

Dear Families,

Welcome to Ibstock Insights, an opportunity to celebrate the successes of our students this half term, and to keep you informed of the activities taking place alongside the teaching of the curriculum.

It was great to see our students paying forward the money the school received for completing a survey last week. They decided that buying Easter eggs for the community and delivering them as random acts of kindness would be a great community event. Thank you to those of you who received the chocolate surprise for your messages of thanks. I am sure that this won't be the only delivery before the end of the academic year!

The Ofsted inspectorate visited our school during the last week of the term; the report will be published following the Easter holidays. Inspectors spoke with many students during the two days, as well as considering the parent surveys and observing lessons, assemblies and student conduct around the building, and in unstructured times of the day. They also discussed the progress of the school with governors and trustees. Thank you to all involved.

I am pleased to announce our new Year 7 intake is now confirmed, with the year group having all its places filled with a growing waiting list. We will be looking for current Year 7 students to support us with the transition events, and so please discuss with your child the importance of getting involved in the opportunities offered to them.

This half term I will be reviewing and considering next steps in how we utilise technology more effectively in our classrooms. Many parents have invested in the iPad scheme, which is having mixed success in effectively supporting teaching and learning. We need to have an improved strategy in place to enable expensive devices to be used, while ensuring that all students can access a device. Please look out for a survey during the first week back to enable me to gather your feedback to support me with this. Further information will then be given with a way forward during the last half term of the academic year.

Congratulations to our Year 11 students who have been finalising the course work elements of their GCSEs. I was amazed with the level of dedication and the quality of the work produced. It has also been impressive to see the engagement at our Easter School revision sessions this week, students are really embracing the opportunities on offer to support them. The next few weeks will be key; daily attendance is expected for the final preparation before the exams, revision lessons are planned and prepped, and experience shows us that those students who maintain routine and attendance to lessons feel better prepared and have high levels of stamina for the exam series.

Often, the end of term means some sad farewells to our valued colleagues, Rachael Rhodes, Soledad Rojas and Emily Woolnough are all off on new adventures and we wish them well in their new schools, or boat! Paula Fray from our administration team is also leaving us and we also wish her well in her new role.

The final term of the year is always busy, please look out for ways in which you can be involved, we always appreciate your feedback and value your time and energy to support the school.

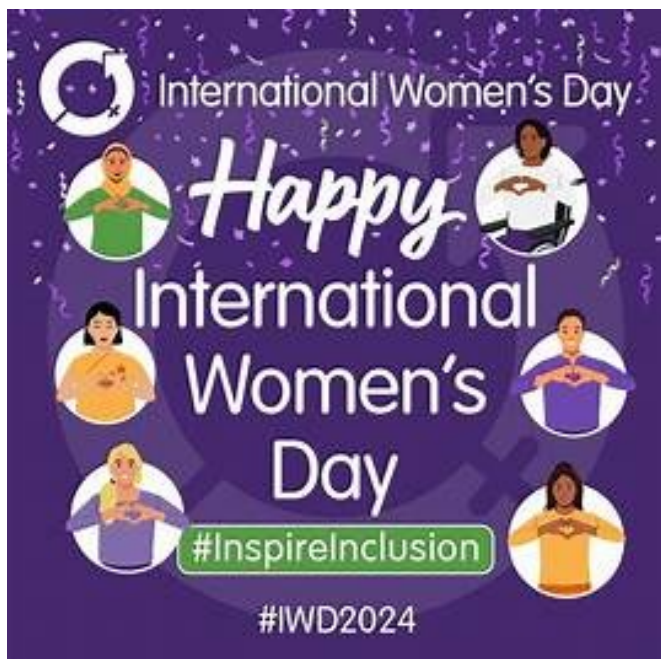
Have an enjoyable Easter break!

Mrs Koncarevic, Headteacher



IWD Celebrations

Week beginning 3rd March, we had the pleasure of celebrating International Women's Day (IWD) and Women's History Month in school.



We had fantastic assemblies and student voice where we explored some really inspirational women! This was topped off with a series of events on Friday 7th March to commemorate the day.

