

IBSTOCK INSIGHTS

NOVEMBER 2025

A message from Mr White, Head of School

What is a school? Not merely a building with classrooms, a playground, and a sports hall. These are essential features, but a school is so much more. In my three months here, I have learned that what truly makes a school is the people—the staff, the students, the parents and carers, and our wider community. The interactions I have witnessed and been part of show the commitment to helping our community thrive and demonstrate what a school really is. From the start of the day to the many extracurricular clubs and community clubs, the school is alive with energy. Even after 100 years, the walls of Ibstock School bear witness to the stories and journeys of its stakeholders.

Both staff and parents and carers demonstrate the drive to support our young people, and I know that if this continues, all students at Ibstock School can go on to be successful in their chosen pathways.

This term, in assemblies, rewards evenings, and parent presentations, I have spoken openly about our values: Opportunity, Understanding and Responsibility.

This term our students have taken full advantage of the **opportunities** on offer: trips to Valencia and Belgium, and, for one student, to India; our sports teams have competed with local schools in netball and football; we've enjoyed reward trips to Alton Towers; and a fantastic external speaker inspired students to show courage and resilience. A number of our students have represented the school with distinction at various events.

Students have shown great **understanding** of others through participation in assemblies addressing sexual violence awareness, anti-bullying, Languages Day, and Remembrance.

Behaviour around the school and in classrooms has improved, and students show a real understanding of the impact of their actions.

Most recently, our students demonstrated remarkable **Responsibility** during the Remembrance Service at the Ibstock War Memorial, just outside our gates. It was a proud moment for me, as I led a short service beautifully supported by our neighbours, Ibstock Junior School, St Denys Infant School and our very own Nursery. The community feedback and kind words reminded me why I am proud to be part of this school.

The journey never ends, and I look forward with great excitement to continuing to build Ibstock School into a place the Ibstock community is rightly proud of.

Take care in the run-up to Christmas and New Year. Remember, Ibstock School is here for our community, not just for our students.



A trip to Parliament



100 of our students were lucky enough to visit the houses of parliament on Friday 19th September. They began their day by watching the Changing of the Guard at Buckingham Palace before strolling along The Mall, which had been specially decorated for President Trump's visit. They took a break for a picnic lunch in St. James's Park before continuing on their way. They then headed to Trafalgar Square and then down Whitehall, where they caught a glimpse of Number 10 Downing Street and the Cenotaph.

Next, they went to Parliament for a truly amazing tour. Students had the incredible opportunity to stand in the Houses of Commons and to observe a debate on the Assisted Dying Bill in the House of Lords, where they even spotted former Prime Minister Theresa May. Following the tour, students participated in a session on petitions, and how to share their voice, with the education team. They did a brilliant job of presenting their ideas to MP Amanda Hack and then asked her some brilliant questions.

Students wrapped up the day with a trip along the Thames, getting a perfect view of the London Eye as they made their way back. It was an absolutely fantastic day, and the students were an absolute credit to Ibstock school, and really did us all proud.



OUR Awards Evening

On the 11th of September, Ibstock School hosted a truly memorable awards evening. Students from Year 8 to Year 11, along with some of our Year 11 leavers, gathered to celebrate their outstanding achievements and progress across a range of subjects. The evening was enriched by performances from our talented music students, with beautiful piano pieces and captivating solo performances that created a truly special atmosphere. It was a wonderful night, made even more meaningful by the presence of so many parents and carers, who were able to witness first hand the dedication and hard work their children have invested in their learning. A heartfelt thank you to all who contributed to making this celebration of achievement so amazing.



Y7 Awesome Autumn Awards Evening

This term, we're excited to host our 'Awesome Autumn' awards evening for our Year 7 students. This will be held on **Tuesday 25th November 6pm—8pm**. We can't wait for another fantastic celebration. More details will be shared with parents in due course.



Ibstock Centenary Celebrations

We were delighted to welcome so many of you to our centenary celebrations at Ibstock School. The event offered a wonderful opportunity to reflect on our school's remarkable journey from 1925 to the present day. Thanks to the Historical Society's fantastic display, attendees enjoyed a nostalgic trip down memory lane, revisiting treasured moments from the past. The day was a true celebration of our community spirit, bringing together friends, families, and neighbours to honour our shared history. Thank you to all the amazing stall holders who attended the event, it was a pleasure to have you. We are also extremely grateful for the funds raised, all of which will support future events and help enrich the educational experiences of our students.



