



# Ibstock Insights

July 2024

## Dear Families,

This is my final Insights of the academic year and what a year it has been!

When I reflect on what we have achieved together it is simply overwhelming. At the end of June, we said goodbye to our Year 11 students with an emotional leaver's assembly and our first Year 11 Prom. It was wonderful to see our students enjoying a last hurrah together as the first cohort to have been here from Year 7 to Year 11. It was a real privilege and a huge amount of fun to dance with students and staff to ABBA's Dancing Queen a memory I will always cherish.

Yesterday afternoon we had a marvellous end of year afternoon tea – thanks to Mrs Allardyce, for staff and we said a fond farewell and a huge thank you to Mrs Hayles, Mr Flavell, Miss Crooke and Mrs Mataria who are about to embark on new adventures in and outside of education. I am so grateful to have worked alongside such dedicated teachers and I wish them all the very best for the future.

On a personal level I was treated to wonderful speeches by Mr Mason and Mr Donaghy, a huge card and such generous presents from our staff and such wonderful goodbye messages from our students. I was really touched by it all and as I write this I realise that it hasn't really sunk in that I won't be here again next academic year.

It has been an absolute privilege to serve this community as teacher, senior leader and Headteacher over the past 16 years and I am proud what we have achieved together as a team – students, staff and families. When you read this edition of Ibstock Insights, I hope that you will recognise the hard work and dedication from our staff and their unwavering focus on giving our students the richest of experiences, inside and outside of the classroom.

So, as Mrs Koncarevic takes over as Headteacher I want to wish her, the staff and all of you the very best for the future and a wonderfully relaxing summer break.

With very best wishes,

**Sophie Williams**  
Headteacher





# Goodbye Year 11

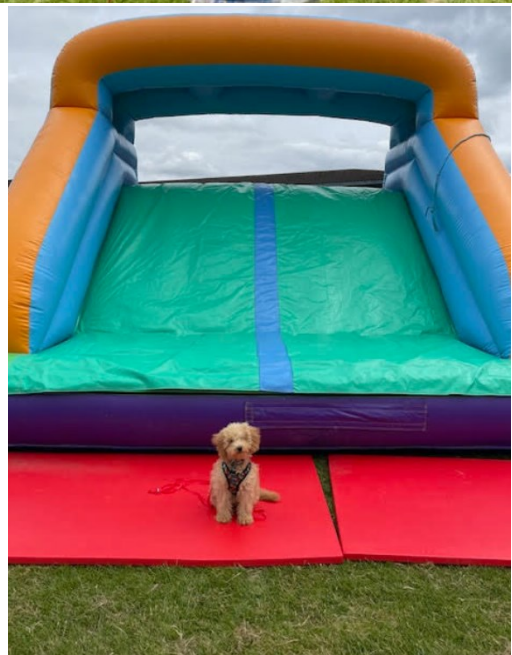
On Thursday 20th June we said goodbye to our first cohort of Year 11s since Ibstock Community College extended the year groups.



Students from other year groups gathered to applaud Year 11 leave Ibstock Community College. The Year 11 students showed great dedication in their exams and should be proud of their hard work. We look forward to having Year 11s back in school on Thursday 22 August as they collect their GCSE results. Have a great summer and good luck for the future.

# Pride 2024

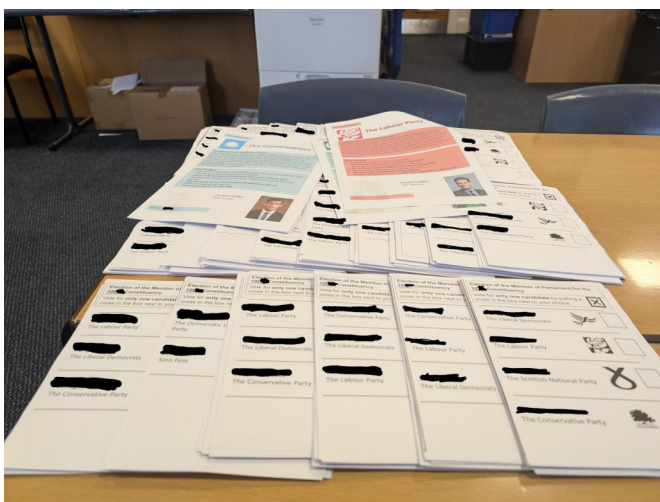
Ibstock Community College came together on Friday 28 June to celebrate each others uniqueness with a range of activities. Even the school dog—Noodle—joined in the fun!





# Election 2024

On Wednesday the 3rd of July, students at Ibstock Community College were given the chance to practice their democratic right, and cast a vote to help for the next Government.



This was an important experience for our students, helping them to prepare for the role they will play in the election of future MPs and Governments. Each form group was turned into one of our 24 ICC Constituencies, with 78 candidates standing from a range of political parties. In preparation for the big day, students campaigned using mini manifestos from the different parties, ballot papers were created for each 'constituency' and the school library was turned into ICCs first polling station. On the day, 12 student members of 'Polling staff', checked IDs and passed out ballot papers to the 100s of students that passed through the polling station. In the end the result was a hung parliament, with Labour gaining 9 MPs, the

Liberal Democrats gaining 8, the Conservatives holding 3 seats, and an Independent candidate, the Monster Raving Loony Party, the SNP and Sinn Fein all holding one seat each.