Our students had the opportunity to meet inspirational women from the local community and discuss how they have overcome barriers in order to work in traditionally male-dominated work sectors. Their careers ranged from firefighting, to



working in the army, to working in medicine and logistics, as well as politics, where our young people heard from local MP Amanda Hack. Elsewhere in school, our students had the opportunity to engage with sessions on misogyny and positive masculinity to provide a truly inclusive International Women's Day programme. Thank-you to Mrs. Goddard for organising.



Opportunity, Understanding, Responsibility

World Book Day

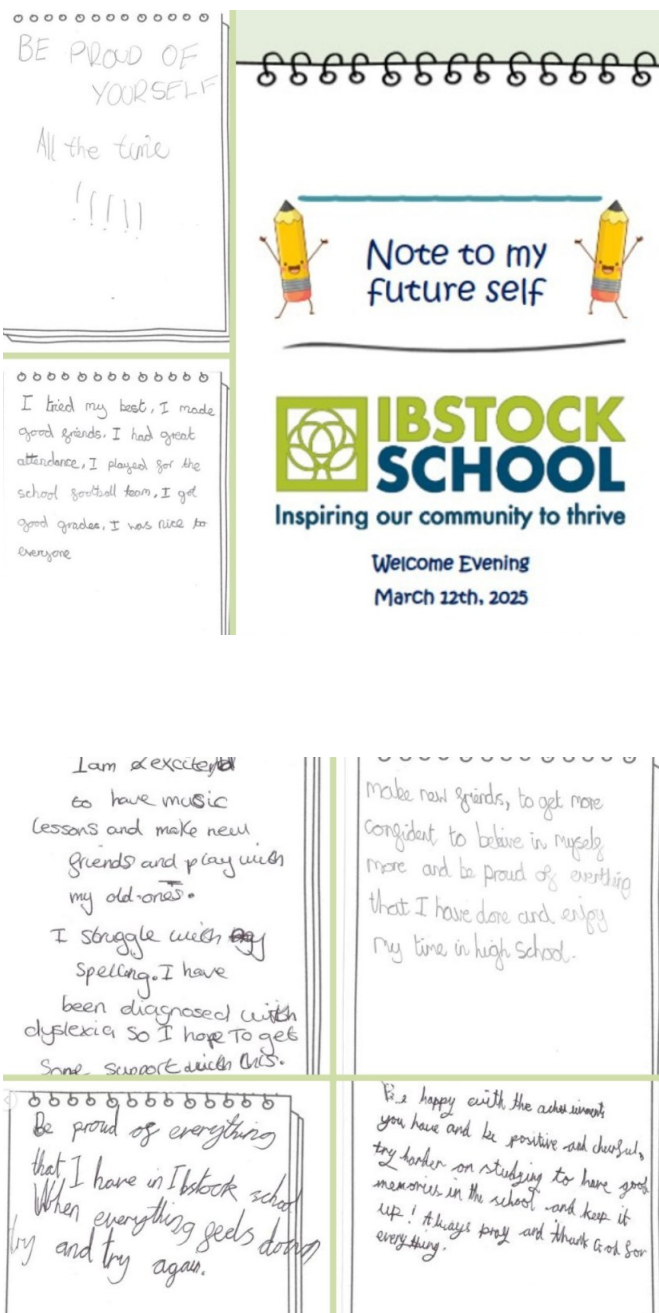
It was World Book Day on Thursday 6 March and staff dressed up as characters from their favourite books. Students had a great time guessing who they were, along with enjoying fun activities. A day full of creativity, imagination, and literary magic!



Welcome Evening

Thank you to all the Year 6 students and their families who attended our Welcome Evening in March! It was wonderful to see everyone engaging, and we loved reading the students notes to their future selves. Check out some of the fantastic responses.

We can't wait to see how their dreams and goals evolve over the next five years.



Easter Cards

Our students have been busy creating Easter cards to hand out to the community along with Easter eggs.