Run With Rich 5K Fundraising Event

A massive thank you to all 100 students who participated in our Run with Rich event! It was a fantastic morning filled with energy, smiles, and tremendous community spirit. We're thrilled to announce that, thanks to your generous donations, we raised just over £700! The funds will be split between the Richard Whitehead Foundation and our ongoing fundraising for the school's sensory garden. Each contribution brings us closer to our goals, and we are incredibly grateful for your support and enthusiasm. This event perfectly reflects our values of inspiring our community to thrive through opportunities available to our students. Well done to everyone involved—you truly made this event a memorable success!



Y7 and Y11 Chromebooks

We are delighted to share that the rollout of our new Chromebooks for Years 7 and 11 has been an incredible success! The excitement and enthusiasm from students have been fantastic to see and hear, with many already embracing their new devices as powerful tools for learning. This Chromebook scheme has been carefully planned to seamlessly integrate into your child's education, enhancing both classroom engagement and independent study. To ensure a smooth transition, we have conducted two comprehensive staff briefings and are organising dedicated student assemblies to explore how Chromebooks will support their learning journey. In addition, we've worked closely with experts across the Trust to make sure every aspect of the rollout runs smoothly and effectively. We hope students will continue to embrace this opportunity and enjoy using their Chromebooks in lessons and beyond, inspiring them to thrive. Thank you to David Wilson Homes for the generous contribution.



Hello Yellow Day—Mental Health Awareness

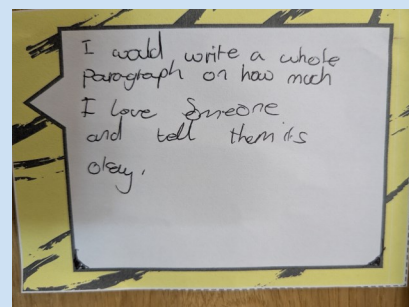
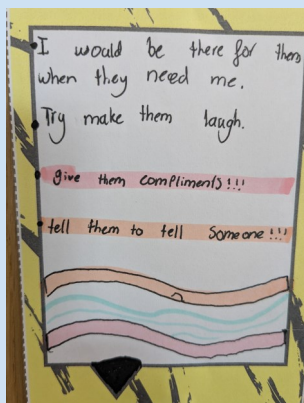
On Friday 10th October we celebrated World Mental Health Day. This day focuses on promoting mental well-being and ending the stigma surrounding mental health issues.

Hello Yellow is an annual fundraising campaign run by the charity YoungMinds.

Students were spoken to about the importance of being open about mental health in assemblies. They also completed activities in CREW time sharing on yellow postcards what they would do to support a friend with their mental health.

On Friday lunchtime we were joined by two of our Mental Health Support Team staff who gave out information and chatted with students around a variety of mental health issues. All monies raised went to YoungMinds to help support children with mental health issues.

If you feel that your child needs some support with their mental health, please look at the support available on our school website, or alternatively contact their CREW leader for further support.



further support.

Valencia 2025

Just before half-term, some of Ibstock School's Year 10 languages students had the opportunity, along with students from Bosworth Academy, to

visit the Spanish city of Valencia. During the trip, students saw the sights and sounds of this vibrant city, using the underground to visit Valencia Cathedral, The Science Museum and Oceanogràfic aquarium. A highlight was a paella cooking workshop where students made the traditional Spanish dish from scratch. This included a tour of the gardens where the produce they had just cooked was grown. The teachers had a great time judging the end products! Of course, the trip would not have been complete without some time at the beach and a spot of shopping to practise the Spanish language.



