

# St. George's School Newsletter

Friday 4th April 2025



## From the Head

This week has been marked by a moment of sadness and reflection, following the passing of Lisa Russell, a much-loved member of our Catering Team. Lisa gave nearly 35 years of service to St. George's, working to support both pupils and staff with kindness, dedication, and a steadfast commitment to our community. Hers was the kind of quiet service that often goes unrecognised, but it was no less vital to the life of the school. Over the past days, I have been struck by the way our staff and pupils have supported one another - offering words of comfort, acts of kindness, and a wish to honour Lisa's memory.

As we remember Lisa's service, we also take a moment to reflect on the legacy of another key figure in the history of St. George's. Yesterday marked 79 years since the death of our founder and first Headmaster, Revd Cecil Grant. It is a privilege to stand in the line of Heads that began with him and to witness the enduring strength of the vision he established. St. George's remains a school with Christian faith, and our chapel at its heart. A place where relationships matter, where coeducation thrives, and where boarding continues to shape a rich and diverse community. The legacy of his Foundation Trust also continues today, thanks to the dedication of its trustees and the generosity of those who support it. In his will, Revd Grant requested that a message be read in chapel on this day each year - a tradition we have honoured once again this week, a fitting tribute to a man whose vision continues to shape our school.

This has been a term full of remarkable achievements. Not least among these are the completion of an Ofsted inspection, major events such as concerts, drama performances, dinners, and trips, as well as sporting highlights like 'Super Saturday' - all of which represent the obvious and significant moments in a school's term. Throughout this newsletter, and in previous editions, we celebrate the extraordinary efforts of our pupils and staff, the moments of success, and the stories of resilience and joy that make St. George's what it is.

As we approach Easter, we are reminded that even in times of sorrow, we look towards the promise of renewal and hope. The resurrection of Jesus is at the heart of this season, a reminder that light follows darkness and that the future holds new opportunities for us all.

I wish all in our community a restful Easter holiday, a safe journey home to our boarders, and a safe return for the summer term.

Message to be read to the School as directed  
in my Will

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We founded this School of St. George in the humble faith that boys and girls, brought up together to love and honour the Christ and whatsoever things He upholds as true, pure, brave, lovely and of good report, would go forward from strength to strength to a manhood fully armed to fight His battles and to share His Victory.

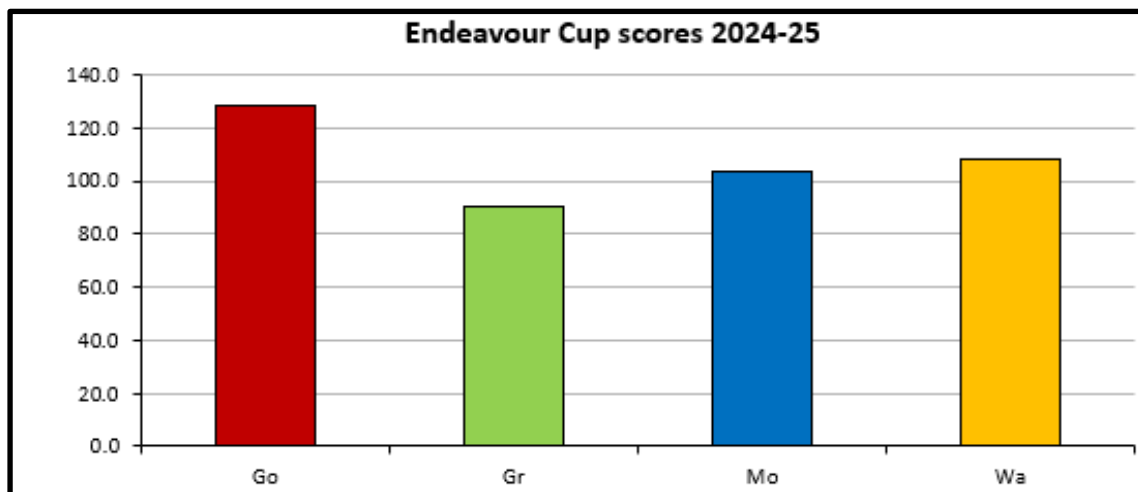
Your elder brethren have given many and signal proofs that our faith has not proved to be in vain.

