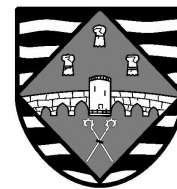


St Ivo School



St Ivo School



Dear Parent / Carer

We have recently received the excellent news that our application to become a Humanities Specialist College has been successful with our designation starting in September. This is great news for the school, not least because it gives us about £1 million to invest in the education of our students over the next four years.

This success is the result of a huge amount of hard work and determination. It also reflects the strength of the history, geography and drama departments at the school. I am determined, however, that all subjects benefit from this status as it is important that we strive for excellence across all areas.

We will do this by, for example, reducing class sizes over the next few years. We will also invest further in interactive and portable computing technology (e.g. purchasing interactive whiteboards), increase our emphasis on literacy skills and make a significant investment in staff development. As a Humanities College it will be our aim to encourage students to examine their own values and attitudes as individuals in a post-industrial, global and inter-dependent society, an example of this will be to look at ecological issues.

We could not have applied without gaining at least £50,000 in sponsorship and so the £70,000 we raised was an impressive statement of support from the community. In particular, I was touched that parent/carers donated a total of £4,031 and so a big thank you to everybody who made a donation. On the next page I have listed all the local business who have supported us.

This is an exciting time for the school and I hope that the investments we are making both help us to produce good citizens and to further increase the standards achieved by our students.

Yours sincerely

Howard Gilbert
Headteacher

February 2008

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Thank You

THANK YOU TO ALL THE PARENTS/CARERS WHO HAVE CONTRIBUTED TO THIS PROJECT AND TO THE FOLLOWING SPONSORS:



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Coote Memorial Trust

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St Ivo School Association 200 Club



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Modern Languages Department News

Modern Languages- what are we doing this term ?

Conference season:

On 29th January, 10 key stage 4 pupils travelled to London to participate in a conference in Spanish in London.

And on Wednesday, 6th February, year 10 pupils of French went to Cambridge to participate in a conference in French.

Trips

In early February, ICT and French will combine to accompany year 12 pupils to Paris. The French group will be interview the tourists and the natives alike about their opinions on the topics chosen by the students for their oral examinations. They will also be visiting some sites in Paris and completing folder work on the world of work.

Youngsters involved in the senior German exchange are preparing to receive their partners from Germany who will be doing work experience in local businesses. Our year 11 and 12 pupils are keen to offer the same kind of high level hospitality and kindness to our visitors as was shown to them earlier in the academic year.

Normandy : In March, pupils in year 8 will be visiting a few towns in Normandy to practise their French in situ, to try out a few local specialities, compare two very different cathedrals and to discover key historical influences on life in the region. Weather permitting, the pupils will interview the market visitors in French, purchase something to eat and drink at a café and write a diary of their days in French. We wonder which small town they will prefer: will it be Berck and the fun of the market, or will it be Bayeux with its history of lace, its tapestry and its history buildings or will it be Honfleur with its enchanting port, its unusual cathedral and its little boats ?

Year 11 : Through out this term, pupils have been working in and outside the classroom to improve their skills in French, German and Spanish.

Amongst the highlights so far have been a trip to a mock French town in Sawtry (yes, Sawtry !) where our pupils joined others from across the region to purchase railway tickets, drinks, food, goods, stamps, postcards and many other items in GCSE style role play situations.

In German masterclasses, pupils have been studying uses of the passive in the December newspapers and then telling a story of their choice in German.

Our after school coursework slot has proved to be popular for pupils wanting the chance to write more coursework.

Later in the term, more events are planned for year 11 pupils. Please look out for our letters home.

Junior CULP

The Junior CULP sessions in Spanish and Chinese are well attended. In Spanish, the pupils are preparing for ASSET languages' reading and listening tests and in Chinese pupils have been getting ready to make presentations about a Chinese topic of their choice. They have also been finding out why in restaurants the customers are advised to "walk slowly". If you don't know why, do ask !

