Ibstock Insights Edition October 2026

Dear Families,

As we reach the end of a busy and successful first half term, I would like to thank our students, staff, parents, carers and wider community for their continued support. Together, we continue to live our values of **Opportunity, Understanding and Responsibility**, ensuring every young person can thrive both inside and outside the classroom.

One of our greatest successes has been our continued improvement in attendance. Following recognition for the significant progress made during the 2025/26 academic year, attendance has improved further this term. Excellent attendance creates greater opportunities for learning, achievement and personal growth, and I would like to extend a sincere thank you to our parents and carers for working alongside us to ensure students are in school every day, ready to learn.

This term has also provided a wealth of enriching experiences. Students have visited an Amazon Distribution Centre, explored the culture and history of Valencia and are looking forward to our whole-school trip to Alton Towers later this week. I was fortunate enough to join our most recent Amazon visit, where students had the opportunity to engage with the Vice President of Amazon UK and members of a BBC film crew. The professionalism, curiosity and maturity shown by our students were exceptional, and they represented Ibstock School brilliantly. These experiences help broaden horizons, raise aspirations and deepen students' understanding of the opportunities available to them in the future.

We were also delighted to welcome more than **120 families** to our Open Evening. The positive feedback received was a testament to the pride, responsibility and enthusiasm demonstrated by our students and staff, while reinforcing the growing reputation of Ibstock School within our community.

A particular highlight has been welcoming our new **Year 7 students**. They have settled exceptionally well, embraced the opportunities available to them and are making excellent use of their Chromebooks to support their learning. We are especially proud that their attendance is currently among the strongest for Year 7 students nationally. Their positive attitude and commitment to school life have made them valued members of our school community from the very beginning.

It has also been a pleasure to celebrate student achievement at our annual **Awards Evening**, recognising success, effort, resilience and character. Alongside this, we have welcomed families to information evenings for our Year 10 and Year 11 students, providing guidance and support as they begin the important journey towards their GCSE examinations.

As always, the strength of our community remains one of our greatest assets. The support shown by families, local partners, governors and friends of the school enables us to provide ever-increasing opportunities for our students. Together, we continue to inspire our community to thrive.

It is a privilege to serve such a supportive and ambitious community. Every day, I see students, staff and families embracing our values of **Opportunity, Understanding and Responsibility**, helping to create a school where every young person can achieve, flourish and aspire to a bright future.

I wish you all a restful and enjoyable half-term break.

Take care,
Ben White
Head of School



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Awards Evening 2026

Last week we celebrated a fantastic Awards Evening, welcoming students from Years 8, 9, 10 and 11, along with our previous Year 11 cohort, to recognise outstanding progress and attitude to learning. The evening also featured wonderful musical performances from our students, whose talent truly shone through. Huge congratulations to everyone recognised, and thank you to all the parents, carers and staff who joined us to celebrate. A brilliant reminder of the strength of our school community.



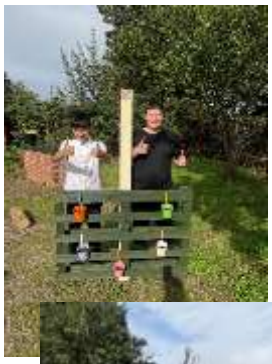






Forest School Students

Our Forest School group have been so productive! They've been hard at work outdoors, building a campfire from scratch and constructing their very own chair from repurposed wooden pallets — brilliant hands-on learning in fire safety, teamwork and practical skills.









The group have also been busy brightening up the front of school, giving the benches a fresh lick of paint and adding some lovely flowers to create a warmer, more welcoming entrance for everyone. A huge well done to all involved — it's fantastic to see our students taking such pride in their learning and their school environment!

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Charity Cricket Match

What a fantastic game of cricket! It was amazing to see our community come together for a charity cricket match between Ibstock Town, Ibstock School staff and our students! There was some great cricket, plenty of smiles and, most importantly, a fantastic sense of community spirit.

Ibstock Town: 182
Ibstock School: 155

A huge thank you to everyone who came along to play, support, cheer us on and help make the event such a success. We're incredibly grateful for your support! Even better, we raised over £70 for charity!







Revision Fest

Earlier this term, we were delighted to welcome our Year 11 students and their families to Revision Fest 2026. This event provided valuable information about the Year 11 journey, effective revision strategies, and the range of support available to help students succeed.

A number of Post-16 providers delivered presentations outlining their courses and opportunities, with stalls where students and parents could ask questions and explore future pathways.









In addition, each GCSE subject team hosted a revision stall, showcasing a range of resources and study materials. Staff also delivered short talks, sharing subject-specific guidance and signposting students to further support and revision materials available throughout the year.

