

# Newsletter 28 March 2025

Dear Parent/ Carer

## Year 7-9 curriculum for 2025-26

We remain committed to returning computing and food to the key stage 3 curriculum from September. This will require some adjustments to the time allowance for other subjects.

Dance will return to being part of the PE carousel of activities. However, we recognise the unique place dance has at St Ivo, and we are therefore going to increase the time given to dance within PE, in short, there will be two eight-week activity rotations of dance instead of the previous one per year. We investigated the possibility of keeping dance at one period per fortnight and reducing PE down to three periods, or just returning to the pre-September 2024 system for dance, but determined that neither option was ideal, hence the compromise.

Food will return to being part of the design technology rotation, with students experiencing food for one rotation (typically a term of lessons) each year. Time for English will decrease by one hour per fortnight, this will allow us to increase time for drama to one hour per week and put music and drama on a similar level (music was increased to one lesson per week last year).

Our overall curriculum allocation for Years 7 to 9 from September will be:

- English, mathematics and science will each have **seven periods** per fortnight
- French, geography, history and PE (including dance) will each have **four periods** per fortnight
- Art, D&T (including food), drama, music, PSHE and RE will each have **two periods** per fortnight
- Computing will each have **one period** per fortnight

## Year 9 into 10 preferences process

Thank you to students and parents/ carers for preference form returns and discussions this week. We will be able confirm preference subjects to students before the end of next week.

## Sixth form refurb update





The exciting process towards the delivery of our updated sixth form continues strongly over the final two weeks of this term. With the tender process having already started, we have prospective contractor visits booked in next week on the 31st and 2nd of April.

In addition, the first sample of the new furniture arrived this week, and our sixth form students had the opportunity to “road test” it, in the colours they selected.

#### **Trust newsletter**

The Trust end of term newsletter for staff and parents/ carers can be found here: [Astrea March 2025 Newsletter](#)

#### **End of term**

Finally, just a reminder that next week is the last week of this half term and that Friday 4 April is a staff training day, so Thursday 3 April 2025 is the last day in school for students. We return from the Easter break on Tuesday 22 April 2025.

Yours faithfully

**Tony Meneagh**

**Principal**

## **Year 11 revision and coursework sessions during the Easter break**

We are running some revision and coursework sessions for the following groups in the first week of Easter.

If you wish for your child to attend, please complete the form [here](#).

Please confirm on the form that you are happy for your child to make their own way home, or that you will arrange for them to be collected. Please note that students should bring lunch with them if they will be at school during lunchtime.

Monday 7 April	Dance 9am-3pm Dance Studio	Drama script work 9.30am – 3.00pm Room P23	English Ms Stewart's group only 10am-1pm L3	Art and Textiles 9.30-2.30 C6, C11, C12, C13, C15		
Tuesday 8 April	Geography Paper 2 9am – 11pm	Drama script work 9.30am – 3.00pm Room P23	Computer Science Paper 1 10am-12pm Room 24	Art and Textiles 9.30-2.30 C6, C11, C12, C13, C15	Maths Higher 10am-12pm Maths Foundation – 4/5 border 1pm-3pm Mr Kennedy	Child Development 10-2 C7
Wednesday 9 April	PE 10am-12pm Room 16	Drama coursework 9.30am – 3.00pm Room 25	Computer Science Paper 2 10am-12pm Room 24	Technology 9am-3pm C17, C19, C20	Film Studies 10am-2pm Resource Centre	
Thursday 10 April	History – Superpowers paper 9-11 N2					
Friday 11 April	Maths and English – invite only					
Monday 14 April	Maths and English – invite only					

Tuesday 15 April	Maths and English – invite only					
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## Year 13 revision and coursework sessions during the Easter break

We are running some revision and coursework sessions for the following groups in the first week of Easter.

If you wish for your child to attend, please complete the form [here](#).

Please confirm that you are happy for your child to make their own way home, or that you will arrange for them to be collected. Please note that students should bring lunch with them if they will be at school during lunchtime.

