

October 2008



Newsletter

St Ivo School

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Dear Parent / Carer

This is the first newsletter since we started our designation as a Humanities College. This has already had a big impact with class sizes being reduced in year 7, more interactive whiteboards purchased, four Advanced Skills Teachers being appointed, significant work in raising environmental awareness amongst students and our local history links have been developed further. In addition we are having a major focus on literacy standards across the school.

Whilst all this is exciting for the school, examination results remain our bread and butter. You will be aware of the problems associated with the SATs in the summer and we are still awaiting news of the re-marks we have requested. The validity of the Year 9 SATs have been questioned increasingly in recent years and **so I welcome the Government's decision to abolish them though I was surprised by it, particularly that it would be with immediate effect!** Over the next few weeks we will be deciding what our response to this will be as we will need to **ensure that Year 9's momentum isn't affected by this decision and also make sure that we generate the information which we need to track pupil progress during this important year.**

Our GCSE results were very pleasing and demonstrated the best pupil progress the school has achieved. We could have expected 63% of Year 11 to achieve 5+A*-C grades had progress been at the usual level for the school so I was delighted when over 70% achieved this important benchmark. In addition, nineteen out of twenty six GCSE subjects achieved progress scores which put them in the top 25% of schools nationally. An excellent performance which reflected a lot of hard work from pupils and staff as well as support from parents.

A level results were outstanding with the progress made by the pupils from GCSE to A level in the top 10% of schools nationally. This is the second consecutive year this has happened and last year placed us second in the County for pupil **progress at A level. This year's league table hasn't been produced yet.**

So all in all it is an exciting time for the school and we hope to make further progress over this academic year. Thank you for all your support.

Yours sincerely

Howard Gilbert
Headteacher

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Geography Department News

• Yr 10 geography students have just completed their visit to Dunwich and Aldeburgh in Suffolk where they are studying coastal erosion. We have been especially pleased by the response that we have had for our proposed trip to Iceland next year. This has become an annual trip which is open to all GCSE geography students.



• Yr 12 geographers have recently spent the day at the River Ise in Northamptonshire where they have been collecting data as part of their skills paper.

• Yr 13 students have the opportunity to attend a lecture at Cambridge University Geography Dept entitled '**Climate Change in the Arctic**' given by **Dr Gareth Rees from the Scott Polar Institute** organized by the local Cambridge and District Branch of the Geography Association. In November they will also be spending a day around the London Docklands as well as doing a comparative study of urban change in Cambridge city centre.

Over half term a group of twenty four students will be heading off to South Africa. This visit will include Johannesburg, Soweto, the Kruger National Park, the Transvaal and parts of Swaziland, looking at the wildlife as well as the fantastic geography of the country.

Mrs Mottram

Eco-Schools



A lot has been happening on the Eco-Schools front this half term.

- Every student and member of staff now has a bag for life. When bags become too tatty, they can be replaced by Waitrose.
- Staff have enjoyed the tea and coffee donated by the Co-op. A weekly basket of Fairtrade beverages and biscuits is doing the rounds of the staffrooms, so that staff can conveniently buy their Fairtrade tea and coffee in school.
- An Eco-Schools logo competition is underway to find a suitable logo for the eco stationery that is used in our eco work. This logo will be used on all school headed notepaper. The competition winner will have the privilege of **visiting a graphic designer's studio to work alongside a graphic designer to refine the logo.** Additional prizes will also be £30 to spend at the arts and graphics shop in King Street, Cambridge and £20 at HMV. Discussions will be held in graphics lessons about the design.
- Canvas "bags for life" have been ordered for KS3 and will be decorated in textile lessons by the individual students.

Mrs Morey

Breakfast at the Ivo

The kitchen will be open for Breakfast straight after half term from 7.30am until 8.25am. Our new Breakfast Chef is joining the catering team and we hope that parents/students might like to take up this new opportunity!



Resource Centre News

Art books - The GCSE mock exam is coming soon, and we have art books on barriers available to for use.

Duke of Edinburgh helpers - **We have two helpers in the RC, both doing Duke of Edinburgh's Award: Alex in Year 11 (Gold Award) and Alex in Year 10 (Silver Award).** Well done to both of them!

Crafts - Our Wednesday lunchtime craft sessions have been successful. We have been making some fantastic masks, and we are currently doing Rangoli patterns. After half term we are making puppets - come and join us!

New Resources - We have recently purchased over 70 new DVDs and over 45 new audio books on CD - come and have a look! We also have lots of new fiction and non-fiction books for you to read.

Year 7s - **Welcome to the new Year 7s, who have made a fantastic start at the Ivo. Don't forget to get your Pick and Mix bookmarks and earn credits by reading books of different genres.** We look forward to seeing you for more Information Skills soon.

Forthcoming Events - Look out for our Christmas competition, as well as our Children In Need activities on 14th November.

Mrs Mitchell

Computers Don't Bite, day or evening course for Parents and Carers

A choice of Monday lunchtimes or Monday evenings, 10 weeks, starting Monday 12 January 2009.

