



Irlam and Cadishead Academy Newsletter

December 2024 EDITION

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Provider

Respect | Enthusiasm | Ambition | Determination

EXPECT THE EXTRAORDINARY



In This Issue

- Rewards Station
- Proud Table
- Library Opening
- Academy Events
- Mock Results Day
- Guest Visits
- Co-Curricular
- Trips
- Sports
- Transition

KEY DATES

- Return to School - 7th January
- Options Evening - 16th January
- Inset Day - 31st January
- Year 10 Parents Evening - 13th February
- Last Day of Term - 14th February
- Return to School - 24th February



Irlam and Cadishead Academy
The best in everyone™
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THE ICA NEWSLETTER



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Dear Parents, Carers, and Members of our School Community,

As we approach the festive season, I'm delighted to share with you the remarkable progress and achievements of our Academy. It's been a term filled with positivity and success, and I'm immensely proud of how far we've come.

I'm thrilled to announce that our recent GCSE results have been outstanding. The Department for Education performance tables show a significant improvement in our Progress 8 measure, placing us among the top 5 schools in Salford. This remarkable achievement highlights the progress our pupils are making. A heartfelt well done to all our pupils and teachers for their fantastic effort and dedication.

Our commitment to excellence extends beyond the classroom, and we look forward to building on this success in the future. We've seen a marked increase in attendance compared to the same point last year, and I'm pleased to report a significant improvement in behaviour, with over 60% fewer pupils in RFI than at this time last year. These improvements create a more positive and productive learning environment for everyone. To further encourage and reward our pupils' efforts, we've launched an exciting new Reward Station. Pupils have the chance to win fantastic prizes through Golden Tickets, and it's been wonderful to see their focus and enthusiasm in earning these rewards.

Our Academy continues to be an integral part of the local community. We recently hosted a Christmas Dinner for local pensioners and organised a fabulous Christmas Fair, both of which were extremely well-attended. These events are a testament to our ongoing commitment to community engagement.

On the sporting front, our pupils continue to excel. Our Year 9 football team is progressing well in both the County Cup and Salford Cup. Girls' Rugby is going from strength to strength, with both teams performing admirably at the recent festival at Preston Grasshoppers Rugby Club.

We've also provided numerous enriching opportunities for our pupils this term. Years 9 and 10 have benefited from university visits, broadening their horizons and aspirations. Additionally, trips to France and Germany have taken place, offering invaluable cultural experiences. I'd like to extend my gratitude to the staff who generously gave up their time to run these trips. Rest assured, more exciting excursions are in the pipeline. Looking ahead, I'd like to draw your attention to some important dates. Our Year 9 Options Evening will be held on 16th January, which is crucial for GCSE choices. The Year 10 Parents Evening is scheduled for 13th February, and there's an INSET Day on 31st January.

As we wrap up this term, I want to express how incredibly proud I am of our Academy's progress over the past year. This success is a result of the collective hard work and dedication of our staff, pupils, and parents. The Academy is in an excellent position as we move into the new year.

I hope you all have a wonderful Christmas and a happy new year. Thank you for your continued support and partnership in making our Academy a place of growth, achievement, and community.

Warm Regards
Chris Leader
Principal





Big Efforts Bring Even Bigger Rewards!

Rewards Station Launch

At ICA, celebrating achievements and rewarding hard work is at the heart of what we do. To take this focus to the next level, we've introduced our brand-new Rewards Station—a central hub dedicated to showcasing and distributing all the amazing rewards available to our students.

The Rewards Station allows students to choose the rewards they'd like to work towards, putting them in control of their goals and celebrating their successes in a truly personalised way. It's also a space to highlight outstanding achievements, such as the Head of Year and Principal Awards, Bronze, Silver, and Gold Charter Students, and those who achieve 100% attendance.

To launch this exciting new initiative, we hosted a live Teams event, creating a real buzz around the academy. The feedback from students has been incredible—they're thrilled to set their sights on prizes and work towards their goals with even more motivation and enthusiasm!

The Rewards Station is already making a big impact, and we can't wait to see even more students being celebrated for their dedication and achievements.



