

February 2010



Newsletter

St Ivo School

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Dear Parent/Carer

It is good to be writing this as half-term approaches with Spring hopefully not too far away. We have been lucky in this area to have missed the worst of the snow **though I'm not sure that the pupils would agree with that!** We have now set up a system where we can text parents/carers if the school closes during the school day. **If you haven't signed up for this please do.** You should click the link at the top of the ivoOnline homepage that says 'Set new number' next to the alert that emergency contact number for SMS messaging has not yet been set.

The highlight of this half-term was undoubtedly our annual Spotlight evenings of Dance with over 200 students participating. The range of styles was impressive as was the general standard of performance and my thanks to Miss Bartley, Miss Franklin and Miss Walmsley and to all the staff who supported this event.

Congratulations to Year 7 who have reached the last 16 of the national football competition and to the sixth form team who successfully reached the last 64 before being knocked out.

Our main staff development focus this year has been to work on Assessment for Learning, ie how we assess pupil progress during a lesson. We were graded a '2' on this by a recent Local Authority inspection but wish to further improve consistency in this area. All teachers are undertaking three peer observations with this focus and pleasing progress is being made.

Budget time is fast approaching and we expect this to be the last year of any increase in our budget before the inevitable squeeze in public sector funding in 2011. We already know that our post-16 funding will be virtually unchanged next year but the pre-16 area should increase by 4%. Final figures will arrive next month and I'll say more about our budget plans in the next Newsletter.

Thank you for your support of your child's education.

Yours sincerely

Howard Gilbert
Headteacher

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Able, Gifted and Talented News

January 25th saw St Ivo playing host to a district Code breaking day. 120 gifted Year 9 mathematicians from all the secondary schools in Huntingdonshire met for a series of collaborative workshops. The highlight of the day was a presentation and workshop from the Cambridge University Enigma Project. This involved a live demonstration of one of the few remaining World War II enigma coding machines.

On February 4th teams from Year 8 and Year 9 competed in the District School Quiz team challenge. The four Year 9 pupils; Ryan, Amelia-Rae, Joe and Joe competed in the senior division against Year 10 pupils from the other schools in the district. They performed brilliantly winning one match and losing one match. This bodes well for next year.



The Year 8 team consisting of Rahath, Liam, Seb and James easily made their way to the final of the competition where they faced Longsands College. In a tense final it all came down to the final question and St Ivo were victorious 270 points to 260.

Congratulations to all concerned.

Later this term the Year 8 team will compete in the first round of the National junior challenge competition.

Paul Cook
Leading Teacher of Able, Gifted & Talented

Sustainability and Energy Saving

We have had great success with our energy saving drive and our Display Energy Certificate (DEC) rating has improved from a low D to a high C rating (54) – this illustrates how efficiently the buildings are being used. We are still aiming to improve and hoping to get a B rating next time.

We had thermal imaging photography done in the worst of a cold day in the winter which clearly illustrated the heat loss through our 50 year old Main Block windows – and elsewhere – and we are starting a rolling programme for replacement of the windows this summer. We also plan to lag the roofs for insulation of the Dance Studio and the Main Block by ICT.

The Premises Governors are considering applying for permission for a wind turbine on site and looking at use of solar panels so we have many and varied plans and ideas.

We are always looking for way to help reduce our energy costs and if you have any please contact me to let me know at tgibbons@stivoschool.org.

Tricia Gibbons
Premises Manager



E-Safety in School

Last term and during this term we have been focusing on the importance of E-safety through assemblies and ICT core lessons. It is very important that students understand the risks with online use, particularly with the increased use of social networking sites such as Facebook. We have had a few incidents of cyber-bullying and inappropriate posts about school on social networking sites. These have been dealt with or reported as soon as we have found out about them. Additionally we have had incidents of students using their phones to take pictures or filming in school and then uploading to public websites. This is against school policy; filming etc on site is prohibited without permission. We have strict child protection policies at school and both the social networking activities and the use of phones for pictures and filming break these and could potentially put children at risk.

At school, in lessons, we emphasise how important it is not to give out personal details online and yet we are now **finding lots of students becoming 'friends' on public sites that then allow personal details to be obtained.** Hence this reminder for students and information for parents. Many thanks to the parents who have recently been alerting us to the inappropriate Facebook pages that have been appearing and helping us remove them.

For the safety of our students and to reduce cyber-bullying we need to all work together to ensure students are aware of the issues and how to protect themselves and others when online. In particular students should be discouraged from:

- Posting their personal details on any public website
- **Becoming online 'friends' with anyone they do not know**
- Posting content about anyone else (including text comments, videos and pictures) without their permission
- Making comments about the school that could offend any member of the school community

A very good website for information and support about this is: www.thinkuknow.com. You may also wish to read through our Acceptable Use Policy for students which can be found within the policy section on the school website – ICT policy.