Belgium 2025

Before half-term, Year 9 pupils undertook a profound three-day journey to World War I battlefields in Belgium and France, bringing the History curriculum to life and deepening a sense of remembrance. Guided by Moray Treadwell, Day 1 featured the Ypres Salient and Bayernwald's preserved German trenches, culminating in the Last Post ceremony at the Menin Gate. Day 2 focused on the Somme, with visits to the Sunken Lane, Newfoundland Memorial Park, Lochnagar Crater, Fricourt German Cemetery, and the Thiepval Memorial. Day 3 explored Vimy Ridge and the Passchendaele Memorial Museum, then Essex Farm CWGC, the Advanced Dressing Station, and Tyne Cot CWGC. Students handled artefacts, considered casualty care and the origins of "In Flanders' Fields," and reflected on themes of sacrifice, courage, and reconciliation. The trip offers powerful contextual learning and lasting moments of remembrance that extend well beyond the classroom. We thank all the students for their respectful and engaged conduct throughout the journey, making it a powerful and successful experience for all involved.



India Trip

Matillda, had a remarkable opportunity to represent Ibstock School on a once in a lifetime trip to India for the Model UN event hosted by Manav Rachna International School. She was joined by fellow LiFE Multi Academy Trust students from Countesthorpe, Bosworth, and Winstanley.



After a seven-hour overnight flight to Delhi, Matillda and her peers battled sleep deprivation, sampled Indian cuisine in a local restaurant, visited India Gate and the war memorials, and enjoyed a spectacular light and sound show at the Red Fort. They were greeted in true Indian style on arrival at Manav Rachna University, with welcome packs waiting in their rooms.



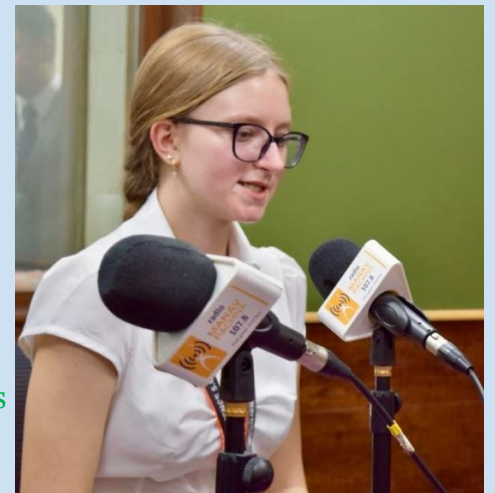
We did a Q&A with Matillda about her trip and this was her reply—

• What does the Model UN mean to you?

It gave me an insight into how all the nations come together and discuss work problems.

• What did you do in India?

I visited the following sites: Red Fort, India Gate, Taj Mahal, Agra Fort, Jantar Mantar, National War Memorial and, Delhi Haat. I then attended a conference that spanned over 2 days. While I was there I also learnt about Indian culture and spent my free time with students from the Manav Rachna University, I even got to go on India's live radio broadcast!



• What were the main messages of the Model UN conference?

Resilience was the main message, this comprised of a big ceremony at the start, which welcomed all the nations that attended, we were then split up into our committee rooms, I went to the UNSC committee (United Nations Security Council) where we talked through what will happen and to build our speeches ready for the afternoon session about Nuclear Trade. This was the same for both days but at the end of the 2 days we were presented with participation awards and had a massive social dance with loud music. It was amazing!

• What was it like working with other students from other LiFE MAT schools?

It was a great experience, we all worked together as a team and I became friends with all of them, we hope to keep in touch with one another.

• How was the overall experience?

Completely amazing right from the experience of the conference to the sites I never imagined seeing, to great friendships that I made.

OUR Rewards Day



Rewards Day at Ibstock School was a fantastic celebration of effort and achievement for all of our students. Years 8, 9 and 10 were given the option to attend Alton Towers for the day, and the majority grabbed the chance for a fun-filled, fantastic day out.

For students who remained on site, they were delighted to hear from our guest speaker, Ricardo Erasmus—a transformational coach, inspirational speaker, and youth mentor with over two decades of experience empowering young people to shift their mindset and unleash their full potential. Known for his energetic and deeply compassionate approach, Ricardo has supported thousands of students to break through barriers, overcome limiting beliefs, and step boldly into their future. The students engaged well and we had some amazing feedback. We hope to welcome Ricardo back into school in the near future.