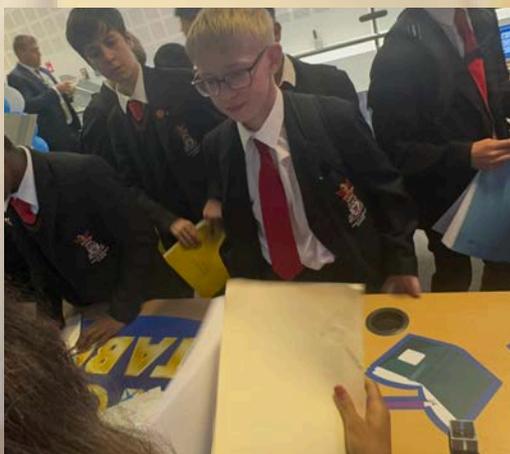


Proud Table

Having pride in what we do at Irlam and Cadishead Academy is something that we promote daily; we want our young people to be able to be recognised for their hard work and dedication to their studies. The Proud Table gives everyone in the school a chance to show their work off and gain recognition at the same; it allows our young people to discuss and demonstrate their skills and knowledge.

Every Thursday lunchtime, students have an opportunity to bring a piece of work they are immensely proud of and articulate to staff what in particular they are happy with. In return students receive stamp on their Proud Table Card, and are rewarded with a prize of their choice from the Proud Table Cart. Each week students are entered into a raffle draw to win an amazing prize such as gift vouchers, lunch queue passes or even to play on the PlayStation with the Head Teacher.

Over the past term, students have been consistently practicing their oracy skills at the Proud Table, communicating effectively to staff and discussing the work they have produced in lessons. All students who have received five stamps on their Proud Table Cards, are automatically entered into a prize draw to win a main prize at the end of the school term. Participation at the Proud Table has been overwhelming this term. It has been refreshing to see all the incredible pieces of work produced by the talented students here at Irlam and Cadishead Academy.





Chris Stocks Library

On the 5th of November 2024 we officially opened the doors to our new library: The Chris Stocks Library, a place where students are able to read for pleasure and empowerment. When faced with the opportunity to design the library, we knew that we wanted to create a space that was both comforting and warm, a place where students would relax and be able to get lost in a good book - this space enables our young people to do just this.

However, we recognise that none of this would have been possible without Chris Stocks, a man who believed that 'Every Child in Iram and Cadishead deserved a chance to succeed'. His wife, friends and those who appreciate everything that Chris Stocks did whilst alive were in attendance and shared stories and memories of a life well lived by Chris.

The library stands in his honour, and we are proud and lucky to have such a wonderful resource within our school community that most certainly will help young people in Iram and Cadishead have that chance Chris Stocks wanted them to have.



Chemistry Week

The annual event 'Chemistry Week,' was celebrated at here at ICA from 4th- 10th November.

There were a range of different activities taking place within the Science department to celebrate the week, with students taking part in Chemistry themed practical lessons, for example extracting metals or investigating energy changes in chemical reactions. All lessons were linked to a career in Chemistry, such as Chemical Engineers, Chemical analysts and Chemists.

Science staff also dressed up as famous Chemists, ranging from Albert Einstein, Marie Curie and Ernest Rutherford.

Mrs John-Charles delivered assemblies each day to different year groups to promote careers in Chemistry, encouraging more students to take an active interest in Science and to think about pursuing a career in Science in the future.

Overall, the week proved immensely successful and had more students talking about Science and Science careers across the school.





Primary Halloween Disco

This Halloween, ICA hosted a fantastic Primary Halloween Disco for Year 4, 5, and 6 students. The evening was filled with fun activities like pumpkin decorating, biscuit making, and a selfie booth, along with hot dogs, a tuck shop, and prizes for the best costumes. The highlight was a surprise guest appearance by the Mashmallow Man! Both students and staff had a great time celebrating together in true spooky style.



Remembrance Assembly

On 11th November, we held a whole-school assembly to honour and remember those who sacrificed their lives in wartime for our country. Students demonstrated exemplary respect and behaviour throughout the solemn occasion, which featured readings by the Principal students, a roll call of former ICA students who lost their lives in wartime, and a one-minute silence. The assembly concluded with a moving rendition of *The Last Post*, performed by Mr. Billinge. It was a poignant and reflective moment for the entire school community.