This basic hands-on course provides a practical introduction for those who are new to using computers and with careful ongoing tutor assessment and encouragement, you keep track of your progress.

Reduced fee of £50 to recipients of this newsletter (normal price £79). Maximum of 12 places available. You may reserve your place with a £10 non returnable deposit, balance to be paid at the start of January.

Contact Adult and Community Learning, 01480 495717.

Fantastic A level ICT results

This year saw some of the best ICT results at A level the school has had. Not only did the students achieve 100% A-C passes at both single A level and double A level awards, but two students, Samantha and Lisa, were amongst the top 5 in the country. This is an outstanding achievement and we congratulate both Samantha and Lisa for their hard work through the two years which led to their success. All the year 13 students achieved higher results than their 'Alis' predictions and some achieved over two grades higher than their initial target grades. The progress made by both the single award students and the double award students has been outstanding. We hope to see a similar set of results next year with the potential for at least one student to better the achievements of Samantha and Lisa.

Mr Davies

It has been a busy half term for post-16 vocational students. We have introduced a new range of courses to complement the students who are studying level 2 courses (travel and tourism and DIDA) and there has been a wide range of trips going out of school e.g. the DIDA students went to the National Media Museum in Bradford where they got the chance to animate with plasticine models (remember Morph!) and they also had the chance to do a news report in front of the camera!

Sports News

Year 7 Rugby

The Year 7 Rugby team have done extremely well at the start of this year. Both the A & B teams have really progressed and have started to play some excellent Rugby. After a slow start to the season against Sawtry, the boys have bounced back with impressive wins against Longsands, Abbey College & Hinchingsbrooke. We now have one game left against St. Peters before we play the county tournament.

Well done to the following pupils: Luke, Alex, George, Ryan, Abir, Luke, Sam, Liam, Stanley, Seb, Clement, Owen, Zack, Martin, Tim, Liam, Danny, Daniel, Dominic, Oliver, Tom, Steffan, Scott, Lewis, Samuel, Hayden, Robert, Harry, Cameron, Byron, James, Mark.

Year 8 Rugby

The Year 8 Rugby team have made great progress throughout this season with the involvement of many more players this year.

After two very tough games resulting in defeat against Longsands and Sawtry, we played a very tight game against Abbey with a last minute try from Jordan to win by two points (22-20).

The team then built on this with a fantastic first half against Hinchingsbrooke scoring two try's and going into the break level against the top team at present in the district. Unfortunately the second half ended in defeat, but again the team continued to make progress in all areas of their game. All the boys involved have worked really hard both in training and matches with special mentions for commitment and effort to Sam (Captain), James, Jordan, Ben, Harry, Harry, Jack, Luke, Kieran, Keenan, Aaron, George, Jamie, Bradley, Charlie, Caleb, Alex, Calem, George and Ernest.

Mr Varey

Year 9 Rugby

The Year 9 Rugby team have had mixed results so far this year. Losing narrowly to Sawtry in the first game then getting beaten by a strong Longsands team. The Ivo then recorded victories against Abbey even giving them extra players to make up the numbers and producing an outstanding performance against Hinchingsbrooke recording a 42-26 win. Well done to all players involved and good luck in the forthcoming fixture against St Peters and the District Tournament.

Mr Braybrook

Yr 10 Rugby team

We have beaten Longsands twice, once in the daily mail national cup (36-26) and once in the Huntingdonshire district league (45-7). We also had a great win (45-35) against a very strong Leys school.

The school was visited by the British Blind sports association on Wed 15th Oct. Visually impaired students and A level PE students learnt the game of Goal Ball. It is a possession game played indoors with two teams of 3 players all wearing blindfolds using a ball with a bell in.

Mr Cook

Sports News continued ...

Year 7 Football

The Year 7 Football team had their first game away in the National Cup at Hemel Hempstead School. The tie was very close with nothing to separate the teams for 50 mins. Ivo coming close to breaking the deadlock with chances from Lloyd and Bradley. Then unfortunately Hemel Hempstead sneaked a goal and from then on as the Ivo pushed forward to get the equaliser Hemel took advantage of the gaps left at the back with the home team recording a 5-0 victory at the final whistle. It was felt by all staff and supporters that this was not a fair reflection of the game and was much closer than the scoreline suggests, however well done to all the players involved on a strong performance.

Players involved: Lewis, Josh, Josh, George, Luke, Scott, Scott, Harry, Lloyd, Harry, Bradley, James, Jack.

Mr Braybrook

Netball

The Yr 11 girls have had a fantastic start to the netball season. Everyone involved has been training twice a week and I am very proud of the commitment that both teams have shown. Lizzie, Daisy, Hannah and Isobel were voted coaches player for their hard work. Good Luck to both teams for next weeks district tournaments!

