza R	Anaiya Y
Ayan A	Saffiya R	Yusuf I	Ayaan M
Ayesha T	Chas A	Hasan A	Sana M
Sulaiman J			

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Celebration

Strong Start to the Season: Team Spirit Shines

U16 Girls Basketball Team Start Season with a Bang!



The U16 girls stormed into the season with a fantastic win against Cardinal Newman team. Their teamwork, energy, and skill lit up the court in a brilliant all-round performance!

Year 9 Boys Clinch Victory in a Thriller Against Stopsley



In a nail-biting basketball match, the Year 9 boys showed incredible determination and flair to edge past Stopsley High School. Their grit and talent were on full display as they secured a hard-fought win!

Year 7 Boys Make a Bold Rugby Debut



The Year 7 boys took to the rugby pitch for the first time and embraced the challenge with enthusiasm and courage. Despite a loss to Denbigh, the match was packed with powerful tackles and standout moments—an exciting start to their rugby journey!

U16 Boys Battle to a Thrilling Draw Against Challney

The team were in action against Challney Boys. Despite trailing 40-28 with only a few minutes to go in the final quarter, the boys produced an amazing comeback to finish the match all square at 40-40. With two minutes of overtime, both teams still couldn't be separated and the match finished all square at 48-48. MVP goes to Shrey for his tireless work throughout the match from an attacking and defensive perspective.



U16 Girls Hold Their Nerve in Basketball Nail-Biter!

The girls were also involved in a thriller against Chiltern Academy. Both teams displayed an excellent standard of basketball and the game was in the balance all the way through, with the final result being 20-20. If the girls win their last match, they will be through to the finals! Well done girls



Celebration

Year 6 Open Day: A Celebration of Community and Excellence

Icknield High School opened its doors to Year 6 pupils and their families for a vibrant and inspiring Open Day that left a lasting impression on all who attended. The atmosphere was filled with excitement and positivity as parents explored the school's dynamic learning



environment and met the passionate staff behind its success. Visitors were welcomed with warmth and enthusiasm, and many commented on the friendly vibe they felt from the moment they arrived.



Departments across the school showcased the very best of what Icknield has to offer—from engaging science experiments and creative art displays to interactive language sessions and energetic sports demonstrations.



Parents expressed their admiration for the school's commitment to excellence and student wellbeing. The event not only highlighted academic achievements but also celebrated the inclusive and supportive culture that defines Icknield High School.

Throughout the day, we received wonderful feedback from parents who attended. Here are just a few of the comments shared:

"….culture of High Expectations"

"Schools atmosphere felt welcoming"

" A nice family/community feel, everyone is friendly"

"Im glad we are chosing Icknield"

"Really warm and welcoming school"

We look forward to seeing many parents and students again as part of our school family, next year.



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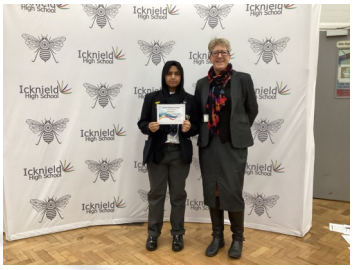
Celebration

Celebrating Excellence: Year Group Breakfast for Top Tutees

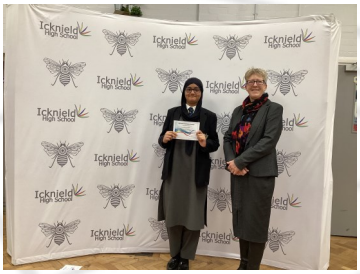
This term, we proudly hosted a special Year Group Celebration Breakfast to honour the top three tutees from each tutor group. These students were recognised for achieving the highest number of '5s'—a reflection of their outstanding effort, behaviour, and commitment to learning.

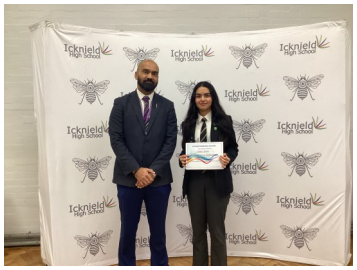
The breakfast provided a warm and joyful atmosphere where students and parents could celebrate their achievements with peers and staff. Heads of Years shared words of praise, and students were congratulated for setting a positive example within their groups.

