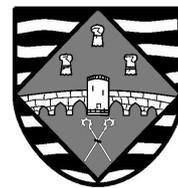


# July 2006



# Newsletter

## St Ivo School

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Dear Parent / Carer

It is hard to believe that my first year at St Ivo is almost at an end. It has certainly flown by and my thanks to all whom I've met for the warm welcome I've received.

The year has been a busy one and started with a review of the curriculum we offer at KS4. As a consequence there are now less constraints on pupil choice and we have increased the time spent on GCSE options from 4 hours a fortnight to 5 hours. We're hopeful that this increase in time will have an impact on GCSE results.

Our application for Humanities Specialist School status is gathering momentum and we should be able to submit a very good bid in October. This will generate over £200,000 a year for St Ivo and we will use this to reduce class sizes and improve resources.

The other main changes have been to the school day and uniform. The uniform change came as a request from School Council and we have been pleased with the quality and the look of the new polo shirts. The review of the day will result in a shorter afternoon and we feel this will improve student engagement with lessons before lunch being felt to be more productive.

In many ways the most exciting changes have been behind the scenes with the establishment of a Teaching and Learning research group involving over 20 teachers and an increased emphasis on self-evaluation systems. Our plan is that next year is focused very much on the classroom experience and how this can be improved for our students.

Finally can I wish you and your family a restful and enjoyable summer. Term starts for students on Wednesday 6th September with a 8.30 a.m. start for Year 7 and Year 12 and the rest of the school arriving during break. After this first day the revised school day will come into effect for all students.

Yours sincerely

Howard Gilbert  
Headteacher

The revised school day:

Period 1	8.30 – 9.30
Period 2	9.30 – 10.30
BREAK	10.30 – 10.50
Period 3	10.50 – 11.50
Period 4	11.50 – 12.50
LUNCH	12.50 – 13.40
Tutor Period	13.40 – 14.00
Period 5	14.00 – 15.00

# Geography Department News

In June all of Year 7 had the opportunity to visit the East of England Show. It was a great day, good weather and a chance for students to research their environmental topics that they had been working on in class.

This year Y9 geographers were off timetable for a day and were involved in a 'Japan Day' which aimed to give students the chance to gain an understanding of many aspects of Japanese social and cultural geography. Over a two day period students had demonstrations by Taiko drummers and martial arts specialists as well as being actively involved in Japanese cookery, art and origami. Some students have also made email links with students from Japanese schools while others learnt some of the basics of the Japanese language. Much of the programme was delivered by outside specialists as well as the art and food technology departments.



Year 10 geographers have been out and about in St Ives collecting data for their GCSE coursework which is due in at the beginning of September.

Year 12 AS geographers have been to Snowdonia on a four day geography field trip. They stayed at Bryn Gwynant Youth Hostel and visited a hill farm, had talks from the National Park Authority as well as carrying out field studies of the Nant Ffrancon valley which helps to underpin their A2 level studies next year.

*Mrs J Mottram*  
Head of Geography

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# History Department News



## Black Country Museum

Most of the pupils in Year 8 visited the Black Country Museum at Dudley in June. They enjoyed a canal trip, experienced a visit down a mine and learned about school of yesteryear among other activities on the trip. The weather was glorious and altogether we had a very successful day.

## The Somme visit November 2006

Deposits have now been paid for this. The final balance will be collected in September.

## China Visit

As you read this, a party of Year 11 students will be in China visiting Beijing and Xian (July 12th –20th). The itinerary takes them to the Great Wall of China, the Forbidden City and the Terracotta Army among other famous sights.

*Mrs J Barnes*  
Head of History

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# Year 11 PROM - Thursday 29 June



What a fabulous evening! The weather was perfect. The methods of arriving at the Prom very imaginative! The young men so handsome and the young ladies so glamorous. The whole evening was a credit to the Prom organisers and the year group as a whole. A wonderful ending to 5 years at the Ivo.

*Mrs I Gosney*  
Assistant Head of Year 11

**We're on the web!**

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# Sixth Form News

Good luck to all our leavers from Year 12 and 13. We bade them all farewell at the traditional leavers ball, which had a Shakespearean theme this year. Thanks are due to Mrs Barnes and her willing team under **Clare (12CI)**. After the exams in Year 12 our students have been heavily involved in preparing for university applications in the Autumn.

