

# May 2010



# Newsletter

## St Ivo School

Inside this issue:

<i>Dates for Professional Days</i>	2
<i>Home to School Transport</i>	2
<i>Music Dept News</i>	2
<i>Specialist School</i>	3
<i>Visit by Christian Malcolm</i>	3
<i>Geography Dept News</i>	4
<i>Catering Dept News</i>	4
<i>Dance Festival</i>	5
<i>National Bird Box Week</i>	5
<i>Evening of GCSE and A Level Dance</i>	5
<i>Year 8 News</i>	6
<i>Junior School Challenge</i>	6
<i>Year 11 News</i>	7
<b>Governors' News</b>	7
<i>Resource Centre News</i>	8
<i>Host UK</i>	9
<i>West Anglia Crossroads</i>	9
<i>Other News</i>	9
<i>Home Access Scheme</i>	10
<i>Adult &amp; Community Learning</i>	11
<i>Eco-Ivo News</i>	12

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Dear Parent/Carer

I am writing this on the day that the new Government has announced £6.25 billion worth of cuts and am relieved to see that schools have been protected (for the moment!). The financial settlement this year has enabled us to set a balanced budget which protects class sizes and enable us to fund major developments such as the final year of the introduction of new GCSEs for most subjects. This is a time of considerable change in education policy and funding and I will keep you informed of the potential impact on the school as and when more information becomes available.

Our designation as a Humanities Specialist School has been a key part of our improvement strategy as it has given us significantly extra funding over the last two years and this is gone into in some detail within the newsletter.

Examinations have now started for AS and GCSE candidates with A2 exams not far off. This is an important and potentially anxious time for candidates and their families and so I hope that the next few weeks go smoothly for all concerned with excellent outcomes achieved.

Yours sincerely

Howard Gilbert  
Headteacher

# Dates for Professional Days

Change of Date for Professional Day / Open Evening in October 2010

Please note that the Professional Day on Thursday, 21 October 2010 has now changed to WEDNESDAY, 20 OCTOBER 2010.

The open evening for parents/carers of Year 6 students due to start in September 2011 will now take place on WEDNESDAY, 20 OCTOBER 2010.

The Sixth Form Open Evening for parents/carers of Year 11 students due to start in the Sixth Form in September 2011 will also now take place on WEDNESDAY, 20 OCTOBER 2010.

There will be professional days on the following dates:

Wednesday, 1 September 2010

Thursday, 2 September 2010

Wednesday, 20 October 2010

Tuesday, 26 April 2011.

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## Home to School Transport 2010/11



Parents/carers are now to apply on-line for home to school transport for 2010/11 via [www.cambridgeshire.gov.uk/education/schools/getting](http://www.cambridgeshire.gov.uk/education/schools/getting). Application forms are also available from the school Reception.

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## Music Department News

The St. Ivo Barbershop Chorus sang in the Mayor's Charity concert on Friday, 7 May along with the Hemingford Ladies Choir, to raise funds for the mayor's charities this year. They were asked to sing by the mayor after he heard very positive reports after the recent school spring concert, and performed on the night to a number of local dignitaries as well as a large public audience at the Free Church.

Both the Mayor, Brian Luter, and the audience gave an extremely positive response to the boys, for whom the concert was a first public appearance. During the evening, Miss Macleod - who rehearses and directs the group - was asked about 4 possible future engagements for the group to be involved with, and was presented with a donation towards the music department which will be used to support Barbershop's future endeavours.

It was an extremely impressive achievement for a group of students who left a fantastic impression on many members of the community and represented the school with great maturity.

# Specialist School Developments

As many of you will be aware, St. Ivo school was designated a Specialist Humanities College in September 2008. The designation provides the school with extra money which we are using for the simple aim of raising standards. As well as spending money on improvements in St. Ivo we have to also work with other schools and community organisations to fulfil the criteria of the scheme. Below are some examples of the developments that have taken place:

In School:

- Money is being used to increase staffing so that group sizes can be reduced.
- Projectors and Interactive Whiteboards have been deployed in all classrooms to allow staff to develop more innovative methods of teaching. Training and support for staff with this has been put in place by the appointment of an Advanced Skills Teacher to support staff with this work.
- **Notebook PC's that can connect wirelessly to the network are available for students to use in N Block to allow research and interactive methods of teaching to be developed.**
- Other Advanced Skills Teachers have been appointed with foci of increasing Pupil Engagement and Improving Literacy support across all subjects.
- St. Ivo school is applying for Eco-schools status and is actively involved in supporting St. Ives in applying for Fair Trade status.