P.R.Zähler

Head of Modern Languages

Geography Department News

Coming Soon

Yr 8 – Fair Trade Fortnight (25 Feb – 10 March) will soon be here and it will be an opportunity for all students to purchase Fair Trade products which will be on sale in the main foyer at break and lunch time on Tues 4 and Wed 5 March . The stall will be manned by Yr 8 geography students and the goods are supplied by the Free Church shop in St Ives.

Yr 10 – Guided Bus Scheme. On Wednesday 27 February Chris Poultney from Cambridgeshire County Council will be coming to talk to all Yr 10 geography GCSE students about the guided

bus scheme and the economic and environmental impact it will have on the local area.

Yr 11 – GCSE after school geography revision classes start – every Monday evening – 3:15 – 4:15 in the geography department – letters and notices have gone out with details

Travel and Tourism

Yr 12 Travel and Tourism students visited **New York** before half term. As part of their AS level course the students visited a number of key locations including the Empire State building, Rocker-

feller Centre, Ellis Island and took part in a rolling seminar organised by local tourism organizations. The students made a study of the impact of the tourism industry post Sept 11th, carry out customer service surveys and look at key health, safety and security issues in preparation for their summer examination.

Yr 13 Travel and Tourism students are organising a form event with a group of Yr 8 students – visiting the local bowling alley and having a meal, as part of their course.

Cashless Catering

Cashless catering was launched on 3 December and for most pupils the launch was successful. Hopefully we have sorted out any problems you had, but if not please contact me – Barbara Kessel on 01480 375431.

I apologise that we did not have the cash loaders to use initially but they have now been installed.

We have managed to achieve several of our aims. We have reduced the cash being brought onto the site by 2/3rds and therefore also reduced any bullying connected with cash. We have taken away the use of coins and notes in the dining hall, making it much more hygienic. Also if you elected to pay by cheque or online pupils will not be able to spend their dinner money in the shops on their way into school.

Ultimately we would like you all to pay by cheque or via the internet but if you still wish to pay by cash then please continue to use the cash loaders. If you would like to pay via the internet please visit www.st-ivo.co.uk and select the Business Centre – browse and buy items.

Cheques

Please make cheques payable to St Ivo School and ensure that your child's name and ID number (printed on the

card) is written on the back of the cheque. Please remember it takes 24 hours to load the money onto your child's account. Please ask your child to post these cheques in the purple cheque boxes outside the canteen or in the maths corridor, these boxes can also be used for paying trips.

Internet

There is now a facility to set up recurring payments either on a fortnightly or monthly basis for multiples of £5. For parents paying via the internet the account is topped up almost instantly, the balance on-line will not be updated for sometime.

Lost/Forgotten and Damaged Cards

If pupils lose their card they must report it to the Cashless Catering Administrator located in the dining hall during serving times immediately. Each term, the pupils are given 2 opportunities if they have forgotten/lost or damaged their card, to go through the Dining Hall to purchase a lunch. Pupils are issued with a PIN number after 1:30pm which allows them to access the funds on their cards.

If a replacement card is issued, any monies will be transferred across to the new card. The cards will break if they are bent. The safest way of storing the

card is either in the neck strap or in a wallet. The Business Centre sells wallets that take up to 2 cards for £1.20.

The charge for replacement cards are £5.00 which will be issued with a neck strap. These can be purchased on-line or at the Business Centre.

Please encourage your child to check their balance before selecting food as they will not be allowed to overspend.

Free School Meals

Those pupils who receive Free School Meals a daily allowance of £2.00 is added at the start of each day, unused funds are not carried over. Pupils can use the dining hall as many times as they like during morning, break and lunch serving times. Pupils can still top up their cards in the usual way to allow them to spend more than the £2.00 daily allowance, as long as their daily spend limit has been altered. The cards used by free school meal pupils look exactly the same as everyone else's.

I would like to thank you and your child (ren) for your cooperation in launching this new venture.