As long as and no longer than you continue in your work and play here to <sup>u</sup>trian yourselves in full comradeship in that free, joyous, brave and pure army of the Christ, we pray that this School may enjoy God's merciful protection.



## Update on the Endeavour Cup Scores

After the second term of highly contested house events, Goddard House has managed to push further ahead to secure a solid lead. Monk House has closed the gap between themselves and Watts. Mr Harris won't be pleased and will have his teams training hard for next term's events. Come on Grant House - there are nine events left and all is to play for.



## Next term's House Events

Please encourage your children to keep an ear out for house events which are launched in house assemblies:

22nd April - House Bake off is launched

12th May - Girls' Football

16th May - House Photography Final

20th June - House Quiz

23rd June - Summer Finals (Cricket, Rounders and Tennis)

7th July - House Dance

13th July - Sailing Regatta.

## Extra-curricular activities

Our list of extra-curricular activities has been updated for the Summer Term. There are a large number of fantastic and varied opportunities for your child to participate in. Please do have a look over the Easter holidays and discuss with your child what they would like to do. The updated overview can be found on our School Website: [St George's School AIM HIGHER Extra curricular activities](#)

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## Netball News

On Monday, we had our final netball matches of the season against Sandringham. Both teams U12A&Cs played so well and used all the skills they had worked on in training throughout the year. Both teams worked so well in their teams helping the new players around the court and kept the spirits up throughout the match. Our MVPS were Nancy, Annabelle and Annabella ☐

Miss Thornton-Greet wants to say a massive well done to all the girls who have played any matches this year or come to training! You have all played amazing and have represented STG's amazingly throughout!

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## Activities Week 2025 Monday 30<sup>th</sup> June to Thursday 3<sup>rd</sup> July

We are excited to let you know that the letters for Activities Week for the different year groups have been published on ParentPay and distributed via Edulink to the relevant year groups involved.

- Year 7 Activities Week letter details the four different activities year 7 will undertake in this week
- Year 8 and 9 Activities Week letter (for those students not attending the Year 8 Shropshire trip or the Year 9 France and Pembrokeshire trips) details the different options the students can sign up for
- Year 10 Activities Week letter outlines the on-site activities for the days when the students aren't on their DofE expeditions.

Please read the letters carefully and ensure you have updated your child's medical and contact details through your parental EduLink account.

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## Careers Fair - Friday 27th June 2025. We need your help!

We are excited to announce our upcoming Careers Fair and would love your help in making it a fantastic and inspiring event for our students.

We are looking for parents and carers from a variety of professions to showcase their careers and give pupils an insight into different industries, career paths, and day-to-day job roles. This is a wonderful opportunity to share your expertise and experiences, helping our pupils explore potential career options and broaden their aspirations.

The event will take place on Friday 27th June, and we would be delighted if you could join us. Whether you work in healthcare, technology, business, trades, the arts, or any other field, your contribution could be invaluable in bringing the world of work to life for our students.

If you are interested in taking part in this event or would like more information, please email [esabato@stgeorges.herts.sch.uk](mailto:esabato@stgeorges.herts.sch.uk)

Thank you for your support—we look forward to hearing from you!

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## The Sixth Form Music Captains need you!

Calling all Singers! The Music Captains are looking for singers from all year groups who would like to sign up to sing karaoke style solos on stage, at this year's Summer Fete on Saturday 28th June! You will be accompanied by a band and can choose your own song. Prizes may be awarded! Please encourage your children to sign up on the music notice board if they're interested.

