

# July 2010



# Newsletter

## St Ivo School

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Dear Parent/Carer

The end of the Summer Term is always a time to say goodbye to colleagues and this year is no different. I would like to give my best wishes to those who are leaving us for pastures new: Miss Coulter, Miss Batchelor and Mr Collinson (TAs), Mr Morton (ICT technician), Mr Parsons (Maths), Mrs Roberts and Miss Trouset (MFL), Mrs Bonin-Casey (Geography), Mr Francis (History), Mrs King (Music), Miss McNabola (English) and Mr Cassidy (Head of Science).

I would like to pay special tribute though to the following four teachers who are retiring this year and who between them have worked at St Ivo for 105 years! Mrs Senior (English), Mrs Taylor (MFL), Mrs Lambert (History and Head of Year) and Mr Kemp (SENCO). Their contribution to St Ivo has been outstanding and I am sure that they have had a huge impact on hundreds, if not thousands, of students over the years. I wish them a long and happy retirement with our gratitude for their commitment to St Ivo.

I am pleased to report that we are fully staffed for September and wish you and your family an excellent summer break.

Yours sincerely

Howard Gilbert  
Headteacher

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# Term Dates

## END OF TERM CLOSING

Please note the school will be closing at 3.00pm on Wednesday, 21st July.

## 2010/2011 AUTUMN TERM

The first day back for students is Friday, 3rd September.

Students in Year 7 should come into school at the usual time of 8.30am. Year 8, Year 9, Year 10 and Year 11 students will start school at 11.05am when they should register with their form tutors. All these year groups will have normal lessons from Period 4.

Year 12 students should arrive at 8.30am - Induction days: Friday, 3rd September and Monday, 6th September.

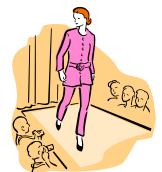
Year 13 students should arrive at 11.05am and will be able to leave at 1.05pm if signing on has been completed. Normal lessons will commence on Monday, 6th September.

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# Sixth Form News

The Leavers Ball was a terrific success, everyone had a great time. Well done to Mrs Akers for organising it - and **good luck to Mr Havard who is organising next year's Ball.**

Well done to everyone who took part, or who played a role in the Sixth form Fashion Show in June. The event was well supported, and the fashions on show were lovely. Well done in particular to Katherine, Keziah and Harriet.



Congratulations to all sixth form students who have been involved with Young Lives this year. St Ivo provides more volunteers to this worthwhile organisation than all of the other schools in the district put together. The variety of work that is done is very worthwhile, in particular the work that students do with the Teenage Cancer Trust.

Well done to everyone involved in organising and running the school General Election which resulted in a Liberal Democrat victory.

Congratulations to John in 12Ak who in December and January spent a month helping to renovate a school in Gambia.

Well done to all sixth form students who have taken part this year in the SMILE Project helping Year 6 make the transition into Year 7.



Congratulations to the Sixth Form Committee for their successes in obtaining new ICT equipment in K8 and K10, and new lockers in the reception area of the sixth form block.

Mr Oswell.

# Geography Department News

On Monday 7<sup>th</sup> June Year 7 students launched their Japan week in style with the help of London-based Taiko Mean-time. Twenty eight students enjoyed a full-day workshop with the Japanese drummers and in the afternoon put on a performance for their fellow students in the Burgess Hall. The students had a great experience and the level of performance at the end belied the fact that they had no previous experience of this type of drumming.

Japan Week, an initiative set up and co-ordinated by the school's geography department, also included a day with Sonia Leong, a well known manga artist. She conducted workshops with Year 7 students, showing them how to draw manga comics and how to succeed in the industry. She also judged a school-wide manga competition which was won by Year 10 student Katie. Year 7 students have also been learning about different aspects of Japanese life, history, culture and diversity throughout many of their lessons.

Year 7 have also had the opportunity this term to visit the **Coldham's Farm** wind turbine and experience a day run by the Cambridgeshire Environmental Education Centre which complements the work carried out by students and ties in with our aim to become an eco school.

Year 8 have been to Stibbington to experience the delights of getting in a river and doing some 'hands on' geography. They learnt not only about the physical geography of rivers but also the problems of flooding.