Barbara Kessel
Finance Manager

St Ivo Ballroom Club

Since the start of the year the club has been very busy with a number of activities. The Christmas social at school was well attended and the new members demonstrated their new skills. This was followed by the senior students attending the Cambridge University black tie Christmas ball, held at the Burgess Hall. It was a wonderful opportunity for new senior members to experience dancing to a large live strict tempo band, as well as learning how to use floor craft to negotiate amongst fast moving profes-

sional dancers. They were also treated to a display of latin and ballroom dance by a professional couple.

The club also had a wonderful time participating in the annual Spotlight production. The 2 dances performed were a samba to the song "La Bamba" and the Paso Doble to a James Bond medley. The standard of dancing was testament to the hard work of the participants. Especially all the effort put into the weekend practices.

The club has grown from strength to strength since it started in January 2006 and now has 42 members from year 7 through to year 13. There is still room for more students to come and learn to dance. So if students are interested they may come along on Fridays after school to try out the variety of dances.

Mrs L Bartlett

Additional Professional Day

Please note that TUESDAY 8 APRIL will be a Professional day. This is an additional day the government has given to secondary schools for the national curriculum review.

Monday, 7 April is also a Professional Day.

Senior Maths Challenge

Seventeen sixth form students took part in the senior Maths challenge back in November. Congratulations to the following students who all gained certificates:

Gold - **Rachel**,
Silver – **Michael, Lauren and Sujon**,
Bronze – **Clare, Katy, Juan, Adam and Tom**.

Year 12 Parents Evening

Please note that the Year 12 Parents Evening has been changed from 20th March (last day of term) to **Thursday 10th April**.

TLS (The Listening Service)

This is a service offered to all year 7 and year 8 students. Trained volunteers from year 10 offer friendship and a listening ear to anyone who wishes to come to the drop-in sessions that run every Wednesday and Friday lunchtimes in L3 (in the Leys block).

Bring a friend; eat your lunch with us; have a chat and get to know others. ☺

All welcome.



Mrs K Perry

Cake Sale

Tiffany, Mollie and Gina, all from **8Wd** raised £112.31 for Children in Need by holding a cake and sweet sale. Well done!

Rotary Young Chef Competition

This popular competition was held on Monday evening 14th January 2008.

The competition is open to Year 10 Catering students as it is an excellent venue to showcase their culinary skills. This year 11 students prepared, cooked and served a two course meal for two people for under £10.

The standard was very high this year

with many skilful, technical and creative dishes being served. We had venison steaks, baked trout with mango, beef stroganoff for the main course with tiramisu, berry cheesecake, raspberry brulee and sticky toffee pudding for dessert! Yum!

The winner was **Tom 10Mh**
2nd **Craig 10Dl**
3rd **Adrian 10Hv**

They won a cookery book and cash prize. Tom represented St Ivo at the regional final on Saturday 2nd Feb 2008.

Mrs M Watton



Birdwatch

News just in – birds have been spotted!

As part of our A2 ecology module, our class has been involved in the 'Big School Birdwatch' run by the RSPB (the world's biggest birdwatch!). The survey is in order to monitor bird populations in the UK to compare changes in numbers over time. Overall we saw an impressive 12 different species including bluetits,

song thrushes, wrens and magpies but the most common was the carrion crow as opposed to the black headed gull in 2006. Surprisingly we didn't see any starlings, the most common nationally in last years survey. We hope that our results will be useful in further conservation of British Birds.

Dr Eaton's Ecology Crew are:

Clare 'the Editor' (13Rn)
Will 'Chief Birdwatcher' (13Kh)
Andy 'the Illustrator' (13Dn)
Frankie 'the Bird of Prey Specialist' (13Bk)
Sophie 'Binocular Extraordinaire' (13Mm)
Rachel 'the Wren' (13Rn)



SISA News

EASTER HAMPER PRIZE DRAW



Draw tickets are now available for a Waitrose Hamper! The tickets can be obtained from the SISA stall at any parent evenings/curriculum evenings and cost £1 per strip (or 20p per ticket), or you can forward a payment directly to School Reception – your tickets will be forwarded on to you. SISA will be attending the Year 10 Parents Evening on 10 January, Year 9 Curriculum Evening on 24 January, Year 10 Work Experience Evening on 5 February and hopefully the Year 7 Parents Evening on 27 February, so there are plenty of opportunities to buy your tickets!

