



Ibstock Insights

February 2024

Dear Parents, Carers, Students and Friends,

Welcome to our February edition of Ibstock Insights. This half term has flown by as you will read it has been extremely busy inside and outside the classroom. Last week I was lucky enough to join a mixed year group of students for an afternoon of Shakespeare at the Royal Shakespeare Company in Stratford upon Avon. We thoroughly enjoyed the fantastic production of A Midsummer Night's Dream, it is a great production. Lots of students were excited to see Matthew Beyton (from Horrible Histories) playing Bottom which made it all the more exciting. It was a joy to take part in the trip, beautifully organised by our Faculty Leader for English; Mr Moore. All the more so as our students were fantastic ambassadors for the school, bringing our RESPECT standards to life. I know that there are more trips to follow and it will be great for as many students as possible to enjoy them.

Staff have been working incredibly hard as we near the start of our Pre-Public Exams for Year 11. Miss Bliss, our Exams Manager, has been training our invigilators, Mr Mason has led assemblies around revision techniques to support students and their families and Miss Nelson continues to ensure that Year 11 have all the support they need in anticipation of the PPEs and the summer exam season. Miss Nelson has opened up the library to include a dedicated quiet study area, which is open after school to compliment the interventions happening across the curriculum. Students taking up this opportunity are treated to hot chocolate and biscuits from Mrs Weston and Mrs Allardyce which keeps them focused on their revision tasks.

Our SEND leaders; Mrs Harbour and Mrs Johnson have been meeting with students and parents to complete annual SEND reviews and it has been lovely to receive such positive feedback.

Miss Rayns and Mr Flavell have been putting together exciting plans for our Careers curriculum – more details to follow. If anybody is interested in getting involved in presentations, mock interviews or anything careers related, please get in touch – the more interesting or obscure the job the better!

As you know, we are continuing with our Power Up – raising expectations of behaviour and attitudes. In a recent external review, we were congratulated on the progress we have made over the last 12 months and the clear improvement in classrooms and around the school. I appreciate the continued support from you to help us uphold the highest standards possible so that our students respected and respectful citizens of the community; local and global. The vast majority of our students are now coming in to school in full uniform (including the mandatory blazer) with their year group lanyard. Thank you for supporting your children to start every day successfully.

Just a gentle reminder that nose rings and/or any other piercings are not allowed in school, along with false nails and jewellery except for one stud earring and a watch. Please bear this in mind over half term as sanctions will be applied for any student failing to wear all aspects of our school uniform correctly. Again, thank you for your support. Enjoy the half term break.

Sophie Williams



Holocaust Memorial Day

In January Ibstock Community College remembered those who were lost in the Holocaust.



On Tuesday 22 January our Year 9 students had the privilege to hear from Hedi Argent's live testimony as part of our Holocaust Memorial Day Commemorations. Year 9 then reflected on what they heard in tutor time.



Other students painted remembrance stones which were then displayed in reception whilst Harry of 9NPW was the winner of our Holocaust Memorial Day Art Competition. Harry's design fully embodied this year's theme, fragility of freedom.



Student Ambassadors

Our student ambassadors have recently been receiving training and they were all absolutely fantastic. They represented themselves and Ibstock Community College very well.

The LiFE MAT Ambassador Lead said our ambassadors were really involved with the conversations, offered thought-provoking conversations and were really reflective on a wide variety of topics.

Our ambassadors are now ready to work on the positive things we have in the pipeline going forward.

I am a PRIDE Ambassador and I feel ambassadors can help make a change to issues like racism, homophobia, bullying and mental health problems.
Lexie, Year 7

I'm a Stephen Lawrence ambassador and my role is about making a positive change. It is vital for people to know who are going through it that they can talk to us.
Ivie

I believe that as an ambassador, I raise awareness of my peers and show them new perspective. I uphold my school's values.

Ralph Hardman

My role as an ambassador is to help facilitate for those with disabilities.

Finley, Year 10

I am a good role model for my peers and I am passionate about making change. I feel that facing my own challenges is part of my role as well as spreading awareness.
Liam, Year 11

Apprenticeship Week

The week of 5 February was National Apprenticeship Week.

This [BBC article](#) is a helpful guide into all that you need to know about this career pathway.



Antarctica Day Project

Two of our Year 7 students, Oliver and Dom, designed new flags for Antarctica, as part of the Antarctica Day Project.

These have made it all the way to the Rothera Research Station, on Adelaide Island, where they were shared by Matthew Scott. Well done both!



Art Awards



Our Arts Award students were issued with their bronze certificates. What an achievement! Well done to the students for all their hard work over the past year.




Clay Monsters

Year 8 clay monsters in the kiln ready to be fired!
Don't they look brilliant!








