

Newsletter 16 May 2025

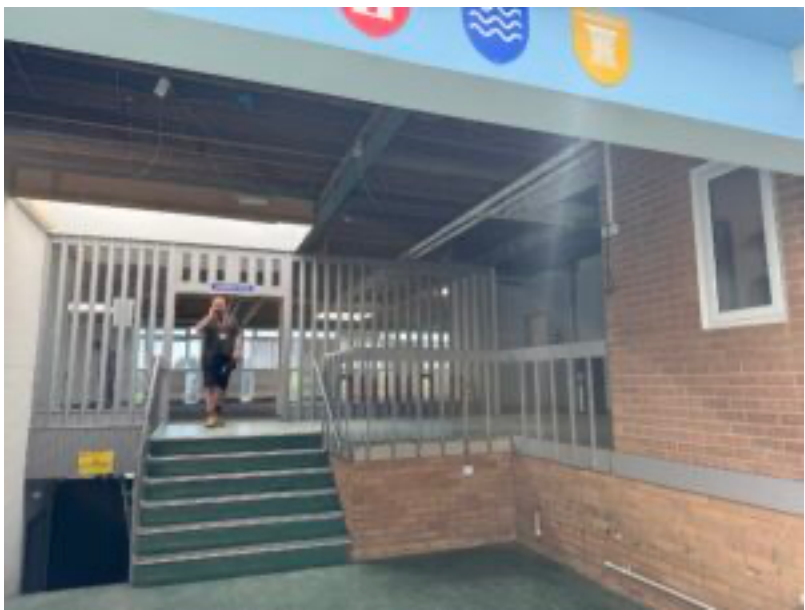
Dear Parent/ Carer

Exams gained momentum this week with some of the larger exams starting in A-levels as well as GCSE English literature, mathematics and science to name but a few. Well done to all involved so far; your diligence and determination to succeed has been amazing! Also, in related news, I would like to say well done to Miss Dones and the rest of the examination team who passed their annual JCQ inspection visit on Thursday this week with flying colours.

However, it's important to remember the exams that have gone as well as those to come. We sometimes forget that a huge amount of work has already been completed in art-related subjects. As such, I would strongly recommend that parents/ carers come along to the Annual Art Exhibition of GCSE and A-Level students' stunning work on 25 June 2025 – further details below.

Sixth form refurbishment update

Demolition has been the main focus this week. Here are some photos of the sixth form being stripped out.







The new lift for the sixth form (accessibility was an issue in the current build) was ordered early May as soon as the contractors were appointed, but the lead time for such a tailored system for our building can be up to 10-14 weeks. We knew from the start of the project that with such an ambitious build schedule, the lift would be the biggest risk regarding delivering to timeframe. This is something that we are keeping a close eye on, but we have to be pragmatic in understanding that this aspect may have to be installed slightly later.

The lift shaft will connect the understudy, to the main foyer, and then up to the common room. The plans (for those of you love the detail) are provided below as well as a photo of the lift in situ in another project.



Finally on the refurbishment, it's really interesting what you unearth when you start poking behind walls and floors in an old building. I was on the build site with the contractors for our weekly progress meeting this week and was shown an old mini lecture theatre that exists just below the floor of K1! When you lift up some of the floor you can still see the old steps that led down below K1, into the current IT office and next to the understudy/ common room. It must have been floored over a long time ago because no one on staff, even those who were students at the school, remember it.

PAC update

The school Parent Advisory Council (PAC) met again this week. Whilst it was great to meet and discuss the proposed topics on the agenda, we also took the time to review the impact the PAC has had during its first year. Here's a list of

- *Behaviour policy – giving clarity about responses to accidental breaches of policy*
- *Anti-bullying policy – make updating it a far higher priority*

- *School signage – reduce the number of generic Astrea posters around the school*
- *Mantras – decided by the PAC, then being introduced slowly*
- *Communication – request to provide clarity around X in the newsletter*
- *Influenced on the new uniform (after new branding rules) and preference for other items rather than a branded bag*
- *Request to provide a simplified version of the complaints and concerns procedure on the website*
- *Ski-trip meeting – fed back about starting with behaviour and changed accordingly*
- *Review house system – new staff appointed, and it was re-launched after Easter*
- *Start of term relaunch assemblies – provide parents/ carers with details about these in advance before we break up*
- *Use of the word scholar*
- *Sixth form – consider alternative pathways into sixth form (may include lowering entry grade requirements) – this has been done for Arts subjects or those not requiring mathematics*
- *If reducing the number of bus days, then detentions need to be coordinated with bus days – done!*
- *Need to increase more face-to-face parent or tutor evenings – being reviewed, but did feed into the Year 6 into 7 event and the Year 11 support event by SLT*
- *Possibly consider subtle influence as well the group has on the Principal – I do consider (now I'm getting to know the group better) how the PAC (and potentially the parent body as a whole) would feel about XYZ happening*

I apologise for the delay in some of the minutes coming out. For reference, the January minutes are now on the PAC website (<https://www.astreastivo.org/pac-meetings/>), and the March minutes will be released shortly, followed by this week's meeting minutes.