If you have concerns over cyber-bullying or inappropriate use of technologies relating to the school, please let us know.

A Davies
Assistant Head

'Thank You' from the Animal Shed



Donation of Guinea Pig Food and Accessories

Someone very kindly donated a number of items to the school via Reception. Unfortunately, I do not have the name of the person to thank them personally.

I would like to thank them for thinking of us and can assure them that the items will be put to good use!

Pam Coles
Animal Shed

Food Technology Department News

Rotary Young Chef Competition

The rotary Young chef of the Year competition was held in School on the evening of January 11th. **The students' brief** is to produce a two course meal for two people. They have to show planning, work out their timings and cost their meal. They have a limit of £12.

The winner this year was Laura from 10Om who cooked a delicious dish of steak with red wine sauce. Her dessert was the extremely skilful chocolate fondant.

Second was Emily from 10Mk who cooked a Caribbean inspired menu and third was Ellen 10Cf/Mr who expertly cooked a salmon dish.

Congratulations also go to James 10Cd and Liam 10Mn who also produced tasty food which was really well presented.

The winners received a cash prize and a cookery book.

Laura went on to the District Competition held at Hinchingsbrooke School on Saturday, 31st January. Although Laura **was not placed, Mrs Abblitt was really impressed with Laura's performance and said that she was in with a strong chance of winning.** Laura cooked chilli prawns as a starter, a main course of lamb cutlets in Guard of Honour served with roasted new potatoes and vegetables, and chocolate fondants as a dessert. The overall winners were both from catering colleges, so Laura did particularly well.

Visit by Local Chef to Year 11 Catering Students

On Wednesday, 16th December, ex-St Ivo student Mark Hurley came into three Year 11 catering lessons to demonstrate some of the high level skills he mastered whilst a student of catering at Cambridgeshire Regional College.

Firstly Mark showed the students how to joint a whole chicken. He showed the students how to remove the breast fillets and then oven baked these, sampling later. They were tender and delicious! Mark provided enough chickens for one or two members of each group to practice this skill.

Then he showed the class how to spin sugar in order to make sugar baskets. This will enable the students to gain more marks for practical skills and improve the presentation of their work.

Mark also spoke about career opportunities in the catering industry. He spoke about his experiences as a Chef and then Deputy Manager at The Three Jolly Butchers in Houghton.

Marian Watton
Head of Food Technology

History Department News

Year 7: Medieval models competition

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

The study them this year is about revolutions: English Civil War, American War of Independence, and France 1789. A trip to the Black Country museum is planned for June 2010 as part of their study of the Industrial Revolution. Details will be given to all classes shortly.

Year 9

Students are showing good effort in their preparation of assessment essays on: 'To what extent should the 1920s in America be remembered as good times or bad times?'. Their research covers such topics as the economic boom, Hollywood, Flappers, prohibition and Al Capone, Jazz, Black Americans and the KKK, and the Wall Street Crash. Students are drawing fascinating parallels with the 'Credit Crisis' facing the world today.

Year 10

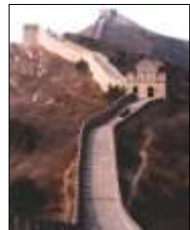
Year 10 have recently experienced the new module system in GCSE history. They worked very hard to be able to sit 25% of their GCSE in January 2010, answering questions about the Tsar, Lenin and Stalin in Russia 1910-1939. We have also organised an exciting new trip to Vietnam for Year 10 students in July 2011.



Year 11

Year 11 are working hard towards their GCSE examinations. The Chief Examiner for History from Edexcel is coming in on Tuesday 23rd March to deliver a revision workshop. From Thursday 11th March booster sessions will be run every Thursday in the department from 3-345pm for C/D borderline students, and for those seeking to get an A* grade. After the exams, many

Y11 students will be taking a deserved trip to China. This country is an exciting part of the GCSE course, and has been a successful trip destination for several years.



History Department News continued

Year 12

Year 12 Students are looking forward to the trip to Berlin as part of their AS module: Germany 1933-63. This will include an introductory tour of the city centre, Brandenburg Gate, Potsdamer Platz, Goring'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.



Year 13

Year 13 are working hard towards their A2 examinations, including their coursework on Russia.

Community Links

As part of the school's Specialist Status in Humanities, The History Department has built 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 production of a DVD about St. Ives during WWII (available from the school business centre or the Norris Museum for £7). Also, following a generous donation of local history books, the department has taught lessons on the history of St. Ives and the market. We will shortly be involved in the celebrations marking St. Ives at 900 years old.

