

Newsletter 25 April 2025

Dear Parents/ Carers

I think it is important to give you an update on the email that I sent on Wednesday regarding the lunchtime situation and the need to place the school temporarily in lockdown. Since then, a couple of things have happened which I would like to share with parents and carers.

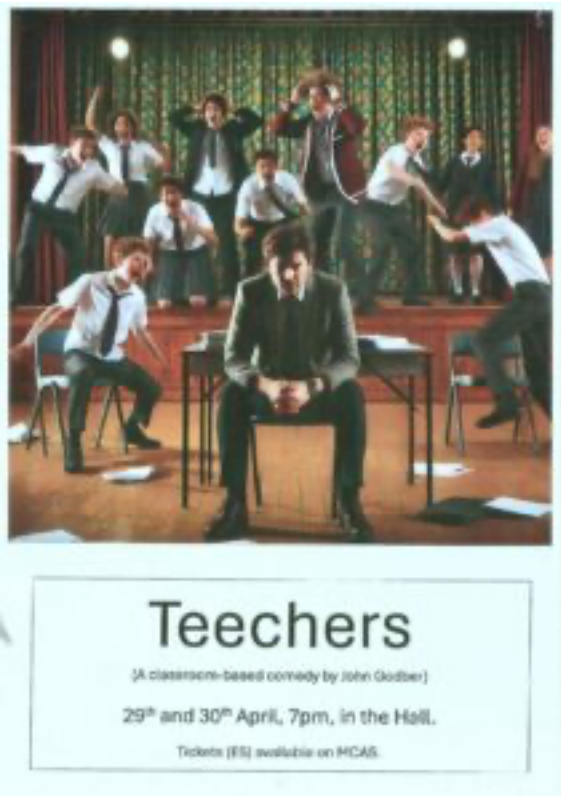
Having reflected on the previous day's events, and our response to it, I met with staff first thing Thursday morning to review the incident, give them an update, and provide clarity around the lockdown procedures. With the lockdown being called so close to the lunchtime/ period 4 changeover, there was admittedly miscommunication around whether students should go to tutor or period 4, and this did not help the orderly and swift movement into lockdown. I apologise for any confusion or distress that this may have caused. This has now been clarified: students go to tutor if the lockdown is signalled at break or lunchtime. Admittedly, this is not something that we have practised so far in a drill, so it will be the focus of the next lockdown drill.

I also met with each year group on Thursday morning to reflect on the events of the previous day. I felt it was important for any worrying and incorrect rumours about what had happened to be corrected, because I understand how hearing them could be worrying. It was also great to (repeatedly through the assembly) praise those students who didn't get involved, and never do. However, the assembly also had an important message for students: that moving as large groups around the site, sometimes at speed, could put others at risk and someone could have easily have been hurt; that not following staff instructions when we are supporting all students getting to a safe space puts them, and others at risk (in a similar way to other serious events such as fire evacuations); and, that when individuals are in a heightened state of distress, the remaining student body needs to step back and allow us to provide them with support.

We will obviously be monitoring the situation over the coming weeks, but I am pleased to report that lunchtimes for the rest of the week have been calm.

Yours faithfully

Tony Meneagh
Principal



Teechers school

production

St Ivo drama department would like to invite you to next week's performance of the classroom comedy, "Teechers" by John Godber.

Fast-moving, inventive and highly entertaining, "Teechers" is John Godber's brilliant take on life at a modern Comprehensive School. Through their hilarious end-of-term play, several Year 11s exuberantly sketch the new drama teacher's progress through two terms of chaotic classes, cynical colleagues and obstructive caretakers. Disillusioned, he departs for the safe waters of a private school, and leaves behind his students, whose youthful irreverence gives way to despair.

The performances are on Tuesday 29 and Wednesday 30 April in the hall, starting at 7pm. Tickets are £5 each and are available on MCAS. Please note that the play contains the infrequent use of offensive language.

We hope to see many of you there!

Support for Year 11 and 13

Year 11 and 13 students are working incredibly hard, particularly now that we are in the final stretch towards exams.

Shown below is the additional support available to Year 11 students at lunch and after school. Year 13 students should see their subject teachers if they are not sure about the support available to them.

For Year 11 Science, the next two weeks will be a biology 6 mark masterclass after school on Wednesday 30 April, following by a physics masterclass on Wednesday 7 May.

For Year 13 science, period 6 drop ins take place on Mondays for physics with Mr Nall, Wednesdays for chemistry with Dr Squires and Thursdays for biology with Dr Smith.