As a PAC we are interested in moving to a system where we receive parent/ carer thoughts on particular topics in advance each time we meet. Also, those parents/ carers with a keen interest in joining the PAC meeting for a particular topic are welcome to do so by contacting pac@astreastivo.org. The main topic for discussion at the next meeting will be parents evenings. So, if you want to let the PAC know your thoughts on these in advance, or would like to join the debate, then please email us!

Year 11 June timetable

Even though there are a significant number of exams happening before May half term, there are only a very small number of subjects that have finished completely. Therefore, lessons will still be taught after half term, with more a more bespoke timetable offered to students via timetable swaps with departments whose subjects have finished as we move further through the two weeks. Subjects that have not finished will be providing revision materials for those that have for the odd group here and there. Please can we remind everyone that students are expected to attend full time until after the last science exam on Monday 16 June 2025.

Here's a copy of the Year 11 timetable after half term: <https://www.astreastivo.org/wp-content/uploads/2025/05/Year-11-June-Timetable.pdf>

The rest of this week's newsletter covers information about the Holiday Voucher Scheme, eScooters and seminars for parents/ carers around child criminal exploitation.

Yours faithfully

Tony Meneagh

Principal

Art exhibition



Holiday voucher scheme

Please see links below for details of the May half term voucher scheme, which is run by Cambridgeshire local authority.

[Parent letter](#)

[FAQs for parents](#)

E-scooters

This month, the Huntingdonshire neighbourhood team will be tackling anti-social behaviour and anti-social driving linked to e-scooters. We felt it would be helpful to share information to parents/carers to remind any potential owners of the law.

It is against the law to ride an e-scooter on a UK public road, cycle path or pavement. The only place an e-scooter can be used is on private land (with the landowner's permission).

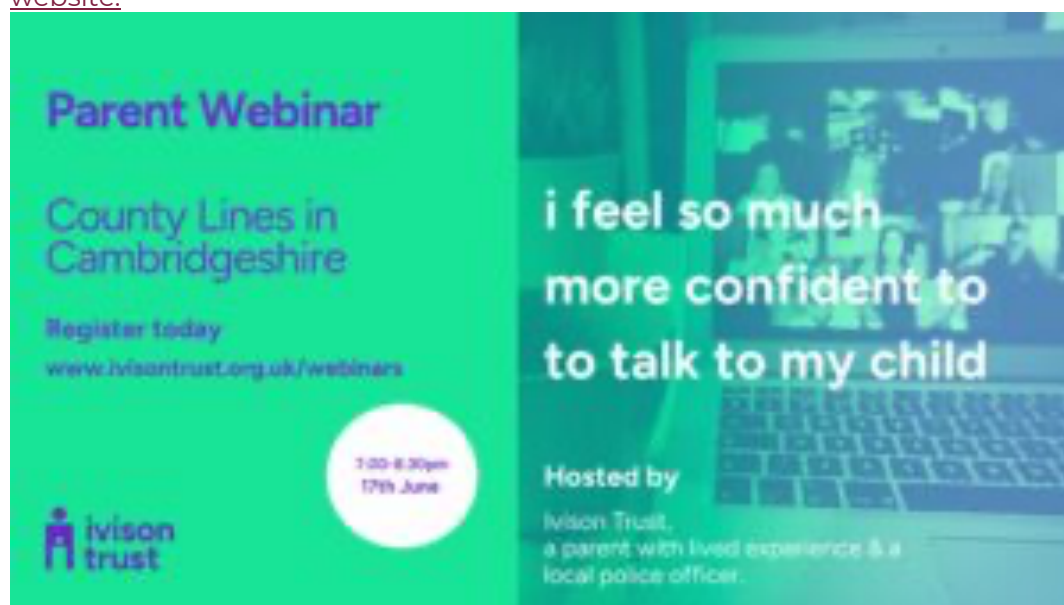
E-scooters are classified as Personal Light Electric Vehicles (PLEVs), so they are treated as motor vehicles and subject to the same legal requirements, such as: MOT, Licensing, Tax and Insurance.

What will happen if I am stopped by Police riding an e-scooter?

Section 165A of the Road Traffic Act 1988, allows the Police to seize any motor vehicle being used on a road which does not have the required documentation, which includes a driving licence for that class of vehicle.

Once seized by the police it can be disposed of in accordance with force policy. The rider of the e-scooter will also be liable for prosecution which can result in a fine, points on a driving licence or both.

[You can find out more about e-scooters and the law on the Cambridgeshire police website.](#)



Parent seminars

The Ivison Trust (formerly known as Parents Against Child Exploitation (PACE)) are holding two evening seminars on 17 and 18 June specifically for parents and carers in Cambridgeshire and Peterborough with a focus on County Lines and Criminal Exploitation. These seminars will be delivered with a parent whose child has been a victim of exploitation sharing their experiences and advice on responding to risks.

The sessions will share what criminal exploitation is, with a focus on county lines and explore how to spot signs that it may be happening to your child or a child you know.

They will also cover trends in the local area and where to get advice and support if you are concerned.

For more information and to register a place visit [Parent webinars – county lines and criminal exploitation – Ivison Trust](#)