- 73 students visited a higher education fair in Cambridge
- 45 students visited Leicester university's open day. Many other students have made their own arrangements to visit other institutions.
- 76 students attended a local higher education conference at Huntingdon Regional College, where admission tutors talked and advised about the application process.
- 15 ex St Ivo students returned to talk to our current students in Year 12 about life at university.

Congratulations to **Chloe (12Py)** who was given a place on a Sutton Trust Summer School to help to prepare for her university applications.

This year's activities day for the Sixth form was a visit to London, during which groups of students visited The Old Bailey, The Victoria and Albert museum and Dickens' house, as well as Camden Market. It was an interesting and relaxing way to complete the academic year.

*Mr R Perry  
Head of Sixth Form*

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# RE Department News

We have been very busy this half term with people from the community being kind enough to give up their time to talk to our students. The Year 12 students were visited by Paul Edworthy, a Christian youth worker from Huntingdon and Revd. Liz Strickland from Holywell Church. Our students enjoyed their visits very much and got a great deal from their answers to, at times, very challenging questions. Year 9 students were visited by an ex-student, John Fletcher, who did his Gap Year in Israel with Palestinian children. He spoke to the pupils about the Arab-Israeli conflict and his experiences of it. This linked nicely with the topic on this conflict that we have been studying in our final term of Year 9. We are very grateful to these people for their visits.

Year 8 have also been very busy this half term and we have been impressed with their creativity. They have made some wonderful Torah scrolls and unleavened bread - which we all got to try! This has been part of their studies on Judaism. May we take this opportunity to thank all parents who were involved in helping their children with these difficult, but fun, tasks.

Some Year 8 classes also had the chance to enter a creative writing competition which focussed this year on an eyewitness account of the death of Jesus. The prizes for this competition will mean that the pupils themselves win an award and also that the school receives money. The closing date was the end of June and we await the results. Entries were of a very high standard and made us feel very proud.

Well done and thanks to all who have contributed to the R.E. department this year. May we wish you all a good summer.

*Mrs E Kenton-Howells  
Head of Religious Education*

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Harry Fox, Holocaust Survivor, who spent the morning with Year 10, rang up this week to say thank you for all of the letters from students and the scrap book they were presented in. He said that St Ives has become his favourite place, because never before has he been treated so well. He also took our book of letters to 10 Downing Street, and shared it with Cherie Blair. Well done Year 10, you have made us proud.

# Music Department News



The Summer Term for the Music Department first saw a very successful Summer Concert. This once again sold out and all extra-curricular groups plus a large Year 7 choir delighted the audience with a high quality and varied repertoire. Thanks go to all staff who helped and/or participated and also to all performers—you were great.

Congratulations also to the following pupils who have done well in instrumental exams:

<b>Hayley (8Za)</b>	Grade 2 Clarinet
<b>Lizzie (8Hv)</b>	Grade 1 Piano
<b>Anne (10Js)</b>	Grade 5 Violin
<b>Alice (7Cc)</b>	Grade 3 Violin
<b>Nicole (12Td)</b>	Grade 6 Violin

These pupils all PASSED!

And to ...

<b>Chris (10KI)</b>	Grade 5 Trumpet	} who achieved a MERIT!
<b>Tom (10Ta)</b>	Grade 5 Trumpet	
<b>Matt (10Ta)</b>	Grade 5 Trombone	

*Mrs A Gilbert  
Head of Music*

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# Drama Department News

Congratulations to **8Mh** for winning the Year 8 Drama Challenge. Watch this space for details of next year's 7, 8 and 9 Drama challenges.

Well done to all Year 10 GCSE Drama students who performed a wide range of work for an invited audience of over 100. Highlights included scripted melodrama, comedy from Victoria Wood and a virtual tour of a 19th century coal mine!

Congratulations to Year 13 students, **Rob** and **Sam** on winning this year's Teresa Sullivan Award for Drama.

Well done to the Dance, Drama, Art and Music departments on their "Artsmark Silver Award" which Miss Crellin and Miss Bartley collected on behalf of the school at Norwich Theatre Royal on 14th July.

**ARTSMARK AWARD** — Over the last year a number of staff have been involved in applying for the Artsmark Silver award. This is a prestigious award that aims to recognise the high quality work done in departments such as dance, drama, music and art. Artsmark schools are committed to giving young people a wide range of arts experiences both in the classroom and in after school clubs, and to provide visits or partnerships with artists and arts organisations. As a school we are very proud of this achievement as confirmation of designation recognises the high profile that these departments have in the school and the contribution they make to the school as a whole.