Year 9 have been to Aldeburgh and Dunwich along the Suffolk coast to study coastal defence issues and the management of two contrasting areas. The visit also included a talk by the museum staff in Dunwich.



Year 10 have been out and about over the last few weeks. After their module exam they have been collecting data on the environmental quality of different areas in St Ives as part of their coursework module for GCSE.

A large group of Year 10 GCSE students are also lucky enough to be visiting Iceland during the summer term. They will be staying near to the infamous Eyjafjallajokull volcano which caused so much disruption in April, as well as swimming in the Blue Lagoon thermal pool, visiting waterfalls, glaciers, hot springs and geysers. This is an annual trip which is open to all Year 10 GCSE students.

Year 12 AS/ A2 geographers have been along the North Norfolk coast to Holkham Bay where they collected data to support their A2 fieldwork on sand dunes.



Advanced notice – in October the geography department run a visit to South Africa. Those students who are going will be invited to an information evening on September 30<sup>th</sup>.

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## ICT Department News

At Year 7 parents evening a few of you asked about touch typing skills and whether we teach these in ICT lessons. We don't teach touch typing but can recommend the use of the following website for practising at home.

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/schools/typing/>

# History Department News

## Year 7

Students have been busy taking their summer exam, and studying the Renaissance and Reformation. Can you remember what happened to the six wives of King Henry VIII? Divorced, beheaded...???



## Year 8

Students greatly enjoyed the trip to the Black Country museum in June as part of their study of the Industrial Revolution. Furthermore many students have signed up for the Somme battlefields trip on Friday November 5<sup>th</sup> 2010 as part of the Year 9 course on World War I.

## Year 9

Students have been writing their controlled assessment exam on: to what extent did Hitler and the Nazis fully control the German people 1933-45.



They are now studying turning points during World War II 1939-45, including the Dunkirk evacuation, the Battle of Britain, the Blitz, Hitler's invasion of Russia, Pearl Harbour, the D-Day landings, the defeat of Germany, and the dropping of atomic bombs on Japan.



## Year 10

Students should be congratulated for working very hard on their GCSE controlled assessment. Their essay focused on: What was the extent of change in employment opportunities for women 1955-1975? They will soon focus on the debate: How accurate is the term 'swinging sixties'? Many interesting views are expected!

## Year 12

All students worked very hard towards their two summer module exams on: Germany 1933-63, and Pitt to Peel 1783-1846. They are now studying introductions to their A2 modules on: Ireland 1798-1921, and Russia 1894-1924. Many have also opted to go on the popular trip to Dublin in November 2010 as part of their Irish studies.



## Community Links by the History Department

We plan to make a DVD on St. Ives and the 'Swinging Sixties'. We are calling for local people to feature in filming, to offer stories and loan objects and pictures. If you are interested, please phone or write to the history department (c/o Mrs Ellinor), or email [cellinor@stivoschool.org](mailto:cellinor@stivoschool.org)

Year 7 students have been involved in a St. Ives town trail, seeking to build up their knowledge of local history. Year 7 lessons have also included work on the medieval market in St. Ives.

The making of a local history DVD with Year 9 and members of the local community about St. Ives and the Second World War has been a success. It has been screened to local people and used in lessons. Copies can still be bought at £7 from the school business centre.

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. Best wishes for the summer holiday!

Dr Craig  
Head of History

# Year 8 News

Year 8 Funky Friday

On every Friday since the beginning of March, Year 8 pupils have been taking part in 'Funky Friday' activities, where each of the eleven tutor groups organise and run their own Fundraising event, with the proceeds going to the year group's chosen charity 'Help For Heroes'.

Over the weeks events have included Cake stalls, Remote Control Car racing, Dodgeball Tournaments, Craft stalls, Balloon Popping, Raffles, Treasure Maps, Sponge the Teachers and many more.

The hard work and enthusiasm shown by both students and staff has been outstanding and all the events have been a huge success. The great support shown by the rest of the school has also been influential.

With one event remaining Year 8 have currently raised the huge sum of £850 and would like to thank all those who organised, ran and supported the events. Well done to all of Year 8.