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

Past Student's Success



Congratulations to ex-St Ivo student Tom Weightman whose photograph of local allotments was recently included in 'The Bridge' booklet published by St Ives Town Council. Tom left St Ivo last year to study ICT at university

RE Department News

Christmas service

At the end of last term all Year 7 students went to the local church where a service was held by Father Pullen. They had practised carols in French and German which they sang beautifully and in Music they also learned some English carols. The school choir also performed a couple of pieces for us and it sounded beautiful. Four pupils were very brave and did readings from the Bible and they were the best readers we have had at this Christmas service. It was all rounded off perfectly of course when we left the church as the heavens opened and the snow came down. A wonderful start to the Christmas break. Many thanks to all involved.



Journey to Auschwitz-Poland

Pupils from Years 10 to 13 have just returned home from this emotional and life changing experience. Despite the freezing temperatures and deep snow they had some of the most amazing and profound experiences. They listened to a lady whose family had helped save Jewish people in the ghettos, and they saw her medal for bravery. They also spent the evening with a survivor from the camp (92 years old) who had been given the job of being camp photographer for the infamous Dr Mengele (famous for carrying out his human experiments). The stories the children heard and the people they met were often inspiring and the children have all returned to England with this acute sense of what it means to be human. We will be holding a Holocaust Memorial Day for all Year 10 pupils in the summer when everybody will get the chance to meet a survivor and share in some of the privileges that those returning from Auschwitz this week will have had.

Mrs Kenton-Howells

Haiti Earthquake Appeal

Sixth form students and members of staff gave up their break and lunchtime for two days to collect money for the **Haiti Earthquake Appeal**. A 'Hats for Haiti' day was also organised and students made a donation to wear a hat of their choice for the day. At the time of going to print approximately £1,450 had been collected. A big thank you to everyone for your generosity!

Resource Centre News



Happy New Year from the Resource Centre

Competitions - We held 3 competitions before Christmas. Mrs Mitchell held her Chocolatey Christmas Quiz, the winners being Emma (7Wx), Joanna (7Za) and Millie (7Bd). The Top Gear competition proved to be popular; the winner was Will, who collected a Top Gear calendar. Finally, we held a Team Quiz, the top team being Funky Four. Well done to everyone who took part, especially the winners! Look out for more competitions in the run up to Easter!

New fiction and DVDs – We have recently purchased quite a few new DVDs – come and check them out! We also have some great new fiction including new manga books, which are very popular at present.

Crafts – We are holding another Craft Week next week (8-12 February) every lunchtime with Chinese New Year and Valentine's Day crafts. **Come along if you feel crafty!!**

Forthcoming Events –

Joke and Poem Books – World Book Day is on 4th March. Very soon we will once again be asking for your jokes for our World Book Day Joke Book. For the first time we are also going to do a World Book Day Poem Book for those who enjoy writing poems. Keep it clean and start writing!

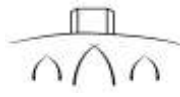
History Project – Year 8 will be in the Resource Centre in March taking part in the new History Project, which is about Napoleon. They will learn how to research using different media, and will find him an interesting character from history.

Mrs Mitchell

Spotlight

Spotlight was a massive success this year with nearly 200 students from all year groups taking part. With the theme being Broadway musicals there was no end of glamour and jazz hands. Weeks and weeks of rehearsals led by some extremely gifted choreographers from the upper school meant that the dances were polished and performed with a massive amount of energy. All styles from contemporary to street, ballet to ballroom were included only showing the massive array of talent St Ivo has to offer. Many comments were made by audience members as to the professional standard of the show which was a fantastic opportunity for anyone to get involved. Thanks of course go to Ms Bartley whose hard work and commitment made this show possible. Congratulations to all involved.





adult and community learning st ives,cambs

Saturday Workshops coming soon!

Antiques and Collectables
Aromatic Thai Cuisine
Astronomy: Seeing Stars, Beginners
Bicycle Maintenance for all the Family
Bird Box, Make your own
Birdwatching: Beginning Birdwatching
Car Maintenance Basics
Decorate a Chocolate Egg, Family Fun
Essence of India
Family History and the Internet

First Aid
Heart Shaped Piped Cushion
Hopi Ear Candling
Image including Colour, Make-Up and
Accessorising
Italian Kitchen in a Day
Jewellery in a Jiffy!
Life Coaching: Change your Life, Make it
Happen
Poetry
Roman Blind
Zipped Piped Cushion

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