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**Partners In Learning** evening - 21st June. A record number of Year 6 pupils and their parents/carers attended. Many thanks to the Year 7 pupils who volunteered to help, especially the brave young ladies who helped with the presentations in the Dining Hall.

*G King  
Resource Centre Manager*

# Modern Languages Department News

## PARIS 2006

At the end of May the Modern Languages Department took 44 Year 9 students who all study French as a first or second language, to Paris. The students were able to use their French in the shops and with the staff in the hotel. Some even mastered requests for another pillow or assistance in gaining access to their room, having locked themselves out.

We had an excellent, if long day in central Paris. We saw the main sights of Paris from a 'bateau mouche' on the river. Halfway up the Eiffel Tower we were caught in a sudden, heavy cloud burst which added to the excitement but fortunately did not detract from the spectacular view at the top.

Our next day was spent at Disneyland where much fun was had by all, especially Mr Lewis and Mr Ready-hoof.

A memorable trip for all who took part.

*Mrs J Flatman*

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## Law Department News

During the final half term, all Year 12 students have been taking part in the Law Department Mooting competition. The standard this year has been outstanding and students have shown genuine enthusiasm for the project to the extent of making their own wigs and gowns! Topics covered so far have included unfair contract terms and the defence of consent. The finalists are **Martin (12An) & Andrew (12Se) v Richard (12MI) & Kim (12Wf)**. It will be held in N6 on 18th July at 12.30 and the topic is 'murder and insanity'. Congratulations to all who have taken part.

*Miss C Buckenham*

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## Adult Evening Classes

Adult evening classes at St Ivo School — ENROL NOW. Ring 01480 495717 or 375308 or visit website at [www.aclearning.org.uk](http://www.aclearning.org.uk). Joint prospectus with HRC out now!

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## Swavesey Science Challenge

**Jonathan (7Bx), Aimee (7Bt), Simon (8BI), Helen (8BI), Nicola (9Wx)** and **James (9Kg)** represented St Ivo in the annual Swavesey Science Challenge in June. They competed against teams from around 20 other schools. Sadly, they didn't win, but did do very well in the chemistry section.

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## “The Bubble” Orchestra

Year 10 students, **Anne (10Js), Tom (10Ta), Matt (10Ta)** and **Chris (10KI)**, plus **Declan (8Bb)** and **Nicole (12Td)** played in the orchestra for the St Ives Youth Theatre production of “The Bubble” in early July. They were faced with some quite tricky music and played alongside more experienced adult musicians just like professionals!

# News from S.I.S.A.

## THANK YOU

Thank you to everyone who has supported SISA events this year and for all the continued support from the members of the 200 Club.

## LOST PROPERTY

SISA is responsible for the sorting and washing of the bags and bags of lost property which collects around school. We have a large rail of coats which must belong to someone. We would like ideas from parents about how we can re-unite these coats with their owners. The students do not seem to like the idea of searching through the numerous bags of lost property. Do you as parents think that if we had the coat rail on display during Parents Evenings, coats can either be reclaimed or sold for a minimal amount? Do you think it would too busy during Parents Evenings, if so, do you have any other suggestions?

If they are not claimed, the coats will be donated to charity.

## SISA SPENDS!!!!

Look out for the new text books purchased by SISA for use in the Resource Centre.

## AGM

The Annual General Meeting of the St Ivo School Association will be held on Thursday 21<sup>st</sup> September starting time to be advised.

Confirmation of the date and time will be sent to you nearer the time or please check the school website, click on SISA.

## PARENTS EVENINGS

SISA is planning to hold an informal evening during the autumn term where parents can come along and give constructive views and comments to let us know what you think about Parents Evening and how they could be improved.

- ◇ Do you get enough time with the teacher?
- ◇ Is the queuing system fair?
- ◇ Are students supposed to be there?
- ◇ Do you get feedback from teachers who are unavailable?
- ◇ Is there too much background noise?
- ◇ Are teachers too close together?

What are your views: We will be sending out a questionnaire next term?

# Governors' News

Governors will use this column to keep parents and carers informed of our work and future activities, now that formal annual reports are no longer published by schools.

This year has been a busy and exciting time, with a number of initiatives brought forward by the Head, Howard Gilbert, building on the foundations established by his predecessor, Michael Mahoney.

**Specialist School status:** Governors enthusiastically support the School's planned bid for "Specialist School" status. Although the bid will be led by humanities departments – history, geography and drama – the application for Specialist School status is very much a "whole school initiative" aimed at raising standards of teaching and learning across all subjects. We were particularly pleased that the process of formulating the application generated innovative ideas from many other departments in the School, and hope that a number of these initiatives will be implemented.

