



Irlam and Cadishead Academy Newsletter

October 2025 EDITION

Proud to be
GOOD



Resilience | Respect | Enthusiasm | Ambition | Determination

EXPECT THE EXTRAORDINARY



In This Issue

- Rewards Update
- Year 7 Update
- Open Evening
- Period 5 Enrichment
- Year 11
- Transition
- Sports Update

KEY DATES

- Students return to school - 3rd November
- French Speaking Exams - 4th - 6th November
- Art & Textiles Exam - 7th November
- Mock Exams start - w/c 10th November
- Remembrance Day - 11th November
- Mock Results Day & Y11 Parents' Evening - 4th December
- INSET Day - Friday 5th December (school closed to students)
- Rewards Day - 15th December
- Christmas Talent Show - 18th December
- School closes for Christmas - 19th December
- Return to school - Tuesday 6th January





Dear Parents, Carers, and Students,

As we come to the end of a busy and successful first half-term, I want to take a moment to reflect on the fantastic progress we've made as a school community and to thank you all for your continued support.

It's been a truly exceptional start to the year. Thanks to the hard work of our students, the dedication of our staff, and the strong partnership with families, Iram and Cadishead Academy continues to go from strength to strength.

Some of the highlights so far include:

- **Record-breaking GCSE results from our Year 11 students – a proud milestone for the Academy and a testament to what our young people can achieve.**
- **A significant improvement in behaviour, with students showing our ICA values of respect and ambition in everything they do.**
- **Improved attendance across all year groups, showing the shared belief that every lesson really does matter.**
- **A record number of rewards and golden tickets issued – recognising and celebrating students who go above and beyond.**

Our Year 11 students deserve particular praise for their commitment to learning and their excellent attendance at Period 6 sessions. Their focus and determination are setting the tone for success as they prepare for upcoming mock exams.

Looking ahead, we're excited to continue expanding our ASPIRE enrichment programme, offering more clubs, trips, and opportunities for leadership and personal growth.

As we head into the half-term break, I hope all our students take time to relax, recharge, and reflect on how much they've already achieved this year. I look forward to welcoming everyone back on Monday 3rd November, ready for another term of ambition, effort, and success.

**Warm Regards
Chris Leader
Principal**



Rewards Update

This term has been an incredible celebration of student achievement across the Academy, with a record-breaking 6,241 Golden Tickets awarded in recognition of outstanding behaviour, effort, and commitment to our READ values – Resilience, Respect, Enthusiasm, Ambition, and Determination!

Staff have been busy recognising students in every lesson for their positive attitudes and hard work. Golden and Platinum Tickets were once again exchanged at our popular Reward Station, where students enjoyed choosing from a wide range of exciting prizes as a well-earned treat for their efforts.

The numbers speak for themselves – this term alone, an amazing 102,695 positive merits have been issued to our students! These achievements reflect the fantastic culture of positivity, resilience, and ambition that continues to grow at ICA.

We're now looking forward to our Reward Days on 15th and 16th December, when students will celebrate their success with:

-  A Silent Disco
-  The ICA Cinema Experience
-  A special Bowling Trip for our Gold Award students

A huge well done to every student for their hard work, determination, and contribution to making this such a successful term. We can't wait to see even more students earning their next awards as the year continues!





Great Start for new Year 7's



Our new Year 7 students have made an outstanding start to life at Iram and Cadishead Academy. It's hard to believe they've only been with us a few weeks – they've settled in quickly, moving around the academy with confidence and showing fantastic enthusiasm for learning.

Year 7 have already achieved 100% attendance, earned the most golden tickets, and topped the academy for homework completion – an incredible start that reflects their positivity and commitment.

They've also embraced life beyond the classroom, taking part in weekly enrichment activities, representing ICA in football, and enjoying their first school trip to Jodrell Bank Discovery Centre. From excellent organisation to positive attitudes, Year 7 are setting the standard for others to follow. We're so proud of how well they've settled in

Our Year 7 students recently visited the world-renowned Jodrell Bank Discovery Centre, home to some of the most exciting discoveries in modern astronomy.

The highlight of the trip was the Star Dome experience, where students were transported on a breathtaking journey through the cosmos, exploring constellations, planets, and the mysteries of our universe.

Students also had the incredible opportunity to see the iconic Lovell Telescope up close – one of the largest and most powerful radio telescopes in the world. Learning about its vital role in space research and scientific discovery ignited curiosity and enthusiasm among our young scientists.

The day was a brilliant opportunity for students to broaden their horizons, ask big questions, and imagine where their love of science could take them in the future.