This event not only celebrated individual success but also reinforced the values of hard work, consistency, and pride in personal progress. We look forward to continuing this tradition and inspiring even more students to strive for excellence.









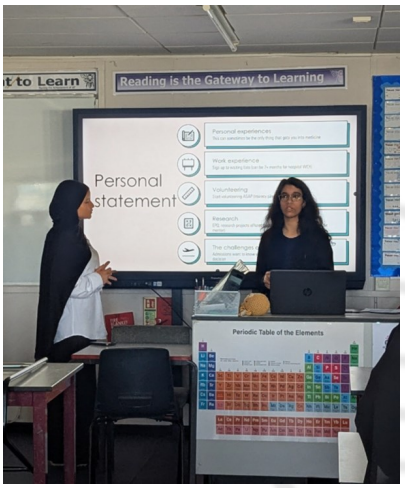




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Aspiration

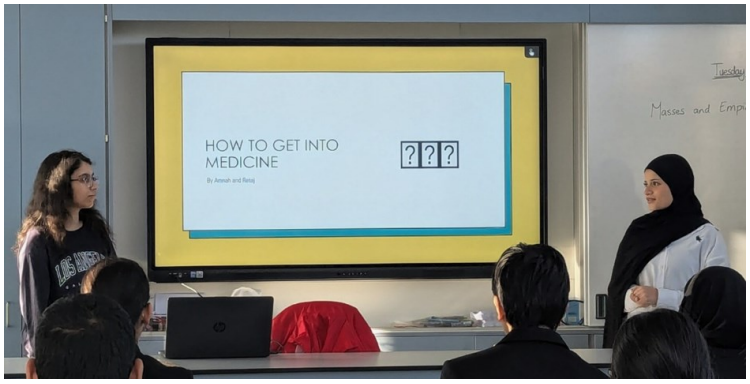
Get into Medicine Alumni Talk



This September we welcomed back two of our former Red Tie students, Amnah and Retaj who have recently been accepted into medical school. They delivered a fantastic presentation to our Year 11 triple scientists, sharing their experiences and tips on the preparation and application process. It was an inspiring talk which allowed our Year 11s to engage with brilliant role models and encouraged them to reflect on their own aspirations. Wishing Amnah and Retaj the best as they embark on their medical school journey!

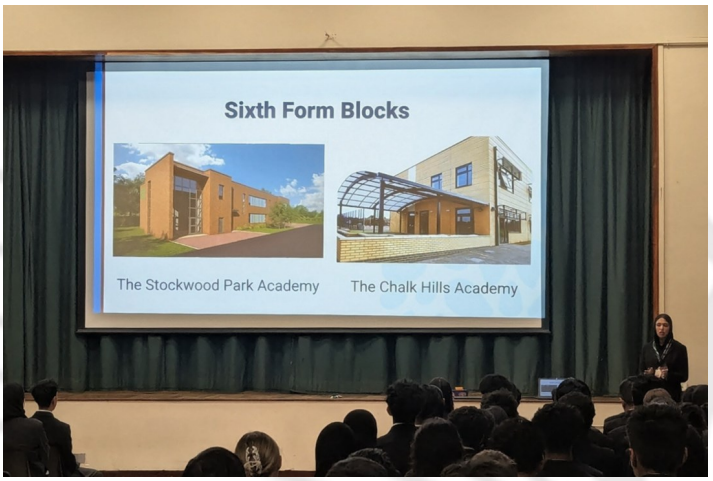
Year 11 Post-16 Assembly with Advantage Schools

To support our Year 11 students with making their post -16 decisions, we have invited a variety of local sixth forms and colleges to deliver assemblies. Students will have the chance to hear about their offer, understand the types of courses available and get an insight into



what post-16 life might be like.

Advantage Schools delivered a talk, helping us kick start the assemblies.



Careers Appointments: Supporting Year 11 Futures

This term, our Year 11 students have been actively engaging in one-to-one careers appointments designed to support their next steps after GCSEs. These personalised sessions offer students the opportunity to explore a wide range of post-16 options, including sixth form, college, apprenticeships, and vocational path-ways.