## Carnegie Shadowing Group 2025!

Our Carnegie Shadowing Group, 'St. George's Dragon Readers' met for the first time this week following the announcement of the eight books shortlisted for the Carnegie Medal for Writing. We were all very excited to discover which books had made the shortlist for the UK's most prestigious and longest running book award, which recognises outstanding novels, promoting reading for pleasure.

The awards provide a unique opportunity for students to review and rate the shortlisted books and vote for their favourite through the Shadowers' Choice Awards, culminating with the announcement of the official medal winner on the 19<sup>th</sup> June.

This year the shortlisted books tackle themes of masculinity and self-identity, so we are looking forward to some thought-provoking discussions over the coming weeks. It will be interesting to see if our group agrees with the overall national winner!

Do encourage your child to try one of these exciting new books over the Easter holiday!



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## Sushi Party at T-Club

No-one can remember who came up with the idea, but this week Learning Support held a Sushi Party because, well ... everyone loves Sushi. As you can see from the picture there was lots of sushi to go around; lots of fun; Japanese music; laughter, games and even sushi jokes which went down well. It is fair to say that everyone was sushi-ed out!



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## A Final Message from our Outgoing School Captains

Last week, the outgoing school captains engaged with the Senior Leadership Team to discuss the outcomes of this term's student voice, on the theme of student-led support. A lot of constructive feedback was received from students on how current systems in school could be improved or changed. The senior staff were very receptive to the feedback we proposed and they are hopeful that positive changes can be made to the year seven mentoring and in-class support processes, to name a few.

We are looking forward to the next student voice, in the summer term, being led by the new school captain team. It has been great working with students across all year groups and we encourage them to keep giving valuable feedback in the future. Thank you for all your support.

# News from the Sailing Club

The St George's School Sailing Club will be starting a new season of sailing after the Easter holiday, on Sunday 27th April 2025. They sail every Sunday in term time until the October half term, meeting at the Goddard lay-by at 12 noon, then travelling to Rickmansworth Aquadrome by parent transport for an afternoon of sailing, returning around 6pm. Lifts can always be arranged for anyone coming without parents. The cost is £9 per session and there's no obligation to come every week.



We are a really friendly and fun club and we'd love to hear from anyone interested in sailing with us. All levels of experience are welcome, including those who have never sailed before and would just like to give it a go (plus there's a free chocolate muffin from the galley at break time for anyone who comes along for the first time!). For more information, please see our [Facebook page](#) or contact [andrea.gott@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:andrea.gott@hotmail.co.uk).

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## Sixth Form Applications

We are delighted to have made 172 offers to our year 11 students to join our sixth form. Emails were sent out on Wednesday. Please can students who wish to accept their conditional offer, log in to their Applica account by Monday 28th April to confirm this. Thank you.

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## Thank you to the PSA

A big thank you to the PSA for their ongoing support and for funding the refurbishment of our External Agencies room in Student Services. We hope you'll agree it now looks very smart! This is a room used by a range of external agencies who come into school to work with students and families so it's brilliant to be able to offer them a warm and inviting place to talk.



We also thank them for funding the Year 9 Mindfulness Programme which has taken place over this term. The course was well received by students, and we've also received positive feedback from parents.

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## Year 11 Prom

The parent organisers of the year 11 Prom would like families to know that there are still tickets available via These can be purchased on ParentPay and cost £46 each. Please would you also complete the Google form: <https://forms.gle/bDtSseDtFP6tBu5Q9> This sets out the Code of Conduct and T&Cs that must be agreed by students before they attend. You will appreciate that much of this is required by the venue itself. The form also asks for photography consent, dietary requirements and contact details for the night.

We don't want any student missing out for financial reasons. Please email either Rebecca ([rebeccawestlake@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:rebeccawestlake@hotmail.co.uk)) and Claire ([jonald\\_claire@outlook.com](mailto:jonald_claire@outlook.com)) if you need any help with the ticket price, as there is a fund available to assist.