Community Links:

- **We have developed an exciting project with our feeder Primary schools called "The Magical Manor". The work revolves around the Green Knowe books written about the Manor house in Hemingford Grey. The aim is to allow students to learn about the history of the house with an underlying literacy focus.**
- St. Ivo school is working closely with the Hartford Student Support Unit providing practical Science opportunities for students and support in developing their use of effective ICT in lessons.
- We work closely with the Adult and Community Learning funding a number of popular courses for members of the community to access at a reduced price.
- We have established links with the Norris Museum so that examples from the Year 7 Castles project are displayed in the museum. Museum expertise and resources are also being used in lessons to support learning.

Details given above are just a small sample of the exciting developments that are taking place as a result of the school's specialist designation. Further details of our work will be included in future issues of the Newsletter.

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## Visit by Christian Malcolm

The Olympic athlete, Christian Malcolm, visited the school on Friday, 14 May to take part in a sporting challenge with Year 7 students. The visit was part of the 'Team Super Schools Challenge' which schools from all around the country are taking part in. All Year 7 pupils took part in the challenge which involved them doing a 'circuit' of 10 exercise stations, followed by a Question & Answer session with Christian Malcolm.

# Geography Department News

Year 12 students have recently returned from their 4 day residential in Snowdonia – carrying out field work in driving rain and then deep snow but are hoping for better fortunes when they go to Holkham Bay in North Norfolk in June again to carry out field work as part of their A2 coursework. In April the AQA chief examiner came in to do a work shop with both Year 12 and Year 13 in preparation for their exams.

There are a number of visits arranged for KS3 classes over the next half term which include a visit to Coldham Wind Farm for Year 7, a river study at Stibbington for Year 8 and a visit to Dunwich and Aldeburgh in Suffolk for Year 9 students. **Year 7 classes will also have the chance to experience 'Japan Week'** where a range of activities are planned including a demonstration by Taiko drummers.

We have also had in a number of guest speakers which include Neil Renwick from the RSPB site at Fen Drayton talking to the Year 13 geographers about the conservation issues and the development of the reserve. While some Year 7 classes have had a talk from Bob Burn Murdoch, curator of the Norris Museum about the early settlement of St Ives.



Forthcoming events in the geography department include the Year 10 GCSE visit to Iceland which holds special interest this year with the volcanic eruption near the Eyjafjallajokull glacier in southern Iceland. An information evening on this is being held on Wednesday 23 June. Coming up also is the bi annual visit to South Africa in October half term when students have the chance to go on safari in the Kruger National Park and much, much more.

Year 13 Travel and Tourism students have been involved in organising a group visit to London as part of their event management module.

Mrs Mottram.

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## Catering News

Army careers and catering corps visit year 11 catering students

On Wednesday, 28th April Sgt Andy Hibbotson came into school to talk to some of the Year 11 catering students about careers within the armed forces and particularly working in the catering corps.

Andy brought with him army field rations for 10 men. He explained how the rations were used and the menus chefs devised using them. He spoke about the nutritive value and in particular the calorific value of the food; 2,500 calories is average for a man but army rations provide 4,000! The box contained chicken that did not need refrigeration and had a use by date for 2011! You should have seen the size of the tin of baked beans!

The students then had an opportunity to cook with these rations. We had mashed potatoes with beans and chicken; stir fried noodles, pineapple with custard, omelettes using dried egg and so much more. The chocolate went down very well but the chewy fruit bars were not so popular.

The students had a very informative afternoon which not only provided them with career advice but also helped them to understand mass catering.

Marian Watton  
Head of Food Technology

# Dance Festival



On Monday, 29 March, 250 Year 4 pupils took part in a Dance Festival at the St Ivo Recreation Centre. The festival was run by members of the St Ivo School PE and Dance departments, along with the Hunts School Sports Partnership.

The Year 4 pupils were from schools in the St Ives area, including Wheatfields Primary School, Westfield Junior School, Thorndown Junior School and Hemingford Grey Primary School.

Pupils showcased dances that they and their teachers had choreographed at their schools, culminating in a performance to the other schools. The schools competed for several different awards including 'best choreography', 'best original dance', 'best themed dance', 'most expressive dance' and 'best group dance'.