Mr Braybrook  
Assistant Head of Year 8

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## Drama Department News



The St Ivo School Drama Department were very pleased to be involved in the world premiere of 'A Musical Misunderstanding' by Aine McNabola. This fine show was well-received by the audience and directed with real verve and enthusiasm. The dancing was outstandingly choreographed; the music performed with verve and the direction generated a good deal of warmth for the characters in its gentle reinterpretation of *Much Ado about Nothing* for a modern audience. Aine has been a leading light in extra-curricular drama over the two years of her time with us at St Ivo and will be much missed. She was ably assisted by Fiona Bartley, Head of Dance; Nicola Walmsley of the Drama Department and Emily King of the Music Department. The sets were designed by Helen Hands; my thanks to them all.

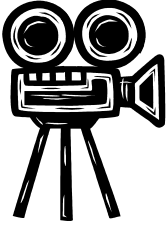
Last but not least the students involved performed superbly, using humour and pathos in equal measure to keep the audience entertained throughout. My heartiest congratulations to all involved for a terrific evening.

In the autumn term there will be a production of 'Daisy Pulls it Off' in November. 'Jack and the Beanstalk' will be our Christmas pantomime this year, performed in the last week of term.

Finally, I would like to express my thanks to all those of you who have supported St Ivo drama productions over the course of the year. It is always good to see parents and staff supporting the students' work; it is particularly pleasing to see students coming to see their peers. We hope to see you all at our autumn productions.

Mr Perry  
Head of Drama

# Media & Film Studies News



Following St Ivo's success last July when three then Year 10 girls, Lauren, Molly and Samantha came 3rd in the Cambridgeshire Young Film Maker of the Year Awards KS4 category with their short documentary in support of the "ECO-IVO" campaign, we've this year gone a stage better.

Sam (12Py) won the runner-up prize in the KS5 category for his spooky take on Little Red Riding Hood, *Silent Footsteps*. Grace (10TY/MR) won the runner-up prize in the KS4 category as well as in the event overall for her animated film, *Stay in my Memory*. This amazing short piece also won the award for Best Animation 2010 at the Film Festival. Grace's film can be seen on *You Tube* where she's already picked up over 44,000 hits and positive comments about her work from people all over the world.

Mr Alexander  
Head of Film & Media Studies

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## Dining Hall News



Congratulations to Tracey Morton and the Dining Hall team for gaining a 5 Star Award under the Huntingdonshire District Council's Scores on the Doors scheme.



## adult and community learning st ives, cambs

Adult learning and skills – St Ives 2010 /11 course information is now available online. Copies of the prospectus will be available very soon. Courses start from only £10. New courses for September include Cup Cakes, Dressmaking, Hen Keeping, Grow your own vegetables, Silver Jewellery Making and Zumba®.

You can book online anytime at [www.aclearning.org.uk](http://www.aclearning.org.uk). Telephone bookings can be made from Tuesday 24 August 2010 on 01480 495717 or 01480 375308.

# MFL Department News

One of the greatest language experts and gurus of the 20<sup>th</sup> century, Eric Hawkins, often talked of how the rehearsal of languages in the classroom was a preparation for the performance in the real world. 2009-10 has been an academic year full of activities in which we have tried to provide young people with chances to perform in “real” situations. **Year 13 pupils went to Germany to do work experience whilst some Year 11 students of languages practised their languages in mock towns and others joined our well established Saturday events.** Year 9 pupils joined students from across the county in work related activities in modern languages. Year 8 pupils went to France to see what bread making, crêpe making and a Christmas market were like and Year 8 and 9 students of German explored various aspects of two German cities. There was no doubt in the feedback that the chocolate museum in Cologne was very popular indeed. And last but not least, the Year 8 Latin group performed a short play at the Roman theatre in St Albans.

We also strive in the department to give pupils a taste of languages we are not normally able to offer in the curriculum. **In our celebration of the European Day of Languages, our “Talk the talk” event and the related tasks in culture classes,** as well as in our after school Italian and Latin classes, we have worked with pupils in sessions where they have explored a wide range of other languages sometimes as after school in greater depth and sometimes as in taster lessons in less depth.