Also, anyone joining the SISA 200 Club between 13 December 2007 and 13 March 2008 **will automatically be entered into the draw** (see application form on the SISA page of the school website).

The hamper includes a Waitrose Traditional Method Brut Cava; Waitrose Roasted & Salted Pistachio Nuts; Waitrose Mini Breadsticks Baked with Extra Virgin Olive Oil; Waitrose Monsooned Malabar Rich, Smooth & Spicy Ground Coffee; Waitrose Oatcakes with Cracked Black Pepper; Waitrose Cranberry & Orange Cake; Waitrose Belgian Chocolate Coffee Dragies; Waitrose Mini Double Chocolate Chip Cookies; Waitrose Poppy and Sesame Seed Thins; Waitrose Scottish Stem Ginger Shortbread and Waitrose Belgian Marc de Champagne Truffles.

Please contact a SISA Committee Member for further details at sisa.cgz@e2bn.net. The draw will be made at the Parents Forum on 13 March 2008. Good luck!

SISA 200 CLUB

The SISA (St Ivo School Association) 200 club offers a simple way to support our activities. You have the opportunity to purchase one or more numbers from the 200 Club at the cost of £1 per number per month. Each month all the numbers go into the draw and three are selected. First, second and third prized together will account for 50% of the total 'pot'. The remainder will go into SISA funds. There will be no rollovers because only those numbers which have been allocated will go into the draw. Rather than having to remember to pay £1 per month, we are asking that participants pay £12 per year either by cheque or standing order to minimise administration. Please see attached forms.

Support and Information Event for Year 7 Parents

**“Children need someone to ignore;
That’s what parents were invented
for”** Ogden Nash

Parents may feel that their children do not want their advice and guidance, but surveys in our school and others tell us that they want to talk most of all to their parents and carers about issues that worry or concern them.

Your children have made their start in our school and over the next few years will need to deal with a number of challenges and changes in their lives. We want our young people to develop resilience – the ability to deal with challenges by understanding them, recognising their own skills, seeking advice and then moving on with their lives.

The challenge for adults is to support and help young people while encouraging them to be independent and recognising their desire to “find their own way in the world”.

Our school has been chosen to participate in a national pilot of a programme of information and support for parents.

In this first event we shall look together at what we know about young people, using information from surveys carried out with our pupils. We shall work with the Snapshot Theatre Company to share experiences and ideas about supporting and guiding young people at moments of challenge and difficulty in their lives and there will be opportunities for you to hear more about our work in schools and about a range of support services

available in our community.

You will also receive a Parent Pack with useful information and leaflets and a free book!

We shall also be asking you what further events would be supportive to you as parents

The event will be on Tuesday March 11th starting at 3.00pm - 5.00pm in the Dining Hall. Refreshments will be provided. Parents/carers will be receiving a letter and attached reply slip before the event. Your support and attendance of this event would be much appreciated.

Simon Crisp
Assistant Headteacher

Sports News

Year 8 Basketball Tournament

The Ivo entered two teams into the Year 8 basketball tournament and received mixed results.

The 'A' team unfortunately lost each game they played by close margins and failed to make the play-offs but they worked hard throughout and never gave up.

The 'B' team who played well and finished runners up in their group and joint third overall which was a fantastic result.

Well done to all boys involved and on displaying fantastic skills, teamwork and team spirit.

Players involved: **Marcus, Shaun, Tom, Oli, Josh, Joe, Damon, Harry, Joe, Jamie, Alex, Michael, Alex, Jojo.**

Mr P Braybrook



St Ivo School

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