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## Support for Parents and Carers with Children with SEND

The guide below is produced by the St. Albans, Harpenden and Villages DSPL7 Team and outlines the courses and services which are being run by external providers over the Summer term to support parents and families who have a child or children with additional needs.

Please have a look at what is on offer: courses, support groups, coaching and coffee mornings.

[DSPL7 Support for Parents Guide](#)

House Charities Updates

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| <div><h3>Goddard</h3><p>In Goddard this year, we have raised a total of well over £1300 through our weekly tuck shops and have been actively supporting various charities. Most of these proceeds have supported our two chosen charities for the year: Gingerbread and Sarcoma UK.</p><p>Gingerbread is a charity that serves as a vital resource for single parents who may be struggling in different areas of their lives. Sarcoma UK is a charity dedicated to funding research and providing support for those affected by sarcoma cancer.</p><p>In addition to this, we were pleased to send a donation to the Air Ambulance charity in recognition of their support following incidents at school and we have also supported the work of Great Ormond Street.</p></div> <div></div>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                              | <div><h3>Grant</h3><p>From September, Grant House charities: WWF, Youth Talk St Al with Leukaemia and Cancer, and £1,907.97.</p><p>Each charity has a mission that we, as a house, value, as it was the students of Grant House which voted for these organisations. We chose charities at an international and local level, and continued the tradition to support gorillas in the WWF charity for our house mascot, the Gorilla.</p><p>Every week, we provided a vibrant tuck shop in which students from different tutor bases would bring in sweets to raise money for Charity.</p><p>We will divide the money up evenly between the three charities, so each charity will get £635.99.</p></div> <div></div>                                       |
| <div><h3>Monk</h3><p>This year, our Monk House charities have been the national charity of Alzheimer's Society UK, which supports people with dementia across the UK, as well as the local charity, Stepping Stones, which supports domestic abuse victims in the local area.</p><p>Throughout the year, we have been dedicated to raising funds and awareness for these causes, through our weekly tuck shops and other initiatives, to contribute as much as possible.</p><p>In addition to supporting our House Charities, we recently held a successful charity event for Great Ormond Street Hospital, raising over £400. This cause was particularly meaningful to us as it had a special connection to two Monk House students, as a way of paying respect to the hospital and their brother who sadly passed away very young.</p><p>Through numerous fundraising efforts, including bake sales and sponsored activities, we have raised hundreds of pounds for all our chosen charities, making a real difference to those most in need of our supported charities help.</p></div> <div></div> | <div><h3>Watts</h3><p>Watts House have managed to raise over £800 for charities such as Herts Young Homeless, Save the Children and Dog's Trust through their tuck shops. Every student in the house is expected to contribute tuck items to sell throughout the year.</p><p>Herts Young Homeless aims to offer advice and information to homeless people between the ages of 16-24 and help break the cycle of youth homelessness.</p><p>Save the Children helps provide children across the world with medication, food and education, and Dog's Trust provides care and homes for dogs in need.</p><p>We hope that next year, even more can be raised, and thank you to everyone who has brought tuck in over the past year!</p></div> <div></div> |

## Debating News

We completed a busy term of debate fixtures last Wednesday, as St George's hosted Berkhamsted and St Columba's for a triangular British Parliamentary (BP) debate. Even though this was the first time that a lot of our students have competed in this format, they acquitted themselves superbly. Well done to Cailin E and Emilie Z for winning best pair.

A huge thank you and congratulations to all students who took part, and also to Ms. Norris, Ms. Simons (Berko) and Mr. Waters (SCC) for all of their help on the evening. Next term's highlights include the next round of the Harpenden schools debate competition and a trip to the Oxford Union!



## Primary Schools Debating Outreach

Over the last week, Mr Ellis, Mrs Holton-Gaus and some of our senior debaters have been into local primary schools promoting oracy skills and introducing students to how debate works, or building on their existing skills.

