

12<sup>th</sup> January 2023

Dear Parents and Carers

Welcome to the second edition of the St Ivo Academy  
Personal Development Parent Bulletin.



### 1. Drugs Talk

Firstly can I thank all those parents who attended our Parents Drug Workshop on 11<sup>th</sup> January, led by Jacqui, Kelly and Sam (along with Daphne the trainee therapy dog!) from CASUS (Cambridgeshire Child and Adolescent Substance Use Service).

The fascinating discussion was driven by the parents who attended, and focussed on their questions around the effects of the use of cannabis on young people, warning signs to look out for and how to talk to young people about its use. Although it was felt that there are still young people who experiment with alcohol, at parties and gatherings, this particular group of parents were more concerned about the use of Cannabis, whether smoked or eaten.

The CASUS team firstly offered reassurance that it is not as widespread as parents may fear. Although there is evidence that about 50% of Year 10-11 students have tried smoking cannabis, the number who then go on to become regular users is far smaller. However this is the illegal substance most likely to be sampled by teenagers.

Parents were given resources based on the [www.talktofrank.com](http://www.talktofrank.com).

This website contains the most reliable and accurate information about all types of drugs and the dangers associated with their misuse, as well as links to case studies and other resources.

The Casus team also recommended watching the BBC documentary “Should I Smoke Dope?” which is available to watch on YouTube.

Finally Jacqui, Kelly and Sam urged parents and indeed young people themselves to call them if they have concerns, or want any advice. These calls can be treated confidentially.

The CASUS number is 01480 445316 and email address is [casus@cpft.nhs.uk](mailto:casus@cpft.nhs.uk)

We also teach PD lessons in school about alcohol, tobacco, vaping and drug misuse throughout the year groups. Our approach is always based on informing young people of the consequences of experimenting with these substances, so that they are able to make their own informed decisions. We are also here to help if you have any concerns, however for safeguarding reasons, we would not be able to ensure confidentiality.

### 2. Student Leadership Opportunities

All students have been invited to apply to represent their House and their school on the House Council. This opportunity is open to all year groups. Information was given in assembly last week, and repeated in form time this week. Successful applicants will get the chance to organise the school fund-raising events as well as this year’s summer festival. Application forms are available from student reception.

Now is your chance to get involved in our student leadership community, by volunteering to support your House!

- Years 7, 8 and 9 – apply to become a House Rep. You will help us plan and deliver fund raising events this year.
- Years 10 and 11 – apply to become a Vice Captain.
- Sixth Form – apply to become a House Captain. Together with the Vice Captains, you will help us think of fund raising ideas and take a lead on planning and delivering these events alongside your Head of House and other academy staff.
- **Pick up an application from the Student Reception Desk in Main Block.**
- Deadlines for applications are Friday 27<sup>th</sup> January. Hand these in to your Head of House or email it to them. Details can be found on the application form.
- Our first meeting will be with the Vice Captains and Captains on Wednesday 1<sup>st</sup> February in C4. KS3 reps – we will be in touch to let you know if you have been successful!



**3. Parents Personal Development Forum**

We have already received a large number of RSVPs for our next Personal Development Parent Forum on Wednesday 25<sup>th</sup> January 17.00–18.15. This will be on the subject of online misogyny (including Andrew Tate), and will be a combination of information-sharing and discussion. Please note that this will take place in the School Hall. Please email me [Amanda.crellin@astreastivo.org](mailto:Amanda.crellin@astreastivo.org) to book your place.

**4. PD lessons, Assemblies and Tutor time**

As promised, we would like to keep you informed about the topics being covered in PD lessons, assembly and TutorPD sessions up until February half term break.

WEEK BEGINNING	ASSEMBLY THEME	TUTOR PD THEME	PD LESSONS
9 <sup>th</sup> January	What is Community? Why is empathy so important in ensuring we build happy and supportive communities? (Responding to requests from the St Ives Town Council) Led by Miss Crellin	Contributing to your school community by getting involved in school leadership, as a House Representative. Remembering the meaning and importance of Protected Characteristics, British Values and the Academy Vision.	
16 <sup>th</sup> January	Charities and fundraising. NSPCC Penny Wars Led by Ms Sargent	Random Acts of Kindness. Putting others before ourselves.	
23 <sup>rd</sup> January	Holocaust Memorial Day. Ordinary people as bystanders, perpetrators and persecuted, rescuers. Led by Mr Powell	What is genocide? Making sure it doesn't happen again.	
30 <sup>th</sup> January	Safer Internet Day (details to be confirmed) Led by Mr Abedin	Online safety – Grooming (details to be confirmed)	Thurs 2nd Feb Periods 1 & 2 Positive Relationships Relationship Values

6 <sup>th</sup> February	Knife Crime Assembly, led by PCSO Rachel Martin	Gangs - Choices and consequences	
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Please get in touch if you have any questions, suggestions, requests for future parent Personal Development sessions, or anything else related to the issues covered above.

Also, if you have any expertise you would like to offer to the Personal Development department, to support us in keeping our work current and relevant, we would be delighted to hear from you.

With very best wishes

Amanda Crellin and Maria Whateley.

[Amanda.crellin@astreastivo.org](mailto:Amanda.crellin@astreastivo.org)

[Maria.whateley@astreastivo.org](mailto:Maria.whateley@astreastivo.org)