

Dear Families,

At the end of my first term as headteacher of Ibstock School, I want to reflect on our students' achievements. I had the pleasure of presenting the headteacher awards this week. I know that I selected the right students due to the rapturous applause and support for the winners from their peers. Congratulations to all our winners.

Thank you to the families who have engaged with the school to share their thoughts on our successes and areas which need further consideration. Understanding where you feel the school is performing well is just as important as sharing how you think we can improve. If you have not communicated with the school this term, please complete the survey [here](#).

As we enter the centenary year for Ibstock School, we are interested in hearing from past students who would like to join our alumni group. Our students love to hear from previous generations who attended the school in years gone by. If you want to be involved in the project, please email the school. A whole celebration event will take place in September 2025 to mark the centenary celebration.

School attendance continues to be a focus for the school. As we know, high attendance has such a high correlation to success at GCSE. Missing school can lead to feelings of disconnection from school and peers. We will continue to work with families to improve attendance, we know that where the partnership between home and school is strong, attendance improves. Thank you to those parents who support us in ensuring that their child attends school every day of every week. A reminder that school reopens on Monday 6th January.

Next term our focus will be on student voice, and how we continue to strengthen our opportunities programme. Please encourage your child to take all opportunities offered to boost confidence, feel connected to our school and to take responsibility for developing their own student agency. Thank you to the families who share their children's successes out in the wider community, we love hearing the good news stories!

The following pages share some of our successes over the term. I encourage you to provide photo permissions through the Arbor App to ensure we can include more photographs from our school events. Next year, Ibstock Insights will be published more regularly to enable you to feel more connected with events that take place. Our students will become the reporters and put each edition together, I cannot wait for my first interview!

I would like to wish all the Ibstock School community heartfelt Season's Greetings, my role is an absolute privilege, and I look forward to leading the Ibstock School throughout 2025.

Mrs Koncarevic, Headteacher



Christmas Concert

Ibstock School got into the Christmas spirit on Wednesday 11 December at the annual Christmas Concert.



Students from across all year groups performed a range of songs from Christmas classics to contemporary pop music.

The musical talent was shown with students performing different musical instruments with saxophone, piano and guitar solos accompanying the live rock bands.

The audience were wowed with the amazing skill of those who took part. Well done students - you did Ibstock School proud!

We thank all those who attended and can't wait for the next concert.



Opportunity, Understanding, Responsibility

Christmas Dinner

Ibstock School got all Christmassy on Wednesday 18 December as students and staff wore Christmas jumpers and enjoyed eating a specially-made Christmas Dinner served by Mrs Koncarevic.



Food Bank Collection

Students at Ibstock School have been making a difference in their community by collecting food donations for the local food bank in Coalville. Each form group participated by decorating their food bag, which was judged by Headteacher Nicola Koncarevic. She was thoroughly impressed by the creativity and effort shown by the students for such a meaningful cause. The winners of the competition were:

1st - 11EWo

2nd – 8BHe

3rd - 7SRo

A huge well done to everyone involved—your contributions support a fantastic cause and make a positive impact on our community!



Opportunity, Understanding, Responsibility

Y7 Space Centre Visit

We are thrilled to share that 30 of our Year 7 students were recently selected by their peers to attend an exclusive prototype experience at the National Space Centre. These students had the incredible opportunity to be the first audience to watch a brand-new, animated planetarium programme exploring the fascinating formation of black holes.



During this unique visit, students provided thoughtful feedback on the show, sharing what they enjoyed most and offering constructive suggestions to enhance it further. Their insights will play a vital role in shaping the programme before it launches to the general public in 18 months.

Our students were outstanding ambassadors for the school, demonstrating exemplary behaviour and curiosity for Space.

This experience not only showcased the amazing opportunities available to our students, but also highlighted their ability to contribute meaningfully to innovative projects. Well done to all involved!

Remembrance Day

In November, we held our annual Remembrance Event. This was attended by Ibstock School, the Nursery, local primary schools and the Mini Explorers.

We also invited members of the Ibstock RBL. We had the Poppy Appeal in school and students who are part of the Scouts, Guides and Cadets were encouraged to wear their uniforms.



During the service, students read their own Remembrance poems and read out the well-known Kohima Epitaph and The Exhortation.



We invited the RBL members into school after to meet staff and students. Next year, we hope to build even stronger links between the schools and the community.

Miss Barratt, Faculty Leader of Humanities



Outdoor Projects

We have been active in outdoor learning doing the following projects:

- We joined forces with Forestry England and planted 20 trees in Mill Hill Wood to replace the dead Ash that needs to be removed following the countrywide spread of Ash Dieback, affecting all Ash trees across Leicestershire



- We teamed up with volunteers and staff from Trust of Conservation Volunteers to begin the pond restorations. There are two full days still to go but a great start in clearing out the old plants and liner.



- We have planted another 40+ trees in our garden in the hopes that in five years we will see the hedgerow developing for wildlife and the Silver Birch starting to stand tall for Forest School activities.

Stacey Oldknow, Outdoor Development and

Education (ODE) Lead/DofE Manager



Buddy Bench

During Young Minds' Hello Yellow, which marks World Mental Health Day, Ibstock School was entered into a competition to win a Buddy Bench. We are so thrilled that our school was one of 100 lucky schools who won! The idea is for our students to use it as a place to sit and talk with friends during break and lunch times, thus promoting positive mental health and wellbeing.
Miss. Barratt, Faculty Leader of Humanities



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Let's Keep Moving Award

Ibstock School students were recently recognised at the NWLSSP's Let's Keep Moving Awards.

Well done to Alex P who won the Young Hero Award and to the Year 8&9 Girls County Futsal Champions who won Secondary Team of the Year.

What an evening celebrating these amazing students - well done all!



Sport Leaders

Our Ibstock School sports leaders did a great job supporting NWLSSP's dodgeball tournament on Tuesday 19 November.



ADT

Students have been getting creative in the ADT department.



Ibstock School will be closed over the Christmas break and will reopen on **Monday 6 January 2025**.

Please see below for in-term contact details:

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