Over 60's Xmas Dinner

Building on the success of our Over 60s Afternoon Tea in the spring, we were delighted to welcome the community back for a festive Christmas dinner. 100 guests joined us for a delicious Christmas meal prepared by our canteen, with homemade desserts expertly baked by Mr. Joubert. The afternoon was filled with holiday cheer, including a fun Christmas quiz and live entertainment from our talented school choir and local singer Jordan Drinkwater.

Our students, who served as waiters and waitresses, were widely praised for their politeness, helpfulness, and outstanding service, making the event extra special. The feedback we received was fantastic, and we can't wait to host another event like this in the future. It was a heartwarming way to celebrate the season and bring the community together!





Year 11 Mock Results Day

Mock Results Day marked a key milestone in our students' academic journey, providing a clear picture of their progress and areas for improvement as they prepare for their final exams. The day began with an inspiring assembly from guest speaker Ashleigh Porter-Exley, who motivated students to approach challenges with resilience and determination.

Following the assembly, students celebrated their hard work with pizza and pop, sharing the moment with their peers and teaching staff in a supportive and encouraging atmosphere. The event wasn't just about grades but about meaningful reflection, as students worked with their mentors to identify strengths and develop strategies to tackle any weaknesses.

Whether the results met expectations or highlighted areas needing attention, the day served as a catalyst for growth. Students left feeling motivated to refine their study habits, seek additional support where necessary, and set clear goals ahead of their next mock exams in March.



Certificate Evening

It was lovely to welcome back the Class of 2024, along with their parents and carers, for a memorable Certificate Evening on 28th November. It was great to catch up with our former students and hear what they are now doing as they continue on their journeys. The evening celebrated the outstanding GCSE achievements of our students, with special recognition given to those who received the prestigious David Pennington and Niall Page music awards. This year also saw the introduction of the ICA Legacy Award, presented to students who demonstrated exceptional attendance and behaviour throughout their time at ICA.



Paris Trip

At the start of the October half term, 40 students and 5 staff departed Irlam and set off on a 10-hour journey to Paris for a cultural tour of the French capital, Whilst away students saw the cityscape from the top of the Eiffel Tower, took a relaxing boat tour down the Siene, learning about the many historical landmarks in Paris, and visited the world famous Arc de Triomphe and Champs Elysees. The students thoroughly enjoyed our city tour but undoubtedly the highlight of the trip was the day at Disneyland Paris where students enjoyed the thrill of the rides, alongside the unique atmosphere of the theme park. Whilst students, and staff, returned from the trip needing more than a few extra hours of sleep, it was a trip to remember and even the impromptu escargot for dinner was received well by most!



Munich Trip

Year 11 students enjoyed an unforgettable trip to Munich, Germany, to support their GCSE History studies. Despite an early 4 a.m. start, a flight diversion to Frankfurt, and nearly all our luggage going missing, Mrs. Cotton's determination ensured everything was recovered, allowing us to focus on an incredible experience.

Highlights included exploring Munich city centre, learning about the White Rose rebellion and Munich Putsch, visiting Dachau concentration camp, and touring the Olympic Stadium from the 1972 Games. A day trip to Nuremberg added further insight, with visits to the Nazi rally grounds and the Medieval city centre.

Altogether it was a fantastic and memorable experience, even if we were a little jet-lagged!



Co-Curricular Clubs

As an academy we know the importance of extracurricular activities and pride ourselves on taking on feedback from our students as to which Aspire Clubs, they would like to get stuck into and try. This term saw the launch of over 15 brand new clubs which ran alongside our already large number of enrichment opportunities. These additional groups, alongside our already popular staple clubs, were incredibly popular and our attendance numbers are growing each week! Favourites of the term include Cheerleading led by Miss Salt & Miss Evans which students have described as "energetic and fun", as well as Chess Club, Basketball and Dodgeball which the students can't get enough of! The rising number of enrichment opportunities on offer has led to more students than ever getting involved, resulting in our highest number of Student Charter Bronze, Silver and Gold recipients





SPORTS ROUND UP

Our teams have had an action-packed Autumn term, showcasing their talents across various fixtures and events!

We are extremely proud of all our students who have taken part in sporting events during their own time, demonstrating exceptional commitment and embodying our core values of respect, enthusiasm, ambition, and determination. Their efforts have been especially commendable during these colder months, as they braved challenging weather conditions to represent our school with pride and resilience. Their dedication both on and off the field is an inspiration to us all!

