

February 2009



# Newsletter

St Ivo School

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Dear Parent / Carer

As part of our ecological incentive we have taken steps to encourage a more responsible approach to litter by our pupils. I have been very impressed with the way they have responded as you can see from the photos below which were taken at the end of a recent lunchtime. This will be an issue that we will always have to pay attention to, but an excellent start has been made this term.

**The annual school production 'Spotlight' took place recently and we enjoyed two excellent evenings of dance.** Students had been rehearsing their routines for months and this, plus the support they have received from the teaching staff, ensured that the quality was consistently high. My thanks to Mrs Bull, Miss Sherwood and Miss Bartley and all the staff who worked behind the scenes to help make this such a success.

Finally, thank you for your forbearance during the recent inclement weather. Our aim will always be to stay open provided the site is safe and sufficient staff can make it into school. If a decision is taken to close the school then it will be posted on our website and immediately notified to all users of Ivo-Online.

Yours sincerely

Howard Gilbert  
Headteacher



*'Litter Free St Ivo'*

# ST IVO CATERING TEAM NEWS



September 2008 was the start of not only the new Academic School Year but a new venture for St Ivo School. School meals were taken in house. Six months down the line things have settled down and huge improvements have been made. All fruit and vegetables are now supplied fresh on a daily basis and meat is being sourced from an excellent local Butcher. More changes are planned for the future, including weekly menus being available to view on the School website. As in any business we always welcome feedback. Parents and students are welcome to contact the Kitchen direct on 01480 375441 or via email [canteen@stivoschool.org](mailto:canteen@stivoschool.org). We would like to hear your comments or perhaps any suggestions or ideas that you may have.

St Ivo Catering Team

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## SPARE SEATS FOR PURCHASE ON SCHOOL BUSES

Under Cambridgeshire's Home to School Transport Policy, pupils who are not eligible for free transport may be allowed to pay to travel on existing buses contracted to the County Council, if seats are available.

With effect from 16 February 2009 parents can apply to purchase spare seats for the Summer Term, 2009.

The cost is £120 per term for a return journey ticket or £60 for a one-way journey or for half a term. This represents excellent value, equating to £1.89 per day when averaged out over the school year.

Seats are available on a termly or half-termly, 'first come, first served' basis. Please note that buses cannot deviate from their existing routes/timetables.

Full details of the spare seats scheme is available on the website [www.cambridgeshire.gov.uk/education/parents/getting/school](http://www.cambridgeshire.gov.uk/education/parents/getting/school)  
Or call the contact centre on 0845 0455 208

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## NEW LIFE APPEAL

Pupils at St Ivo School have donated £1,000 to the Hunts Post's New Life Appeal from the funds they raised on Children in Need Day. Fundraising events included an exhibition dance by the St Ivo Ballroom Club, which they performed later that evening as part of the Radio Cambridgeshire Strictly competition; two Year 8 boys shaved off their hair, and a group of Year 8 girls held a cake stall. Other activities included apple bobbing, biscuit decorating, and a sponsored silence. Students each paid £1 not to wear uniform on the day, whilst staff and sixth formers came to school in fancy dress.

# Year 7 News

Overall Average Points winners for the end of the Autumn Term:



1st	7Fl
2nd	7Ea
3rd	7Mc
4th	7Mj

Since the start of the spring term, 7Ea have won the weekly title twice, with 7Mc picking up the third. It has always been a close competition, so we eagerly wait to see which tutor group will pick up the title at the end of term!

**Also this term we are looking for the 'Quiz Kings'. This weekly competition can be very challenging, but each tutor group wants to come out on top!**

At the end of January, 7Mj and 7Me headed the leader board. But will they still be there at the end of term?

## Year Council

The year council is fully up and running. The group meet on a regular basis, and discuss issues that are relevant to the students and school alike. Prior to the Christmas break, the council organised the Year 7 disco, with proceeds being donated to Cancer Research UK. The event was well attended, and the year council are to be commended on the organisation of their first event.

