INA Principal's Newsletter

21 November 2014
Dear Parents and Carers,

It was great to see so many parents of our founding primary cohort at school on Wednesday evening to learn more about our phonics programme from Ms Broadway, Ms Brown and Ms Harris. We also had a very informative secondary parent workshop on Thursday night where Ms Alibhai-Watson and Ms Hussain talked through our Independent Learning Policy and expectations and discussed ways of supporting children with IL. Both of these presentations will be uploaded onto our website and can be found under the Community tab – Resources for Parents.

We have a number of key events taking place towards the end of term: our Community Party (for which we have an early closure on Tuesday 9th December with students who are not involved leaving the site at 1.10pm), our Winter Concert on Thursday 18th December and Awards Assemblies on the last day of term, Friday 19th December (Reception at 9am, Year 7 at 10.10am, Year 8 at 11.20am and Year 9 at 12.15pm). Some details are on the opposite page and further information will be in upcoming newsletters.

With best wishes,

Rachel Macfarlane,
Principal
A Warm Invite to INA’s End of Term Awards Assemblies - Friday 19th December

On Friday 19th December we will be holding our first Awards Assemblies of the year. This is an opportunity for the staff, students, governors and parents/carers to formally celebrate Year 7, 8 and 9 students’ achievements at the end of the autumn term. There will be an assembly for each year group. Please note the times as follows:

**Year 7**  10.10 - 10.55 am  
**Year 9**  11.20 - 12.05 pm  
**Year 8**  12.15 - 1.00 pm

At the assemblies we will be presenting awards in recognition of students’ academic progress and attainment, personal progress and the development of their BRIDGES dispositions. Excellent attendance and punctuality will also be celebrated. It is also a great opportunity for you to see some examples of the activities and events your child has been participating in this term.

We believe that it is important that every student is represented by a parent at the Awards Assembly for their year group and would like to invite one parent to attend on behalf of the family. If you would like to attend, please ask your son/daughter to collect a ticket for the relevant Awards Assembly from his/her form tutor. Please request your ticket by Monday 15th December.

Due to limited capacity in the viewing gallery, we are unable to accommodate very many additional family members. However, if you would like a second place, please notify the school office and we will do our best to allocate an additional ticket.

I look forward to seeing you on Friday 19th December.

Jo Spencer  
Vice Principal
Regular attendance is a crucial factor in students’ educational development and ability to achieve their full potential.

At Isaac Newton Academy every student is set the target of 100% attendance.

Well done to 8S and 9A for meeting the 100% attendance target last week.

**Weekly form scores**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Form</th>
<th>Year 7</th>
<th>8S</th>
<th>Year 8</th>
<th>9A</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
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<td>92.20%</td>
<td>94.50%</td>
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</table>

**Year groups**

**Year 7 97.3%**  
**Year 8 97.2%**  
**Year 9 96.6%**

Leanne Abbott-Jones  
Year 9 Pastoral Leader
**Big Band Project**

Thank you once again to those parents who made a contribution to their child’s Big Band instrument last half-term. The ongoing sustainability of this hugely successful and innovative project, which enriches the life of every student at the Isaac Newton Academy, is in no small way down to your continued generosity.

As you will be aware, we are very keen for students to keep playing after the three year project has ended and for that reason we really want students to have the option of buying their instrument off the school at the end of the project. We would therefore really appreciate a £5 half termly donation which can be made via Wisepay. Just log into Wisepay via the Academy website and there is a button for music payments.

Any donations made towards the loan of your child’s instrument would be taken as a down payment on the instrument and would be subtracted from the overall cost of the instrument were you to purchase it at the end of your child’s time having Big Band lessons.

If you have any questions about the Big Band Project, please contact me.

Thank you.

Mr. Coughlin, Head of Music

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**Uniform**

I’m delighted to say that our students continue to look really smart and would like to thank parents and carers for supporting the school uniform policy. As the autumn weather starts to set in, I would respectfully remind parents/carers of our uniform policy with regards to outdoor clothing and footwear.

**Shoes**

Boys: Plain black school shoes (any laces must be black).

