



PROSPECTUS

Raising the achievement for all

2024
- 2025



I would like to extend a very warm welcome to Icknield High School.

It is a privilege to be the Headteacher of Icknield High School. We are justifiably proud of our excellent reputation for academic achievement, inspirational teaching and high quality pastoral support. We have a rich history, clear identity and extremely strong community.

Educating children is both a responsibility and a privilege and, at Icknield High School, we are extremely ambitious for our students' futures and take our commitments very seriously.

We aim to ensure that our students have access to the best possible opportunities and experiences during their education, so that they can reach their full potential and are better prepared for the future.



*John Noble,
Headteacher*

I hope that by reading our prospectus you get a sense of what we offer, what we stand for and what we can achieve together.



Our work is focused on developing and celebrating students as individuals and not just as learners. Every student is encouraged to: find and nurture their talents, believe in themselves and the difference they can make in the world, and seek to be the very best they can be in all endeavours. We are proud that our students leave us equipped with the personal qualities and academic qualifications to lead happy, successful lives, often achieving more than they believed possible.

The school is proud of its inclusive and purposeful ethos and our students are at the heart of every decision. Everything we do is about ensuring their experiences here help them to develop in a caring, supportive and safe environment with a strong pastoral structure at the centre of the school. We believe an exceptional education is about doing the simple things that work, doing them well, and doing them all the time. We don't overcomplicate things. At Icknield High School, things are simple: teachers teach, and students learn.



01 Welcome to Icknield



02 Vision, Values & Culture



03 Our Curriculum



04 Personal Development



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VISION

At Icknield High School everything we do is underpinned by our overriding philosophy of 'raising the achievement of all'. We believe that every student, regardless of background, should be afforded the same opportunities to be successful and that nothing should hold a child back from pursuing their talents and passions. We have consistently high expectations of our students and encourage excellence in all aspects of school life.

"Pupils have a positive approach to learning. They concentrate well in lessons. They are determined to live up to the schools high expectations." (Ofsted 2024).

We Believe our school provides a unique opportunity to help young people become well qualified, healthy, self-assured and confident adults ready to take their place and play a full role in the future of our global community.

Choosing a school for your children is one of the most difficult decisions you will ever have to make as a parent, because it is not just a case of choosing a school but of choosing the right school.



Values

Our vision is supported by a set of core values - known as 'Icknield CARES' - which permeate through every aspect of the school's culture. These are:





Culture

The guiding principles outlined in our vision and values help ensure that Icknield is a vibrant and supportive place for our students to learn.

We recognise and value the diverse nature of our student body, and are fully committed to creating an inclusive and respectful environment for all students to grow and develop. We promote equality and actively tackle bullying and harassment so students can feel safe in our school.

All staff provide individualised support to students while promoting positive behaviour through the school's 'respect' agenda.

Within this supportive context we are unapologetic in demanding high standards of work and conduct from our students. By supporting them to develop their curiosity, independence and resilience we believe at Icknield we really can raise the achievement of all our students.

"Pupils of different backgrounds feel included. They say 'everyone's welcome' at school." (Ofsted 2021)



Achievements and Standards

Examination outcomes 2023 – 2024

We are immensely proud to announce the remarkable success of our students in this year's GCSE examinations. Their impressive performance reflects the students' resilience and dedication to their studies. The guidance they receive from our dedicated team of teachers and support staff is second to none and a testament to the exceptional teaching environment at Icknield High School. Our teachers have worked tirelessly to ensure students are all able to progress onto further education and study, and we look forward to seeing what they will achieve in the future.

A summary of the headline figures is listed below:

"The curriculum is well designed and informed by the latest research in education." (Ofsted 2024)

Headline Measures 23-24

5.1

Attainment 8

5 GCSEs including Maths and English Grade 4+

71%

+0.56

Progress 8

5 GCSEs including Maths and English Grade 5+

55%

81%

Grade 4+ English

Grade 4+ including Maths and English

75%

70%

Grade 5+ English

Grade 5+ including Maths and English

60%

30%

Grade 7+ English

Grade 7+ including Maths and English

22%

80%

Grade 4+ Mathematics

Grade 7+ Mathematics

37%

67%

Grade 5+ Mathematics

EBacc average point score

4.5

51%

EBacc entry*

*The English Baccalaureate is comprised of passes in GCSE English, Mathematics, Science, a Modern Foreign Language and either History or Geography.