Preparations for the coming year are well underway. 52 youngsters from Year 8 will be spending 3 days at the end of the Autumn Term living in a French chateau, using their French in a variety of tasks in French towns and discovering how bread is made. 40 youngsters from Years 8 and 9 will be staying in a castle in Germany in July 2011. On this trip we are planning a visit to a German school and challenging activities in 2 local towns. We still have 5 places free on this trip so all main or second language students who are interested should see Mrs Zähler for a letter or leave her a message asking for details. The Year 10 able, gifted and talented group in Latin will be visiting St Albans and working with local experts. For Year 9 main language French and German we have booked the return of the theatre company whose performances were so popular 2 years ago. Look out, too, in Year 9 for exciting work related events for Year 9 in French and German and the application letter for the Italian course after school on Thursdays from October on. We are planning exchanges in German in Years 10 and 13, Saturday events for Year 11 pupils in French and German and a conference for GCSE pupils in French.

If you think you have missed information about the trips or want more details please do contact me. You will find me in room 2 from September on.

**At the end of this year, we are saying thank you to Miss Trouset who has worked hard during Mrs Moore’s maternity leave to ensure that her classes were given the best teaching and wish her all the best for the future.** We say thank you to Mrs Roberts for all her hard work for pupils during the past 7 years of teaching in the department and wish her all the best for the future as she relocates. We also wish Mrs Taylor a happy retirement and thank her for over 20 years of work in the departments of English and Modern Languages and her support on so many trips abroad. We will remember you all with affection and miss you all.

Mrs Zähler  
Head of Modern Languages

# Resource Centre News

The Resource Centre has been really busy recently with different events being held.

## Visits from outside speakers

Sonia Leong - On 10<sup>th</sup> June we were fortunate enough to have a manga artist, Sonia Leong, come to our school. She held several sessions for Year 7s in the RC, showing them how to draw manga and getting them to have a go. The children enjoyed her visit.

Manga Competition - We held a competition in the RC prior to her visit, getting the children to draw a manga version of themselves from a photograph which they submitted with the drawing. The winner was Katie (10Cf/Md) who won a framed Sonia Leong creation. The runners up were Shannon (7We), Leah (9An) and Amy (11Bt) who were highly commended for their manga self-portraits.

Sam Enthoven – On 1<sup>st</sup> July we had a fantastic day with Sam Enthoven, children’s author. He spoke to all of Year 7 about his experiences as an author, and answered lots of the children’s questions. He also signed copies of his books (‘Tim, Defender of the Earth’, ‘The Black Tattoo’ and ‘Crawlers’) and read sections from them.

Story Writing Competition - We held a story writing competition where the children were given the first paragraph of ‘The Black Tattoo’ and they had to continue with their version of the story. The winner was Ellie (7Bz) winning a book voucher and chocolates with runner up Ned (7We) winning chocolates. These stories and all the other nominations are on display in the RC – come and have a look!

Model Competition - We also held a model making competition where the children could make models of demons featured in the same book. Many thanks to the Art Department for facilitating this on several lunchtimes. The winner of the model competition was Isobel (7Sn) winning book vouchers and chocolates, with runner up Anna (7Sn) winning chocolates. Sam has featured our models displayed in our gladiator pit (see below) on his website <http://www.theycrawl.com/news>. Check it out – we’re famous!



## Craft Weeks

We will have held 4 craft weeks this term.

Japan Week – We did manga drawing, origami and making fans.

Sam Enthoven 1 – We made skoobie bracelets remembering the bracelet from ‘Tim, Defender of the Earth’ and a 3D London underground map showing all the London locations mentioned in the 3 books, as well as characters from the stories.

Sam Enthoven 2 – We made a gladiator pit to display the models from the competition on the day and the children made fellow demons to sit and watch the demons battle.



Alice in Wonderland – We are taking this as our theme for the Year 6 Open Evening and the children are making playing card bunting and white roses, and our Year 7 helpers on the evening are making their outfits as big playing cards.

## Subject Projects

We have had Year 7s and Year 9s in this half term.

Year 7s – They have been learning about Hajj, the Islamic pilgrimage.

Year 9s – They have taken part in the Revision Race, learning about different means of research as preparation for Year 10.