Each appointment is tailored to the individual, helping students reflect on their strengths, interests, and aspirations. They receive guidance on applications, course choices, and career planning, empowering them to make informed decisions about their future. Thank You , Ms Lam for organising it.

The feedback has been overwhelmingly positive, with students appreciating the chance to ask questions and gain clarity on their options. These sessions are a vital part of our commitment to preparing students for life beyond school.

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Aspiration

Learning Through Exploration: Year 11 Geography Trip

On Wednesday 1st and Thursday 2nd October we took our Silver Tie Geography students out around Luton to complete the urban fieldwork element for the GCSE exam. The students were investigating how the quality of life can vary across different parts of the town. We visited Bury Park and Bramingham and the students had to complete a traffic count and Environmental Quality Index and a questionnaire. The Silver Ties were a credit to themselves and represented the school fantastically and despite a short trip, a good time was had by all'.









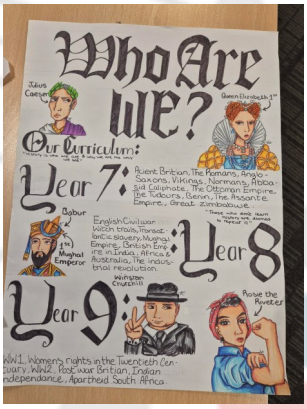
History Comes Alive: Students Shine in 'Who Are We?' Poster Competition

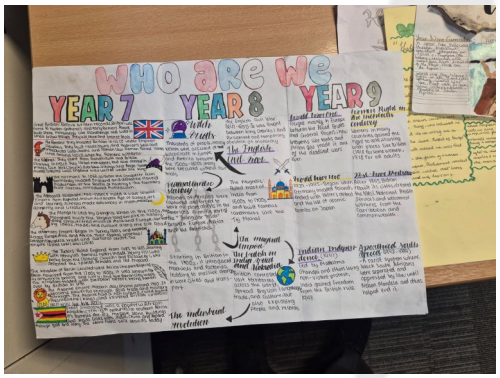
This term History held a competition inviting students to explore the theme *"Who are we?"* through creative poster design — and the response was nothing short of fantastic. The brief encouraged students to reflect on identity, heritage, and the curriculum in visually engaging ways, and they certainly delivered!

We received a wide range of colourful and imaginative entries, each showcasing thoughtful interpretation and artistic flair. After much deliberation, we're proud to announce our three winners: **Hassan** (Year 8), **Maliha** (Year 8), **Aroush** (Year 7)



I





It was an incredibly tough decision, and we extend a massive thank you to all students who took part.

Well done to everyone involved!

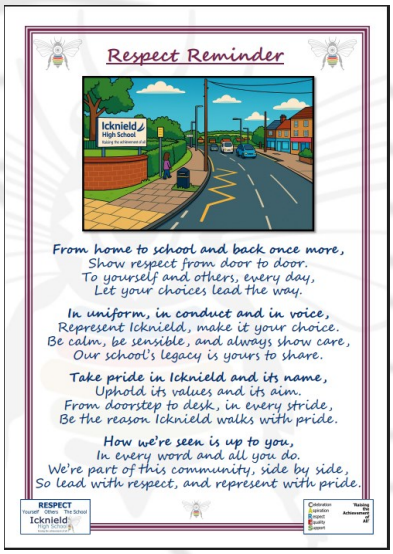
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Respect