Girls: Plain black, low-heeled shoes (any laces must be black).

Boots of any kind are not permitted. This includes Kicker boots. Plimsolls are not permitted.

**Outdoor Clothing**

Outdoor coats must be plain black. They should not have logos (for example Superdry, Adidas or North Face) or splashes of colour. No leather or denim jackets or hoodies are permitted. Hats, gloves and scarves must be plain black, with no logos.

Jo Spencer
Vice Principal
The Mathematics department would like to encourage all students to enter next week’s Mathematician of the Moment competition. Have a look at the problem below. Answers to be written on a Maths postcard to be placed in the Maths post box no later than 4.10pm on Wednesday 3rd December. Good luck and may the best form win!!!

How many triangles?

Answers on a postcard to be handed to Ms Gohil (F.33) by Wednesday 4.10pm latest!
YEAR 8 - PROBLEM OF THE WEEK

Wednesday 19th November to Wednesday 3rd December

James was looking through the family photograph album, which has a photo of each of his parent, each of his grandparents, all the way up to each of his great-great-grandparents. How many photos is that?

Answers on a postcard to be handed to Ms Gohil (F.33) by Wednesday 4.10pm latest!

YEAR 9 - PROBLEM OF THE WEEK

Wednesday 19th November to Wednesday 3rd December

Using four straight lines join all nine dots together without letting your pencil leave the paper.

Answers on a postcard to be handed to Ms Gohil (F.33) by Wednesday 4.10pm latest!
On Saturday 15th November we welcomed Uswah, an undergraduate studying Aerospace Engineering at Bristol University to INA. A group of 20 students were involved in this enjoyable and informative session. In the first half, Uswah talked about the various types of degrees related to Engineering.

We were all so amazed to hear of the different types of opportunities linked to the subject. Uswah also talked to us very specifically about the skills required, subjects that need to be studied to obtain places for engineering, funding for degrees and also careers for life beyond university.
The second half was more practical as students had the chance of building their own working catapults! The students worked collaboratively in groups and achieved some brilliant results. Each group was given 10 pop sticks, 1 bottle cap, 5 rubber bands, a plastic spoon, some glue and cellotape and also a small paper ball to launch. At the end of the session we tested the catapults' reliability to see which groups’ paper ball was launched furthest. Well done to Zara Rafiq, Nipuni Divisekara, Zahra Khan, Sumayyah Hosenee and Sanaa Rasool for their winning catapult, as their paper travelled furthest.
At INA, we aim to provide a stimulating, challenging and rewarding learning environment which supports learning, celebrates achievement and encourages everyone. Awarding merits, the student portfolios, informal praise in class and the end of term awards assemblies are all part of this. Please speak to your child/children on a regular basis to see how many merits they have and how they are working towards the different awards on offer.

**Merits**

Students can receive merits for achievement, progress, contribution, or any of the BRIDGES dispositions. If students have achieved 25 merits by the end of the term, they get a bronze certificate; 50 merits leads to a silver certificate; 100 merits brings home the gold. We’ve also created the Platinum Award for anyone that achieves over 125 merits.

Three weeks into the second half term, the results are as follows:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year 7</th>
<th>Year 8</th>
<th>Year 9</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>A</td>
<td>T</td>
<td>N</td>
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<tr>
<td>E</td>
<td>W</td>
<td>I</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

1st place: **N** (915 merits)
2nd place: **A** (866 merits)
3rd place: **S** (854 merits)

Don’t forget to check out the Praise and Recognition notice board and the digital screens to see if you are mentioned as one of the merit stars of that week and to see what certificates are up for grabs at the end of each term!

Jennifer Byrne
Year 8 Pastoral Leader, i/c Praise and Recognition
We are delighted to be organising a Christmas Party for the local community this year. We would love to invite older members to join us for a Christmas celebration on the afternoon of Tuesday 9th December. We hope this is a chance for our students to get to know members of the local community and interact with older people that they are not related to. If you have any elderly neighbours who you would like us to invite please could you share their title, name, address and contact number with reception.

**Bingo and Raffle Prizes**

We are looking for donations of unopened gifts for the guests of the Community Christmas party as we hope to host a bingo game and a raffle.

