

Newsletter 27 June 2025

Dear Parent/ Carer



The weather forecast suggests that we will experience high temperatures at the start of next week: 33 and 30 degrees Celsius on Monday and Tuesday, returning to 22 degrees on Wednesday. As such, we are giving students the option to wear their school PE kit instead of normal uniform on these two days.

Please can we ask that students do not come into school in other items of sports kit that are not part of the uniform as they may need to wait elsewhere until their school PE kit is brought in from home and corrected.

We ask that parents/ carers ensure that their children have a bottle for water during this hot period which they can fill up during breaks and between lessons. We also advise the use of sunscreen as well.

We aim to ventilate the buildings as much as possible overnight during the weekend to cool them down for the week ahead, and we will keep a close eye on activities to ensure that students and staff working in these quite old buildings are as comfortable as possible.

Art exhibition

Thank you to everyone who came along to visit the Year 11 and 13 art, textiles and technology exhibition on Wednesday evening. I hope you will agree that the talent on show was amazing, and we are very privileged to have such amazing students in these subjects. Fingers crossed that the examiners share my enthusiasm for the work!

I have to say that one piece particularly caught mine and Miss Sherwood's eye, and I excited to let you know that the artist in question has agreed to make another, enlarged,

version of her work to be put up in the new sixth form common room when it is finished. I'll keep quiet about the person and the particular work for the moment so you can see it for yourselves when we open the finished facilities.

Sixth form refurbishment update

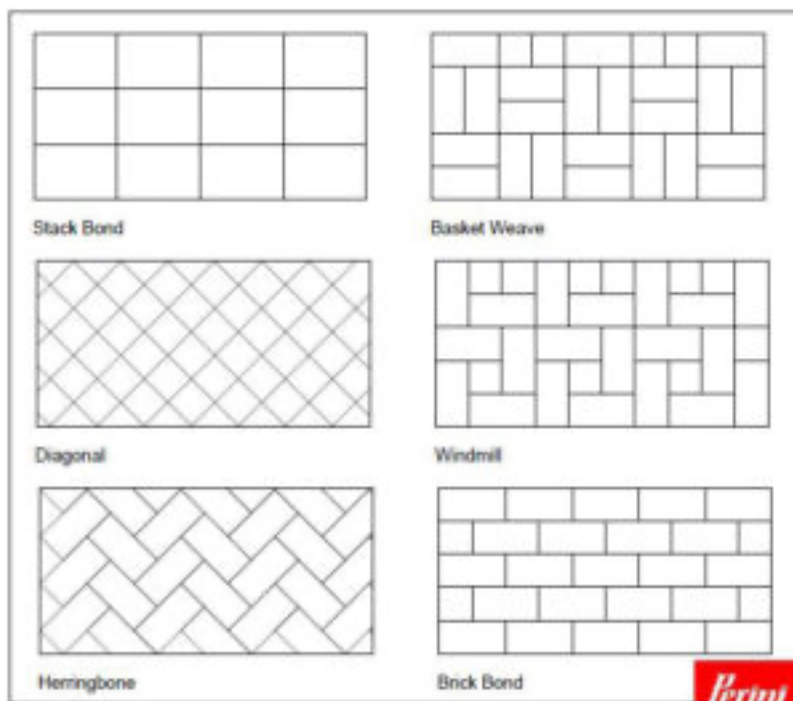
Whilst our contractors crack on with the first- and second-fix electrics, the toilet fixtures are now being put into place and the colour for the stage area walls (where the lower area of the common room was) has now been picked for painting this weekend – you'd be surprised about the number of different 'black' shades and finishes there are... For anyone who's in the know – it's "black diamond eggshell".

The noisy lift-shaft work was completed this week, ready for its arrival and the worktops for the kitchen area at the back of the common room have also been chosen.

The windows in "the Street" are almost finished; they just need the glass and the white frames turning black. In the same location the display window from the resource centre, which was passed its best, has been removed and the bricks from the new café window openings reused to fill the gap. This weekend will see the brick floor in "the Street" come up and the new pavers installed in a slightly more modern "Stack Bond" pattern.







Notes from the PAC

The Parent Advisory Council (PAC) met this Wednesday, marking the end of the first full year of its operation; minutes to follow. The next meeting of the PAC will be on Wednesday 17 September 2025 at 6.30pm and the main agenda item will be "Support for mental health". If you would like to submit questions or comments on this topic in particular, or any other, please feel free to email pac@astreastivo.org Parents/ Carers are

free to pop along to the meeting as well if you want by emailing your intention to do so to the same email address.

Finally, I would like to publicly thank the PAC members for their dedication, support and challenge over the course of this academic year, and I look forward to working with them again next year. Unfortunately, Matt Finch has stepped back his place on the PAC as the liaison to the St Ivo Parent Forum due to other voluntary and work commitments. We thank Matt sincerely for his valued contributions on the PAC and look forward to working with his nominated successor from the St Ivo Parent Forum.