Ricardo Erasmus: UBUNTU 'I am, because WE are'



Ibstock Remembrance Service

We are immensely proud of our students after their fantastic involvement in our collaborative Remembrance Day event yesterday, which brought our school motto to life: Inspiring OUR Community to Thrive.



Over 700 young people from local schools and nurseries joined us at Ibstock war memorials for moving tributes, including student-written poetry, the playing of The Last Post, a two minute silence, and the laying of handmade wreaths.



The day concluded at St Denys Church, where we were joined by parents, business leaders and the Royal British Legion to honor local heroes, highlighting the profound importance of Remembrance to our entire community. A special thanks to Amanda Hack MP, Cllr Joyce Moore and Ibstock RBL for joining us.



Ibstock Remembrance Cont'd

Yesterday I had the privilege of attending a Remembrance Service at St Denys Church Ibstock. I was invited by students of Ibstock School as my great great Grandfather James William Lardner has a war grave in the Churchyard. Along with students from the school we honoured and paid tribute to all those who gave their lives. I would like to thank all those who took part, the wreath layers, readers and musician along with all who paid their respects. It was a poignant moment with the Last Post and silence that followed. To all the students you are a credit to your families and to the school. Thank you. Paula—
Ibstock Historical Society



For Remembrance Day, students have been involved in multiple displays which are now up on display in school and in the local community. A poppy display outside of school made using drinks bottles, red spray paint and buttons which has then been attached to netting and suspended near the school reception area.



A beautiful window display at Barkers cafe in Ashby was created by Year 7 and 8 students. Their work is now proudly on display within the local community which is a fantastic

Here is a large scale piece produced by Year 11 student Harry Johnson which is now proudly on display in the school reception area. Thank you to all the students involved whose work is a credit to the school!



Black History Month



This month, our students took part in the LiFE MAT Black History Month Competition, which encouraged them to reflect on the theme “Overcoming Barriers.” Pupils were asked to choose a role model or hero — whether a historical figure, community leader, family member, or someone influential in sport, music, politics, or education — who has shown courage, determination, and resilience in the face of challenges. They then created an entry that included a picture of their chosen person, an explanation of the barriers that individual overcame, and a description of why this story inspires them.

By Ava

Rosa Parks

Rosa Parks inspires me because her quiet courage changed the course of history. By refusing to give up her bus seat in 1955, she showed that one brave person can stand up to injustice and spark a movement that transforms society. Her strength and determination in the face of discrimination remind me that even small acts of defiance can have a powerful impact. She teaches me the importance of standing up for what is right, even when it is difficult, and her legacy encourages me to be brave, principled, and committed to equality.

MRS. ROSA PARKS

1917-2005

SEPTEMBER 22, 1955 - 1 P.M.

400 WEST 11TH STREET, MONTGOMERY, ALABAMA

She was part of the reason why black people have rights. And is a wonderful black woman in history.

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Inspirational People

Rosa Parks is famous for her refusal to give up her bus seat to a white passenger in 1955, an act of defiance that ignited the **Montgomery Bus Boycott**. Her arrest sparked a massive boycott that lasted over a year, leading to the Supreme Court decision that desegregated Montgomery's buses and made her a pivotal icon in the Civil Rights Movement. She is often called the "mother of the modern day civil rights movement" for her courageous act.

Why Rosa Parks and Nelson Mandela inspire me

Rosa Parks and Nelson Mandela inspire me because they both showed extraordinary courage in the face of injustice and changed the world through their actions. Rosa Parks refused to give up her seat on the Montgomery Bus and became a turning point in the Civil Rights Movement. Her bravery reminds me that one quiet but firm act of resistance can create massive change. Nelson Mandela's lifelong fight against apartheid, including spending years in prison, shows immense strength, resilience, and commitment to equality. His leadership as South Africa's first Black president and his dedication to peace, even after suffering injustice, motivate me to stand up for fairness and never give up on creating a better future.

Nelson Mandela is most famous for leading the fight against apartheid in South Africa, resulting in him becoming the country's first Black president and a symbol of peace and equality. He is also widely recognized for his years as a political prisoner, for which he was awarded the Nobel Peace Prize, and for his post-presidency work in areas like combating HIV/AIDS.