After the pupils had performed and been given their awards, St Ivo Year 10 GCSE Dance pupils led a Michael Jackson based workshop for the Year 4 pupils to learn and perform.

Mr B Daly  
School Sports Coordinator

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# National Bird Box Week

The school celebrated National Bird Box week (14-21 February) by making bird boxes for the school grounds, with the aim of increasing the biodiversity of the school site. Year 9 students helped by Mr Burry, the Head of Design and Technology department, made boxes out of recycled furniture and old pallets. Neil Fenwick, a representative of the RSPB visited the school to recommend to the students where boxes could be best located. He also advised the students how to fix the boxes to the trees - supported by wire and not driven in with nails. The boxes were put up just in time for spring!

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# Evening of GCSE and A Level Dance

Having attended this event for the last 10 years, I have to say that this one was a particularly lively and entertaining evening with an incredible width of variety and remarkable depth of talent. The dances ranged from solo performances to large, ambitious group work. Of particular note was the sophistication of the choreography (constructed by the students for the students) and the sensitive interpretation of the music within the given examination themes. A thoroughly enjoyable and stimulating evening.

Mr McGarry  
Deputy Headteacher

# Year 8 News

Funky Friday!

Over the past few weeks successive forms have run an event on Fridays to raise money for the Year 8 chosen charity 'Help for Heroes'. So far over £450 has been raised which is a magnificent total from only seven forms.

To raise this money the following forms organised a ranges of events:

- 8Me- Cake stall/Tombola/Raffle
- 8Si- World Records competition
- 8Ms- Sweets in a jar/Treasure map/ Jobs with Teachers/Cake Stall
- 8Mc- Beading/Cake stall/ Burst the Balloon
- 8Fi- Remote control car racing and other games
- 8Ki- Dodgeball tournament
- 8Gs- Cake stall/Sweets in a Jar



Congratulations and a huge well done to all these forms and good luck to the remaining forms who will be running their events over the next few weeks!!

Mr Braybrook  
Assistant Head of Year 8

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## ‘Junior School Challenge’

Congratulations to Seb (8Mc), Liam (Ki), James (8Ki) and Rahath (8Mc) who have become the East Anglia Regional **champions of the ‘Junior School Challenge’, a national competition testing the general knowledge of students from Years 7 and 8.** The four boys took part in a series of knockout competitions earlier in the year, which saw them become Hunts District champions before going on to compete against Boston Grammar School, which they won to become Regional champions in March.

St Ivo are now one of 12 teams from around the country competing for a place in the final. Their next match will take place in June against Sir Joseph Williamsons Mathematical School in Rochester, Kent. Good luck boys!

# Year 11 News

## Year 11 Operation Smile Charity Donation

A big 'Thank You' to all Year 11 who have supported our charity this year. A massive 'Thank You' to all our Year 7's and Year 8's who also supported the 'Henna Hands' week promoted by Sabrina, Anne and Sofina.



The talented band members from Sterling, B.V.P. and WHSP provided a concert on Thursday, 4 March to add to our account. The following pupils all had huge hearts and gave their time willingly to this event:-

Dale, Alex, Sam, Sian, Adam, Barney, Luke and Elliot.

A total of £235.00 has been raised so far.

Mrs Mitchelson  
Assistant Head of Year

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# Governors' News

Dear Parents and Carers,

## 20 Most Frequently Asked Questions

The Parent Survey, organised by the Governors last year, successfully helped to identify opportunities for further developing communication between yourself and the school. Some common themes emerged from your responses, and we have used those to develop a list of Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs).

The FAQs listed on the [IvoOnline Parent Portal](#) attempt to address the majority of the questions that you posed in your responses. With more than 500 comments it was going to be impossible to reply to each individually, but we **hope that the FAQs will satisfy most of them. Of course, we realise that there are going to be exceptions so don't hesitate to contact the school if you have a query that isn't covered.** If you believe that there are answers to other questions that we should include in the list please send those to [faq@stivoschool.org](mailto:faq@stivoschool.org) and we'll be happy to consider them for inclusion.

We welcome your feedback, and we continue to work on your behalf.

Governor Sub Group

# Resource Centre News

Competitions – We held several competitions for Easter. Mrs Warnes held another team quiz, the winners being Sam 9An, Nick 9Mz, Ryan 9La and one other team member. Mrs Mitchell held her Easter Quiz, the winners being Aimee 7Sk and Gemma 7Sk. All winners won Easter eggs, of course.

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.