Our Curriculum

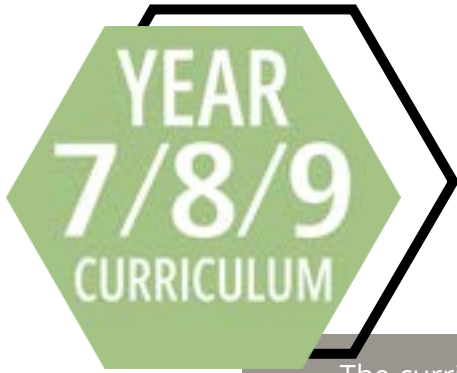


“The school prepares pupils well for their next steps in education, employment and training” (Ofsted 2024)

At Icknield High School we offer a curriculum where every student, regardless of background, is given the opportunity to be successful in whatever pathway they choose. We believe that nothing should hold a child back from pursuing their talents and passions.

We follow a knowledge rich curriculum, and believe students are entitled to ‘powerful knowledge’ which helps them go beyond their individual experiences. We are committed to ensuring that students gain a knowledge base that is:

- Well sequenced - with core knowledge mapped across the curriculum, linked to prior learning, and concepts building on one another to help develop a rich-schema.
- Contextualised / inclusive - with knowledge linked to our local context as well as the wider world so that it is given meaning beyond the classroom.
- Ambitious - all students are provided with the best resources so they can fully access the curriculum at the appropriate level which promotes high levels of success.



Key Stage 3

The curriculum at Key Stage 3 is designed to build on learning undertaken at Key Stage 2. We address any evident gaps in knowledge when students join us in year 7. We work very closely with our main feeder schools to ensure we understand their curriculum, and outcomes so no time is wasted. There is a strong focus on literacy, reading and mathematics for students of all abilities, but in particular, for the many students who have outcomes below national average when they first arrive at Icknield. The hours allocated for each subject over a two-week period in Key Stage 3 (year 7, 8 and 9) are as follows:

SUBJECT	Hours Yr 7				Hours Yr 8 & 9			
	1	2	3	4	1	2	3	4
English	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●
Maths	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●
Science	●	●	●		●	●	●	
History	●	●			●	●		
Geography	●	●			●	●		
Languages	●	●			●	●		
Physical Education	●	●			●	●		
Visual Arts	●	●			●	●		
Computer Science	●				●			
Technology	●				●			
Ethics & Philosophy/PSHE	●				●			
Music/Literacy	●				●			

Key Stage 4



At Key Stage 4 the curriculum builds upon the foundation work undertaken at key stage 3. We do this by ensuring that students develop a deeper and more insightful understanding of the core knowledge underpinning their subjects. Whilst academic rigour is at the heart of our curriculum, we also recognise the importance of students continuing to access the wider curriculum beyond the restraints of the GCSE specifications. There continues to be a strong focus on Literacy, Reading and Mathematics for students of all abilities at Key Stage 4.

All students follow a core curriculum which includes: English, Mathematics, Science, Core Physical Education, PSHE and a Visual Art subject of their choice. The following option subjects are also available for students to select as an open choice: Business Studies, Computer Science, Design Technology, Food Technology, French, Geography, German, Health & Social Care, History, Spanish, Ethics & philosophy, PE, Statistics and Music.

Based on students' performance during Key Stage 3, students are placed on the most appropriate pathway to ensure all students leave with the best possible outcomes. The hours allocated for GCSE subjects are as follows:

SUBJECT	Hours Yr 10				Hours Yr 11			
	1	2	3	4	1	2	3	4
English Language & Literature	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●
Maths	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●
Science (Combined & Triple)	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●
History or Geography	●	●	●		●	●	●	
Languages or Additional Support	●	●	●		●	●	●	
Physical Education	●	●			●	●		
Visual Arts	●	●			●	●		
Open Choice	●	●	●		●	●	●	
PSHE					●			

*"Pupils are proud of their school."
(Ofsted 2024).*



*"Pupils sensitively and enthusiastically explore the different beliefs, lifestyles and social issues found in society."
(Ofsted 2024).*



Careers

At Icknield High School, we are dedicated to helping young people create a foundation that will allow them to prosper after they graduate and look forward to a thriving and enduring career life.

Our students have access to high quality Careers Education, Information, Advice and Guidance (CEIAG), a comprehensive programme with the following aims:

- Raise student aspirations and support them in exploring the wealth of opportunities beyond high school.
- Support students in exploring their KS4 & KS5 options and choosing an appropriate post-16 & post-18 destination.
- Support students' development of employability skills and their understanding of the labour market.
- Give a wider and relevant context for learning.
- Avoid disengagement and prevent NEETS (young person who is not in employment, education or training).