Chair: Drew  
Vice Chair: Dan  
Secretary: Dani  
Vice Secretary: Laura

## Spelling Bee

A St Ivo team has been entered into the national spelling bee competition. In order to find a team, we held a tutor team competition, in which everyone took part. Mrs Senior, organiser, said the standard amongst Year 7 was very high. After much deliberation, the following four students were asked to represent the school in the first round:

Steffan (Cs), Lily (Cs), Sadie (Cs) and Dani (Ea).

Good Luck!

Julie Slater  
Head of Year 7

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## ST IVES RUGBY FOOTBALL CLUB

Sign-up to play Rugby in 2009 for St Ives. Learn New Skills; Get Fit; Have Fun.  
Training/Matches every Sunday.

Contact: Dave Bowen  
01480 467992  
[Stivesrugby@btinternet.com](mailto:Stivesrugby@btinternet.com)



# History Department News

## Year 7

Year 7 showed great effort and enthusiasm in the Medieval castles and weapons competition. Merits and prizes were awarded for the models built across all categories including Motte and Bailey castles, Stone square Keep castles, cake castles, siege towers, battering rams, catapults, and imaginative designs. Photographs were shown during assembly and on the History Department N block foyer screen. The models were displayed in the department and resources centre. Furthermore, as part of the History Department's community link with St. Ives, the winning models are currently being displayed in the town library, and soon to be transferred to the Norris Museum.

## Year 8

A trip to the Black Country museum is being planned for June 2009 as part of their study of the Industrial Revolution. Details will be given to all classes shortly.

## Year 9



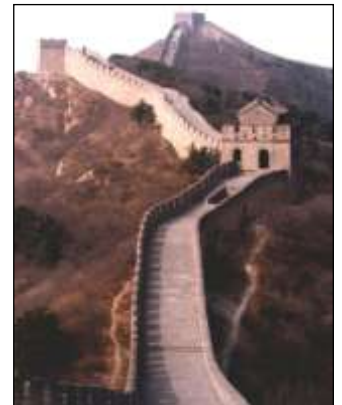
Mrs Ellinor will shortly be sending a letter to all Year 9 students and parents/carers announcing the launch of an oral history project. We are aiming to interview and film local people to uncover their memories and experiences of the Second World War. Topics will include St. Ives men and women during the war, evacuation, the experience of children, and rationing. A DVD will be produced which will be used in school and made available to local people. If you, your relatives or friends are interested in taking part, please email [cellinor@stivoschool.org](mailto:cellinor@stivoschool.org) or phone the school and ask for Mrs Ellinor or Dr Craig.

## Year 10

We have announced that a trip to China will be running in July 2010. Letters are available from Mrs Gosney. China is an exciting part of the GCSE course, and has been a successful trip destination for several years.

## Year 11

Year 11 are working hard towards their GCE examinations. The Chief Examiner for History from Edexcel will be coming in on Wednesday 25<sup>th</sup> March to deliver a revision workshop. From Thursday 26<sup>th</sup> February booster sessions will be run every Thursday in the department from 3-3.45pm for C/D borderline students, and for those seeking to get an A\* grade.



## Year 12

**Year 12 students are looking forward to the department's first trip to Berlin as part of the new AS module: Germany 1933-63. This will include an introductory tour of the city centre, Brandenburg Gate, Potsdamer Platz, Göring's Air Ministry, Topography of Terror (former SS and Gestapo HQ), Neue Synagogue, and northern Mitte (a preserved pre-war Jewish area), Sachsenhausen Concentration camp, the stadium built by the Nazis for the 1936 Olympic Games, and Wansee Villa where the 1942 conference decided upon the 'Final Solution' against the Jews.**

# History Department News continued

Year 13

Year 13 are working hard towards their A2 examinations, including their coursework. Many are emailing academics around the country and abroad to get views about significant figures in history including Lenin, Trotsky, Stalin, JFK, Martin Luther King, Douglas Haig, and the Suffragettes.

