

Ipswich Academy Council Meeting Minutes

Date: 1 July 2026

1. Welcome and Apologies

Present: Adam Wilding, Holly Booth, Fiona King, Jo Brown, Leigha Hutchinson

Apologies: Claire Cooper, Louise Leah and Kevin Brazier

No attendees online

2. Review of the Year

The school has made improvements over the past year, although there is still work to do. There is optimism that this year's Year 11 outcomes will be stronger than in previous years.

Suspensions have reduced by 60%.

Behaviour and Sanctions

A parent asked whether sanctions are proportionate to students' behaviour.

Mr Wilding confirmed that sanctions are proportionate and that students are always given the opportunity to follow instructions before further action is taken.

Examples discussed included:

Students refusing to remove prohibited jewellery after repeated requests.

Incorrect uniform is dealt with sensitively. If there is a genuine reason (such as waiting until the weekend to buy new shoes), this is accepted. However, if the issue continues without explanation, sanctions may be applied.

Reintegration Following Suspension

A parent asked whether students receive support after a suspension.

Mr Wilding confirmed that every suspended student has a reintegration meeting involving the student, parent/carer and Year Lead. The meeting reviews the reasons for the suspension and identifies any support the school can offer.

Student Support

The school offers a range of support services, including:

Mental Health Team (one-to-one support)

4YP counselling service

ITFC support

3. Year 6 Transition

Year 6 induction days took place last Wednesday and Thursday.

The senior leadership team visited all feeder primary schools and met individually with pupils and their parents.

New Year 7 students will return on Thursday 3 September, with all other year groups returning on Friday 4 September.

A Year 6 parents' meeting was also held and was well attended.

4. Uniform and Jewellery

The school uniform remains unchanged:

Black blazer with school logo or plain black jumper

Ipswich Academy tie

Plain white collared shirt

Plain black trousers or skirt

Smart black shoes

Jewellery policy:

Stud earrings only

Single nose stud permitted

No fashion jewellery

5. Academy Council Membership

Two new Academy Council members have joined:

Barbara

Holly

The school continues to welcome applications from anyone interested in joining the Council.

6. Meeting Dates (2026/27)

Mr Wilding will circulate the meeting dates shortly.

Meetings are expected to take place during the 4th or 5th week of each half term.

Parents and carers are welcome to attend either in person or online.

7. Any Other Business

Communication

Communication with the school was raised again.

Anyone experiencing difficulties contacting the school was asked to inform Mr Wilding so the issue can be investigated.

Year 10 France Trip

A parent asked why the current Year 10 students did not have the opportunity to visit France and whether an alternative would be provided.

Mr Wilding explained that the trip did not take place due to changes in school leadership. Instead, Year 10 students will receive:

Five days of work experience.

Five days of workshops delivered by external providers.

Hot Weather Uniform

A parent asked whether there would be another relaxation of the uniform policy if temperatures increase next week.

Mr Wilding said parents would be informed in good time if any changes are made. At present, it is anticipated that relaxed uniform arrangements may be introduced on Thursday and Friday next week.

The meeting concluded at 7:00 pm.