We are delighted to have achieved the national Quality in Careers Standard using the Career Mark approach provided by Complete Careers. This is a national award given to schools that recognises the delivery of high quality CEIAG and good practice.



*"Pupils enjoy school."
(Ofsted 2024)*

Careers Programme

All Year Groups

- National Apprenticeship Week
- National Careers' Week
- Updates on labour market information and opportunities
- Industry and alumni talks
- PSHE – exploring iCould, National Careers Service, Amazing Apprenticeships

Yr7

- Careers' networking event with local businesses & organisations
- HealthTech Thames Valley – first aid training and careers inspiration event (subject to availability)
- The Big Bang Science Fair UK
- PSHE – Exploring self, introduction to careers, reflection and developing communication skills

Yr8

- Event(s) for providers of technical education/apprenticeships, including further education colleges, training providers etc.
- The Big Bang Science Fair UK
- PSHE – Developing interview skills (body language), practice interviews

Yr9

- Event(s) for providers of technical education/ apprenticeships, including further education colleges, training providers etc.
- GCSE options' assemblies
- GCSE options' fair
- Career guidance meeting
- World Skills' Show UK (subject to availability)
- University visits – taster days & conferences
- Tenner Challenge
- STEM Club
- PSHE – Exploring the labour market, employability skills, exploring interests and motivations, GCSE options support

Yr10

- Luton Sixth Form Experience Day
- PwC Office Visit
- University visits – taster days & conferences
- Wadham Project & University of Oxford Visit
- Mock interviews with local employers

Yr11

- Career guidance meeting
- Assemblies with post-16 providers
- College open days attended by students (virtual and/or in person visits)
- Post-16 provider stalls at parents' evenings
- Post-16 application support sessions (book with Miss Lam)
- PSHE – Mock applications, writing personal statements, interview skills

Reading and Literacy

"The schools approach to reading is well developed" (Ofsted 2024)



At Icknield High School, we believe that literacy and communication are skills for life. Through the curriculum that our school offers, we help our students develop the skills and knowledge that will enable them to speak, read and write like experts in every area of the curriculum to equip them with the skills to become lifelong learners and motivated readers.

Reading is a gateway to learning. Our aim is that all students will be able to read with confidence, fluency and understanding, but also read for pleasure. All students are encouraged to read daily and we provide support to parents through our Literacy newsletters and parents evenings. The Learning Resource Centre at Icknield is very well resourced with over 12,000 books available for students to access.

We have a Year 7 reading program called Accelerated Reader which is used to encourage students to read books that will challenge them sufficiently so that they can make good progress. In addition, all students are exposed to rich language through our use of real world academic texts across the curriculum. We also use a range of motivational rewards to encourage students' love of reading.

Students in Year 7 -10 who are reading below expectation, are given early intervention with either specialist or trained staff to develop their reading and catch up with their peers. We support students who are reading below expectation through targeted intervention using: phonics, Bedrock Learning, small group reading and Lexia.

We celebrate reading success in assemblies and our annual tea party, we celebrate literature through World Book Day, author visits and our Drop Everything and Read events. We support students with handwriting, develop their oracy through our Talk the Talk oracy workshops and provide leadership opportunities through our Student Librarian role.

Most Able

Staff work hard with our feeder schools through our robust transition process to identify the abilities and talents of all students including identifying the high achieving, gifted and talented students (known as Most Able) of the incoming year group as early as possible. Once enrolled at Icknield we use the information provided by the Primary Schools, and through our own identification of students with an exceptionally strong aptitude, to ensure that all students are challenged appropriately.

Icknield High School offers many opportunities for our Most Able students to be challenged both within the classroom in all subject areas and through extracurricular activities and events.

These include events at Oxford and Cambridge Universities (Years 9, 10 & 11), STEM Club (Years 7-11), Coding Club (Years 7-11), the Leadership Academy (Years 9-11), BBC School Report (Years 7 & 8) and Glia Learning Workshops (Years 9-11).

“The school’s effective approach to supporting pupils with special educational needs and/or disabilities (SEND) is recognised in the local authority as worthy of sharing with other schools.” (Ofsted 2024)



Special Educational Needs

Inclusivity is Key at Icknield High School

We are committed to fostering an inclusive learning environment. Our classroom and extra-curricular activities are designed to encourage participation from all students, and we value their knowledge and experiences beyond the classroom. Our teaching and support staff work in tandem to help students overcome learning barriers and take full advantage of school life.

We ensure that all students receive equal attention and resources, with a wide range of provisions available for those with learning difficulties. Students also have the opportunity to participate in small group work, literacy and numeracy interventions, and social skill-building activities.