Community Links

**As part of the school's Specialist Status in Humanities, the History Department is building links with the local community in the St. Ives area, in close cooperation with the Civic Society. Developments have included the display of Year 7 model castles in the town and the launch of a local oral history project with Year 9. Recently, the department was delighted to meet the Civic Society who kindly donated hundreds of pounds worth of books to the History Department's library. These books will be very valuable in lessons, helping students to become aware of the interesting local history of St. Ives and the surrounding villages.**

Well done to all students who continue to work hard in the department, and help to make it an exciting, fun and high performing place to study history.

Dr Craig  
Head of History

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## Resource Centre News

Competitions – We held quite a few competitions in the run up to Christmas. The winners are as follows:-

- Mrs Mitchell's Christmas Quiz – Caitlin 8Hn and Holly 8Hn
- Wallace and Gromit Competition
  - 1<sup>st</sup> prize with best caption – Nathan 10Bw
  - 2<sup>nd</sup> prize – Sam 9Cf
- Nosey Nolly Christmas Wordsearch – Will 9Om
- Resource Centre Christmas Quiz – **Winning teams were "Eggheads" and "Pinky Blue Barbie Flames"**

Year 7 Science Information Skills – We have recently had Year 7 in for Science Information Skills. This has involved discovering about spoof websites, as well as doing team research into different subjects, such as healthy eating, blood and circulation, bones and muscles etc. The children have done some great presentations – well done Year 7!

Crafts – In January we looked at Chinese New Year, and made some fantastic paper dragons, as well as Chinese lanterns. **We are now making Valentine's Day cards and origami hearts. After half term we will be getting ready for Mothers' Day and doing Easter crafts. Come and join us every Wednesday lunchtime in the RC.**

Poetry Display – Mrs Warnes has made an eye-catching and informative display on poetry.

All Change! – We have moved the graphic novels and picture books near to the door in order to make space for the increased amount of fiction we have on our shelves. The Fun Facts have also been moved by the window. Come in and have a look!

Forthcoming events – World Book Day is on 5<sup>th</sup> March, and we will once again be asking for jokes for our Joke Book. Also, Red Nose Day is on 13<sup>th</sup> March - watch out for Comic Relief activities in the Resource Centre.

Mrs Mitchell.



2009 at St Ivo School has been unofficially named the 'Year of Social Responsibility' and the students have shown they are very capable of making this official! The school has gained *silver status* as an eco-school and we are well on the way to gaining *gold status*.

**The Big Tidy Up:** A significant drop in litter after break and lunch times has been evident. New bins have been distributed throughout the site, and these will soon carry our eco-ivo logo to remind us to keep binning our rubbish. Hopefully a cleaner site will encourage a greater sense of pride that is carried into the community and benefit all.

**Community Links:** We have linked with Hampton College in Peterborough to share initiatives to meet our **sustainable schools' targets**. **Following success with their student 'Green Team', St Ivo will be developing our own eco-ivo steering group** so students are more involved with the decision making process. We welcome support or ideas from parents, carers and businesses.

**Ethical Shopping:** With fair trade fortnight in the second half of this term from Monday 23rd February to Friday 6th March, we aim to raise awareness of the issues surrounding trade and inequality. In conjunction with the Just Sharing shop in St Ives, the variety of fair trade goods will include small gift items alongside the usual snacks and treats. Fair trade beverages that can be exchanged for a reasonable donation will be delivered to staff rooms at break times this half term. To make it a success we need your support, so bring a little money for some feel-good treats this month.

**Energy:** To gain green flag eco-schools status, monitoring and reducing our energy consumption is vital. We have **teamed up with local company Green Energy Options (GEO), who install a system that makes energy more 'visible'**. This very exciting technology enriches many curriculum areas. The system analyses the data and displays it in a digital format that can be accessed on the main computer network within the school. We are currently awaiting a decision from 'Curry's Switched on Communities' project to see if the school will receive a financial award for this.

