

Dear Families,

Welcome to our next edition of Ibstock Insights as we end the third half term of the year. It is always a joy to look back over the past few weeks to see how the school has been interacting with the opportunities presented. This is just a snap shot, and I hope that you are enjoying the other ways that we are sharing our successes, including the increase in social media posts in response to your feedback. We continue to build partnerships with our families and have seen an increase in attendance at progress evening and events offered over the half term.

There have been some key milestones in Ibstock School's journey in establishing itself as a successful 11-16 school. Our Year 9 students have selected their option choices for their GCSE courses, and our Year 11 students have applied for their Post 16 colleges, sixth form provisions and apprenticeship programmes. Support from our careers team has enabled some really high quality applications and it has been inspiring to read about the aspirations of our students. I wish them all the best as they wait to see if they have been successful with their applications. There was a real buzz in the dining hall this week with the arrival of the achievement point tuck shop, students had asked for an opportunity to be rewarded for their points and for this event it was snacks! Further events are planned for next half term so keep earning those points.

Renovations and improvements to the school building continue with planning permission for our new classroom block submitted, there will be a further opportunity for you to see the plans on Wednesday 12th March, more information will follow through the weekly bulletin for parents. Our heating project will be completed by Easter, the new flooring will be laid during the summer holidays and we also have exciting new plans for our library. Our grounds have also had a tidy up with more planters on the way after some kind donations from within our community.

Next half term brings the introduction of our antibullying ambassadors across the school, Mrs Barratt has been overwhelmed with the number of applications from students who want to support students and to help our community understand the impact of unkind behaviours and how we can develop a positive environment for everyone. We celebrate International Women's Day on Friday 7th March, and are inviting local women from our community who are thriving in historically male dominated fields and careers to come to talk with small groups of our students. Please get in touch if you would like to take part.

As usual, your feedback is important to us, however big or small, positive or negative. Please use this link [HERE](#) Ibstock School is here to serve its community, and we want you to feel that we are listening and responding to your suggestions.

Have a restful half term, enjoy the spring sunshine and I look forward to welcoming students back for half term 4 on Monday 24th February.

Mrs Koncarevic, Headteacher



Ibstock Dragons' Den

Our Year 9 students enjoyed a good time on 9th January 2025, when they took part in an exciting and enriching Careers Enterprise Challenge, based on the "Dragons' Den" format.



Working together in teams, the students were tasked with dreaming up either a brilliant new product or a cutting-edge transport solution. This immersive experience gave them a brilliant chance to develop a range of skills that will be invaluable later in life, including teamwork, problem-solving, creative thinking, and how to pitch their ideas persuasively. They got to grips with researching, planning, and presenting their concepts, giving them a proper taste of what being an entrepreneur is all about. The challenge helped the students develop some seriously useful career-related skills, such as:

- **Innovation and Creativity:** We encouraged them to think outside the box and come up with original ideas, which is exactly what employers are looking for these days.
- **Collaboration and Teamwork:** Working in teams meant they had to learn to negotiate, delegate tasks, and make the most of everyone's different skills. Essential stuff for any workplace.
- **Communication and Presentation Skills:** They honed their ability to explain their ideas clearly and convincingly, which is a must-have skill in pretty much any job you can think of.
- **Financial Awareness:** The challenge got them thinking about costs, pricing, and whether their ideas could actually make a profit. A good introduction to basic business principles.

A massive well done to our two winning teams! One group bowled the judges over with their ingenious waterproof headphones,



while the other captured everyone's imagination with their all-electric campervan design. Both teams showed off some truly impressive creativity, teamwork, and a real understanding of who they were trying to sell to.

This challenge has given Year 9 a fantastic glimpse into the world of business and enterprise, helping them to explore different career paths and develop skills that will stand them in good stead for the future. We're incredibly proud of all the students who took part and showed such enthusiasm and inventiveness.



Apprenticeships

It was Apprenticeship Week in the last week of half term and we welcomed representatives from a range of industries to discuss in assemblies the options available to our students.