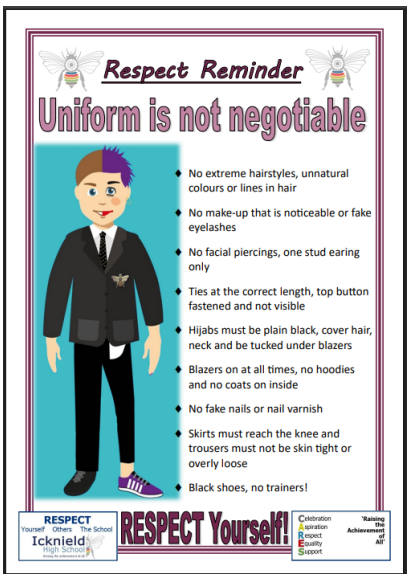
Respect Reminders from Mr Chopra

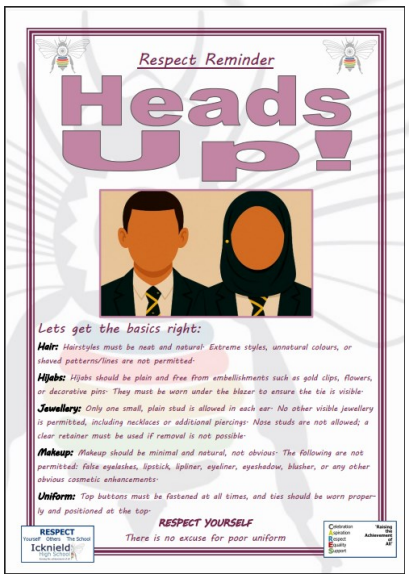
At Icknield High School, we believe that respect is the foundation of a thriving school community. Each week, Mr Chopra, our Assistant Headteacher, shares important respect reminders to help reinforce positive behaviour and mutual understanding among students. We encourage all parents to discuss these reminders with their children. .













Equality

Chai, Chaat & Charity: Staff Unite for Macmillan Fundraiser

Icknield High School staff came together during lunch for a heartwarming *Chai and Chaat* fundraiser in support of Macmillan Cancer Support. The event provided an opportunity for colleagues to enjoy a well-earned break over warm chai and delicious snacks, all while contributing to a meaningful cause.



The initiative was organised by **Mrs N Islam**, Assistant Curriculum Leader for Mathematics, whose dedication and planning ensured the event's success. Special thanks go to the Learning Support Assistants and the SEND department for their generous donations, which were instrumental in making the event possible. Recognition is also extended to **Ms Ahmed** for her support on the day.



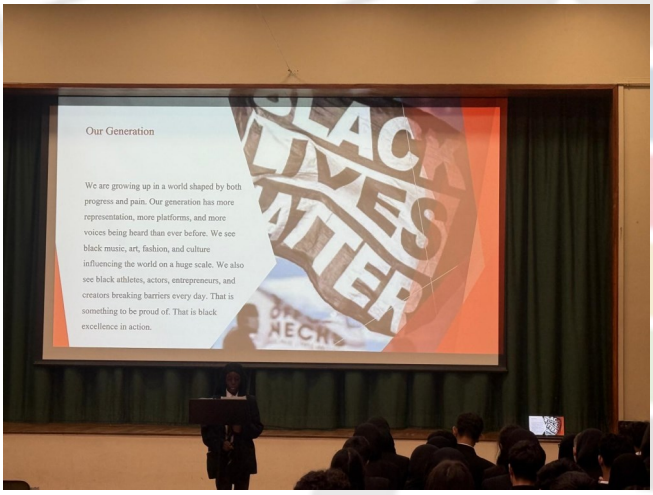
Macmillan Cancer Support is one of the UK's leading charities, providing emotional, practical, and financial assistance to people living with cancer.

Thanks to the collective efforts and kindness of all involved, the fundraiser raised over **£275** to help Macmillan continue its vital work supporting individuals and families affected by cancer. The school extends its sincere gratitude to Mrs Islam and everyone who contributed to this event. .

Student-Led Black History Month Assemblies: Inspiring Messages of Equality and Unity

This October, students at Icknield High School took the lead in delivering powerful assemblies to mark Black History Month. The assemblies not only educated but also inspired, reminding everyone that change begins with awareness and action. By amplifying student voices, the school reinforced its dedication to nurturing empathy, respect, and unity among all.





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Support

Safeguarding



Mr King-Mand
Designated Safeguarding Lead (DSL)

Here at Icknield we are committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of all students. Staff have a duty to safeguard students from:

- physical abuse
- sexual abuse
- emotional abuse
- neglect



Mr Chopra
Deputy DSL (DDSL)

The duty to safeguard students includes the duty to report concerns about a student to the school's Designated Safeguarding Lead (DSL) or Deputy DSL (DDSL).

'Safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children is defined as: protecting children from maltreatment; preventing impairment of children's health or development; ensuring that children grow up in circumstances consistent with the provision of safe and effective care; and taking action to enable all children to have the best outcomes'.

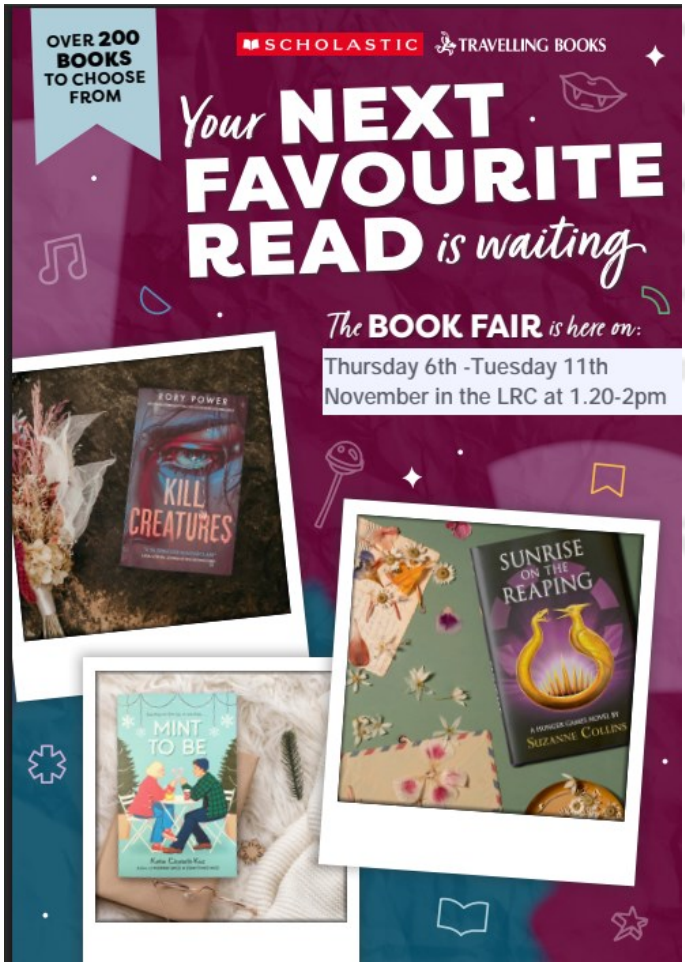
As a school we have ensured we are compliant with all the legislative and statutory government policies.

If you have a concern about a child please contact us here.
safeguarding@icknield.beds.sch.uk
01582576561
For direct social care referrals please contact MASH
01582547653
For the police contact 101

Support

Icknield High School Book Fair 2025

The LRC will be hosting their Annual book Fair event in collaboration with Scholastic from Thursday 6th through to **Tuesday 11th November for 4 days**.



This will be held in the LRC during the lunch time period 1.20-2pm.

This event is **cash only**, and we will have a large range of new books on sale for both staff and students to browse.

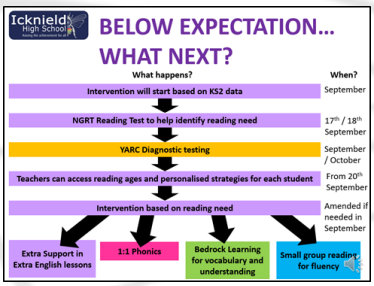
We look forward to seeing you all in the LRC

Year 7 Literacy Morning

On Wednesday 24th September, we held a Literacy Morning for Year 7 parents whose children were reading below expectation based on the Key Stage 2 reading test.

At the information morning we shared information about:

- What we are doing as a school to support reading across the curriculum.
- What intervention we offer for students needing support with reading.
- What parents can do to support reading at home.









Please **click here** to access a presentation of the information shared with parents.

If you do have concerns about your child's reading or literacy , please do contact Miss Dorban: sdorban@Icknield.beds.sch.uk

If you have specific queries about Sparx Reader, please contact
Mrs Philips Riley: KPhillipsRiley@icknield.beds.sch.uk

Support

A series of useful workshops from CHUMs - Sleep, Self-Esteem, Exam Stress, Behaviour

CHUMs' online workshops are designed as a starting point for families with children who have low-level difficulties. These are one-off 2hr sessions conducted via Microsoft Teams.