We wish you all a safe, happy summer from the Resource Centre.



# Governors' News

This annual column is one way in which we hope to keep parents and carers informed of the work of the School's Governors.

Governors are not responsible for the management of the School: that is the job of the Head and his management team. The Governing Body is responsible for –

- determining the strategic direction of the School
- ensuring that the School fulfils its legal responsibilities, and
- **holding the school's management to account, as a "critical friend"**.

We are greatly helped in our role by regular presentations from teachers and other support staff with special responsibilities within the School, which are, without exception, very professional and informative. In the past year we have had such presentations on the 2009 exam results, target setting for the 2011 public exams, the **development of the School's highly-praised virtual learning environment**, child protection and the work of the inclusion team.

This past year we have also been privileged to have excellent and enthusiastic presentations from three groups of students –

- the Eco-School Initiative group, whose work on energy saving is most impressive and important
- a group who described movingly their visit to Auschwitz, and
- **the "Junior Challenge" quiz team from the Gifted and Talented Group, who had set a quiz for us!**

All the students involved are to be congratulated on the clarity of their presentations – and for their courage in speaking to full meetings of the Governors!

The following paragraphs describe some of the work of our Committees over the past year:

*Curriculum:* The main task of the Curriculum Committee is to analyse the extent to which the School provides learning opportunities which properly cater for the interests, aptitudes and needs of our students, and whether the teaching and organisation of the curriculum –

- motivates students to learn
- is inclusive by ensuring equality of access and opportunity for all students, and
- prepares students effectively for subsequent stages of education or life.

**Much of the Committee's work is to scrutinise the provision and to analyse data concerning learning outcomes, including external examinations such as GCSE, AS and A levels. This year's GCSE results, when compared to similar students in other schools, were a little disappointing.** However there were some atypical contributory factors including an unusually high student turnover. A similar comparison based on A level results places St Ivo in the top 10% of schools nationally.

At present the range of courses available at St Ivo in Key Stage 4 has a stronger emphasis on academic subjects than many schools in the area. This may in part explain the apparent contradiction in the achievement of GCSE and A level students.

The Curriculum Committee also reviews and updates school policies which fall within its remit. This year the **Committee has helped the School to formulate a Collective Worship policy, which outlines and explains the School's approach to this area of provision.**

# Governors' News continued

The Committee also often receives presentations from Heads of Department and members of the Senior Management Team. This year the Head of Science was able to report on various improvements made in the Science Department including:

- a significant improvement in GCSE results (65% pass rate, 4.8% above target)
- teaching which strives to promote enjoyment, challenge and support, and
- entitlement which sees Y9-Y11 moving towards a triple science provision (Physics, Chemistry and Biology) where appropriate.

The Committee also examines homework policy. The effectiveness of homework is regarded as a key issue at St Ivo and the following means of improvement have been identified –

- homework requirements should be clearly written down
- teachers should ensure homework requirements are fully understood
- the effectiveness of homework should be regularly reviewed, and
- marking should be swift to provide a more effective feedback to the students.

The Governors on the Curriculum Committee were disappointed that St Ivo was not part of the Healthy Schools Initiative.

*Personnel:* Work continued throughout the year on the issue of attendance with the Committee receiving a **regular detailed report on progress made. It is pleasing to report that the School's Student Attendance record shows major improvement since the start of this exercise and we are now regarded as a high achiever in this area.**

The Committee continued to work through the various statutory and optional policies, and very few still require attention other than the normal periodic review. As part of this exercise, the Committee decided to allocate a limited number of outputs and outcomes to appropriate policies. When these policies are due for their review, the Committee will consider, as part of the review process, a brief report on these measures in order to establish if the policy is working as intended.

In addition to the normal staffing and recruitment issues arising throughout the year, work has commenced on monitoring the performance management scheme for support staff to establish if it is working satisfactorily.

