

TOP 10 TIPS

1	The Euro crisis is distorting the investment world – now is the time to review your portfolio.
2	Do your 2011/12 ISAs now (if you haven't done so already)
3	Check out your pension contributions – the new rules are with us!
4	Consider taking pension benefits, and if you don't need the money then make “gifts out of income”. These can fund school fees, trusts and children/grandchildrens' pension contributions – reconstituting your pension funds outside your estate for the family's benefit.
5	The property market is in decline – this is an opportunity to make gifts now to facilitate IHT planning whilst prices are low.
6	If you are considering planning for IHT using Life insurance, then apply now whilst you are healthy and premiums are low.
7	The Nil Rate Band is now transferrable if it's not used on first death – Review your Wills (particularly if you were married before and your spouse died).
8	If you are an employer, then prepare for NEST now by making pension contributions for your employees in lieu of wage increases.
9	The Maximum GAD% have changed. Review your pension drawdown arrangements. - Consider purchasing a full annuity or have you considered a temporary annuity?
10	Make full use of your allowances – consider moving income producing assets between spouses to make full use of basic rate tax bands, CGT allowances and IHT reliefs, such as the annual £3,000 exemption.