Football

- **KS3 Girls Football:** Secured a place in the next round of the GMCSFA Cup with a fantastic win at Cardinal Langley.
- **Year 7 Football:** Rounded off the group stages with an impressive 6-0 victory over Buile Hill.
- **Year 8 Football:** Advanced to the knockout stages with two wins from three games.
- **Year 9 Football:** Kicked off the year brilliantly, qualifying for the Salford Schools Cup knockout rounds and advancing in the GMCSFA Cup with a professional 2-0 win against Bluecoat School.
- **Year 10 Football:** Topped their group in the Salford Schools Cup with standout performances.
- **Year 11 Football:** Earned their first points of the campaign after a hard-fought match against Bridgewater. The remaining group games are set to take place after Christmas.



Rugby

- **KS3 Girls Rugby:** Triumphed at their first rugby union festival in Preston Grasshoppers, winning all five games—a remarkable achievement!
- **KS4 Girls Rugby:** Matched the KS3 team's success by also winning all five games at their festival.
- **Year 7 Rugby:** Made significant progress in the Salford Schools competition and represented Salford in the North West Counties competition, holding their own against strong opponents.
- **Year 8 Rugby:** Claimed victory in the first Salford Schools festival with a spirited display at Walkden High School and performed admirably in the North West Counties competition.
- **Year 9 Rugby:** Made history as the first ICA team to compete in the Lancashire Cup (Rugby Union). They also represented Salford in the North West Counties competition, putting up a valiant fight against the National Champions in the opening round.



Netball

- **Year 7 Netball:** Began their ICA netball journey with enthusiasm, boasting great attendance at practices and celebrating their first win of the season against SCA!
- **Year 10 Netball:** Started positively in the Salford Netball League, playing some excellent matches and eagerly anticipating upcoming fixtures.





LIAM BYRNE VISIT

Ex-ICA student and current Wigan Warriors and Ireland international rugby league player, Liam Byrne, paid us a visit in November, and it was an unforgettable experience! Liam reconnected with his former teachers, participated in an engaging Q&A session where he answered students' questions, and shared his inspiring journey from ICA to the international rugby stage.

Liam also teamed up with Paul Elliot from Cadishead Rhinos to lead an after-school rugby session. Together, they provided expert coaching, ran dynamic drills, and shared invaluable tips, offering our students a firsthand look at what it takes to excel in rugby. The energy and expertise they brought to the session left a lasting impression on everyone involved.

It was an incredibly inspirational day, and we can't thank Liam enough for giving up his time to support and motivate the next generation of athletes at ICA.



Motivational Speaker

ICA was thrilled to welcome Ashleigh Porter-Exley, winner of Young Apprentice and recipient of the prestigious Queen's Young Leader Award, on 5th December. Ashleigh spoke to students from Years 7 to 11, delivering a motivational talk that left a lasting impression.

Celebrated for her journey of resilience, hard work, and success, Ashleigh has risen to prominence at a young age, becoming a role model for overcoming challenges and achieving goals through determination and perseverance. Her powerful storytelling and relatable approach inspired our students to unlock their potential, embrace resilience, and seize every opportunity to shape their future.





Transition Club

This half term, we proudly launched our ICA Transition Club, supported by Salford Youth Service, to help Year 6 students prepare for the exciting journey ahead. The club provides a fantastic opportunity for students to make new friends, build confidence, and become familiar with their future school environment.

So far, participants have enjoyed meeting various staff members and taking part in a range of engaging activities. Highlights include hands-on science experiments, an interactive session with PC Byrnes from the police, and a festive Christmas art workshop. The club has been a great success, and we look forward to welcoming even more Year 6 students in the future!



Step up Workshops

As part of our "Step Up to ICA" program, we've continued to welcome local primary schools for subject-specific workshops designed to inspire and engage future students. To make their experience even more memorable, each student receives a lanyard upon their visit and earns a subject badge for every workshop they attend.

This initiative not only introduces students to the exciting opportunities at ICA but also encourages them to take pride in their learning journey as they collect their badges and build their connection with the school.