BLACK HISTORY MONTH

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Christopher Chahn Bahng

Bahngchan Bahng

Born 3 October 1997, known professionally as Bahngchan is an Australian singer, rapper, songwriter, and record producer. Based in South Korea, signed to JYP Entertainment, he is the leader of the South Korean boy band Stray Kids and a member of 3RACHA, an in-house production team and sub-unit of Stray Kids.

Bahng Chan lived in Sydney, Australia till he was 13. Alone he travelled to Korea after getting accepted into the company of JYP. Bahng Chan trained alone in Korea for 7 years alongside many other trainees. He appeared in popular group music videos such as TWICE's popular girl group. Bahng Chan struggles with depression, strange sleeping, and pushes himself over the edge just for his career. Bahngchan revealed on his UK he's doing this for the fans and his group.

Bahng Chan officially debuted as the leader of Stray Kids on 25 March 2018, with the stage name Bahng Chan. His roles in the group include singing, rapping, and dancing. In 2019, as part of the group's first variety show, *Finding Stray Kids*, the group travelled to Australia, where Bahng Chan helped organise activities to introduce his bandmates to the culture of his homeland.

His bandmates, Lee Minho, Seo Changbin, Hwang Hyunjin, Han Jisung, Lee Felix Yongbok, Kim Seungmin, Yang Jeongin.

Why Bahng Chan inspires me

Bahng Chan inspires me because of his incredible determination, courage, and selflessness. Moving from Sydney to Korea alone at just 13 to pursue his dream shows a level of bravery that I deeply admire. He trained tirelessly for seven years, overcoming challenges such as loneliness, pressure, depression, and lack of sleep, yet he never gave up. Even after debuting as the leader of Stray Kids, he continues to push himself not for fame, but for his members and his fans. His leadership, hard work, and ability to stay strong despite personal struggles motivate me to stay resilient and committed to my own goals.

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Bukayo Saka

Bukayo Saka

Born: 9 September 2001
Profession: English professional footballer
Position: Right Winger
Club: Arsenal F.C. & England National Team

Widely recognised for his creativity, dribbling, and work rate, Saka is considered one of the best wingers in world football.

Where Was Saka Born?

Bukayo Saka was born in Ealing, Greater London, to Yoruba Nigerian parents, Adenike and Yemi Saka. He is the youngest of five children. His parents moved to the UK from Nigeria as economic migrants.

What Is Saka's Religion?

Bukayo Saka is a practising Christian and reads the Bible every night.

Has Saka Experienced Racism?

Yes, Saka has faced racism multiple times, including:
After the Euro 2020 final, when he received a large wave of racist abuse following a missed penalty.
In April 2023, after missing a penalty for Arsenal, when racist comments were posted online.
A 2022 FIFA study found that Saka received the most racist online abuse during Euro 2020.

Why I Admire Him

I admire Bukayo Saka because he shows strength, resilience, and positivity in the face of adversity. Despite experiencing racism on a global stage and dealing with the intense pressure of professional football at a young age, he continues to respond with humility, professionalism, and kindness.
He uses criticism as motivation, keeps improving every season, and remains a role model for young people. His ability to stay grounded, stay true to his values, and perform at the highest level makes him an inspiring figure on and off the pitch.

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OLIVIA DEAN

When growing up she often felt othered for being mixed race.

Olivia Lauryn Dean was born on 14 March 1999 in the London Borough of Haringey to a Jamaican-Guyanese mother and an English father. Her grandmother emigrated to the UK from Guyana at age 18 as part of the Windrush generation.

Olivia Dean is considered a role model for her steady, authentic career path, her honest empathetic songwriting, embodiment of integrity and independence. She is praised for building success through hard work rather than shortcuts, demonstrating that a career can be built with patience and artistic integrity. Her music also addresses complex themes and her personal story inspires empowerment, particularly her tribute to her Windrush-generation grandmother which highlights generational bravery.

Dean describes herself as 'a very strong feminist'. In 2020, her mother became the deputy leader of the Women's Equality Party, making her the first black deputy leader of a political party in Europe.