It was a joy to go into St Dominic and The Lea Schools and see how engaged students were and to be able to have our students spread such a powerful message. We would like to thank staff at both schools for inviting us in, and would like to give the biggest thanks to our students (Clara A, Zoë B, Honrick C Sophie C, Cailin E, Charlotte V. Freya W and Emilie Z) for providing such inspirational messages to our wider community!



## Vacancy available: Sports Centre & Lettings Duty Manager

We are looking for a professional, friendly and flexible person to support our Sports Centre and Lettings activities!

The ideal candidate will be proactive, possess strong customer service skills and have the knowledge and experience of setting up sports equipment. The post holder is required to work evenings and weekends on a rota basis. Full-time or part-time hours could be considered for the right candidate.

For further details please visit: <https://mynewterm.com/jobs/138356/EDV-2025-SGS-70470>

**Creative Writing Competition**

Congratulations from Mrs Farr to all the creative writers who entered the Easter/New Beginnings competition. There was some beautiful work. The results are:

- Year 9: Cecile S (overall winner)
- Year 8: Isabella B
- Year 7: Millie S

Cecile’s poem is featured on the right.



The fresh leaves,  
A delicate balance,  
Of my past and,  
New beginnings

Reminders of hope,  
Scattered by the wind,  
But never lost.

Snowdrops appear,  
Rising fast,  
No weight,  
No walls,  
To hold them back.

Sunlight shines  
Colourful, free,  
Reminding me,  
There is,  
A bright side.

**We are holding a Cake-off to celebrate St George’s Day. Get your young person involved!**



**ST. GEORGE’S DAY**  
23RD APRIL

**CAKEOFF**

**Show off your baking skills to celebrate St George's Day!**  
**Create a St George's Day themed cake**  
A list of ingredients must be provided with each entry and remember no nuts, thank you.  
**Cake Drop-off:** 8am to 8:30am Go2  
**Breaktime:** Cake sale raising funds for Macmillan Cancer Support  
**bring £1 to buy a cake**



**Merit points for all who participate & Prize for the winner!**

## SUPPORTING YOUNG PEOPLE FOR EDUCATION AND CAREER DEVELOPMENT OPPORTUNITIES

**JMF**  
JAMES MARSHALL  
FOUNDATION  
EST. 1722

JMF provides grants to financially disadvantaged young people under 25 living in Harpenden, Wheathampstead, Kimpton, Redbourn, Flamstead and Markyate.



T : 01582 760735

E : [communications@jamesmarshallfoundation.co.uk](mailto:communications@jamesmarshallfoundation.co.uk)

[www.jamesmarshallfoundation.co.uk](http://www.jamesmarshallfoundation.co.uk)

Charity No: 1181004

## DO YOU NEED FINANCIAL HELP FOR EDUCATION OR CAREER DEVELOPMENT OPPORTUNITIES?

**JMF**  
JAMES MARSHALL  
FOUNDATION  
EST. 1722

If you are under 25, live in our catchment area and are of limited financial means we could provide a significant contribution towards costs for eligible items/activities such as:



Grants are only awarded towards future costs, we do not reimburse payments already made.

Applying for a grant is quick and easy using the online application form available on our website.

T : 01582 760735

E : [communications@jamesmarshallfoundation.co.uk](mailto:communications@jamesmarshallfoundation.co.uk)

[www.jamesmarshallfoundation.co.uk](http://www.jamesmarshallfoundation.co.uk)

Charity No: 1181004

# Community Fun Day

We're celebrating our new church space with games, activities and crafts for all ages...  
**and you're invited!**



1:00 PM - 5:00 PM  
Saturday 10 May 2025



High Street  
Methodist Church



Crazy Golf



Football Shootout



Inflatable Fun Run

### PLUS:

Lego Zone  
Watercolour Workshop  
Paint a Pot crafts  
Café Refreshments

Entry and most activities  
**FREE!** (Crafts £1 each)

**highstreet.church**  
the church in the high street