A huge thank you to Jodrell Bank for providing such an unforgettable and inspiring experience!

Jodrell Bank Visit



Open Evening

Our Open Evening 2025 was a huge success, with over 500 visitors joining us to explore everything our school has to offer. The event was buzzing with excitement as families toured our departments, each showcasing creativity, innovation, and the hard work of our students and staff.

Classrooms came alive with interactive displays, student work, and hands-on activities, giving prospective pupils a real taste of life at our school. From science experiments to artistic masterpieces, every corner highlighted the enthusiasm and talent of our ICA community.

The evening was filled with positivity, laughter, and curiosity, as children collected stamps from different departments in hopes of winning fantastic prizes. It was wonderful to see so many smiling faces discovering what makes our school such a special place to learn and grow.

Feedback from visitors was overwhelmingly positive, and many parents even applied for their child's place on the night! A reminder for anyone looking to apply for September 2026 places: the deadline is 31st October. You can submit your application via the link on our website.

A huge thank you to everyone who attended, and to our dedicated staff and students who made the evening so memorable. We can't wait to welcome our future learners into the ICA community



World Mental Health Day

This World Mental Health Day, our school came together to focus on wellbeing, kindness, and looking out for one another, while supporting Mind, Griffin House's chosen charity.

One of the highlights of the day was our bake sale – staff and students enjoyed a selection of cakes and treats, and thanks to everyone's generosity, we raised an amazing £151 for Mind!

Staff wore yellow and green badges with positive messages, helping to spread encouragement throughout the school. Students also joined in by writing their own affirmations and positive notes to share with friends, creating a colourful and uplifting display for everyone to see.



Period 5 Enrichment



At ICA, we are passionate about giving students opportunities to explore their interests, develop new skills, and have fun. That's why we have introduced enrichment sessions every Wednesday during Period 5 for all students in Years 7, 8, and 9.

These sessions run alongside our lunchtime and after-school clubs and offer a wide range of activities, including sports, arts and crafts, music, drama, cooking, Esports, and opportunities such as the Duke of Edinburgh Award.

The sessions have been really successful so far, and students will have the opportunity to change their chosen enrichment activity each half term, allowing them to try something new and discover different passions throughout the year.

Taking part in enrichment activities is more than just enjoyable – it boosts confidence, develops teamwork and leadership skills, and supports future pathways, giving students a stronger chance of success in college, university, and apprenticeships.

We were thrilled to welcome Sergeant Major Ricky Atkinson, a former ICA student, who visited to speak with our Year 10 History students and History Club about his experiences in the Royal Marines. With Remembrance Day approaching, Ricky shared his insights on the importance of remembering those who have served and the values of courage, commitment, and resilience that underpin military life. During his visit, Sergeant Major Atkinson stayed over lunchtime to answer students' questions and demonstrate some of the equipment he uses in the field. Students were fascinated to see and handle the gear, bringing to life the realities of life in the Royal Marines and helping them connect their classroom learning to real-world experience. The visit provided a unique opportunity for our students to engage with a role model who has walked the path from ICA to serving in the armed forces. It was inspiring to hear firsthand about the challenges, teamwork, and dedication required, as well as the pride and responsibility that come with service.

We are grateful to Ricky for taking the time to share his journey and experiences with our students

Royal Marine Visit



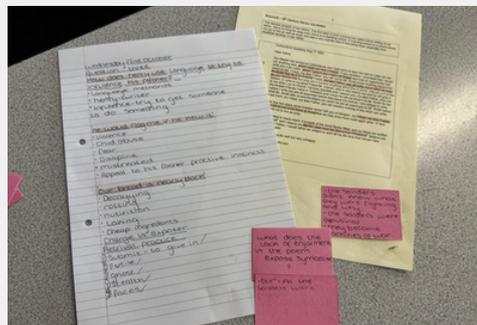


Year 11

It's been a fantastic start to the year for our Year 11 students, who continue to show real determination and maturity as they move into their final months at ICA. Whilst it has been a strong start to attendance, we must continue to keep this a priority and make every session count as we head towards exam season. It's been particularly impressive to see several occasions where we have achieved 100% attendance for our EPS sessions – a real reflection of students commitment and focus. A huge thank you to both our students and families for working together to ensure every lesson counts.

As we move towards mock exam season, there's a real buzz around school. The mock exams, taking place from *Monday 10th to Friday 21st November*, will give students the perfect opportunity to experience real exam conditions and identify any areas to build on before summer. Alongside these, French speaking exams will run between *Tuesday 4th and Thursday 6th November*, and our Art and Textiles practical exam takes place on *Friday 7th November*.