Olivia Dean's achievements include becoming the first female solo artist to have four UK Top 10 singles simultaneously from her number-one album *The Art of Loving*, a UK chart double (number one album and singles) in the same week, and the 2023 BBC 'Introducing Artist of the Year' award. She has also received three Brit Award nominations for her debut album *Messy*, which was shortlisted for the Mercury Prize.

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The activity gave students the opportunity to learn about inspiring individuals, celebrate achievements within Black history, and think deeply about the qualities that help people persevere.

We are incredibly proud of the creative work produced by our students and selected entries will be displayed across LiFE MAT schools during Black History Month 2025.



Governor News



A message from our newly appointed Chair of Governors— Clare Spence

I'm absolutely delighted to have been elected as Chair of Governors at Ibstock School this year. Having served on the Governing Body for the past four years, I've had the pleasure of watching the school grow, develop, and thrive — and it's been a real privilege to be part of that journey.

On a personal note, I'm also a parent of three children who have all now been through the education system. Through that journey, I've gained valuable insight — particularly in supporting one of my children with specific special educational needs. This experience has given me a deep understanding of the importance of inclusion, empathy, and ensuring that every young person has the support they need to reach their full potential.



Our Governing Body is made up of dedicated volunteers who bring a wealth of skills and experiences to the table. We meet regularly to discuss the latest developments, celebrate progress, and make sure that our decisions are always guided by what's best for our students. But our role doesn't stop there — we also spend time in school, meeting pupils and staff, and seeing first-hand the impact of the incredible work happening every day. It's great to work alongside such a committed team — both within the school and through our partnership with LiFE Multi-Academy Trust, whose support and collaboration make such a difference.

Being a governor is both inspiring and rewarding — and we'd love more people from our community to join us. If you're passionate about education and want to help shape the future of Ibstock School, we'd be delighted to hear from you. If you're interested in becoming a governor or finding out more, please complete the following form - [Governor Vacancy – Fill in form](#) or you can contact Clare on c.spence@ibstockcollege.co.uk

Update on Uniform

We would like to kindly remind parents of the importance of adhering to our school uniform standards. Students should wear either an Ibstock school jumper or blazer, along with an appropriate jacket for warmth. Please note that hoodies are not permitted. Trousers must be grey school trousers, our preferred supplier is Trutex, or a school skirt. Black tight or flared trousers and leggings are not allowed. Students must wear their Ibstock School lanyard as part of their uniform. If your child needs to purchase a replacement please speak with reception and they will arrange this. A Charge of £1.50 will be added to your ParentPay. Ensuring that your child is dressed in accordance with our school standards helps maintain a smart and comfortable environment for all. We appreciate your continued cooperation in upholding our uniform expectations.