'A' Team	'B' Team
Isobel	Lizzie
Roz	Cerian
Helen	Beckii
Phoebe	Emily
Hannah	Danelle
Jennie	Zereh
Chloe	Daisy

Results

St Ivo 'A'	14	Hinchingbrooke	4
St Ivo 'A'	18	St Peters	3
St Ivo 'A'	14	Abbey	2
St Ivo 'A'	15	Longsands	1
St Ivo 'B'	5	Hinchingbrooke	10
St Ivo 'B'	9	St Peters	9
St Ivo 'B'	6	Abbey	7
St Ivo 'B'	5	Longsands	5

"This season I think the 'A' Team has played especially well as a squad. Hannah and Phoebe were voted as players player as they played extremely well. I'm proud of the team and we are all excited about county trials and we hope to win the tournament."

Roz 'A' Team

"I think we have all played very well this term. We voted Daisy and Danelle as players player. We are very proud of our team."

Cerian 'B' Team

Sports News continued ...

Hockey Report

We have had an excellent start to the season this term. Practices have been so well attended we have started an extra session and have been able to field two teams in Yr 9 matches. We have also started to build a Year 8 squad from the few committed players who turned up regularly last season.

Yr 9 were outstanding against Hinchbrook, beating them 6-0. Our play was cohesive and all players worked continuously throughout the match. Jade was excellent in midfield and Chloe in defence. The goals were scored by Hannah (2), Jaz (1) and Jess (3). Against St Peters we had a more difficult game and had to work hard in the beginning. Hayley was solid at the back and Alice worked tirelessly in midfield. Hannah and Jess scored the goals in our 3-0 win. The wins were extra special as we were without our Gk Hannah.

We were able to field two teams in Y 9 against Longsands who showed good ball skills and seemed very threatening. However due to good battling by Ellen, Rebecca and the return of our Gk we managed to hold off their attacks to stay one goal ahead, winning 3-2. The B team which included several new players Chloe, Sophie and Grace, played well and demonstrated some good short corners in the second half. Rebecca needs particular mention. However Longsands proved too strong and we lost 2-0.

A special mention goes to Harriet, Ellen and Marley who played for the Year 8's in their first ever match, helping them to a 4-0 victory over St Peters. The Year 8 team players were Rebecca, Sam, Emily and Katie. Everyone worked well and hopefully enjoyed their game. The Yr 8 team played Ramsey Abbey in a very close game, also losing 2-0. We had several chances to go ahead in both the first and second half through Robyn and Holly dominating a lot of the play but unfortunately leaked two defendable goals. Natalie and Emily both merit a mention. We are now training for the District tournaments and hope to do challenge for the medals.

Well played to all teams and thank you to Alice, Chloe and Ellen for helping to sort the teams out!

Mrs Kemp



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Gl/jaj/word.

22 October 2008

Dear Parents/Carers

St Ivo School Election of Parent Governors

The governing body of St Ivo School has two parent governor vacancies. We are writing to you to ask if you would be interested in becoming a school governor.

Governors are responsible for strategic planning and finance. They help to appoint our staff and to build good relationships between the school, parents and our local community. Our parent governors are very valuable members of the governing body and we rely on them to help us to keep in touch with what parents are thinking. They are on the governing body as representative parents, but they are not delegates and other parents cannot mandate them on how they should vote.

Governors do not need to be experts to tackle the range of responsibilities expected of them. Help, advice and training are available from various sources. If you are interested in the education of your child and the way the school makes decisions and have some time to commit to this role we would like you to consider becoming a parent governor. If you would like more information please contact the school and we can put you in touch with a member of our governing body for an informal chat.

Anyone who has parental responsibility for a pupil on the school roll at the time of the election can stand for election, can nominate someone for election and can vote in the election. A parent who works for the school for 500 hours or more or a parent who is an elected member of the local authority (County Councillor) is not eligible to stand for election but they are permitted to nominate and vote. If insufficient parents stand for election the governing body can appoint nominated parents to the governing body. The term of office for a parent governor is four years.

All nominations should be sent in to the school office by **4.00pm on Wednesday, 12 November**. You will need a proposer and a seconder. Every nomination must be countersigned by the candidate stating that they are willing to stand. We also need a few words about the candidate and why they would like to be a governor. If you would like extra copies of the nomination forms please contact the school office.

On **Monday, 17 November** we will inform parents about the details of parent governor nominations. If an election is necessary we will send ballot forms home with the children with the names of the candidates and their details. Each parent will have **two** votes as there are two vacancies, irrespective of the number of children he/she has at the school. The ballot is secret and you can send or post the ballot paper back in a sealed envelope, or drop it into the ballot box outside the school office. All votes must be in by **12.00 noon on Tuesday, 25 November** when they will be counted.

A copy of the rules guiding the election of parent governors and further copies of the nomination form can be obtained from the school office.

Yours sincerely

Howard Gilbert
Headteacher

Chair





ST IVO SCHOOL

NOMINATION FORM

Election for a parent governor for St Ivo School

Name:

Address:

Child(ren) in Year(s):

Why I would like to be a parent governor:

(please provide a brief statement of no more than 200 words continuing on a separate sheet if necessary)

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Name of Proposer:	
Signature:	

Name of Seconder:	
Signature:	

I am willing and eligible to stand for election as a parent governor at St Ivo School

Name of Candidate:	
Signature:	

Date:
