

February 2017



Newsletter

St Ivo School



Inside this issue:

Mr Griffin	1-2
Head Girl & Head Boy	2
Careers News	3
Dance News	4
Drama & Music News	5-6
Bag2School	6
History News	7
Resource Centre News	8-9
Geography News	9
Science News	10-11
Classics News	11
Sixth Form News	12



St Ivo School
High Leys
St Ives
Cambs PE27 6RR

Phone: 01480 375400
Fax: 01480 375444
E-mail: office@stivoschool.org
www.stivoschool.org

Dear All

As you will read in this newsletter one of the highlights of this term has been our production of Les Miserables. It has been a pleasure to watch the standing ovation every night and to see such talented students working so well together. If you missed it then please take time to view the images here and on our Facebook page. I rate this as the best production I have seen **in any school ever (and I've seen a lot!)**. Huge congratulations go to all of the cast and crew and especially to Miss Crellin and Dr Bell for leading this.



Elsewhere you will read about our World of Work day. This is a fantastic event which helps prepare our Year 9s and Year 11s for their next stage. This is a wonderful opportunity which is not common in all schools and shows how we work with students at key times to help their decision making.

Many other successes from this half term are celebrated here and even in a short half term I am constantly impressed and proud of the whole range of opportunities that we offer here at St Ivo.

We will be making a number of changes to the way that we work over the coming year and you will be getting information across the year about this. One of the starting points is to develop student leadership within the school. A really key first step has been to appoint a Head Boy and Head Girl from within the Sixth Form to help staff lead work in this area. Following a rigorous process I am delighted to welcome Milly and Will from Year 12 as our new senior students. This is a really exciting opportunity to have students taking on much more leadership in the school and I am excited to see how this develops.

Continued overleaf

Head's Letter continued

This term has also seen two new staff join the school: we welcome Mr Luck to the Design Technology team and Miss Du to the Maths department. We also have said farewell to Mrs Russell from Learning Support who has joined Abbey College; we wish her every success.

Half term is a brief pause to catch our breath in the final push towards exams for Years 11, 12 and 13. I hope that all students are making the most of all of the opportunities for revision and additional support that are available. I hope you can all have some form of break over the coming week.

Best wishes



Sam Griffin

Head Girl and Head Boy



We are delighted to announce that Milly and Will have been elected as Head Girl and Head Boy of St Ivo School. Their victory in this week's Sixth Form election is the culmination of a challenging selection process involving interviews with a staff panel, a student panel and a written test. Twelve students started the process and we were very impressed by their levels of preparation and performance throughout. Will and Milly will be central to our work on improving levels of student leadership in the Sixth Form. Together with the new Student Leadership Council, they will also be exploring ways of working with students in Key Stages 3 and 4 to improve the St Ivo experience for everyone.

Mrs Rix

Careers News



On February 26th, the Careers Department held their annual 'Insight into the World of Work' morning for Years 9 and 11. This was a huge success with 37 delegates attending from many areas of further education and diverse career paths. The students learned about college and university courses, apprenticeships and various aspects of different jobs from science to the arts by asking questions and looking at presentations and resources.



Year 10 Work Experience is off to a flying start with almost a fifth of the year group having already secured placements with a variety of providers. Work Experience is a valuable opportunity for our young people to gain a genuine understanding of the workplace whilst enhancing their CVs and learning real employability skills. Work Experience 2017 will take place on 3rd-14th July and the coordinator is available at lunchtime to give help and guidance in applying for a placement.

Mrs D Carpenter
Work Experience Coordinator



Dance News

It has been yet another busy half term in the Dance Department!



At the start of the year 50 Year 7 students travelled to see the West End Musical of "Aladdin". For some this was their first trip to see a West End Musical and for some it was their first trip to London! Students behaved perfectly throughout the day and thoroughly enjoyed the show, we're glad you enjoyed it!

In January we welcomed Emma from Rambert Dance Company who led a days workshop teaching students repertoire from Rambert's new work "A Linha Curva". Students from years 9-13 learned a new and exciting style of Contemporary dance with a festival-like edge which will be performed in our upcoming Spring Showcase.