Should you have a suitable prize to donate please hand it in to reception FAO INA Ms Alibhai-Watson by the 8th of December.

Many thanks in advance for your generosity towards supporting this event.
The BRIDGES focus for the fortnight Monday 17th November – Friday 28th November is 

Organisation

Sebastian Coe, a former Olympic runner, was head of the Olympic bid and went on to lead the committee that organised the 2014 Olympic Games, the most ambitious logistical exercise in the UK in peacetime. The Olympic committee oversaw the deployment of 14,000 athletes, 800,000 spectators, a workforce of 200,000 (including 70,000 volunteers), 25 million items of sports equipment and the building of nine venues, including the Olympic Park which was finished on time.

Organisation

Having a system that works, arranging things so nothing is forgotten, putting things in order. If you are organised, you are clear about what you need, what you want to do and when you are going to do it.

Behaviours

Having all the things you need for the day, being up to date with C/L and I/L, completing all tasks, knowing where things are and returning them after use, being on time, setting goals and deadlines for tasks, using a watch, using a calendar/student organiser or lists to help you.

Activities

1) Model and talk through how you use a diary/Outlook to organise your working week.
2) Students design an organised workspace, with places for equipment, books and technology.
3) Give students a list of activities and tasks with deadlines spread over a half term and get them to decide when they will do each task and how long they will spend on it.
4) Give students a list of household chores to be completed over a week and get them to prioritise them.
5) Discuss how mobile phones, social networking and immediate access to the internet can impact adversely on sticking to deadlines for I/L and using time wisely.

Top tips

Students

Check your student organisers at the end of each day to see what I/L you have and what books, equipment, resources you will need to complete it.
Ensure I/L tasks are ticked off when completed.
Each evening, check your timetable and get your school bag ready for the next day.
Organise your work space at home with a place to store books, stationery, files and equipment and space to write, read and use a computer/laptop.
Organise your electronic files clearly and label them in a logical way.
Check the time so you are on time for school, for morning line up and

Parents

Talk to your son/daughter about how you organise your work/finances/shopping/household chores etc.
Ask your son/daughter to help you organise a family event/celebration by writing lists, prioritising tasks, setting deadlines and costing it out.
Discuss with your son/daughter how they are going to organise their revision for the end of term/year assessments.

Jo Spencer, Vice Principal
Thank you to those parents/carers who were able to attend our first workshop on phonics on Wednesday evening. It was an impressive turn out and great to see so many of you participating and asking great questions about your child’s learning. We fully appreciate your support. I look forward to inviting you all to many more workshops in the new year.

For those of you who were unable to attend or would like to read through the presentation again, it is now available to view from the ‘Community’ tab on the website and then in ‘Resources for Parents’.

We also talked about the logistics of the move to the new primary building. The staff will use the first week back after the Christmas break to decant from the temporary accommodation, set up in the new primary classrooms and establish systems and procedures ready to welcome the children on Monday 12th January. The whole Academy is scheduled to be closed on Monday 5th & Tuesday 6th January for staff training, so the primary will have the three extra days for preparation. We appreciate that this creates childcare issues for families but thank you for your understanding and cooperation in ensuring that we start the new term smoothly in our permanent building.

We have also taken the decision not to extend the length of school day, so will continue with the gates being opened at 8.20am for an 8.45am start, and a 3.45pm finish when we move to the new building.

Tam Broadway, Head of Primary
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Tam Broadway, Head of Primary

Maths Mastery This Week
The children have been working with the number ‘7’ and working on ‘one more’, ‘one less’ and making estimations.
Headteacher’s Lunch
Well done to the following pupils who have been nominated for the Headteacher’s Lunch next week. An invitation will be given to the children during our Friday Praise and Recognition Assembly:
Zoya Abbasi
Casian Toaca
Ceylan Warner
Nassim Rebhi
Ria Jethwa
Arsal Anjum
Rohin Ronson.

Every week each teacher chooses two children from their class to receive a certificate in assembly, one in recognition of a child demonstrating our BRIDGES habit of the week, and the other in recognition of a pupil's academic effort throughout the week.