*Finance:* Even before the recent General Election, the Finance Committee had begun preparations for this autumn's **Comprehensive Spending Review, and the obvious reductions in public spending which will result. Although the Coalition Government has said it wishes to protect "front line" services, teachers require access to important support services and technology effectively to deliver today's curriculum, and we do not believe that schools will escape funding cuts.**

In this county, we fear that the effect of spending reductions will be exacerbated by the fact that Cambridgeshire schools have historically received less Government money per student than schools in neighbouring counties. As an added pressure on school budgets, the next few years are predicted to bring a cyclical reduction in student numbers - and most of our funding is based on the number of students on our roll.

In response, the Committee is conducting a **line-by-line review of the School's budget, to identify areas where savings may be made if necessary, whilst minimising the impact on the quality of teaching and learning or on the School environment.** Anticipating that cuts which the County Council has to make may affect the level of central support services provided to schools, we are also exploring with our partner schools how closer working together might provide opportunities to provide substitute services cost effectively.

# Governors' News continued

We will also, as a Governing Body, consider the implications and potential advantages of any Government initiatives – like the expansion of the Academies Programme – which might benefit the School, but further information on such initiatives will only emerge from Whitehall over the coming months.

*Premises:* It has been another busy year for the Premises Team at St Ivo School. The usual problems with maintaining school buildings over 50 years old are a continuing issue – rather like painting the Forth Bridge! A great deal of work was carried out over the summer break in 2009 to improve the teaching and learning environment for both staff and students. Further work is planned over the coming summer holidays. We would like to thank the premises team for all of the work that they have put in and continue to do throughout the year.

We are aware of the proposed housing development at St Ives Golf Course and we are working with the developers to ensure that the works do not impinge on the activities of the School – and, more importantly, do not create a danger to students and staff.

We are continuing our work on energy saving throughout the School, in order to reduce our contribution to carbon emissions and to save money. We are currently assessing the possibility of installing solar panels to reduce our carbon footprint.

Our dining hall continues to be a success. We are now looking at opportunities within the School grounds to grow some of our own food that can then be prepared, cooked and then served in the dining hall.

*Community:* Our Community Committee considers not only adult education programmes, but the many ways in which the School integrates with the local community. Through our specialist school status and the “extended schools” programme, the close liaison with other schools continues, as does our work with other agencies, to ensure that our students and their families receive the support and advice they need.

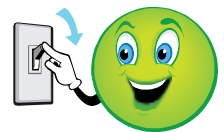
Although these are challenging times for all funding, the adult community learning team has continued to work hard to provide a varied range of courses for you to enjoy. The team is constantly adapting courses to meet your needs, and is always ready to accept your suggestions for both educational and leisure courses – so let them know if a course you would like to take is not currently in the prospectus. The St Ives Prospectus will be out in the summer, with many new courses for you to enjoy.

What an exciting start to the term we have had! A beautiful glass plaque sits in the school cabinet and on it is inscribed 'Best Environmental Secondary School'. Yes, we submitted our application to the Huntingdonshire Green Heart Community Awards and won! The prize is a true testimony to the work the students have completed this year towards caring for their environment both locally and on a global scale.



Talking of global, all eyes have been on South Africa with the football matches and the Geography Department has had a large wall display of World Cup Geography dominating the far wall. Taking this opportunity to raise awareness of the great work that Fairtrade is doing in South Africa, the Eco-Ivo Student Committee held a 'Fairplay for Africa' day with stalls giving away South African apple juice and cookies made with South African grown raisins. Two competitions were held for students and staff who had to predict the scores of the England-Slovenia and the England-Germany matches. Dominic, Year 7 and Mrs Slater won Fairtrade footballs.

The Energy Club, with its aim of reducing energy consumption, have introduced a league table for the lower school to start in September. "Snipers" have uncovered teachers who do not switch off unused appliances and raised awareness amongst the staff of the need to do so. Well done them!



To reward the hard work of the Eco-Ivo Student Committee (meets on a Friday in N17) and the Energy Club (meets on a Wednesday in N13) a trip was organised to the Eco-Schools Show at the East of England Showground. Students across the years were able to talk to eco-friendly companies and councils, to participate in experiments, to give their views and opinions and to realise the importance of a strong commitment to a green future.

If anyone would like to join either of these clubs, do come and see Mrs Morey in N17 at the start of the new term.

Have a happy and environmentally friendly summer!

Mrs Morey  
Geography Department