Our dancers did fantastically well at embracing a new style and were praised by Emma for their efforts. Well done to all involved!

Last weekend, dancers from Reflex and Rebound Dance Companies attended local dance event "Energise". They showcased their dances from Ivolution and were complimented by Energise staff on their fantastic performances! They represented the school and the department brilliantly and we are incredibly proud of them. Congratulations!



This weekend we will also be taking Ivo Dance Company to Jerwood House, DanceEast, to perform in the regional event of U.Dance! Our boys dance company have been selected for the second year running to perform which is an amazing achievement. We're very much looking forward to the trip!

Our next performance will be our "Spring Showcase" held in the main hall on Tuesday 7th March, 7pm. This will be a chance to see our BTEC Level 2 students perform their assessment work, as well as our clubs and students own choreographies. We hope you will be able to join us!

Miss McAdam



Drama & Music Department News

Les Miserables

It was such a privilege to witness the opening night of Les Miserables at the Burgess Hall. As the director of several school productions, it is always so gratifying to see everything come together in front of a live audience. Tuesday was extra special though.

Firstly, this is the first production we have ever done which is entirely sung-through, meaning that there is no spoken dialogue between characters. Performers sing throughout the entire show, and of course the orchestra never stop playing. This presents challenges for even a professional cast, but especially a cast of young people from 11-19. The show never stops, and actors have no "down time" to take stock and rectify any errors made in a live performance. In addition to this, the music is notoriously difficult, with many extremely tricky musical cues, unexpected intervals and time signatures, which of course give the show its emotional impact, but which can prove too much for amateur performers.



On Tuesday, our talented cast and crew of over 100 young people worked together as one, to ensure the show ran slickly and professionally. Their truthful and passionate performances moved many audience members to tears, and belied the challenges faced by the cast in the gruelling run up to the show. Several cast members had experienced illness, exacerbated by tiredness and vocal strain. One in particular, who played a lead role, lost his voice two days before opening night and was unable to perform, resulting in two other cast members taking on new understudy roles approximately four hours before the show began. Had it not been for the information provided in the programmes, no one would have known! The cast pulled together, supporting one another and ensuring that the show went ahead. Thanks to his understudies, who allowed him to rest his voice for 48 hours, our leading cast member was able to return to his original role the following night. Wonderful!



Continued overleaf

Drama & Music Department News continued



To work with this group of resilient, talented and courageous young people has been a true privilege.

Amanda Crellin
Director

For a more detailed résumé of the show please see our Facebook page.



Bag2School News

NEXT COLLECTION – School delivery point by the Lodge – Wednesday 8th March

St Ivo School has organised a textile collection with Bag2School in order to raise funds for new plants to enrich the school environment.

Last term, the money raised from our Bag2School collection bought several lovely plants which can be found around the school site; several are in reception.

Please sort through your cupboards and wardrobes and donate any unwanted textiles in the bags which can be collected from main reception. We can accept clothing, shoes (tied together please), hats, belts, bags & soft toys. <http://uk.bag2school.com/what-we-collect> In addition, it will also raise awareness amongst the students of the benefits of recycling and reuse.

If you fill the donation bags and still have more then you can use any other bag to donate your items and **don't forget to ask grandparents, friends and neighbours to have a sort out as well!**

Please bring your bag (or bags!) to the school delivery point by 9.00am on 8th March, and help us have a really good collection. Thank you for your kind support.

Mrs Moore



History News

Key Stage 3.

Our younger historians continue to work hard. Year 7 are experiencing high culture in their study of the Renaissance. Year 8 are immersed in Revolutionary France with some classes forming their own 'parlement' to demand improvements. Year 9 are across the Atlantic preparing for their written piece on America in the 1920s – was it really 'Roaring'? We also have a fledgling Key Stage 3 History Club who meet every Wednesday lunchtime. The group are currently working on film reviews and we hope to have a display up soon.



Year 10

Our trail blazers for the new GCSE are enjoying their topic on Elizabethan England. We have played 'Take Me Out' Elizabethan style, trying in vain to find a suitable husband for our choosy queen! Year 10 exams take place the week before Easter so students should be thinking about revision – more information will follow shortly.