Antarctica Day 2023

This certificate is awarded to: Ibstock Community College
For designing inspirational flags *"in the interests of all mankind!"*

Your flag travelled to	Rothera Research Station
Latitude	67° 34' 8" S
Longitude	68° 7' 29" W
Flag bearer	Matthew Scott, British Antarctic Survey



Signed: Fiona Sheriff & Anona Griffiths
Antarctic Flags Team 2023

'The Forest' - A Poem

Will S in Year 11 recently went for a morning walk in Sence Valley on a beautiful winter morning and felt inspired to write a poem called 'The Forest'.

The Forest:

I stand atop the Forest,
rich with the history of centuries past.
Around me, I hear the Forest exhale,
as the dawn breaks with the parting clouds.
Around me, I hear branches creak as
trees of age and dignity duel contest'd space.
Around me, Elders stand victorious above the Forest,
their branches bristling like the ramparts of a grand
palace.
Around me, I hear the subjects of these kingdoms,
scurrying and swooping from street to street,
caring for friends and families, but
keeping their kingdoms interests at heart.
Around me, I hear a stream lapping calmly in the
distance,
yet another resource to be conquered by the masters
of the Forest.
Above me stands only the Sun and the Heavens,
for none other can rival my prowess.
The Hawk may call itself "strong" and "perfect",
yet it still roosts in my branches.
For all submit to my power,
The power of the Forest.

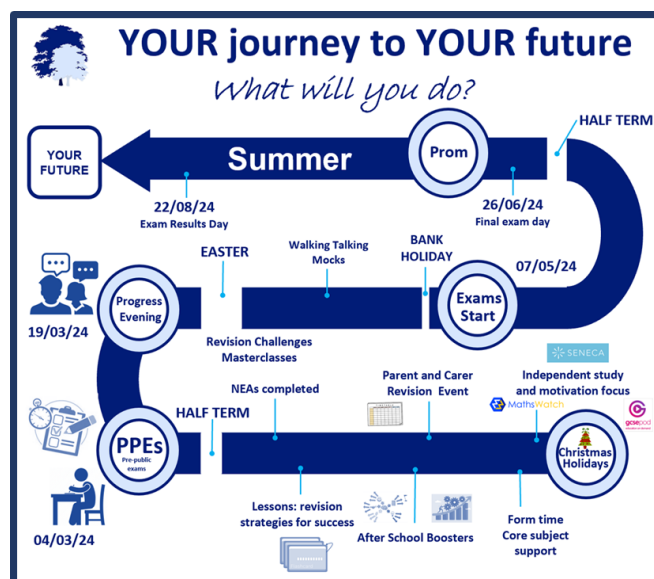
Futsal

Well done to our Y8/9 Girls Futsal team who won January's tournament. On we go to the county round!



Year 11 Journey

We are proud of our Year 11s as they begin the final part of their learning journey at Ibstock Community College. Check out what support is available.



New Library Books

Big thank-you to Miss Davies for ordering these brand spanking new, gorgeous-looking Philosophy and Ethics books for the Library.

Students of all years should find them super-helpful alongside their P+E lessons.



Timber Festival 2024

We are working with Timber 2024 organisers, Wild Rumpus, with an exciting schools competition where students are asked to create designs for a new flower or plant (or a combination of the two)!

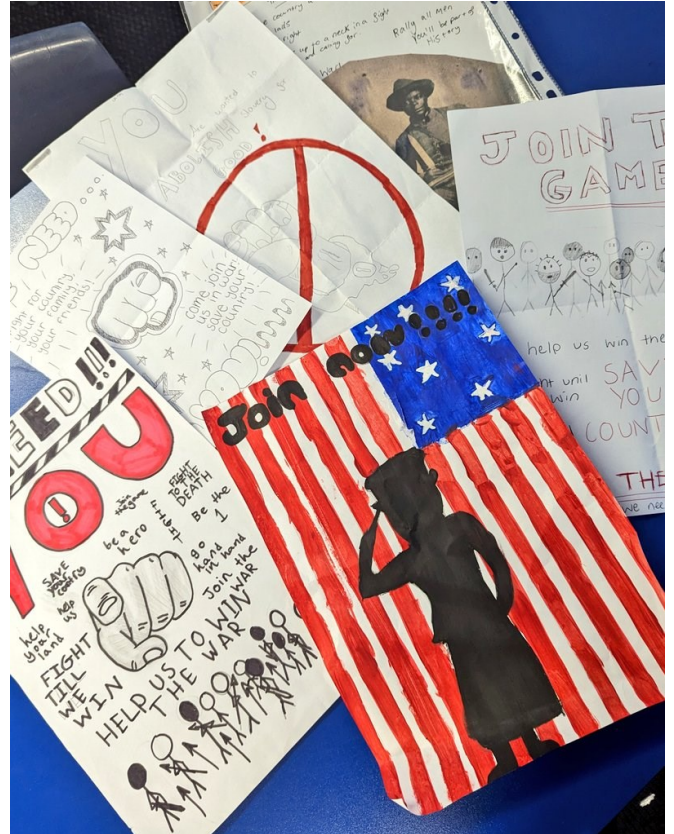
The winning design will be brought to life by an artist in the form of a costume that will be showcased at the Timber Saturday Collective Moment on the 6th July. One runner up from each Key Stage will also have their design digitised and put on display. The winner of the competition will receive a family ticket to the festival, and all runners up will also receive a ticket for the festival for themselves and a ticket for a parent/guardian.