The evening was a fantastic opportunity for families to prepare for Year 11, and we thank everyone who attended.

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Run with Rich 2026

For the second year running, Ibstock School joined Paralympic gold medallist Richard Whitehead for the ever-popular Run with Rich 5K charity run — and what a brilliant turnout we had.

A huge WELL DONE to our top three finishers — two fantastic Year 7 students and one superb Year 11 — who flew round the course in an astonishing 20–25 minutes! An incredible achievement.



We managed to raise a total of over £750 towards the Richard Whitehead foundation and our own school sensory garden. A massive thank you to every student who ran, every member of staff who supported, and every family who cheered us on; your energy made the day a special one, and we couldn't be prouder of everyone involved.



Textiles Workshop

On Friday 2nd October, our Textiles students were treated to a fantastic felt-making workshop led by Creative Learning Services. This hands-on morning introduced students to a brand-new technique — one that's wonderfully free and expressive, encouraging them to let go of precision and really get creative.

Students explored themes including **nature, architecture, and space**, producing some truly impressive results that will enrich their sketchbooks with high-quality, experimental work.

It was brilliant to see students embracing a new skill with such enthusiasm and confidence — a wonderful example of the creative enrichment on offer here at Ibstock School.

A fantastic morning enjoyed by all!



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Save OUR Post Office

Last week, a group of our students visited Ibstock Post Office to hand over OUR Save Ibstock Post Office petition.



Thank you to all the staff, parents, students and school visitors who have signed. Students gathered over 360 signatures. Students also posted letters to Amanda Hack MP, sharing why they thought the Post Office was so important and asking for her to support our campaign.



You can get involved too, by signing the petition here - [Save OUR Post Office Petition]

Student Council

We are excited to launch OUR Student Council, giving students meaningful opportunities to shape school life while developing valuable leadership skills.

Built around our values of **Opportunity, Understanding and Responsibility**, every CREW will elect two representatives to represent their peers. These representatives will gather student views, lead projects and help drive positive change across the school.

Alongside our Ambassador Network, the council will help ensure that a wide range of student voices are heard, represented and acted upon.



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Christmas Wreath Making Workshop

Join us for a festive evening at our first Festive Wreath Making Workshop — a brand-new addition to our community calendar this year!
Come along for a cosy, creative evening and get into the Christmas spirit with us. We'd love to see you there!

Tuesday 1st December
7pm
Ibstock School, Central Avenue - Main Hall

Book your tickets here - https://www.ticketsource.com/ibstockschool OR scan the QR code.



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Careers Update: Inspiring Futures Across All Year Groups!

It has been an action-packed start to the term for Careers at Ibstock, with students across all year groups exploring exciting pathways and gaining hands-on experience in the world of work.

Year 11: Mapping Out Post-16 Pathways
Our Year 11 students have officially kicked off their Post-16 Application Preparation. As they look ahead to their next steps after leaving Ibstock, students are exploring the full spectrum of options available to them—from A-Levels and vocational diplomas to T-Levels and apprenticeships. We are supporting every student to build a clear, confident plan for their future.

Year 9: Hands-On Work Experience with LEAP & Amazon
Year 9 have been stepping up and experiencing the world of work first-hand through two fantastic initiatives:

Year 10 & 11: Army Foundation College Presentation
Students in Years 10 and 11 received an inspiring talk from representatives of the Army Foundation College (Harrogate). The presentation gave students an eye-opening insight into technical training, leadership development, and military career opportunities available to 16- and 17-year-olds in the British Army.







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Careers continued …

Amazon Work Experience & BBC Documentary Visit: All Year 9 students recently visited the Amazon Coalville (BHX2) site for an immersive work experience trip. Students toured the impressive facility, observing hundreds of advanced floor robots moving goods across the warehouse, and met staff across various departments. They also tackled a hands-on Sustainability Challenge, presenting solutions to a real site waste-segregation problem, with team winners taking home Amazon vouchers!

During our visit on 15th October, students had the extraordinary privilege of meeting John Boumphrey, Vice President of Amazon UK, alongside a BBC Film Crew filming for an upcoming TV documentary. Our students represented the school brilliantly on camera!

In-House LEAP Sports Leadership: Phase One of our LEAP in-house work experience programme is officially underway! Our Year 9 Sports Leaders are taking on 3 full days of hands-on placement within the PE Department. They are gaining real-world leadership skills by preparing for lessons, managing sports equipment, and facilitating active coaching sessions alongside staff.

