

Newsletter 4 July 2025

Dear Parent/ Carer

This week saw a new member of staff join the St Ivo team. Lauren Tomlinson, who has recently joined the Astrea marketing and communications team, started at her new base at St Ivo on Monday. Parents and carers have mentioned, at a few of the Parents Engagement Evenings, the need for the school to potentially diversify its communication strategies and make it easier for our community to understand what is happening within the school and celebrate the fantastic work of our students and staff. Lauren will be focussed solely on supporting St Ivo in this area, and I am really pleased that this need can now be addressed using her immense marketing and communications experience – get ready to see things develop quickly in this area.

Switzerland

The ever-popular Year 8 Switzerland trip took place this week. Having followed the photos on social media, it looks like everyone is having a fantastic time with daytime activities including paddle boarding, tubing, and visits to Parc Adventure, Olympic Museum, the Callier chocolate factory, Glacier 3000, and Monthey Pool to name but a few, with disco and karaoke some evenings! Here a few of the group photos if you've missed them, but far more can be found on our social media sites – click on the icons at the bottom of this

page to follow us!









Ball and a prom

Friday 27 June and Tuesday 1 July saw the Sixth form Summer Ball and the Year 11 Prom come to pass. I have to say they were two amazing nights, and I thank the sixth form and Year 11 teams for organising these brilliant events to mark the end of these students' respective key stages of learning with us. Students have been shared a link where they can get copies of some of the photos from the night already. Even the staff got in on the act in the photo booth – trying to squeeze a lot of us in!



Sixth form refurbishment update

Black walls and wooden flooring have gone into the common room lower area this week, as has the new tiled flooring in the Street. The new bathrooms are getting there, with the cubicle dividers and doors being installed over the next few days, and the common room ceiling has been installed – the wooden slats for the ceiling decoration are due next week for installation, with a lot of decorating throughout planned in too. I'm told that by next Friday we will see a lot of change with several bits coming together and finished.





Face-to-face parents' evening consultation

We wish to consult with parents and carers on the reintroduction of face-to-face parents' evenings for certain year groups. The school recognises the benefits that face-to-face meetings can have over online meetings in building relationships. However, we also recognise that online parents' evenings can also be more convenient for parents and carers with busy lives and conflicting schedules. We also appreciate that we potentially need to start small and get this right for parents, carers and staff. As a result, we are proposing that one evening moves to face-to-face next year. I have consulted with staff to gather their views over the last week, but I would also like to garner your views as well.

The initial proposal that I discussed with the Parent Advisory Council (PAC) last week was to start with Year 8, as all other year groups have some form of other face-to-face interaction with the school (tutor evenings, option evenings etc). However, the PAC highlighted the importance of face-to-face meetings with teachers before the Year 9 Options evening, and the importance of meeting teachers during Year 10 before they get into their final year. As a result, I would be interested in your views on which year to trial first.

Finally in this area, the PAC raised a query about the length of appointments and whether we should revert back to five minutes from the current four. The rationale for the change was to increase the number of meeting slots available. To give a bit of background, an evening that runs from 4.00pm to 7.00pm is 180 minutes in length and has either 45 four-minute slots or 36 five-minute slots. When teachers have more than one class (which is common), there will never *practially* be enough slots, but the time reduction was intended to try and provide more. I would be interested in your views about the balance between more slots, or more time. For reference and by way of explanation, union guidance is that teachers should only be directed to attend one parents' evening per year group per academic year – so the option to create more slots by having more evenings is not available to us.

If parents/ carers could submit their views by Thursday 10 July 2025, it will allow us to update everyone on the way forward in the 12 July 2025 newsletter. Here's a link to the consultation form:

<https://forms.office.com/Pages/ResponsePage.aspx?id=gGfPFvBL70-q-gtugufqCmtFNXMeEpVKr-NMlbqauotUMTU4OENUVUdZNDc4N1BJR1M1STZYNVZWNC4u>

Year 11 period 6 consultation

We wish to consult with parents and carers on the format for Year 11 period 6 interventions next year. We are currently consulting with staff about adding after-school sessions to their 'directed time' to enable a greater number of subjects and sessions to be offered on Mondays, Wednesdays and Thursdays between 3.00pm and 4.00pm. The exact format of which subject will be offered on which night will be determined after we have finalised discussions with staff. However, the idea behind this is to have enough capacity so that every student *could* attend.

As we could potentially provide the capacity to support after-school interventions for all, the question for parents and carers is which implementation model(s) they would support:

1. Voluntary attendance by students
2. Targeted attendance for identified students (agreed by school and home)
3. Compulsory attendance for all (acknowledging that there will always be a few exceptions)

The late bus will be in operation every night, as it has this year, for students to catch after the intervention. Detentions for year 11 (for those that need them) would then happen after the intervention from 4.00pm – 4.00pm or 5.20pm, supervised by senior leaders. If we opt to follow the targeted or compulsory models, we would have to determine an appropriate response for not attending as well.

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Year 10 Work Experience and activities next week

Good luck to those Year 10 students who will be out on work experience next week! We hope they find the opportunity rewarding, meaningful, and inspiring as they explore the world of work.

For the students not on a placement, we expect to see you in school with normal lessons continuing as well as exciting project finale sessions with Shaping Futures or employer-led workshops. It promises to be another busy week, filled with valuable experiences focused on employability, skills development, and career exploration for all our Year 10s.

Wishing you a great weekend.

Yours faithfully

Tony Meneagh

Principal

Holiday voucher scheme

Please use the links below to access details:

[Parent Letter](#)

[FAQs for Parents – Summer Holiday Voucher Scheme](#)

Dhiverse summer drop-ins

Please find below a [Summer Drop-in initiative](#) that's on offer in our area for young people.



Summer Drop-Ins

If you'd like to have a chat with someone about **Relationships, Sex, Sexual Health, Contraception** (you can pick up free condoms) or **Counselling** you can pop along to one of our drop-in days and have a chat with one of our friendly staff. Come along to:

**The Maple Centre, 6 Oak Drive,
Huntingdon, PE29 7HN**

- **Wednesday 6th August 2025,
11am to 5pm**
- **Thursday 21st August 2025,
11am to 5pm**

**The Melbourn Hub, 30 High Street,
Melbourn, Hertfordshire, SG8 6DZ**

- **Wednesday 13th August 2025,
11am to 5pm**



**NO NEED TO BOOK –
JUST TURN UP**

For more information contact Lisa on 07983150429 or
email enquiries@dhiverse.org.uk

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