These assemblies are all about broadening horizons, letting students know about the many different career options out there, and sparking some thoughts about what they might want to do when they leave school. We're encouraging all students to make the most of these brilliant opportunities.

Year 9 Options Evening

On Thursday 30 January our Year 9 students were able to learn more about the different subjects they will be able to study at GCSE level at Ibstock School.

Teachers were on hand to discuss any questions students had and give them a greater insight into the different pathways these subjects can lead to.



Walk-and-Talk Mocks

Our fantastic Year 11s participated in their first 'Walking Talking Mock' for English on Wednesday 5 February. Their concentration and hard work was impressive - well done Year 11!



Prom Fundraiser

Help Ibstock Year 11 Students have an unforgettable Prom 2025 by donating to our [Go Fund Me page!](#)

We are the Year 11 students of Ibstock School, and we need your help to make our prom night truly special! After years of hard work, exams, and unforgettable memories, we want to celebrate this milestone with an evening to remember.

Your generous donation will go towards:

- Venue hire
- DJ & entertainment
- Food & refreshments
- Decorations to create the perfect atmosphere

Any donation big or small, will help us create a magical evening for all students, regardless of their financial situation. Please donate and share—let's make this prom the best one yet!

Thank you for your support!

#OURPromIbstock2025

(Ticket Price will be an additional cost for all students attending)

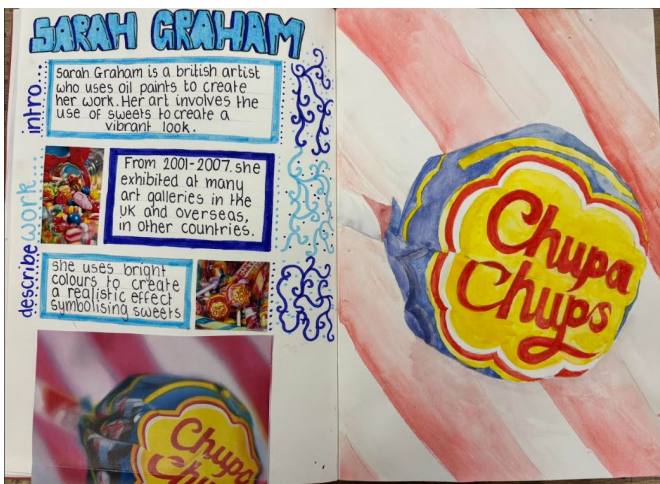


ADT

Year 8 have made some fabulous clay monsters in their art lessons recently. Students designed their own 3D monster before making it out of clay and glazing to add colour...don't they look amazing?!



Year 9 have been studying the work of Sarah Graham in their art lessons. Students have created a research page of information about her before starting their own study of her work. Fantastic effort Year 9!



Valentine's Day

Valentine's Day, celebrated today, has its origins in the third century, when a Roman priest was executed for continuing to perform Christian marriages despite Emperor Claudius II's prohibition.

Over nearly two thousand years, the day has evolved into a celebration marked by the giving of cards, chocolates, and flowers, and Mrs Pape dressed as a loveheart, with total spending in the UK estimated to surpass £2 billion.



However, while romantic love is often the focus of Valentine's Day, it is only one form of love we experience. Love exists in many ways; within families, friendships, towards pets, and in our connection to the natural world and environment. It is this love that fosters empathy, compassion, belonging and understanding, helping us to appreciate differences and work together as a community. So many students have demonstrated their commitment to the school community this half term, understanding how to be upstanders, sharing in the celebration of their peers successes, learning how to follow classroom routines to make everyone feel safe, and taking opportunities to develop themselves. We continue to focus on our school values of opportunity, understanding and responsibility in all that we do and this level of commitment from students is not going unnoticed by external visitors to Ibstock School.

Ibstock School will be closed over the spring half term break and will reopen on **Monday 24 February 2025**.

Please see below for in-term contact details:

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Opportunity, Understanding, Responsibility