Whole School (Years 7–11): Launching Unifrog!
We are thrilled to announce that Unifrog—our premier online careers platform—is now being rolled out across all year groups. During weekly CREW sessions, students will use Unifrog to explore career sectors, track their personal skills, discover university and apprenticeship routes, and set meaningful aspirational goals for their futures.

unifrog

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Valencia 2026

41 students from Ibstock School, Ivanhoe School and Bosworth Academy came together for the LiFE MAT Valencia 2026 Trip, enjoying an unforgettable week of learning, culture and friendship.

Students put their Spanish into practice while shopping, ordering food and exploring Valencia, taking in the historic centre and the magnificent Valencia Cathedral — a building that took almost 500 years to complete.

They were equally inspired by the futuristic City of Arts and Sciences, visiting the Science Museum, the Oceanogràfic and the 360° Hemisfèric Cinema. The Oceanogràfic visit raised awareness of ocean conservation and animal welfare, including how dolphins support European research into cetacean behaviour.

Another favourite activity was the traditional paella workshop, where students prepared their own authentic Valencian paella using fresh, locally sourced ingredients grown by local farmers.



The trip was a fantastic example of learning beyond the classroom, helping students develop confidence, independence and communication skills while creating memories that will last a lifetime. The students were a credit to their schools and to LiFE MAT throughout the visit.

Families and friends can relive some of the highlights from the trip by visiting @BosworthAcademy on X and following #Valencia2026LiFEMAT.

¡Hasta luego, Valencia!









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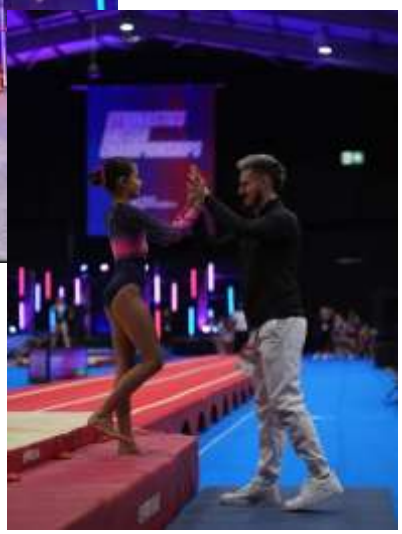
Student Spotlight

Huge congratulations to Isabella, who competes at an elite level in Tumbling Gymnastics for Revolution Tumblers. Isabella competed at the National Age Finals, going head-to-head with some of the best gymnasts in her age group from across the UK. She produced three personal best scores across the competition and finished an outstanding 4th place in the 11-12 age group. As a result, Isabella has qualified for the British Championships Youth Category — a brilliant achievement that reflects her hard work, dedication. Well done Isabella!





Well done to Marco, who had a fantastic weekend of martial arts achievement recently! Between squad training, a grading session, and competing at the WKKC Ippon Challenge in Doncaster, it's been non-stop. However, all that hard work paid off, with Marco securing a brilliant 3rd place in his points group. A great example of the dedication and commitment OUR students show outside of school. Well done, Marco!





If your child has any out of school achievements that you/ they would like to share with us, and for the chance to appear on our Student Spotlight, please email c.allardyce@ibstockschool.co.uk

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Year 9 Amazon Trip

Over the past few weeks, Year 9 students from Ibstock School have enjoyed a fantastic opportunity to visit Amazon's BHX2 fulfilment centre, gaining a unique behind-the-scenes insight into one of the world's leading businesses.

Throughout the visits, students were welcomed by Amazon staff who provided engaging tours, shared their expertise and offered valuable career insights. The experience allowed students to see first-hand how cutting-edge technology, including robotics and automation, plays a key role in the day-to-day operation of a major global organisation.

The visits were carefully planned in collaboration with Amazon's team and included a sustainability-themed programme that encouraged students to think about innovation, environmental responsibility and future career pathways. Students also had the opportunity to meet a range of leaders and associates from across the business, helping them to better understand the wide variety of careers available within modern industry.

One student, Conor B, summed up the experience perfectly:

"I really enjoyed this trip because I always drive past and wonder what is here. I loved seeing all the robots and learning about them. I'm really happy I came - it's a brilliant place!"

The knowledge and inspiration gained during the visits will support students as they begin an enterprise project over the coming months, building on the skills and ideas they encountered during their time at Amazon.

A particular highlight came when students were given the opportunity to meet senior Amazon executives, including the company's Vice President. Being able to hear directly from industry leaders about their career journeys and responsibilities provided a memorable experience that few students have the chance to enjoy.

Ibstock School is also extremely grateful for Amazon's generosity in pledging a donation to support the school. This contribution, together with the time, expertise and hospitality provided by Amazon staff, demonstrates a strong commitment to supporting young people within the local community.

amazon

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We hope you all have a wonderful half term and look forward to welcoming students back to school on Monday 26th October.



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