Well done to the following children, who have been recognised this week.

Curie Class:
Charan Chaggar – Headteacher’s Habits Award (for collecting leaves and sharing them with others to make some Autumn pictures.)
Zoya Abbasi – Scholar of the Week (for being polite, helpful and hardworking in class.)

Maxwell Class:
Casian Toaca – Headteacher’s Habits Award (for being resourceful and using a range of materials to make 2D shapes.)
Kisa Fatima – Scholar of the Week (for gaining confidence during phonics and using her sounds to read words.)

Newton Class:
Mason La Penna – Headteacher’s Habits Award (for recycling boxes at home to make a toy.)
Milan Richards – Scholar of the Week (for trying hard to use her sounds in literacy.)
Regular attendance is a crucial factor in students’ educational development and ability to achieve their full potential.

At Isaac Newton Academy every student is set the target of 100% attendance.

The class with the highest attendance at the end of every week is awarded the attendance trophy during Friday’s Award & Recognition assembly.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Class</th>
<th>Attendance</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Curie</td>
<td>90.1%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Maxwell</td>
<td>84%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Newton</td>
<td>97%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Overall</td>
<td>90.4%</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

This week’s winners are Newton class with a respectable 97%. Come on Curie and Maxwell – what’s happened??

Let’s hope that all classes will meet their target of 100% each week this half term.
"We build too many walls and not enough bridges.” Isaac Newton

BRIDGES are habits of mind or learning characteristics that develop a pupil's character and learning power and enable him/her to grow into a well-rounded individual and resilient learner.

There are seven BRIDGES habits that we will be working on, which will rotate on a weekly cycle throughout the year. The BRIDGES habit of the week will always be introduced at the beginning of the week during the Monday assembly and reinforced throughout the week across the curriculum. Each class teacher will award a certificate to a pupil that they feel has demonstrated the BRIDGES focus for the week.

Each week we will update you on the BRIDGES habit that will be introduced in the coming week and offer some top tips on how to reinforce the habit at home too. Please also refer to the Primary BRIDGES wheel above

**Week commencing 24th November – Integrity**

Integrity

Displaying habits of fairness, humanity, justice, citizenship, honesty and humility. At home and school:

We will be encouraging the pupils to make sure they play in a kind way and ensure they include others in their games. Games where ‘turn-taking’ is needed eg. Snakes & Ladders are great at helping the children to understand that everyone must have a fair turn in a game. It is also important that the children learn how to win and lose a game graciously, that they show humility rather than being boastful if they win but also congratulate the winner and say well done rather than sulk. These are hard lessons for us all!
Primary Reminders

Wisepay Details

Wisepay details have been given to everyone now, which will allow you to order uniform items and also to book a place for ‘Breakfast Club’ or ‘After School Club’. If you experience any problems, please contact Ms Rayner who will be happy to help.

IMPORTANT REMINDERS

- Please remember to label every item of your child’s uniform, so that we can help in getting items back to the correct owner and to check that your child has the correct clothes at home and hasn’t by mistake taken someone else’s clothing.
- It is very important that your child is in their full uniform every day. If your child has lost an item of clothing, such as a tie, we ask that this be replaced as soon as possible. The office staff can help with any orders you need to make.
- A reminder that on Mondays the children need to come to school wearing their PE kit.
- If your child comes to school wearing boots, they must have their regular school shoes to change into in their bag please.
- Please ensure your child attends school every day and on time. If your child is sick then you must call the office to let us know by 8.15am.

Breakfast Club & After School Club

Thank you to all the parents & carers who have supported the use of the breakfast and after school clubs over the last half term; both are going very well, with attendance increasing gradually each week. You can make bookings through the Wisepay facilities. If you need any further help in doing this, please contact either Ms Rayner or Ms Heywood, who will be more than happy to help you.

Breakfast is available each day from 7.45am and costs just £2 per day. The children enjoy a range of cereals, toast and different toppings, juice or milk and fruit. Any child attending must be brought to the main reception area by 8.20am at the latest.