Any school seeking specialist status must secure pledges of at least £50,000 sponsorship, to demonstrate the support of its local community for the school. We have made a good start towards raising this sum, but have some way to go to reach the target. If you are employed in a local company (or even own your own business) and you or your employer would be interested in supporting the school in this way, please contact Sue Campbell or Tony Burgess, through the School.

**Changes to the School day:** As you know, changes to the times of the School day, and a fortnightly subject timetable, will be introduced from the start of the Autumn Term. Governors are persuaded that the changes will secure real educational benefits for our students. Governors are conscious, however, of some parents' concerns, particularly with regard to travel arrangements at the end of the school day, and we will be monitoring the effects of the changes.

**School uniform:** We were particularly pleased to support the introduction of polo shirts as the school uniform (also to be implemented from September) because the initiative for the change came from the students themselves, through the School Council, which made an excellent presentation to a Governors' meeting. Governors concluded that, for polo shirts to be a "uniform" and to ensure consistent standards of dress, it was appropriate for shirts to carry the School logo, and this view was supported by a majority of the parents who responded to our consultation. We considered carefully the representations made, particularly by parents who attended our consultation meeting, with regard to quality and cost. We believe that we have addressed those particular concerns by a rigorous tender exercise, to ensure that the new school polo shirts, on sale through the Business Centre, will represent good value for money.

**Curriculum:** Our Curriculum Committee has, with School staff, conducted a review of the curriculum, involving the following key areas:

- (a) Number of GCSEs – the number of GCSEs students will be expected to take has been reduced from 11 to 9, and some new subjects have been made available
- (b) Allocation of subject time - with a reduced number of examination subjects, more time can be allocated to each, which should result in more time being available for targeted revision prior to examination
- (c) Flexible approach for individual students – ways are being examined how the curriculum can be adjusted to suit individual students, either by further reducing or by increasing the number of courses and exams taken
- (d) Vocational courses – the School has been running a pilot involving students taking a BTech in sport, and as a result of the success of this pilot two more vocational courses will be offered from September in partnership with HRC
- (e) PSHE – a dedicated PSHE delivery team has been put together, to improve delivery of this very broad subject.

# Governors' News continued

**Personnel:** Our Personnel Committee has in the past year coordinated a review of the School's statutory policies, as well as reviewing staff and pupil absence, the staffing structure and recruitment and retention of staff, and analysing the cost of cover for absent teachers. The Committee hosted a self-evaluation forum for the governing body, to review our own methods of working, and this has resulted in a number of changes, including updated induction training for new Governors. The Committee also receives a twice-termly report from the Pastoral Management Group, covering such areas as inclusion, the Young Person's Clinic, support for low achievers and work force reform.

**Premises:** Work on the new entrance foyer has now begun, with completion due at October half-term. The opening of the new foyer will represent the final element of the 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary celebrations. During work, reception will be temporarily sited in the Leys Building, and appropriate signage will be in place. Although the 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the School is a time for celebration, it does highlight a particular problem: many of the School's buildings are 50 years old, and maintenance and repair continue to be a priority.

Energy saving and recycling have continued to be another priority for the School. This is an issue which involves everyone – parents and carers, staff, students and Governors. Policies on energy saving will be introduced. Recycling has proved very successful on sites, and the students have played an integral part in this. The Committee is continuing to look at ways of improving School meals. A survey was carried out inviting students to comment on quality of meals and the dining hall itself, and this information will assist us in making changes next year.

**Finance:** Funding arrangements for schools have changed again this year, with the Government (not the County Council) now fixing the county's total schools' budget. Although still not fully comparable with some neighbouring counties, our budget for 2006-7 has been less restricted than in previous years. We have this year managed to release funds to increase one year group (Year 9) from 10 to 11 forms so reducing class sizes, as well as increasing the budget for curriculum materials and setting aside funds to help meet our commitments to give teaching staff planning preparation and assessment time. We have also reserved modest sums for a teaching and learning project, and for further curriculum development. If the School's bid for "Specialist School" status is successful, this will automatically bring additional funding, and reducing class sizes in other year groups will be a priority for the use of additional resources.

**Adult and community learning:** The ACL team continue to offer an impressive range of both vocational and leisure courses, despite a shift in Government funding towards basic skills training. Over the coming year, the ACL management group will be exploring ways to enhance the range of courses and other learning opportunities available to the community, and further opportunities to integrate ACL into the Government's "extended schools" initiative.