To register, please complete the standard referral form and in the 'Any other relevant information' section, state that the referral is for a workshop and include the workshop date.

SLEEP WORKSHOPS

TEEN SLEEP
12/11/25 @ 4PM - 6PM
(For young people aged 13+ years, parents also welcome to attend)
One off workshop - explores why sleep is important, what is 'good' sleep, sleep hygiene tips and strategies for managing worries at night.

PARENT SLEEP
17/11/25 @ 9:30AM - 11:30AM
(For parents of young people aged 4-12 years old)
One-off workshop which focuses on why sleep is important, what is 'good' sleep, possible causes of sleep difficulties and learning strategies to overcome sleep problems.

BEHAVIOUR WORKSHOPS
29/9/25 @ 9:30AM - 11:30AM
2/10/25 @ 1PM - 3PM
(For parents of young people aged 5-11 years old)
A one-off workshop that covers the following topics: Emotional development in children, emotional regulation, common behaviour difficulties and strategies to promote positive behaviours.

PARENT ANXIETY WORKSHOPS
22/10/25 @ 9:30AM - 11:30AM
10/11/25 @ 1PM -3PM
(For parents of young people aged 5 - 11 years old)
One-off workshop exploring emotional development in children, emotional regulation, psychoeducation around anxiety and anxiety management strategies.

SELF ESTEEM WORKSHOPS

TEENAGE SELF-ESTEEM
12/1/26 @ 4PM - 6PM
(For young people aged 13+, parents also welcome to attend)
One off workshop which equips teenagers with an understanding of self-esteem and tools to build confidence through thought challenging, relaxation and activities to celebrate strengths and successes. Workshop also offers parental tips for building self-esteem in adolescence.

PARENT SELF-ESTEEM
21/1/26 @ 9.30AM-11.30AM
(For parents of children aged 5 - 12 years old)
One off workshop which equips parents with an understanding of self-esteem and ways to promote high self-esteem through parenting style and collaborative activities to try at home with their young person.

EXAM STRESS WORKSHOPS
9/12/25 @ 4PM - 6PM
4/12/25 @ 4PM - 6PM
(For young people aged 12+ and parents)
One off workshop which equips teenagers with an understanding of exam stress, strategies for managing exam stress, revision tips and self-care. The workshop also offers parental tips for supporting their adolescent's exam stress.

MENTAL HEALTH AND STIGMA WORKSHOPS
12/2/26 @ 4PM - 6PM
(For young people aged 12+, parents also welcome to attend)
One off workshop for young people focusing on mental health awareness and stigma. Follows a range of topics including puberty, male mental health, LGBTQ+, ethnicity and social media.

To register for any of our workshops, please fill in the standard referral form in the 'Any other relevant information' section, state that the referral is for a workshop and include the workshop date.

https://chums.uk.com/emotional-wellbeing-service/#workshops

Empowering Success: Year 11 Study Skills Workshop

Selected Year 11 students recently took part in a focused Study Skills Workshop designed to equip them with practical strategies for exam preparation and independent learning. With GCSEs on the horizon, the session aimed to boost confidence and build effective habits that support academic success.



Led by experienced facilitators, the workshop covered key areas such as time management, revision techniques, stress management, and goal setting. Students engaged in interactive activities and discussions, gaining valuable insights into how to structure their study time and maintain motivation.