Well done to the following students:

Card 1 - Harry Johnson Y10

Card 2 – Ruben Schornig-Nocher Y10



Pancake Day Fun

Our Year 9 students made the most of Shrove Tuesday with some delicious pancake fun. Who knew learning could taste this good?



Geography Field Trips

This term, we took our Year 7 students out on a Geography Fieldtrip to the High Street to support their understanding of human geography. Students have been learning about Urbanisation in lessons so they got the opportunity to begin to develop their fieldwork skills by completing traffic surveys and surveys of the area. This will be hugely beneficial to our students as they progress in their Geography studies in allowing them to understand how geographers collect, interpret and present findings about the world we live in. A big thank-you to Mrs. Goddard and Mrs. Morrison for organising, as well as all those who supported in ensuring the fieldwork was successful.

Easter Events in Leics.

Stuck for something to do over Easter break? Don't worry, we've got you covered! Take a look at some of the fantastic opportunities on offer over the Easter break:

1. The Old Town Roman Festival in Leicester, 26th-27th April: Brings together St. George's celebrations with Leicester's Roman History- includes dragons, jesters, Roman warrior training and a LIFE-SIZE recreation of Leicester's Roman forum! You can actually get involved in helping to build it and then it will be dramatically destroyed! Workshops take place from 21st – 25th April.
2. Close Encounters at Twycross Zoo, 6th April onwards: Come face-to-face with the world's most endangered spiders and reptiles!
3. Chocolate Workshops in Cocoa Amore, Leicester: Easter workshops available- decorate your own Easter egg, fill with your choice of sweets and use a hot plate to put the egg together!
4. Easter at Twinlakes, 5th- 27th April: Easter-themed games, hunts and live entertainment! Free chocolate egg hunt.
5. Drama Workshop at The Curve, Leicester, 12th April: Fun and free drama workshop called 'The Egg that Stood Out'. You can also build your own Roman Chariot from 12-4pm ready for the Old Town Roman Festival!
6. Easter at Conkers, 11th-27th April: Ticket admission includes immersive ranger activities, creative crafts, amphitheatre shows, a hidden egg hunt plus more!
7. Eco-Explorers at the National Space Centre, 5th- 27th April: Includes: Carbon Quest, making your own biomass satellite and exploring the earth's ecosystems! Free annual pass upgrade!

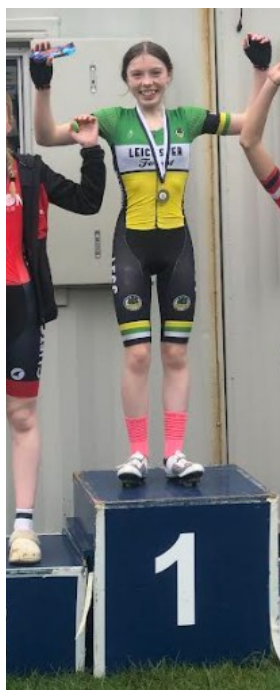
Plus, many places are hosting Easter Egg Hunts, competitions and more!



Year 10 Revision Fest

It was great to see so many Y10s and their families at our revision fest. Resources have now been shared on the school website.





Our student spotlight shines on Year 9 student Harriet H who has been doing exceptionally well in her cycling competitions outside of school.

Harriet H has had a busy few weeks travelling the country competing in National Track races with the best girls in the country. Harriet recently took part in her first Circuit race of the season and came 1st in a strong field.

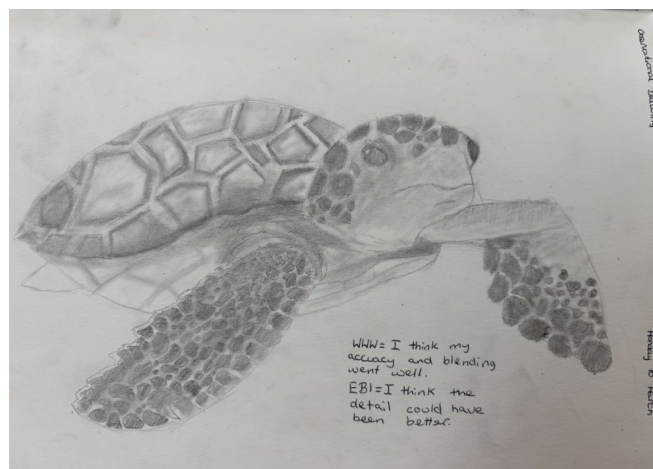
She is now looking forward to taking part in all of the National Circuit Series and National Track Omniums.