Year 11

Year 11 are working hard towards their GCSE exams. They have completed Controlled Assessments and the revision programme has now begun in earnest. All students have been issued with revision workbooks and podcasts to help with revision are available via Foldr.



Sixth Form

Year 12 have now completed their mock exams and have been given new targets to work on going forward. After school revision sessions will begin after Easter.

Year 13 are completing the final changes to their coursework. Mock exams take place in March. After this our in depth revision programme will begin to prepare students for those all important summer exams.

Well done to all staff and students who continue to work hard in the department and help to make it an exciting place to study History!

Mrs Warriner

Resource Centre News

It has been a pleasure to see many students revising for their mocks in the RC and making use of our collection of **Revision Guides**. We're looking forward to seeing you make full use of the resources available to you leading up to *and* during your exams.

Student Helpers – A big thank you to our student helpers this term; **Rebecca** (Year 11), **Brooke, Thomas** (Year 9), **Lexie, Jack** and **Tom** (Year 8). You have been outstanding in your diligence and a pleasure to work with.

Elizabeth (Year 9) has undertaken a training scheme in order to complete the volunteering section of the **Bronze Duke of Edinburgh Award**. Thank you for all your help and the very informative *A Monster Calls* display in the Quiet Reading Area.



Harry Potter Day – The Resource Centre celebrated 'Harry Potter Book Night' by holding activities (quizzes, crosswords, drawing, colouring) at lunchtime on 2nd February. It was fantastic to see so many queuing to have their **Wanted** picture taken – you all looked deranged by dementors!

New Book Titles – Popular new titles this term range from *F2 Football Skills*, through YouTubers like *Sidemen*, to *Star Wars*, *Barakamon* Manga and the refugee novel; *Bone Sparrow*. Watch out for more new books, including a selection of interactive 'You Choose' books, where YOU take control of the story!! *Pop into the RC at lunch to see book trailers and check out our new stock.*



Extended Project Research Skills– Year 12 Students undertaking the independent research for the extended project have made full use of the RC resources, including a talk on **Plagiarism** and **Referencing**. The quality of your research so far is incredible and we look forward to seeing the finished project.

Year 8 History Research Skills – We look forward to welcoming Year 8s to use a variety of resources, including journals, internet, books and film clips to help with their debate as to whether **Napoleon** leaves a good or bad legacy. Lively opinions will ensue!

Continued overleaf

Resource Centre News continued

Competition time: – We are celebrating *World Book Day* on 2nd March this year by asking students to make ‘YouTube’ style 1 minute filmed book reviews. Entries will be shown on screens around the school in a bid to celebrate literature on World Book Day. Closing date is *Friday 24th February* and prizes include a **£10 Amazon voucher** and books.

The Resource Centre Staff

BOOK DAY 2017
Thursday 2nd March

CELEBRATE WORLD BOOK DAY

FANCY YOURSELF AS A YouTuber??

Read a good book recently?
Fancy telling us all about it – on video??

YEARS 7-9
Why not have a go at making your own 1 minute book review film, watch it on screens around the school on World Book Day and maybe win a prize??

What do I need to do?	What do I need to include?
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Use your phone, iPad, other device or camera to make a video of up to 1 minute about the book of your choice, either on your own or in a pair.• You need to make it visual so it can be understood with or without sound.• Why not write down your information on pieces of paper and show these as you speak – and of course show the book?!!	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Book title and author (ideally show the book in your film or at least a picture of it)• What the story is about (plot, characters, setting, maybe your favourite bit etc)• Your score out of 5 and 1 word to describe this book

Prizes?
1st – £10 Amazon voucher
2nd – Book of your choice 3rd – Sweets

Make it as colourful, interesting & visual as possible
Please email your film to stafflib@stivoschool.org or put it on a pen drive and bring it to the Resource Centre by **Friday 24th February**

Geography Department News



Geography Club

Geography club meet every Thursday lunchtime in N15 and is run by Miss Raine and Miss Booth. It is a great social opportunity to meet other people in year 7 and 8 with similar interests as well as extending and deepening geographical knowledge and understanding. The Geography club have just started a new topic on the geography of disease. Students have already mapped a Cholera outbreak in the 1950s and are now researching a disease outbreak of their choice from the Spanish influenza during

the war to the recent Ebola outbreak. Students will then be watching the film contagion to identify the fact from the fiction and consider whether infectious diseases are a real threat in the modern world.