After School Club runs from 3.45pm – 6.00pm and costs just £5 per hour. The children enjoy a range of snacks each evening and a variety of games and activities.

Tam Broadway, Head of Primary
Key Dates for 2014-15

**Autumn Term**

- Tuesday 25th November: Shaking Up Shakespeare performance for Year 9s
- Tuesday 2nd December: Year 9 Options Evening
- Wednesday 3rd December: Information Event for parents of prospective Reception children
- Tuesday 9th December: Community Party for OAPs
- Wednesday 10th December: Progress Evening for parents of Reception students
- Friday 12th December: Christmas Lunch
- Saturday 13th December: Saturday Stretch: Psychology
- Thursday 18th December: Primary Christmas Play/Concert (during day)
- School Concert (evening)
- Friday 19th December: Secondary Awards Assemblies & End of Term. Secondary students finish at 1.20pm.

**Spring Term**

- Monday 5th January: Staff Training Day (school closed to all students)
- Tuesday 6th January: Staff Training Day (school closed to all students)
- Wednesday 7th January: Information Evening for parents of prospective Reception children
- Wednesday 14th January: BRIDGES mentoring for secondary students – pm
- Thursday 22nd January: BRIDGES Parent Workshop (Secondary)
- Tuesday 27th January: Holocaust Memorial Day
- Thursday 29th January: ARK Table Tennis Championships
- Monday 2nd February: ARK Spelling Bee
- Wednesday 4th February: Year 9 Progress Meetings (during the day)
- Wednesday 11th February: Secondary Music Recital
- Friday 13th February: ARK Training Day (school closed to all students)
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### Winter Term

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event Details</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Thursday 26th February</td>
<td>Year 8 Progress Meetings (during the day)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Thursday 5th March</td>
<td>Secondary Big Band competition</td>
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<td>World Book Day</td>
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<tr>
<td>Friday 6th February</td>
<td>Year 9 Science Live Trip</td>
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<tr>
<td>Thursday 12th February</td>
<td>Year 9 Trip to Othello at the Globe</td>
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<tr>
<td>Friday 13th February</td>
<td>ARK Mega Maths Wrangle</td>
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<tr>
<td>Thursday 19th March</td>
<td>BBC School Report</td>
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<tr>
<td>Tuesday 24th February</td>
<td>Understanding Reports Parent Workshop (Secondary)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Wednesday 25th March</td>
<td>Performing Arts Spring Spectacular</td>
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<tr>
<td>Thursday 26th March</td>
<td>ARK Debating Championships</td>
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<tr>
<td>Tuesday 31st March</td>
<td>Year 7 Progress Meetings (during the day)</td>
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<td>Progress Evening for parents of Reception students</td>
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<tr>
<td>Thursday 2nd April</td>
<td>Secondary Awards Assemblies &amp; End of Term.</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Secondary students finish at 1.20pm.</td>
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- **Monday 2nd February**: ARK Spelling Bee
- **Wednesday 4th February**: Year 9 Progress Meetings (during the day)
- **Wednesday 11th February**: Secondary Music Recital
- **Friday 13th February**: ARK Training Day (school closed to all students)

### Half Term: Monday 16 – Friday 20 February 2015

- **Thursday 26th February**: Year 8 Progress Meetings (during the day)
- **Thursday 12th February**: Year 9 Trip to Othello at the Globe
- **Friday 13th February**: ARK Mega Maths Wrangle
- **Thursday 19th March**: BBC School Report
- **Tuesday 24th February**: Understanding Reports Parent Workshop (Secondary)
- **Wednesday 25th March**: Performing Arts Spring Spectacular
- **Thursday 26th March**: ARK Debating Championships
- **Tuesday 31st March**: Year 7 Progress Meetings (during the day)
- **Thursday 3rd April**: Progress Evening for parents of Reception students
- **Thursday 2nd April**: Secondary Awards Assemblies & End of Term.
  - Secondary students finish at 1.20pm.

### Summer Term

- **Monday 20th April - Tuesday 21st July**
- **Half Term: Monday 25 – Friday 29 May 2015**
- **Staff Training Days: Friday 26th June, & Friday 3rd July**