Additionally, National Forest residents receive a 25% discount code for Timber 2024.



US Civil War Homework

Outstanding homework from students in 8E!! We've just finished studying the American Civil War and students were to design a poster to encourage people to join the Union Army.



Online Safety

We are excited to be working alongside schools across our trust and [@LifeInclusionSG](#) for our It's Not Ok campaign.

This term, our Safeguarding focus is on ONLINE SAFETY. More information can be found in our recent letter to parents and please look out for further updates.



Regular Attendance

Regular attendance at school is not just about academic performance but significantly impacts a child's overall development and lifelong well-being.

School provides a structured environment for children to interact with peers and develop essential social and emotional skills, such as teamwork, conflict resolution, and communication. It also fosters a sense of belonging and community. Here are some reasons why it's important:

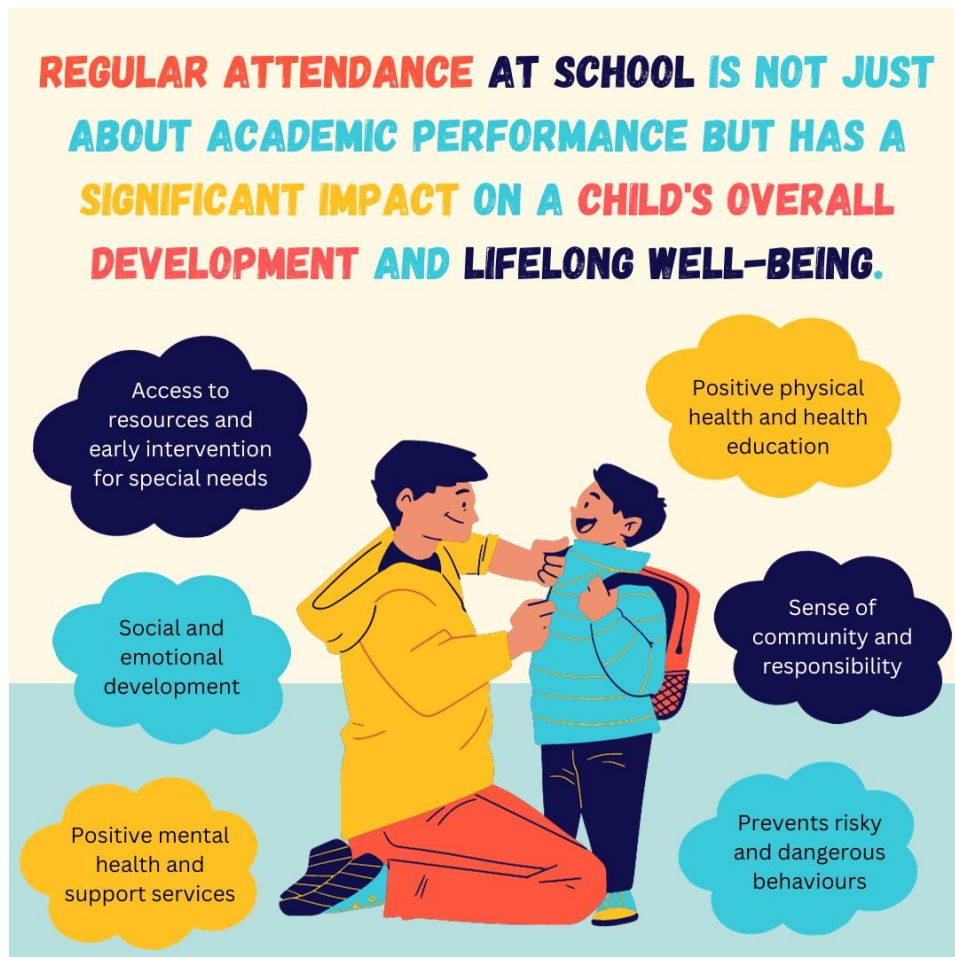
- Consistent school attendance provides routine, social support, and a sense of purpose, reducing the risk of depression and anxiety.
- Schools often provide nutritious meals, access to physical education, and health services
- Attending school and being engaged in school activities can help deter children from engaging in

risky behaviours like substance abuse or anti-social behaviour

- Consistent school attendance allows teachers and staff to identify early signs of learning disabilities, behavioural issues, or health concerns.
- Schools provide opportunities for students to learn about health and wellness, including topics like nutrition, hygiene, and sexual education.

For more information about why attending school is important for children, visit: <https://ow.ly/ZFrV50QgKTb>

If you think your child may need to stay off school due to an illness visit: <https://www.nhs.uk/live-well/is-my-child-too-ill-for-school/> for guidance on what you should do.



Ibstock Community College will be closed over the half term break and will reopen on **Monday 26 February 2024**.

Please see below for in-term contact details:

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