**Clothing initiatives:** Textile production is very resource intensive and not great for the environment so we should increase the fleeting shelf life of our clothes. Students and staff have been doing a bit of 'swishing' and Mrs Akers lunchtime 'Clothes Swop' is well subscribed. It is hoped that we can have a monthly swap and get us recycling our fashion in style.



Alarmingly every week we gather at least a dustbin bag full of lost items. Not great considering the economic climate. Simply writing a name somewhere on your belongings will **guarantee they are returned to you if found**. All good quality 'unnamed' lost property will be displayed on racks by the entrance to the hall on Monday lunchtimes and at all parent and open evenings for anyone to re-home. Donations of coat-hangers are always welcome.

## 2009: Let's take more care!

Year 12 students are heading off to Snowdonia National Park in March as part of their AS level fieldwork study

# Geography Department News



looking especially at the glaciated landscape and energy alternatives in the area.

As Year 11 prepare for their GCSE examinations the department is about to start their after school revision programme which is targeted at C/ D border students who are sitting both the Higher and Foundation papers. It starts on Monday 2 March 3:15 – 4:00pm – details of **each Monday session are posted in the department**. Details of the 'Reach for the Stars' sessions will be posted soon!

The department has a wide variety of online revision resources to support Year 11's in their revision. The department blog [www.geobytesgcse.blogspot.com](http://www.geobytesgcse.blogspot.com), which has now received over 900,000 hits from around the world, provides online notes to support the topics and case studies covered in the OCR A specification, as well as interactive revision activities such as quizzes, past questions and podcasts. In the run up to the main revision period, the department is continuing to work hard to complete the blog so that all topics are covered and more revision resources will be added, as well as a final front page, to enable easier navigation for students to relevant resources. Currently students can find what they need using the blog archive on the right hand side.



[www.geobytesgcse.blogspot.com](http://www.geobytesgcse.blogspot.com)

Advance notice for Year 9 geography students. In June the annual Japan Day will take place when all students are off timetable and involved in a range of activities. By popular demand we will have a return visit of a group of taiko drummers. They will not only put on a performance for the year group but they will also offer to teach any interested students how to master the art. If you are interested in being involved in such a session please see Miss Monk for details!

Year 8 will be involved in Fair Trade Fortnight (23 February – 3 March) where the department links up with the local Free Church and promotes awareness of the Fair Trade movement – a range of Fair Trade products will also be on sale during that time. This reinforces our Eco School initiative in which increasingly the school is trying to use a greater range of Fair Trade products.

Advanced notice also for Year 8 students – letters for the geography trip to Stibbington which takes place in the summer term will be available immediately after half term.

## Travel and Tourism

Year 12 students are about to embark on their annual visit to New York where they visit the main attractions, learn about the industry post 9/11 as well as carry out customer service work.

Mrs Mottram.

# Scouting for Birds



At the end of January we, the Year 13 biologists, donned our clip boards and binoculars in order to participate in the Big School Bird Watch, run by the RSPB. Oozing with enthusiasm, we set out to conquer the school grounds and succeeded in identifying 21 different species of birds, which was a great increase from previous years. We found that the wood pigeon was the most common compared to previous years when it was the crow and the black headed gull. We also saw some more unusual species such as the coal tit, wren and greater spotted woodpecker. Our results will be used by the RSPB in their 30<sup>th</sup> annual garden Big Garden Bird Watch. The results will be used to compare changes in numbers of each species and the distribution of each species in the country.

We found that the most popular place to spot the birds was the school wildlife and vegetable garden. However we were unnerved by the number of crows staring down at us from the roof tops, it was unclear who was watching who?!...