Crafts – We have held several Craft Weeks, including Chinese New Year, Valentine and Easter crafts. Forthcoming Craft Week topics include manga drawing, origami and making fans to celebrate Japan Week, as well as crafts to celebrate our author visit in July (see below). Come along if you feel crafty every lunchtime during the Craft Weeks – watch out for further details!! First one is Tues 25-Friday 28 May!

Joke and Poem Books – World Book Day was on 4 March, and the World Book Day Joke Book and World Book Day Poetry Book have now been published and are available for viewing in the Resource Centre – come and have a look!

History Project – Year 8 participated in the new History Project in March, which involved research using different media to decide whether Napoleon Bonaparte was either a good or bad leader. Year 8 seemed to enjoy the variety of resources, as well as taking part in the class debate.

Forthcoming Events –

Japan Week – 7-11 June

Sonia Leong - As part of this week a manga artist called Sonia Leong will be coming into school on Thursday 10 June. She will be talking about her work, doing some manga drawing, signing books and judging our manga competition (see below)

Manga Competition – The Resource Centre is holding a manga competition. You need to draw a picture of yourself manga style, and bring your photo and drawing to the Resource Centre by Monday 7 June.

Craft Week – This is being held from Tuesday 25-Friday 28 May every lunchtime in the RC. We will be making origami flapping birds and fans, as well as learning to draw manga. Come and join in!



Author Visit – 1<sup>st</sup> July We are delighted that an author is coming into the Resource Centre to talk to pupils. His identity is secret, but there are clues in the RC to help you work out who it is. To mark this occasion we have several activities planned.

Art Sessions – We are grateful that the Art Department has teamed up with the Resource Centre to enable children to **make demon creatures that appear in the author's books. The author will be choosing the winning model on the day of his visit.**

Craft Week – **We are holding 2 craft weeks relating to our author's visit. The first one is Monday 7-Friday 11 June (not Thursday 10) where we will be making an amphitheatre to act as a display area for the demon creatures made in the Art Sessions. The second week will be Monday 21-Friday 25 June where we will be making a 3D map and bracelets relating to the author's books.**

Projects

Hajj – Year 7 will be researching about Hajj in the RC between 7-25 June.

Revision – Year 9 will be doing the Revision Race in the RC between 8-22 June.

Mrs Mitchell.



# HOST UK

Would your family enjoy introducing someone from another country to your way of life?

There are international students from all over the world at universities in the UK: they speak English and most are in their 20's. They would love to spend a weekend sharing your family life in order to understand more about the UK. You could have fun introducing them to British food, customs, your local community and area; and you could learn about their country and culture. This is an opportunity to make friends across international boundaries. Geography comes alive, and afterwards, any news bulletin about your guest's country will have much more meaning.

HOST is a national charity, backed by the Foreign Office, which has been linking students with volunteer hosts for many years. See [www.hostuk.org](http://www.hostuk.org) or call Mandy Talbott, the voluntary organiser in Cambridgeshire, on 01472 851084.

HOST UK

Unit 8 Water House, 8 Orsman Road, London N1 5QJ

Telephone: 020 7739 6292 Fax: 0207 033 6539

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

Registered Charity No. 327592

Registered Company in England and Wales No. 2179430

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## West Anglia Crossroads

A cheque for £750 was presented to West Anglia Crossroads, an organisation supporting Young Carers. The money was raised through the Year 11 Prom last summer and will be used to fund fun days out and activities for Young Carers in the local area.

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## Other News

Congratulations to David Tiplady, the school Medical Assistant, who was one of 80 people invited by Baroness Emerton to the House of Lords on 22 April to receive an award for exceptional service on behalf of St John Ambulance during the winter of 2009/2010.



Congratulations to Hannah (9La) who came first in shot putt at the athletics county championships.

A group of Year 9 students baked and sold cakes and biscuits during break times raising £70 for Cancer Research. Well done to all those involved!



# Home Access Scheme



For the attention of Parent/Carers

Home Access Grants – invitation to apply

Home Access is a government programme that helps eligible low-income families to buy a computer and internet access to support learning at home. The programme is for families in England.

To apply for a Home Access Grant, you must be a parent or guardian responsible for and living with a child who:

- ... is in school years 3 to 9 (normally aged 7–14)
- ... has never had a computer from Computers For Pupils or the Home Access programme
- ... is eligible for Free School Meals, and
- ... is named on your Child Benefit award letter.