To help celebrate and reflect on progress, we'll be holding a Mock Results Day followed by Year 11 Parents' Evening on Thursday 4th December. This will give students and their families the chance to review mock outcomes, celebrate successes, and plan next steps for the months ahead.



Half Term Revision

During the half term break, school will be open on Monday 27th and Tuesday 28th October for our popular 'Coursework Busting Days' a great chance for students to catch up or get ahead with controlled assessments.

We are also encouraging students to take time over half term to create a clear revision plan. Effective organisation now will make a big difference later with helping to reduce stress, boost confidence, and ensure that they feels prepared and ready to succeed. Keep up the great work, Year 11 – your effort, focus and positivity are setting you up for an outstanding year ahead

OCTOBER Iram and Cadishead Academy The best in everyone™

Half Term Revision
27th & 28th October

	Monday	Tuesday
9am - 11am	Engineering group 1 Catering group 1 Drama group 1 Sports Studies group 1	Catering group 3 Art Maths group 1
11am - 1pm	Engineering group 2 Catering group 2 Drama group 2 Sports Studies group 2	Catering group 4 Textiles Maths group 2
1pm - 3pm	Engineering group 3	



Aspire Wall

The corridor between our Technology and Science departments has had a stunning transformation with the addition of our brand-new Aspire Wall. It is now a vibrant and inspiring space that celebrates ambition, opportunity, and achievement at ICA. The wall showcases all the ways students can get involved and grow through our ASPIRE programme, including Student Leadership, Careers, Enrichment Days, House System, Clubs, and Educational Visits. It's a fantastic way for students to see the opportunities available and think about how they can make the most of their time at school.

To inspire our students, the wall features world and local leaders who have made a positive impact. These displays change regularly to link with national and global events, such as Black History Month and Women in Science Week, keeping the wall fresh and exciting.

A standout feature is the interactive map of the UK, highlighting local colleges and universities to encourage students to explore higher education and future career paths.

The Aspire Wall is already sparking conversations and ideas, reminding everyone at ICA that we are Empowering Excellence and Expecting the Extraordinary, and inspiring students to aim high and make a difference.



As part of the campaign, the team has been visiting local Year 5 and Year 6 classes, delivering engaging assemblies and hands-on demonstrations to ensure students understand how to respond in an emergency. Their work is not only educating younger students but also empowering them to take action and potentially save lives. The Social Action team will continue these visits up until Christmas, spreading knowledge, building confidence, and making a real difference in the local community.

Pulse of Hope



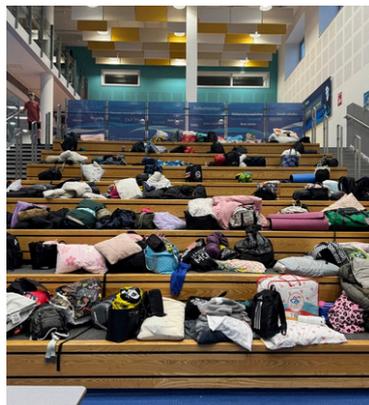
Year 7 Sleepover

On Friday 17th October, over 120 Year 7 students returned to school in the evening for our first ever ICA Sleepover and what an incredible night it was! The night was filled with fun, food and laughter as students and staff enjoyed a pizza party, karaoke, and a few competitive games of dodgeball before settling down for the night, camping-style, in school.

It wasn't just a fun experience, the sleepover gave our students a fantastic opportunity to build new friendships, develop confidence and independence, and strengthen their sense of belonging within the ICA community.

Everyone threw themselves into the activities, supported their friends, and showed exactly what being part of the ICA family is all about.

The event was a huge success, and we are so proud of our students for making it such a memorable night. It was the first time we've ever held a sleepover at ICA and we're certain it won't be the last!



Work Experience Evening

Recently, we held our Year 10 Work Experience Evening to share information with students and parents about the Gatsby Benchmarks and the importance of work experience. We were delighted to welcome a guest speaker from The Dean Group, who spoke about the fantastic opportunities available for students to complete their placements with them. All of our Year 10 students will complete their work experience during the week commencing 29th June 2026, and we're already excited to see the range of placements they'll be taking part in. It was a well-attended event, with over 70 students and parents joining us on the evening.

We are always looking for local businesses to provide valuable work experience placements for our students. If you or your organisation would like to get involved, please get in touch with the Academy – we'd love to hear from you!



CAN YOU HELP WITH WORK EXPERIENCE?



