

This is the mixed, 11-18 comprehensive school serving the market town of St. Ives and some six neighbouring villages. From its beginnings in 1955 as a small secondary modern school, St. Ivo became fully comprehensive from 1970 and, at present, there are 1800 boys and girls at the school, including a Sixth Form of 300+. The catchment area is pleasantly mixed, and St. Ives and the neighbouring villages have expanded considerably through numerous private housing estates. Many of the residents commute to Huntingdon, Peterborough, Cambridge and London. St. Ivo became a designated community school in 1991, following years of community involvement, and now serves as a focal point for community activity in this area.

St. Ives itself is situated on the river Ouse, and has a population of over 15,000. Its Monday Market dates back to medieval times and the town has a number of interesting historical buildings. It is a good shopping centre and provides easy access to larger shopping areas. There is a very impressive recreation centre which has been designated for dual use with the school, thus providing us with use of the centre's facilities during school hours. There is also an outdoor complex which consists of thirty acres of pitches, together with a floodlit athletics track, all of which is in addition to the school's own seven and a half acres of playing fields. Hence we are extremely well served in terms of sporting facilities.

The school draws its pupils in the main from the five local primary schools, though we are an extremely popular school and demand normally exceeds spaces. Typically, pupils arrive into Year Seven and are placed in mixed-ability tutor groups each of which has a tutor. The tutor groups are then the responsibility of a Head of Year, and an Assistant Head of Year who will remain in charge of this year group for the next five years. Oversight of the 11-16 pastoral structure is provided by a senior teacher and a deputy head. The sixth form has its own pastoral team, with a Head of Sixth and Assistants. This system places a lot of emphasis on the value of the tutor group and on the role of the form tutor, and we are concerned that pastoral care is given proper status in our work.

There is good liaison with outside agencies such as social services, the educational welfare officers and educational psychologists. For teaching purposes the tutor group remains the cornerstone of our work in Year Seven, then departments gradually introduce a system of setting as pupils move through Key Stage 3. Our option system at the end of Year Nine then enables pupils to choose the range of GCSE subjects, drawn from OCR, EdExcel and AQA. Examination results are very good throughout the school. In the sixth form a wide variety of 'AS' and 'A2' level courses are available, together with an established range of GNVQ programmes. Curriculum development is clearly at the heart of our work, and staff work via subject departments and year teams together with task-specific working parties as needed. PSE and Records of Progress are seen to be important, as is the use of ICT. Local Management of Schools has been a major force in the workings of Cambridgeshire schools, with St. Ivo also being a 'cheque-book' school.

We have established a high reputation for academic, musical, dramatic, artistic and sporting success. There is a large take-up of students onto degree courses at Universities, including Oxford and Cambridge. Music, drama and dance feature highly in our annual calendar of events, involving numerous pupils and staff. School teams represent us in a wide range of activities, and individuals have represented the District, County and National levels.

Cambridgeshire is at the forefront of many areas of educational development, and its approach to delegation, which includes community education, is second to none.

This information is intended as a 'taster' of life here at St. Ivo. Should you require further details, please contact me directly at the school.

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