

Ipswich Academy Council Meeting

19 November 2025

Attendees

Principle – Adam Wilding

4 parents/carers in person

1 parents/carers online

Jo Brown – Parent Link Director – online

Claire Cooper – Academy Council Member – online

Kevin Brazier – Academy Council Member – in person

Julie Trout – Academy Council Member – in person

Louise Leah – Academy Council Member – Minute Taker – online

AGENDA

1. Introduction and Apologies

Mr Wilding welcomed parents/carers to the meeting.

2. Update on Communication from School

Mr Wilding asked parents for feedback on any communication issues, to see if progress has been made in this area. Mr Wilding explained that the newsletter is uploaded to the website and a link is circulated to parents. Parents may not have been told about this change of style of newsletter, but reported that this was much more user friendly.

Parents present felt that they had received timely, relevant communication about Year 11 Mocks. A parent felt that communication this year was the best it has ever been.

Louise clarified that the Facebook group (Parents/Carers of Ipswich Academy) is an unofficial facebook page that she does the admin for. It is not linked to the school, but can be helpful for parents to discuss topics as a community. There are currently 357 members on the page. Louise's child is currently in Year 11, so this could be taken on by another parent.

3. Timings of the school day

Mr Wilding confirmed that a formal consultation will soon open regarding the timings of the school day. He has consulted with staff and the school day of 8:40am till 3:10pm is the preferred option among staff. Mr Wilding will begin a formal consultation process with parents. The school would still be able to offer 4 GCSE options. This would be for September 2026.

4. Celebrating Success

Mr Wilding reflected on some of the highlights in recent weeks. He was particularly impressed with how many students came into school in uniform for Remembrance Day. The school had a 2 minute silence and it was humbling for everyone present to see how seriously the students took it and to see students participating with pride in their uniform.

There is currently a 'Christmas drive' for people to donate new toys which will be donated to Ipswich Hospital. Donations can be taken to the front office.

In the future, Mr Wilding would like the school to participate in making a donation box from each group, with a prize going to the best one. This is something to consider for another year.

There are lots of school trips taking place across the year groups and lots of sporting fixtures.

There was a 'Humantopia' workshop to help year 11 with developing their resilience skills for the recent Mock exams

Parents commented that the parents evenings have been well organised.

Parents felt Year 11 had lots of information about next steps, careers advice, college visits etc.

5. Rewards and Achievement

Mr Wilding is keen to celebrate the students who do the right thing etc. Mr Wilding has suggested 'Star of the Week' in assembly. Parents felt that House points needed to be consistent. One parent commented that their child is in the top 10% but the reward (hot chocolate and sweets etc) is not appealing so maybe other rewards could be considered. Mr Wilding suggested badges that could be earned with housepoints and worn with pride. Parents felt that older year groups may not be as receptive to this, but younger years may value this more. Parents liked the postcards home as success could be celebrated at home and it felt more personalised. Previously, housepoints have resulted in money off the Prom tickets.

6. Perspective Academy Council Members

Some of the current Academy Council members have children in Year 11 so will finish in their role at the end of this academic year. The school is looking for other parents who may be interested in the role. It involves:

- Regular attendance at Academy Council meetings (1 every half term)
- Raising issues
- Reporting back positives
- Taking notes on a rotational basis.
- Being kept informed of progress of the school

One parent present, Holly, offered to join the Academy Council. If anyone else is interested, please speak to Mr Wilding.

7. Any other business

Cycling – A parent mentioned that children are not always using the cycle lane on Maryon Road/Braziers Wood Road and are cycling on the road which is narrow and cars overtake close to them. There is a lack of lights on bikes. Parents are always parking dangerously when dropping off/collecting and children are not looking when exiting vehicles. Parents have been observed driving into the exit to the car park. Parking wardens were seen in the area. Mr Wilding to address these concerns.

Homework – A parent was concerned that when their child had been off sick, they were still expected to complete the homework that was set at the lesson. Mr Wilding explained that each case should be considered and lesson notes and extensions to deadlines given.

Lateness – A parent reported that their child was late for school due to a traffic jam and they were relieved that their child was not punished for this. Mr Wilding said that parents can email in to report a reason for lateness to avoid consequences.

Homework Platforms – Parents expressed their concern that they weren't aware which online platforms were being used for each subject. Mr Wilding will be updating the website and communicating with parents what the procedures are and the platforms that are used.

Parents reported that positive house points are not being allocated for homework done. Mr Wilding to ensure staff are allocating house points accordingly.

Ofsted Report – The school was last inspected in May 2024, so can expect to see Inspectors again within the next year. Mr Wilding reported that personal development is a strong area. There is a high quality of teaching but some areas of improvement. The school is now fully staffed. There is some maternity cover needed which will involve some supply teachers but these will be covered by short term contract/replacements. An area of need is more adaptations needed for SEND pupils. There has been a 60% reduction in suspensions. A parent reported that their child previously didn't want to come to school but now wants to come to school, which is a positive change.

Assistant Principles – Mr Wilding explained that Mr Pitcock will be joining as Assistant Principal and will be teaching KS4 Maths lessons. KS3 Maths will be taught by a supply teacher but they are excellent and are highly recommended. Ms Ferguson will also be joining as Assistant Principal and Ms Brill has been promoted to Assistant Principal from within school.

Year 10 French Trip – This won't run in its previous form but future expeditions are being looked at.

Next Academy Council meeting – Wednesday 28 January 2026 at 5:30pm (in person and online options)