If you wish for your child to be considered to be featured in Student Spotlight please email principalspa@ibstockschool.co.uk

ADT

Our talented students have been showing their artistic talents this half term.

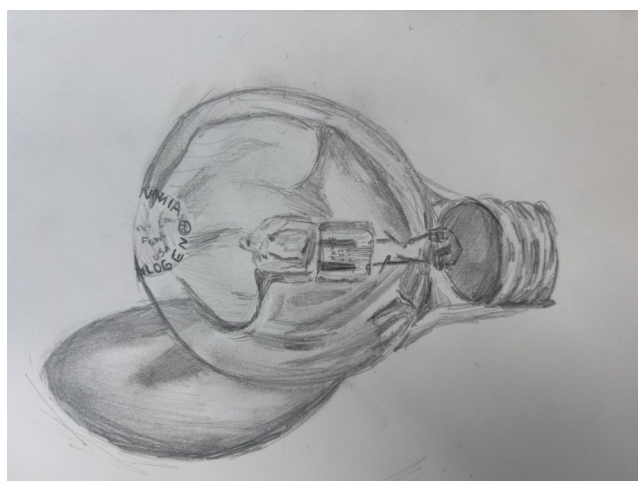
What fabulous work from Isabella in Year 7.



Year 8 have been looking at Starry Night recently. Some fabulous oil pastel pieces underway.



Year 8 assessments have highlighted the amazing drawing skills of our students.



OUR Careers

This term has been incredibly busy and rewarding within OUR Careers, as we continue to equip students with the insights, skills, and experiences needed to navigate their future pathways with confidence.

We are delighted to share some highlights of the fantastic opportunities our students have engaged with:

Year 9 Entrepreneurs Shine in Dragons' Den Challenge

Our Year 9 students embraced their inner



entrepreneurs during an exciting Dragons' Den challenge!

Working collaboratively in their form groups, they were tasked with developing either an

innovative new product or a concept for modern transportation. Each team divided into sub-groups focusing on design, marketing, and finance, mirroring real-world business structures. They then pitched their ideas to a panel of 'Dragons'. Congratulations to the winning teams who impressed the judges with their creativity and planning: one designed innovative underwater headphones, and the other conceptualised a cutting-edge, all-electric campervan. This challenge fostered teamwork, creativity, financial literacy, and presentation skills.

Year 7 Investigate with the British Army Forensics Team

Year 7 stepped into the world of investigation as they became forensic detectives for a day! We were thrilled to welcome representatives from the British Army who delivered an engaging session on army life and the fascinating field of forensics. Students worked in their form groups to analyse clues, learn about investigation processes, and ultimately solve a mock crime scene. This hands-on activity developed critical thinking, problem-solving, and teamwork skills while providing insight into potential careers.

Connecting with Employers and Exploring Pathways (Years 7-10)

Earlier this term, during the week commencing February 10th, students in Years 7 to 10 gained valuable insights directly from the world of work. We hosted speakers from diverse organisations including the University of Leicester, Nuclear

Cavendish, and Ibstock Brick. These sessions provided students with a clearer understanding of different industries, the variety of careers available within them, and the crucial post-16 educational pathways needed to pursue those goals.

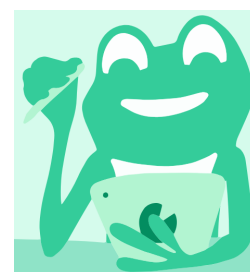
Understanding the Local Labour Market (All Years)

During Careers Week, all year groups participated in assemblies focused on the dynamic Leicestershire labour market. Students learned about current trends, future opportunities, and the importance of being proactive in their learning and career planning. The key message emphasised how taking ownership of their academic and career development now will set them up for success in the future.