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## Art Department News

The art department has been a hive of activities this term. We have seen various visiting artists demonstrating a range of processes. **Year 10** saw 'The Curwen Print Studios' who showed the drawing and painting students several printing processes, with great success. There was a professional felt maker who delivered exciting workshops to the textiles groups and finally Rebecca Harvey, a contemporary Potter was in demonstrating the fine art of 'throwing'. (A messy and productive experience was had by all).

**KS3** had their own experiences. Two lucky Year 8 forms had the pleasure of making furniture out of recycled paper tightly rolled when the artist Darcy Turner came in for a day. (The work can be seen in main block old reception.) We also had the opportunity to take a small group of Year 9 gifted and talented students to the Fitzwilliam, which involved workshops and a gallery visit.

This term also saw the GCSE and A Level exhibition - two very professional and creative shows. Well done to all those who took part.

Lastly we would like to congratulate Miss Martin, Miss Harness and Miss Carmichael for their fantastic two weeks of Cambridge Open Studios.

# Congratulations to ...

**Natasha (9Ke)** who rode in an R.D.A. charity dressage competition, competing in three classes, winning 1st place in both the 1st and 3rd classes.

Mrs Perry would like to congratulate **Clare (9TI)** and **Mary (9Ke)** who have worked to a very high standard throughout the year in English. Well done also to **Mrs Perry's Year 10 English group** for completing their GCSE coursework to a high standard.

**Rachel (9HI)** who ran the "race for life" with her Mum in aid of breast cancer research. Rachel ran the race in 45 minutes and raised £64.55 for charity.

**Joshua (9HI)** who has been offered a place in the Under 15 School of Excellence at Peterborough United.

**James (9Kg)** who rowed double sculls in the National Rowing Championships in Scotland July 15th—17th, gaining a Silver Medal. With his partner, Adam (Swavesey) he broke the existing course record by one second.

**James (9Ke)** who has been selected for Cambridgeshire U14 and U15 cricket teams this season.

Congratulations to **Chad (9HI)**, **Patrick (9HI)** and **James (9Ke)** who won the National semi-final of the British Schools Golf Championships and will compete in the national final at the Belfry in September.

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## Sports News

Year 10 Cricket Team have not played many fixtures this year due to a number of reasons. However, they do remain unbeaten (at the time of writing) with a narrow victory away at Hinchbrook.

### David Cross Cricket League year7 / year8

The start of this year's cricket season saw the start of a new school's cricket competition. A mix of year 7 and year 8 pupils played other schools in the area in a league, the winners going on to a local final. As members of the league we received a full kit bag of equipment and a set of 12 shirts with the league logo. We were all very impressed with this. There were exceptional team performances in all of the games played. We won three of the 4 games played only losing to Longsands where the team were treated to a full cricket tea. Was this a ploy to get us over full for the second innings?!!!

**Alex, Mohsin, Billy** and **Josh** represented year 7 and **Alex, Sam, Jordan, Alex, Sam, Will, Tom, James** and **Harry** all made appearances in the games we played. Special mention must be made of the 53 made in the first game by **Jordan** and the excellent bowling of **Sam** and **Mohsin** in all of the games played.

At the time of going to press we were 2<sup>nd</sup> in the league.

Well done 'The A Team'



*Mr J Lane*

### Year 8 Cricket

The creation of the Colin Davis League meant that year 8 had twice as many games as usual this year and so we were able to create an A Team for the league and a B Team for the friendly fixtures. Regular attendees to nets all had a chance to play for the school in the B Team and after a cancellation for rain for the first fixture the B Team were able to lay low all opposition. At the time of going to press there is still a fixture to fulfil so let's hope we can maintain our winning ways. **Tom, Matt, Luke, Simon, Rob, Barney, John, Stewart, Sam, Ryan, Tim, Stuart, Steven** and Captain **Tom** were all part of the winning teams. A special thanks must go to **Tom** for organising the team so well as captain and a mention must be made of the all round skills of **Steven** and **Matt**. We had a successful and fun term of cricket. Roll on next season!

*Mr J Lane*

There has been a successful summer trip to Switzerland where 43 students from St Ivo attended an activities camp in the Swiss Alps. Activities included banana boating, over night camp in the mountains, tree top adventure, visit to the Olympic museum and an afternoon at the Montreux Jazz Festival. The trip was organised by Mr Crisp, accompanied by Mr Havard, Mr Cook, Miss Mathews and Mrs Kemp.