Monday 7 April	Computer Science P1/P2 10am – 3pm	Art and Photography 9.30-2.30 C10, C8	Media Studies Coursework 1-4pm
Tuesday 8 April	Politics – Paper 3 USA/Comparative Politics via Teams	Art and Photography 9.30-2.30 C10, C8	
Wednesday 9 April	A level PE 10am-12pm and/or 12-2 Coursework Room 9	Media Studies Coursework 9-12	
Thursday 10 April	History – Pitt to Peel 11.15-1pm N2		

## Consultation on proposed disposal of land

St Ivo Academy, part of Astrea Academy Trust, is seeking approval from the Department for Education to dispose of a parcel of playing land that it currently has the leasehold of. The land is approximately 1,000 square meters, and this [satellite photo](#) outlines the area in question, which is to the rear of the Academy. These [area plans](#) also outline the parcel of land.

As the parcel of land currently has a designation of 'playing field land', it will need to be formally 'disposed of' to allow the land to have an alternative use. This requires permission from the Secretary of State.

This does not mean that the land will be given away or actually disposed of, rather the 'disposal' will be by way of a sublease to Aurora Fairway School, who will then have a different use for the land.

The consultation starts on Friday 28 March 2025, and will close on Sunday 11 May 2025.

### **Proposal Details**

- The proposed site is an unused area of land. Students do not have access to the land, which is separated from the academy's PE facilities.
- The land consists of low-value grassland, overgrown bushes, and a small number of low-quality trees.
- The sublease will allow the expansion of Aurora Fairway School by way of a new classrooms building.
- The main school site at St Ivo Academy has sufficient recreation and playing field space, which will remain unaffected by this proposed disposal
- The expansion will allow Aurora Fairway School to accommodate an additional 21 pupils and create up to 9 new jobs.

For further details, and to have your say, please

access <https://www.astreastivo.org/consultation-on-proposed-disposal-of-land-at-st-ivo-academy/>

## **Staff charity video**

In case you haven't already seen it, our staff charity video for Red Nose Day is below:

<https://youtu.be/J9Du2zz6E-Y>

The video raised £173 for Comic Relief and we had great fun doing it! A big thank you to Mrs Nisbet and Miss McAdam for planning, filming and editing the video.

## **Flag football**

Year 7 and 8 flag football club will start on Friday 25 April from 3pm until 4pm. students should meet at the lodge changing rooms. If you child wishes to take part please email Mr Blackman to confirm their attendance [oliver.blackman@astreastivo.org](mailto:oliver.blackman@astreastivo.org).

## **Free School Meals**

Currently, children who qualify for FSM are protected for a set period, even if their family's circumstances change. However, from 1 April 2025, this transitional protection is expected to end. This means that:

- Any child already receiving FSM before this date will continue to receive them until they finish their current phase of education (i.e. primary or secondary school).
- Any new applications from 1 April 2025 onwards will be subject to regular checks, and eligibility may change if financial circumstances improve.

If your child is not currently receiving FSM but may be eligible, we strongly encourage you to apply by 31 March 2025. Any application approved before this date will secure FSM under the current protection rules.

For more information and to apply please visit the local authority website: [Free school meals | Cambridgeshire County Council](#)

## Edukey Provision Map

We are very excited to share with you a new approach that we will be taking in school to further develop communication and collaboration with families and students in our community with SEND. Edukey Provision Map is a tried and tested approach, which enables live access to the documents our staff use to inform adaptations within the classroom and the individual targets a student with SEND will be working towards. This is gradually being phased in as we move into the summer term and into the next academic year.

We look forward to continually working together in support of students with SEND.

## Year 8 parents'/ carers' evening

Parents'/ carers' evening will be held online on Thursday 3 April from 4.00pm-7.30pm.

Appointments can be booked via [SchoolCloud – St Ivo Academy](#). Bookings close at 8am on Tuesday 1 April. If you have any difficulties using the online platform, please contact the school office.

If you wish to book an appointment for dance, please note that Miss McAdam teaches every student in year 9. We therefore kindly ask that you only book an appointment to see her if your child has particular interest in dance for further progression.

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).