2025/ 2026 Key Stage 3 curriculum tweak

As you may know, May half term is the main resignation date for teachers wanting to take up other roles in September. We will update parents and carers with the specific names in the final weeks, so that those teachers can decide themselves how they want to let their students know in the meantime. However, I am pleased to let you know that the number of changes is lower than in previous years. Nevertheless, some resignations have meant that we have had to slightly modify the curriculum in response to these staffing movements.

Learning from parents/ carer feedback last year, we are keeping our promise of returning KS3 subjects we had to pause, and where necessary, we are only slightly adjusting the time allocations of some rather than temporarily removing them from the curriculum.

Food is returning in KS3 and we have safeguarded the Year 9 into 10 options courses. However, design technology/ food will be taught in one period per fortnight next year in KS3 and PE will stay on four periods (as it is now), with dance on one period (as it is now); we will no longer have to incorporate dance into PE as previously communicated – they can stay separate. We are still bringing back computer science for one period a fortnight, and as previously highlighted we will be reducing English by one period to seven per fortnight and increasing drama to two periods per fortnight.

Year 10 work experience and shaping futures update

Just to remind you that during the week 7–11 July, our Year 10 students will have the opportunity to be involved with exciting and meaningful career experiences. Some students will be going out on traditional work experience placements, developing key employability skills and gaining a valuable taste of working life.

If your child has the opportunity to take up a work experience placement with a suitable employer, there's still time to arrange this. Please do get in touch (email helen.parks@astreastivo.org) and we'd be happy to support and guide the process to ensure it's a safe and valuable experience. Unfortunately, we are unable to find students placements this year, so this will have to come from a contact you have.

At the same time, students involved in the Shaping Futures programme will be bringing their projects to a conclusion. Many of them will be visiting the workplaces of the employers they've been working with, while others will take part in a project finale session in school to celebrate their learning and achievements. This employer supported initiative has provided students with a meaningful introduction to the world of work.

We're proud of how positively students are engaging with these opportunities and we're confident this will be a week full of learning, growth and aspiration.

Staff leavers this week

This week we say goodbye to Mrs Onireti in mathematics and Miss Tweed in student support, and wish them all the best for their future careers. Parents/ Carers may therefore see a slight change in some mathematics groups where other teachers in the department have volunteered to cover the classes for the final three or so weeks of this year.

Finally, wishing a safe and speedy journey for all the students and staff heading off on the Switzerland trip this evening. Have a great time, and we look forward to seeing all the photos on social media!

Yours faithfully

Tony Meneagh

Principal

Interform – Week beginning 14 July

During the final week (WB 14 July) there will be part-day interform sports events for students as follows:

- Year 7 = Monday 14 July period 2 onwards
- Year 9 = Tuesday 15 July afternoon tutorial onwards
- Year 8 = Wednesday 16 July period 1 to 4 (normal lessons period 5)

All students will need to be at school at the usual time, and they will then be walked to their venue.

Students will need to wear PE kit on their day and will need food and drink (especially water) for the whole day plus suncream.

For Years 7 and those Year 9s based at the outdoor centre, they will be dismissed at the end of the day from the centre, but we will ensure that those who catch a bus home will be able to walk back in time to catch it from school.

Music Summer Showcase

The music department would like to invite you to our summer showcase at 6.00pm on Tuesday 15 July. The event is to showcase the work that our students have been completing over the summer term within our music department. Tickets are available to purchase from the MCAS app at a cost of £3.00 per person. All funds raised will go towards supporting future musical projects in school.

Charity Event – Thursday 17 July



On Thursday 17 July the school will be having a charity event during the lunch break organised by the staff and students in our house system. Representatives from each house Leger, Crosier, Wheatsheaf, River and Bridge will be working hard to put on a range of fun events for this. This will include a rowing machine challenge, beat the goalie, dance-a-thon, sponge the teacher, ice bucket challenge (including staff), raffles, tug of war, cake stall and many other events. The town Mayor will be attending to support the event and we are receiving some very generous donations from local companies to go on the cake stand or as raffle prizes. The event will be cash free on the day so if your child wishes to take part in any of the activities then you are able to purchase a charity card from MCAS prior to the day. The charity being supported is the local charity Dreamdrops. This charity supports families and children who are in hospital or being cared for at home, and it was chosen by the house representatives. It would be great to raise as much as possible to support them, so if you are in a position to purchase a charity card then we would very much appreciate it. There is no limit on the number of charity cards you can buy and each card costs £3 which will allow students 6 opportunities at whatever event(s) they want (50p each event).

We hope that the event will be fun way to end what has been a very busy term whilst raising valuable funds for a very worthwhile local charity.

Using messaging apps safely

As well as being private spaces for chatting and sharing, messaging apps are widely used as social media platforms in their own right. But unlike Facebook, Instagram, X and LinkedIn, communications are completely 'closed' between senders and recipients, so they can be used to chat or share confidentially with individuals or groups. There are, however, risks to using any messaging app.

To ensure you and your child are using messaging apps – such as Whatsapp – safely, read [Get Safe Online's latest expert advice](#).