To get a grant application pack, you need to contact the Home Access Grant Helpline: 0333 200 1004 (Monday to Friday 8am–8pm, Saturday 9am–1pm)

You will be given a basic eligibility check over the phone. If successful, you will be sent an application pack. It will tell you everything you need to fill in an application form. It also includes a Freepost envelope for returning the form.

If your application is successful, the grant will allow you to buy one of the following Home Access packages:

- 1. Full package (a computer, one year's internet access, service and support)**
2. A computer, service and support only
3. One-year's internet access only

This is a fantastic opportunity and we really hope your application is successful.



## **adult and community learning st ives,cambs**

**We are offering some fantastic workshops on  
Saturday 12th June 2010. We have the following  
workshops on offer:**

Car Maintenance — the Basics  
Balti Banquet  
Finding your True Colours  
Make Up

Counselling for Me? - Saturday 3rd July 2010

Prices start from £7.00 per person

Why not try something new this  
summer.....

Touch Type Crash Course  
Starts Tuesday 8th June  
for 5 weeks — £29

**Our new programme will be available online from 5th July 2010**

You can book a place on our workshops online at  
[www.aclearning.org.uk](http://www.aclearning.org.uk) or contact the Adult and Community  
Learning Office on 01480 495717

# Eco-Ivo News



Eco-Ivo has been busy this term. We have always been committed to a high level of recycling and the financial saving made from this is put back in to the Eco-Ivo budget to promote and support other eco-friendly projects. Green recycling bins are in every classroom and each teaching block has a wheeled bin. There are two large skips on the school site and these are removed every Wednesday by HDC. The impact of this recycling on the school has been a huge and immediate saving of £3,000 which promoted the Eco-Ivo budget. The aim is to achieve a landfill cost of £0



to the school. Five small containers go twice a week on Wednesday and Saturday to the landfill and this amount is reducing all the time. Our budget for this removal was nearly £9,000 in 2008-09 and is now down to £6,515, a saving of £2,485. To celebrate this and to show the students what an important part of the recycling process they represent, the Eco-Ivo committee organised two events: one, a front cover competition for each year's student planner on an environmental/recycling theme. (In addition, the Eco-Ivo student committee chose eco-tips for each page of the planner). Donarbon, the recycling company, which the school has had a contract with for many years, generously sponsored the prize money and the extra cost of printing the eco-tips. Donarbon operate a state-of-the-art mechanical biological treatment plant which aims to recover anything recyclable from the county's household waste and so the second event was the holding of assemblies on recycling for each year group, save Years

11-13. The education officer of Donarbon came and spoke to the students and showed them an interesting power-point on what happened to the rubbish that they put in to the school recycling and litter bins.

Along with this good work on recycling, we are committed to reducing our energy output and carbon footprint and to this end, Miss Yorke and the Energy Club meet every second Wednesday. They do so much there is not enough space on this newsletter to fit it all in, however, two of their latest initiatives are launching a school-wide energy reduction competition called "Interblock 2010" which pits one teaching block against another in energy reduction. Get those teachers to turn off their smartboards and computers at the end of the day!! Our 10% reduction pledge for 2010-11 looks to be on target. The second initiative involves getting the students to broadcast the good work we are doing in school on the energy front and to that end we will hopefully be hosting an Energy Conference in early July; the objective of which will be to share and gain ideas from other schools for best practice in reducing schools energy consumption. At the Year 8 Parents Evening, parents filled out a pledge to cut down their energy in the home. This is great as it means that the work in school is supported at home. Many thanks go to Miss Yorke for all she has done.

Other members of staff who have been involved in the Eco-Ivo activities are Miss Marshall, who has participated in the Bug Month, which promotes biodiversity, - by making 3D models of bugs, doing experiments with woodlice and completing ecological surveys. A bug hotel has been made and a wormery started near the vegetable allotments.

In addition, plants and vegetables grown on site were sold to students and staff; many thanks to Pam Coles for her continued hard work.

Eco-Ivo have also entered the Huntingdonshire Green Heart Community Awards in the best environmental school category. The winner will be announced on Saturday, 5 June, Environmental Day, at the Burgess Hall. We wait in anticipation for the result.

St Ivo is at the forefront of environmental awareness and we look forward to more fascinating projects. If anyone would like to join the Eco-Ivo team, we meet every Friday lunchtime in N17.

Mrs. Morey  
Eco-Ivo  
Geography Department.