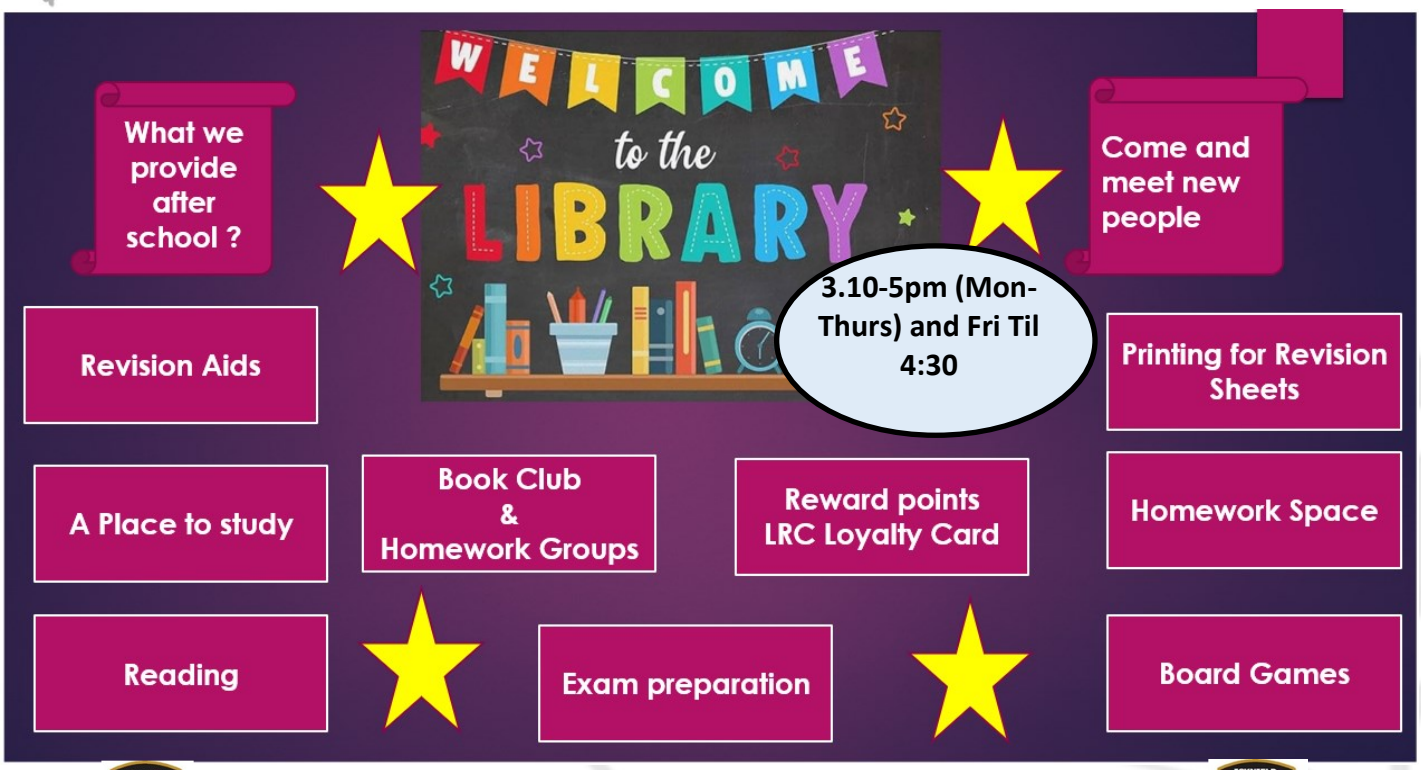
The atmosphere was positive and purposeful, with students leaving the session feeling more prepared and empowered to take control of their learning journey.

This workshop marks an important step in supporting Year 11 students to achieve their full potential.



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Support



PE - Extra Curricular Clubs - Autumn 2025

	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
Before School 7:30 – 8:10		**BASKETBALL** **BOYS** **Year 10/11** North Gym BSR	**BASKETBALL** **ALL GIRLS** North Gym CMT/LDE		
Lunchtime 13:30 – 14:00 **Courts open to year 8, 9, 10 & 11 Trainers needed**	**BASKETBALL** **BOYS** **Year 8** North Gym LWY	**BASKETBALL** **BOYS** **Year 9** North Gym CMK	**TRAMPOLINING** **Year 8/9** North Hall LDE	**BASKETBALL** **BOYS** **Year 7** North Gym AHE	
After School 3:15 – 4:15		**TRAMPOLINING** **Year 10/11** North Hall NYL	**NETBALL** **ALL GIRLS** Outside changing CMT/LDE **RUGBY** **ALL BOYS** Outside changing BSR/AHE/LWY/CMK	**TABLE TENNIS** **ALL YEARS** PA2 LDE/CMK/LWY	