	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
Lunch			Food	French	
			Geography		
	D&T	D&T	D&T	D&T	D&T
	Dance	Dance	Dance	Dance	Dance
After school	History	English Language L01	Art	Maths (invite only)	D&T
	Geography	Maths (invite only)	Science	RE	Computer Science
	Art		Food	D&T	English Language Room 13
	Music		Music	Computer Science	
			PE/ BTEC Sport	Drama	
			Geography	French	
			Maths Higher Room 9 Foundation Room 11	English Language (invite only)	
			English Language Aiming for 7+ L01		
	Dance	Dance	Dance	Dance	Dance



Rewards

Over the course of this term, we will be having a renewed focus on setting rewards. Towards the end of last half term we increased the value of points associated with Golden Tickets from 1 to 3 points.

We are also increasing the values associated with our 5 Core Values in line with the assembly themes this coming term, for example, when the theme is 'tenacity' the tenacity points will move from 1 to 2 points for the following week.

Themes for assemblies:

Week beginning 22 April – Scholarship

Week beginning 28 April – Curiosity

Week beginning 6 May – Tenacity

Responsibility and Respect assemblies will take place after May half term.

Upcoming parents'/ carers' evenings

Year 7 parents' evening will be held online on Thursday 1 May from 4.00pm-7.30pm. Bookings are now open and will close at 8am on Tuesday 29 April.

Year 12 parents' evening will be held online on Thursday 15 May from 4.00pm-7.30pm. Bookings open on Tuesday 6 May at 6.00am and will close at 8am on Tuesday 13 May. Appointments can be booked via [SchoolCloud – St Ivo Academy](#). If you have any difficulties using the online platform, please contact the school office.

On the evening itself, please once again log on to [SchoolCloud](#) then click the "join video appointments" button. The system will then load your appointments, please see <https://support.parentseveningsystem.co.uk/article/801-video-parents-how-to-attend-appointments-over-video-call> for further information. You can use most phones, tablets, laptops etc to access this service. Please note that in order for the evening to run to time, calls will automatically cut off at the given end time (there will be a countdown on your screen).

Homework Support Club

This half term we are trialling a homework support club during the lunchtimes on Tuesday and Friday to run alongside the afterschool homework club. Our aim is to provide a venue and an opportunity for students to complete their Sparx homework in a quiet and supportive atmosphere. Biscuits will be available for those that attend. If you are

aware that your son/daughter finds completion of homework at home challenging then please encourage them to attend. The sessions take place in S15.

Year 10 Shaping Futures – session 2

Next week, we are thrilled to welcome back some of our fantastic Shaping Futures employer partners for the second mentoring and project day with our Year 10 students. This ongoing collaboration is a brilliant opportunity for students to gain valuable insights into the world of work and develop key skills for their future.

We're looking forward to another engaging and inspiring session with representatives from MAM, Dark Cherry, North Shoes, AVIVA, Mott MacDonald, WINVIC, TinySoft, and EPM.

A big thank you to all of our employer partners for supporting this exciting initiative and helping to shape the futures of our young people!

Paris trip

The Languages Department has provisionally reserved 55 places on a 3-day visit to Paris from Wednesday 4 March to Friday 6 March 2026. **This trip is only open to those students studying French in Year 10 next year.**

We have planned a visit to the centre of Paris and will be seeing many historical landmarks. We will be visiting the Eiffel Tower, Notre Dame, the Arc de Triomphe, Sacre Coeur, Trocadero, and taking a river cruise with Bateaux Parisiens.

This visit will be operating on a first come, first served basis. The trip will become live on My Child At School at 7pm on Monday 28th April. To secure a place for your child, please pay a £200 deposit.

NEA – Year 11 and 13

The process for the marking and internal moderation of the Non-Examination Assessment (NEA) work for students has been completed for most subjects (students are aware of exceptions). NEA, together with the written examination papers later this term, will contribute to the final Year 11 GCSE and Year 13 A level/BTEC grades. Students are now able to view their initial NEA marks on student Bromcom portals. The publication of NEA marks forms part of the NEA process laid down by the Joint Council for Qualifications (JCQ) which is set out in our "Non-examination assessment policy" and is available in the policies section on the school website.

Please note that NEA marks are subject to change as part of the external moderation process undertaken by exam boards.

<https://www.jcq.org.uk/exams-office/non-examination-assessment>

Nessie drop-in session



Nessie Drop-In Sessions

Nessie supports the mental health of children, young people and their families.

These informal drop in sessions (no appointment necessary) are aimed at parents and carers with children who are experiencing anxiety around attending school, and designed to support with:

- **Concerns regarding your child's mental well-being**
- **Strategies to support your child's attendance in school**
- **Basic psychoeducation around anxiety, why it manifests and ways to support your child with it.**
- **Empowering, consistent language to use with your Child/Young Person**
- **Signposting to other services**

**Thursday 1st May
3.30pm - 4.30pm
@ St Ivo Academy**



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