Year 11 Revision

As we reach February half term, we reach the start of the main preparations for the final exams in May/June. Thorough revision, backed up with practise of past papers is key to student success. Our extensive revision programme begins after half term, every Wednesday after school. The Year 11 Geography revision programme can be accessed here: <http://www.geobytes.org.uk/yr11revision2017.html>.

Students have also been issued with past paper booklets and the homework timetable (as of half term) is available at: <http://www.geobytes.org.uk/yr11homeworktimetable2017.html>. We would also encourage students to make use of the online revision resources at www.geobytesgcse.wordpress.com, including downloadable revision cards, podcasts and interactive past papers. GeoTweet bitesize revision sessions will commence in March and revision reminders etc will be posted on our twitter feed [@StIvoGeography](https://twitter.com/StIvoGeography) and Facebook page.

Mr Chambers

Science Department News



Tassomai Revision Resource

The Science department is delighted be introducing a new GCSE revision resource called 'Tassomai'. It is a multiple choice question based programme that organises and adapts to the individual learner and guides them through their revision. It works on the idea of little and often, helping students revise every day for just a short amount of time instead of less effective, longer sessions with large gaps in between. Having secured a vastly discounted rate, for a one off payment of only £15, students can have access until their exam day. We are optimistic it can have a significantly positive impact on the students who use it to its full potential. It is currently only available to Year 11 (as the demand has been so high we want to be able to process orders efficiently) but it should be introduced to Year 10 soon after half term. It is available to purchase on Parentmail and a letter has been sent home giving all the details you need. For any further information please contact Mr Slingsby.

Year 11 Exam preparation

Now that Christmas is out of the way, exam preparation is in full swing. In order to help students prepare for their exams, the Science department is offering a range of support sessions at lunchtimes:

Exam Skills Monday and Wednesday in S9 with Miss Reali

GCSE Preparation Tuesday Week B in S2 with Dr Squires

Invitation only Intervention group Tuesday in S4 with Miss Smart

Core and Additional Science help for 11N and 11S Mercury Tuesday in S12 with Miss Prunty

Core and Additional Science Friday in S1 with Mr Slingsby

Don't forget that KS3 can get help Wednesday, Thursday and Friday lunchtime in S7 with Miss Buchanan.

KS3 STEM club

Our KS3 scientists have been working hard on Wednesday lunchtimes this half term to perfect their water rockets. We sent off our entries to the BP Ultimate STEM Challenge and are crossing our fingers and toes to hear some positive news soon.



Since then, we have been making speakers for our phones out of plastic, polystyrene and paper cups. Next we are going to use magnets and wire to make an electrical speaker and compare the two types to see which works best.

Continued overleaf

Science Department News continued

National STEM Big Bang Fair

We received confirmation this half term that Samuel and Rowan in Year 8 will be showcasing their STEM project 'Mud' at the National Big Bang Fair in Birmingham in March. The boys won the Regional competition back in June last year, after participating in the BP Ultimate STEM Challenge.

Dr Angus

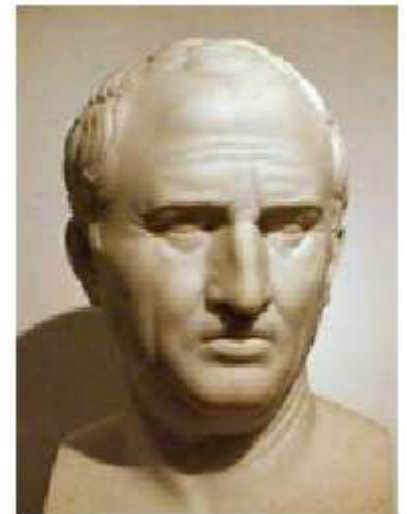
Classics News

Following the successful launch of Classical Civilisation at A Level, it is now a subject that is also available at St Ivo as a GCSE. Year 9 students are currently in the throes of figuring out their options for next year, so it is a timely and welcome introduction to the curriculum.