“Staff use leaders’ precise guidance when planning and delivering support for pupils with SEND. Staff expertly deliver the help these pupils need to thrive.” (Ofsted 2024)

Personal Development, Behaviour and Welfare

Starting a new school is challenging for both students and parents. We work closely with our feeder schools to ensure a smooth transition by providing opportunities for students to visit the School, meet teachers and familiarise themselves with their new environment. All families are given the opportunity to attend the New Intake evening and meet their child's tutor.

All Year 7 students participate in an extensive induction programme to enable them to settle into High School life. Students will be required to abide by the School rules. Clear expectations about standards regarding behaviour, punctuality, attendance, uniform and attitude to learning are made clear from the start; parental support is vital in achieving and maintaining high standards.

Students' behaviour is exemplary and students in all year groups feel safe at school. The relationships between teachers and students are very good and students are proud of their school community.

Our Support and Care

*"Bullying at school is rare."
(Ofsted 2024).*

The pastoral system is the bedrock of the School. Each student will be in a tutor group with approximately 30 other children. The tutor is the first point of contact for parents as they see the students on a daily basis. Each year group has a pastoral leader and pastoral support officer, who lead a team of ten tutors. We also have a transition officer and a family support worker.

"Pupils are well behaved in lessons, when moving around the school between lessons, and during social times. Disruptive behaviour is rare." (Ofsted 2024).



SISPO (Student Individual Support Plan Office) provides a unique facility that is run by highly trained staff offering a range of support for students. We have a trained counsellor on site 3 days per week and use a variety of external agencies to support our students.

*"The schools value statement, 'Ickniel CARES', is evident in pupils' conduct towards each other."
(Ofsted 2024)*

"The school has robust measures in place to ensure pupils are safe. Safeguarding has a high profile across the school." (Ofsted 2024).

PARTNERSHIP WITH PARENTS

We aim to develop a strong partnership with parents, working together to uphold the School ethos and values and providing a first - class education for your children.

HOME-SCHOOL AGREEMENT

All students and their parents are asked to sign a home-school agreement committing to support the School's aims, values and expectations and to take an active part in your child's education.



CONSULTATION EVENINGS

There are two formal consultation evenings a year when a parent can meet teachers and the tutor to discuss students' learning and progress. The meeting provides the opportunity to discuss your child's learning and next steps in their education. Progress is reported three times a year with a 'Progress Check'



INFORMATION AND CELEBRATION EVENINGS

Various information evenings are held throughout the year where we inform parents about new initiatives or give information about your child's education and well - being. We also hold award ceremonies which celebrate students' achievement.



PARENT GOVERNORS

Our Parent Governors have an important role to play in the continued success of our School. Parent Governors represent the views of parents and ensure parents have their say in the strategic decision making of the School.



PARENTAL SURVEYS

Surveys of parents' opinions are carried out annually; feedback is important to us.



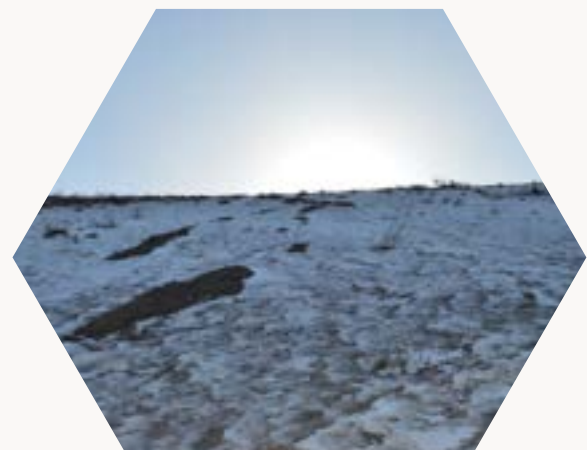
Extra-Curricular Opportunities



Students have the opportunity to participate in a wide range of activities whilst at Icknield. Additional extra-curricular opportunities are considered to be just as important as achievements within the classroom and are an integral part of a students personal development.



- Educational visits
- Trips abroad
- Sports Tours
- School musical performances & concerts
- Fundraising and charity work
- Sporting fixtures and competitions
- Sports Leaders' Award
- Duke of Edinburgh Award
- Eco Leaders' Award
- Speed Cubing Club





- Homework Clubs
- Chess Club
- Debating Society
- Games Club
- Student Voice
- Reading Club
- Breakfast Club
- Ethics & Philosophy Ambassadors
- Literacy Mentors
- Various lunch-time clubs including Science, Music, English, Languages, DT, History, Visual Arts



Icknield High School

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