We're looking for local businesses and organisations across all industries to support our Year 10 students with valuable work experience placements.

PLEASE CONTACT

julie.baker@iramandcadisheadacademy.org.uk

Dates: Monday 30th June – Friday 4th July

School: Iram and Cadishead Academy

Goal: To give students a real insight into the world of work

If you or your company could offer a placement, we'd love to hear from you!



STEP UP WORKSHOPS

This term, we were delighted to welcome our Year 5 visitors into school to kick-start our StepUp programme, part of our ongoing transition offer to local primary schools.

The students took part in an engaging History session linked to Black History Month, exploring key figures, stories, and contributions that have shaped our shared history. It was wonderful to see their curiosity, enthusiasm, and confidence as they participated in discussions, activities, and challenges, getting a real taste of what learning at ICA is like.

These workshops play a vital role in helping pupils make a smooth and positive transition to secondary school. They give students the chance to meet staff, experience new subjects, and start to feel part of the ICA community. Beyond the academic focus, the sessions help pupils build confidence, ask questions, and develop the skills they will need to thrive in their next stage of learning.

We look forward to welcoming more Year 5 pupils in the coming months and continuing to support them as they take their first steps towards life at ICA.



PRIMARY HALLOWEN DISCO

Our Primary Halloween Disco was a frightfully fantastic evening, with over 160 children joining in the fun! The hall was alive with spooky and imaginative costumes – from witches and ghosts to zombies and devils – creating an incredible Halloween atmosphere.

Children enjoyed a variety of themed activities, including biscuit decorating, crafts, and plenty of dancing. The tuck shop was a huge hit, serving up hotdogs and sweet treats, while our creative decorations transformed the hall into a true Halloween haunt.

The evening was made even more memorable by appearances from some very special guests – Fred the Red, the Marshmallow Man, and our very own Pumpkin Ghoul – who joined in the fun and helped keep spirits high.

It was a fantastic night full of laughter, music, and community spirit, providing a wonderful opportunity for local children to come together and celebrate in style. A huge thank you to everyone who helped make the event such a success



Y10 Art & Textiles

It's been a busy and exciting half-term for our Year 10 Art and Textiles students, who have thrown themselves into all things creative! The term kicked off with a visit to Manchester Art Gallery, where students got a glimpse into the world of professional artists and explored a variety of creative styles – a perfect start to their GCSE journey.

Students then headed out into Manchester city centre to create observational drawings, capturing the buzz of the city and its architecture through their own artistic eyes. It was a great way to bring real-life inspiration into their work.

Back at school, they took part in a hands-on acrylic painting workshop with award-winning Cheshire artist Peter Davis. Under his guidance, students learned new painting techniques and explored contemporary portraiture, picking up some top tips from a professional along the way. As part of their My Day project, students chose a role model or personal moment to represent in a contemporary portrait – and the results have been really thoughtful and creative.

The gallery visit and workshop left students inspired and ready to dive into the rest of their GCSE work with energy and enthusiasm. With plenty more exciting projects coming up, it's shaping up to be a brilliant year for our Year 10 artists!



Football

Football at ICA is really picking up this year, with some fantastic performances across all year groups! Our KS3 Girls Football teams have had a challenging start, with Year 7 and Year 8 losing their opening fixtures in the English Schools Cup and Greater Manchester Schools Cup respectively. However, the girls bounced back brilliantly, combining their talents to win the Salford Schools Cluster and bring home the first piece of silverware of the season!

The Year 7 Boys have had an incredible start, remaining unbeaten in 3 games, scoring 19 goals and conceding just 2. Year 8 Boys have won 1 out of 3 games but boast a positive goal difference of 2, reflecting the attacking and entertaining style of football they play.

Year 9 Boys are 1 win from 2 games, and while they narrowly lost a tough match against Wright Robinson – a school with a strong footballing reputation – they continue to show their flair and attacking intent with a positive goal difference.

Our Year 10 Boys have been the busiest team so far. After a 5-4 penalty shootout loss in the English Schools Cup, they have gone from strength to strength, winning 3 games and scoring 16 goals while conceding only 1.

Finally, our Year 11 Boys have made an excellent start, winning both their games 6-1 and 5-3 and progressing in the English Schools Cup – a fantastic achievement to kick off the season. Well done to all our football teams for their hard work, determination, and attacking football this term – the future looks bright for ICA football!