By:

Zoe 'Robin' (13By)

Sophie 'Crow' (13By)

Jess 'Pied Wagtail' (13Se)

Laura 'Dunnock' (13Ti)

Emilia 'Sparrow' (13By)

Gabby 'Wren' (13Ak)

Katie 'Greater spotted woodpecker' (13Ak)

Zara 'Wood pigeon' (13Wa)

Holli 'Magpie' (13Mb)

Ellie 'Chaffinch' (13Mi)

**St. Ivo School Governors invite you to complete a**

## Parent Survey

Please share your views and ideas to help us to ensure that the school is doing as much as it can to involve parents and meet the needs of each child. All respondents are invited to enter a

## £25 Prize Draw

The survey can be completed via the IvoOnline website. If you are not able to complete it online please ask your child to collect a paper copy from the school reception or email Ros Pascoe (Parent Governor) [Pascoerbg@aol.com](mailto:Pascoerbg@aol.com)

Responses will be treated in the strictest confidence.

The deadline for completion of surveys is 27<sup>th</sup> February 2009



# TIPS FOR USING YOUR CATERING CARD

1. We recommend that you do not keep your catering cards next to keys or any type of electronic device for example mobile phones.
2. The simplest way to top-up your catering account is on-line, you can set up weekly, fortnightly or even monthly recurring payments so you never need worry about running out of funds.
3. Cheques can also be posted in the Purple Boxes located outside the Business Centre or the Dining Hall. Please allow 24hrs for cheques to be credited onto your catering accounts.
4. Your catering card should be kept on your person at all times whilst in school, preferably held in a neck strap inside your clothing.
5. Catering cards should not be left in unattended bags or coats as the school will not be responsible for lost or stolen cards.
6. Report your catering card missing the moment you realise it is not in your possession to safeguard against misuse.
7. **Using another person's card in the vending machine will be deemed as theft and all abuses of the system will be taken extremely seriously.**
8. If you have forgotten your catering card you will be given two opportunities each term to use a PIN number to access funds in your account to purchase a lunch. Once your account has had two PIN numbers assigned in any one term you will have to make alternative arrangements for lunch.
9. Replacement cards can be purchased either from the Business Centre or on Ivo-Online for £5.00, it will be reissued with a neck strap.



## adult and community learning news

### Adult and Community Learning

#### Courses starting after February half term 2009

##### Saturday Workshops

Italian Cookery – Perfect Dinner Party

Spanish Cookery

Indian Cookery – Balti Banquet

Curtains – Austrian Blind in a Day

Meditation

Wardrobe Planning

Make up Wake Up

##### Evening Courses

Wines of the New World (excluding America)

Salsa for beginners

Sugarcraft – Tulips

Book keeping level 2

Cake decorating – Chocolate Easter cake

Dog Training

Computer courses

- Touch Type Crash course

- ECDL

- CLAIT

01480 495717

[www.aclearning.org.uk](http://www.aclearning.org.uk)

# SISA NEWS

St Ivo School Association has had some success in its fund raising. It has been involved with the school council in holding a raffle and tombola at the St Ives Carnival and with many new members joining the 200 Club.

With the help and support of parents and students we have been able to donate the money for a long list of **items on the 'wish list' from various departments.**

- \* a real care baby for child development
- \* a mobile music system for the Ballroom Club
- \* equipment for the sound system in the hall
- \* ergonomically designed pens
- \* calculators
- \* a video/recorder player
- \* memory sticks
- \* colour printer
- \* a quiz 'buzzer kit'
- \* a fridge and kettle for 'Books over Breakfast'

SISA is a small group of parents who meet about once a term to organise fund raising events to buy the little extras that the school budget does not cater for.

We would love to see some new faces joining us on the committee. If you would like to come and help us either with an event, or help to decide where to spend the money we raise, please come to our next meeting which is on Wednesday April 22<sup>nd</sup> at 6pm.

**Don't forget, for just £1 a month you can join the 200 Club, a really easy way to support your child and the school!**

To download a 200 Club application form log onto [www.stivoschool.org/schoolweb/index.htm](http://www.stivoschool.org/schoolweb/index.htm) and find SISA under the About St Ivo tab, or email me Nicki Coulter at [sisa@stivoschool.org](mailto:sisa@stivoschool.org) and I can email or post you a copy.