Looking Ahead: Exciting Developments!

UNIFROG Launch:

We are thrilled to announce the upcoming launch of UNIFROG, a comprehensive online careers platform designed to help students explore pathways, find opportunities, and prepare applications. We will be trialling UNIFROG with Years 9 and 10 after the Easter holidays, with a full rollout planned for the entire school community in September. We believe this will be an invaluable tool for our students' career journeys.



Careers Fair - June (Years 9 & 10):

Planning is well underway for our annual Careers Fair in June, specifically aimed at Year 9 and 10 students as they begin to think more concretely about their futures. This is a fantastic opportunity for students to engage directly with employers, training providers, and further/higher education institutions.

Get Involved! Careers Fair Exhibitors Needed
We warmly invite local businesses, employers, and training providers who would like to inspire the next generation to host a stand at our Careers Fair in June. If you or your organisation are interested in participating, please contact the school office for more information. Your involvement makes a huge difference!

These activities represent just a snapshot of our ongoing commitment to providing robust careers education and guidance. We look forward to continuing this vital work and thank all the students, staff, and external partners who have contributed to making these events so successful.

Easter Safety Message

Easter is a wonderful time of year! It is seen as a time of Spring, new beginnings and lighter, brighter days! Here are some top tips to help you get the most out of your Easter break:

1. Make sure that when you go out your phone is charged so that you can keep in contact with parents/ carers/ friends.
2. Avoid walking to or from home alone. Try to walk with friends or arrange for a parent/ carer to pick you up.
3. If you're out, make sure you take a coat or jacket- whilst the days are getting warmer, it is still chilly in the evenings!
4. Take some time to relax, sleep and have some downtime. Stay connected to friends.
5. If you are offered drugs or alcohol, do not be pressured to say yes. Remember, you must be 18 or over to smoke, vape and drink alcohol and there are a number of health risks associated with these things.

If you or your child/children are experiencing difficulties and need someone to talk to during this time, the following agencies may be of reassuring support.

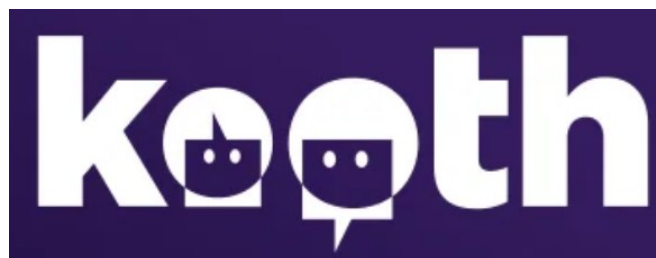


[Childline | Childline](#)

online support provided by the NSPCC

[Home - Kooth](#)

Kooth is your online mental wellbeing community. Access free, safe and anonymous.



[Health For Teens | Everything you wanted to know about health](#)

Health For Teens is a website that provides up-to-date and reliable information on various topics of health for young people, such as body image, sex, social care, knife crime, immunisation and anxiety.



[www.stonewall.org.uk](#) and [www.mindout.org.uk](#)

Stonewall is proud to provide information, support and guidance on LGBTQ+ Mindout confidential, non-judgmental and anonymous online live chat.

Open Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday afternoons.

[www.samaritans.org](#)

We're here, day or night, for anyone who's struggling to cope, who needs someone to listen without judgement or pressure.



If you have a safeguarding concern during the Summer holidays, please do the following; Please email DSL@ibstockcollege.co.uk – this email will be checked intermittently Monday-Friday

If you think it needs a same day response, please call Children's Duty at the local authority on 0116 305 0005

For other non-urgent issues you can email them at childrensduty@leics.gov.uk

Ibstock School will be closed over the Easter break and will reopen on **Monday 28 April 2025**.

Please see below for in-term contact details:

Ibstock School, Central Avenue, Ibstock, Leicestershire, LE67 6NE

t: 01530 260705 e: admin@ibstockschool.co.uk w: www.ibstockschool.co.uk

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