Our students share their experience of the mock election below:

## **Oliver (Year 7), a voter:**

On Wednesday, I got the chance to be a voter in an election for the first time. The voting took place in our polling station (the library). The four parties we could vote for in my class were: Conservative, Labour, Liberal Democrats and Plaid Cymru. Voting was a difficult decision as we had to decide if we should vote for friends or political views. However, I came to my decision through careful consideration and chose the best party to become 'the Government'. This was great learning for later life when we vote for real.

## **Libby and Ava (Year 10), Polling Staff:**

We worked as polling staff. We spent the day signing people in and giving out ballot papers. The role we carried out was very close to how the role works for a real polling agent, and it helped us to understand how an election will actually work when we are older.

## **Bailey (Year 10), Candidate and Labour Party Leader:**

Hi, I am Bailey. The schools new 'joint Prime Minister'. I am happy to have been elected into this role, as it is important to have a look into politics and to understand the economic state of the country, and to try and make a change. This is important because voting is your way to keep the country a real democracy, where the Government is chosen by the people. When a country is not a democracy, there is no change but if a Government can change then that is a good thing.

# Summer Concert

On Thursday 13 June our talented performers showcased their musicality at the Ibstock Summer Concert.



The audience were wowed by the vocal range and instrumental skills of our students who ranged from first time Year 7s to experienced Year 11s who will soon be leaving us.

All the students were wonderful and we thank all those who attended.





## Beaumanor Hall Dig

Before the May half term, a group of 14 students visited Beaumanor Hall to carry out an Archaeological Dig with the National Forest and GeoPark.



Students had to create small dig sites around the grounds, dig out context layers, and learn how to identify and record findings, as well as think about what this tells us about the history of the site.

The experience was a wonderful insight into the historical landscape of this local area and we discovered lots about the process of archaeology.



## French Trip

Our students had a wonderful time in Paris!





# Bibliotherapy

‘A little reading is all the therapy a person needs sometimes’, as a person who thrives with information, I have personally felt the benefit of Bibliotherapy.



For me, information comforts me, it informs me about my experiences and emotions and I can always find advice and support through literature. I am also very passionate

about libraries being safe spaces and accessible to all; it was for these reasons that I wanted to create a dedicated Bibliotherapy Collection in our school. A Bibliotherapy Collection holds specific information about topics, and also fiction narratives about the experiences of others. When a reader is able to access this information, studies have shown that the written word has a beneficial impact on readers by providing wisdom, emotional connection, insight and comfort. This approach to mental health and wellbeing has been used since Ancient Greek times and was hugely beneficial to veterans of WWI. Collaborating with colleagues, we identified the topics that we felt were most pressing for our students and I set about creating the Collection. Our collection is separated into individual sections, and each is allocated a faux Dewey Decimal number (with the real ones also provided if students wish to access more information from a larger Library/ later in life) to keep in line with the wider Library. The collection also has a full printed list of each section with each book and blurb, a bibliotherapy information pack and support numbers for students who may need extra support, with the aim of providing students with the skills and knowledge to be both safe and successful.

**Miss Davies, Librarian**

# Ink Workshop

Year 10 students have been involved in an exciting ink workshop recently!



Students were encouraged to explore mark making with inks before applying them to textural objects. They have produced a lovely set of work to enrich their coursework element.

Year 8 have been inspired by Vincent Van Gogh's "Starry Night" for their oil pastel studies .





## Sport Leaders

Our Year 9 Sports leaders did a great job leading the Year 2 Sports Day at St Denys on Monday July 1!



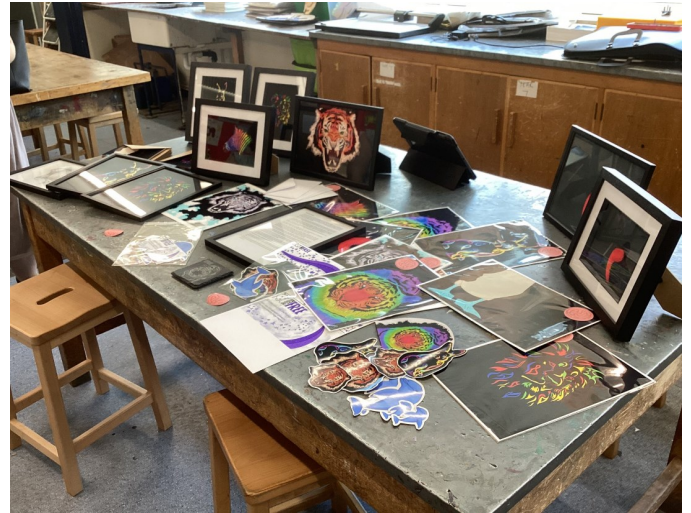
## Police Visit

Leicestershire Police visited our Year 10 Media Studies students recently to support their GCSE coursework. This year's project involves creating a DVD cover and film poster in the crime drama genre. The students behaved excellently, and it was a pleasure to collaborate with the police.



## Digital Artwork

As part of her Duke of Edinburgh skill, Ella in Year 9 created this wonderful selection of digital artwork. After school, Ella hosted an exhibition which staff and students attended! We are blown away by the standard and professionalism. Well done Ella!



Ibstock Community College will be closed over the summer break and will reopen on **Thursday 29 August 2024**. Please see below for in-term contact details:

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