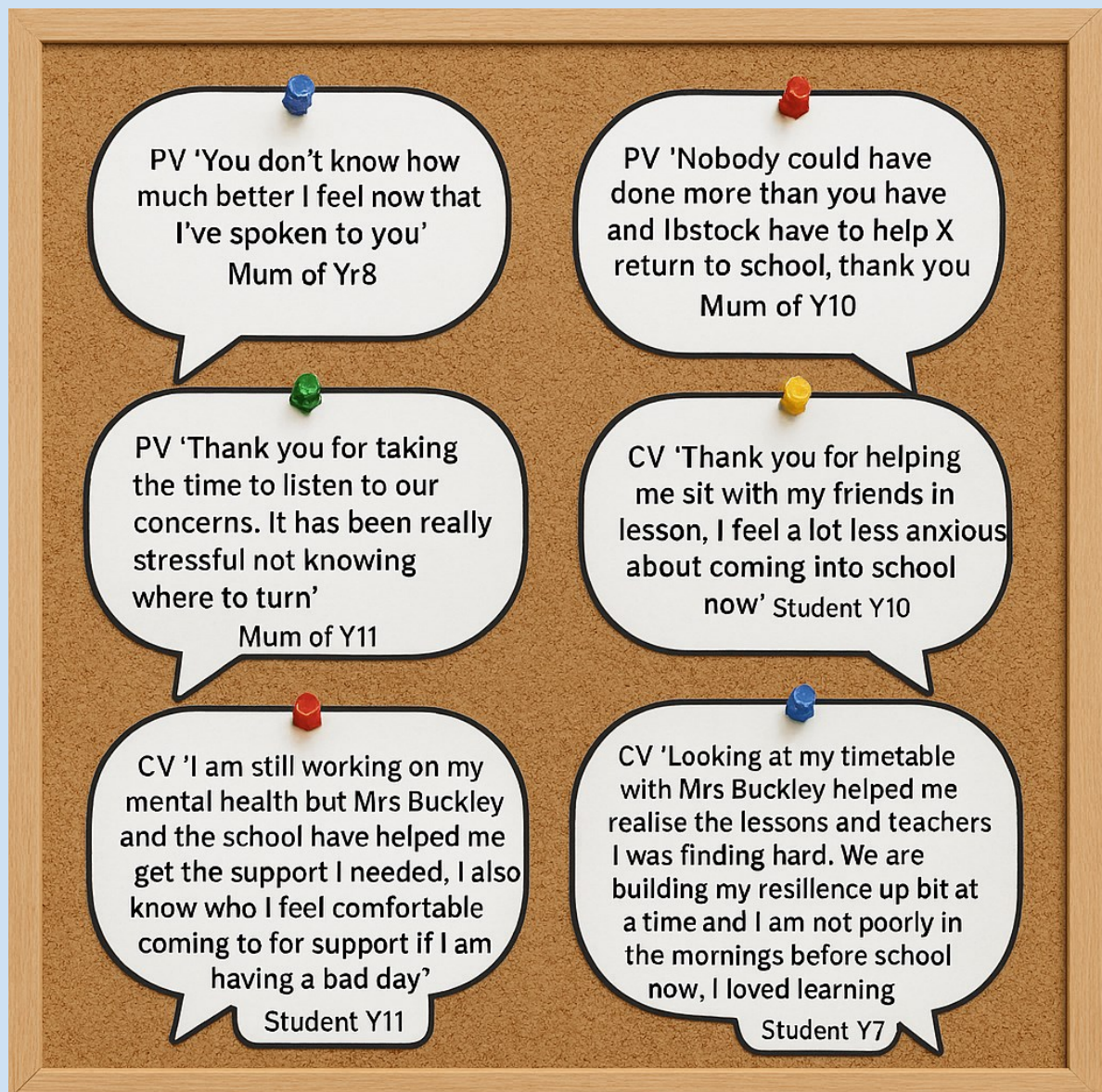


Attendance Update

Ibstock school works hard in partnership with families to help students attend regularly by setting up initiatives and individual wellbeing support. Our goal is to remove any barriers that might stop your child from coming to school. Initiatives include an "Attendance Challenge," which gives students access to "1 to 1 CREW Leader support" and offers "Recognition/rewards of attendance improvement".

The school also uses support from the local authority to find necessary family support and arranging external referrals for mental health or grief support. To help students stay focused in class, we work with individuals to set up special quiet regulation spaces, and even use adjusted timetables and teachers to boost student wellbeing. We offer 1 to 1 meetings with teachers outside of school hours, and also makes sure students get extra academic support from faculty leaders to fill in any gaps in their education, ensuring they feel fully supported in their learning.

Would you be interested in learning more about the specific wellbeing support interventions, such as the implementation of RAG rated timetables or the use of restorative conversations? If so please contact Laura Buckley— studentabsence@ibstockcollege.co.uk



Sporting Events

Our students have been actively participating in Girls' Netball and Boys' Football training and fixtures this term, showing great enthusiasm and commitment. We're proud to celebrate the achievements of our Year 10 and Year 9 Netball teams, who secured an impressive 2nd place at the Central Venue League evening. Equally commendable are our Year 10 Boys Football team, who finished 3rd in their recent competition. With many students getting involved, these events have been a fantastic demonstration of OUR standards — Opportunity, Understanding, and Responsibility — helping our school community to thrive both on and off the field.



Upcoming Dates and Events

19th November—International Mens Day

25th November - Y7 Awesome Autumn Rewards Evening

28th November— SCHOOL CLOSED—Staff Training

4th December—Christmas Concert

11th December—Y11 Progress Evening

17th December—Christmas Dinner/ Christmas Jumper Day

18th December—GCSE Certificate Collection

19th December—Last day of term