Rugby

Our Year 7s have made an impressive start to both life at ICA and their rugby careers. Despite many students previously being more focused on football, they managed to field three teams (32 players) at their first 9-a-side tournament, with one team going unbeaten. Their second outing, a 13-a-side round-robin, didn't go quite as well, losing both games, but there was plenty of enjoyment and valuable learning for all involved.

The Year 8 Boys have also started the year strongly, sending two teams of 21 players to the Salford 9s competition at St Ambrose. Once again, one team went unbeaten, setting a high standard for the rest of the season.

Our Year 9s have had a fantastic start to the season. Their first 9s tournament saw them become the first undefeated side of the year, winning all 5 games and earning the first pizza celebration of the year! Their second fixtures was a Lancashire Cup game, providing 26 players with their first experience of rugby union. Despite facing a strong Liverpool side, the team played extremely well and fought hard until the very end, showing great determination and spirit.

Well done to all our rugby teams for their hard work, commitment, and fantastic performances so far this season!



Darts



Several of our students recently traveled to Ireland with their Irlam Steel Darts team, which we proudly sponsor, to test their skills in a friendly competition. The trip was about more than just darts – it was a chance to develop teamwork, perseverance, and create lasting memories.

There were some standout performances, particularly from Maxwell and Olivia, the only girl on the team, who impressed everyone with her confidence and determination. It was a fantastic experience for all involved, with ICA students representing their club with pride.

Manchester United Foundation

Cyber First Event



A group of Year 7 and 8 students recently took part in the Girls CyberFirst MEGA Event at Hotel Football. It was an exciting day designed to inspire the next generation of women in technology. The event gave students the chance to step into the world of coding, ciphering, and robotics, developing valuable digital and problem-solving skills along the way. The day kicked off with a coding challenge where students created their very own video games - designing characters, building playing spaces, and programming actions to bring their games to life. In the second activity, they put their logical thinking to the test by cracking coded clues to track down a fictional digital criminal, working together to decipher hidden messages from different countries.



Later, students synced robotic spheres to iPads and learned how to control them across a mini football pitch before finishing the day by coding their robots to race through an obstacle course.

It was a fantastic day of learning, collaboration, and fun, and a brilliant opportunity for our students to see just how creative and rewarding a future in technology can be.

Old Trafford Stadium Tour

A group of our students recently enjoyed an incredible stadium tour of Old Trafford, the world-famous home of Manchester United. The tour gave them exclusive access to some of the most iconic areas of the stadium – including the players' changing rooms, tunnel, dugout, press room, and seating areas within some of football's most historic stands.

After the tour, students explored the Manchester United Museum, where they discovered the club's rich history and achievements through fascinating exhibits and memorabilia. The trip concluded with a reflective walk through the Munich Tunnel, learning about the story and legacy of the Munich Air Disaster. It was a powerful and moving moment for everyone involved.





#ATTENDANCEMATTERS

Half Term 1 Attendance Round-Up: Every Day Counts!

Recent research from the Department for Education (DfE) has made it clearer than ever that every single day in school matters. According to the DfE's March 2025 report:

- Each additional day of absence between Years 7 and 11 is linked to a £750 reduction in future earnings.
- Pupils who are persistently absent (attendance at 90% or below) could earn £10,000 less by age 28 compared to their peers with high attendance.
- Students with near-perfect attendance are almost twice as likely to achieve a grade 5 or above in English and Maths GCSEs than those who miss just 10 extra days a year.

These aren't just statistics—they're a powerful reminder that regular attendance is one of the most effective ways to secure a brighter future.

We're proud to report that our attendance this half term is heading in the right direction:

- Overall attendance is up 2.4% compared to the same time last year.
- All year groups have shown progress:
 - Year 11: +4.8%
 - Year 10: +2.1%
 - Year 9: +2.2%
 - Year 8: +2.6%
 - Year 7: +1.2%



Our attendance rewards have played a big part in this success. Super Attendance Week and In to Win have been a huge hit with students, creating excitement and motivation around showing up every day. One lucky student even walked away with a brand-new iPad!

Student voice has told us that students are enjoying the variety at ICA from enrichment Wednesdays, House Challenges and Karaoke lunch times, there is something for everyone!

Let's keep building on this momentum. Every day in school is a step toward a stronger future.

#ATTENDANCE MATTERS!

**COLLEGES AND APPRENTICESHIP PROVIDERS WILL TAKE
YOUR CHILD'S ATTENDANCE IN YEAR 11 INTO ACCOUNT
WHEN CONSIDERING THEIR APPLICATION.**

THE ICA NEWSLETTER



Iram and Cadishead Academy
The best in everyone™
Part of United Learning