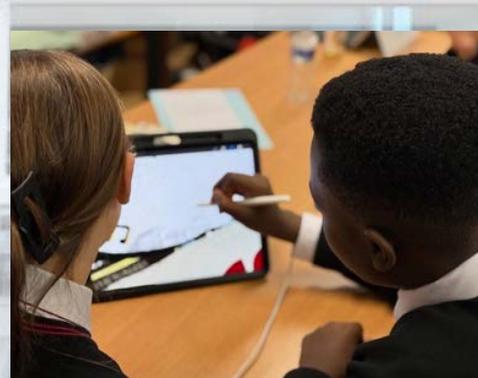
Reframe Project

Last Academic Year, Mrs Colquitt submitted a successful application to be one of four schools in the North of England to take part in an exciting opportunity with Factory International.

Thirty of our talented artists across KS3 applied internally to be part of the project. They started their creative learning journey with a visit to the South bank in London, seeing Tavares Strachan's exhibition: There is Light Somewhere. The thought provoking works from Strachan focused around a sense of belonging and untold stories which was inspiration for the project.

Students were then involved in four workshops at ICA, having the opportunity to work with two creatives in the field of poetry and graphic design to inspire and develop their ideas and professional editing.

Students created their own designs with an inspiration of untold stories and unsung heroes in their community which will be celebrated and exhibited at Factory International in February 2025. A huge well done to our talented Art students and our sincerest gratitude to Mike, Courtney and Amber at Factory International for the opportunity and insight into careers within the Arts.



Charity Bake Sale

Year 10 student Isobel recently took the initiative to organise a cake sale in support of the British Heart Foundation, a cause that holds personal significance for her. With the help of her friends, the event was a great success, raising over £171 for this wonderful charity.

We're incredibly proud of Isobel's effort, determination, and commitment to making a difference for such an important cause. Well done to everyone involved!





Christmas Card Competition

ICA's annual Christmas Card Competition was launched this term in the Art Department. As always, standards were incredibly high from our talented artists across all year groups, with nearly 100 entries. Unfortunately, there can only be one winner, with this year's first prize being awarded to Ruby Sainthouse in Year 10 for her delicate festive watercolour composition. A huge congratulations to Ruby and to all the students who entered.

The winning entry was made into official Christmas cards, which were sent out by Mr. Leader on behalf of the school, showcasing Ruby's beautiful design to spread festive cheer to our community.



HDT Elf Train

Once again, our lucky Year 7 students had the chance to visit the station garden and experience the magical HDT Elf Train as it passed by. The students were delighted to wave to Santa and his cheerful elves, spreading smiles all around. It's a delightful tradition that never fails to get everyone into the Christmas spirit. A big thank you to the Hamilton Davies Trust for organising such a wonderful community event that brings so much joy to all involved!



#ATTENDANCEMATTERS

Our whole school attendance is not only higher than the same period in the previous academic year but also surpasses the current National Average. This achievement is a testament to the dedication of our students, the support of our parents, and the hard work of our staff. Well done to everyone involved!

To encourage good attendance, we've been handing out some brilliant rewards. ICA students have won Trafford Centre vouchers, queue jump passes, hair straighteners, and even a PS4! Excellent attendance also contributes to the ICA Charter with award winners enjoying a silent disco and a trip to the bowling alley.

While we celebrate these successes, it's crucial to remember the importance of consistent attendance.



Key information about attendance and its impact on academic achievement:

- Did you know that attendance below 90% is classed as Persistent Absence? To put this into perspective, 90% attendance across an academic year means that a student has missed 4 weeks of a school year – that's a staggering 100 lessons!
- Research clearly shows a strong link between poor attendance and lower academic achievement.

In fact, missing just 17 days in one year can result in dropping a full grade at GCSE

These statistics highlight why we place such a strong emphasis on attendance at ICA. Every day at school counts, and every lesson is an opportunity for our students to learn, grow, and prepare for their future. We understand that there may be times when absence is unavoidable, but we encourage you to support your child's education by ensuring they attend school regularly and punctually.

If you have any concerns or questions about attendance, please don't hesitate to get in touch with our attendance team or your child's Head of Year. We're here to support you and your child every step of the way.

#ATTENDANCE MATTERS!

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



THIS TERM'S HIGHLIGHTS



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