The course itself is new as of September 2017, following the recent changes to GCSEs across the board. It is a linear course, covering two years, that culminates in two final exams, graded 9-1.

An exciting time for the classics, then! The study of ancient Greece and Rome is becoming ever more popular in the light of recent political headlines in the media, as we look back to the establishment of political powers and democracies, within the mind set of Western culture.

Only last week we were hit with the news that *1984* has topped the best seller charts following an 'alternative facts' comment by Donald Trump's campaign manager, Kellyanne Conway. And with US politics being a headline grabber, people are becoming increasingly interested in the models on which it is based: the Democratic party taking its name from the 5th Century BC political movement in Athens (*Demos* meaning 'the people'); the Republicans reaching back over the millennia to the Republic of Rome (*Res Publica* meaning literally 'public things'); Even the Senate (in Rome the council of elders taken from the Latin *Senex* meaning old man) attempts to model itself on that famous, Roman, political establishment.



Cicero, courtesy of en.wikipedia.org

Of course, the new GCSE is studied in translation and no prior knowledge is needed, but it is a wide ranging course, not just looking at the genesis of our own political establishments, but also ancient art, ancient temple floor plans, and (my particular favourite) ancient literature.

So, whether it's a question of how and when our culture took its first steps towards the modern body politic, or just why Hermes' son is such a tricky character in *Percy Jackson and the Lightning Thief*, St Ivo School will soon be able to furnish those students who are curious with the answers.

Mr Thorne

Sixth Form News

Sixth Form students have continued to work hard since returning from the Christmas break.

Year 13 students who have applied to university continue to receive offers. A total of 113 UCAS applications were submitted by the 15 January deadline along with references for 8 ex-students who also applied this year.

Congratulations to Year 12 students for their excellent performance in the recent mock exams, and Good Luck to Year 13 who will sit their mock exams in early March. Students are all working hard in preparation for their AS and A2 exams in the summer and we are pleased to see so many students making use of the facilities in the Resource Centre and Sixth Form Study areas.



Over the next few months Year 12 students will begin to think about their future after Sixth Form. A trip to the UK University & Apprenticeship Search event at the Emirates Stadium in London has been organised for Friday, 3 March. A letter has been sent via ParentMail and please note the deadline for payment is Monday, 20 February. A number of events will also take place later in the summer term to include: guest speakers in assemblies, trips to the UCAS Convention at Anglia Ruskin University and Nottingham University Open Day, and a Higher Education information evening for parents/carers in June. Details of all events will be confirmed later in the summer term.

Students from both Years 12 and 13 who are looking to enter the world of work will continue to be supported with apprenticeship applications, CV writing and interview techniques. All Sixth Form students have the opportunity to meet with Mr Witham, the careers adviser, and should ask to be referred for an appointment through form tutors.

At the time of writing, Sixth Form students are rehearsing for the whole school production of **“Les Miserables”** with many more supporting behind the scenes. We are looking forward to what promises to be a fantastic show and wish everyone involved **‘Good Luck’**.



We are very fortunate to have an Art Masters student from Goldsmiths College in London visiting Sixth Form students of Art, Photography, Textiles and Graphics on 10 February. Emily Perry has exhibited her work in Berlin, London, Brighton and Cawdor Castle in Scotland. She is now studying for a Masters in Sculpture at Goldsmiths College and will be talking to students about her experiences as an artist, as well as offering advice on preparing for the A level exams and applying to university and art foundation courses.

We are pleased to see so many students continuing to participate in the extra-curricular activities on offer in Sixth Form; Faculty Cup football, the Year 12 v Year 13 Cup competition, Debating Society, Science mentors, **Reading Buddies and the SMILE Project, to name but a few!** **It's not too late to sign up for an activity or club** or to offer to help within departments, and remember all these things look great on CVs and Personal Statements.

Further to our victory in the debate with Hinchbrooke Sixth Form before Christmas, we are looking forward to a rematch very soon – watch this space!

We wish everyone a restful half term break, and look forward to the next busy half term!

Mrs Perry, Mrs Rix and Mr Hedges.