



St. George's School

NEWSLETTER

Friday 4th October 2024

FROM THE HEAD

Over the last few weeks, we have all been aware of the news becoming more difficult and at times distressing. Whether it's global conflict, climate change, or political unrest, these issues can cause our young people concern as they are trying to make sense of the world around them. I want to acknowledge that as parents and teachers, it can be hard to strike a balance. On one hand, we want our children to be informed and engaged with the world; on the other, we don't want them to feel overwhelmed or anxious about things outside of their control.

In School we look at these issues in subjects like PSHE, RE, Geography, History and English. And of course our chapels, assemblies and tutors follow up as needed. We seek to inform and reassure students about these issues, helping them to develop critical thinking skills, empathy, and a balanced understanding of the world around them.

This can be made more difficult because young people increasingly receive their news via social media. It can be a place where bad actors exploit current events to spread mistrust, hate and incite violence. It makes the task of helping them understand how to assess the sources and motives behind what they read and see online even more important. We must all empower them to recognise harmful content and act to avoid being drawn into the negativity or hostility.

It's natural for our children to have questions about the events they hear about, and as parents, you play a vital role in helping them process this information. So, what can you do? Make sure you are tailoring conversations to your child's age and understanding, offering simple reassurance to younger children and more in-depth, discussions with older students. Focus on positive actions by highlighting people and organisations making a difference, fostering a sense of hope. And encourage open discussion, letting your child know it's okay to share their worries, and validate those feelings.

We understand this is a challenging time, but by supporting each other, we can help our children engage with the world in a healthy and informed way. If you have any concerns about your child, then don't hesitate to contact their tutor or Head of House.

Two further things from me. I got the date of House Music wrong last week – as I said, mistakes happen! The correct date is **Monday 21st October**. And finally, I am really looking

forward to my first St George's Open Evening which takes place today - I'll write more about it next week!

THIS WEEK'S CELEBRATIONS: THE START OF BLACK HISTORY MONTH

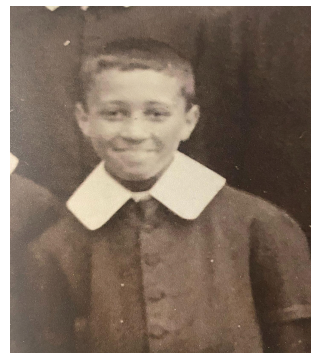
The theme of Black History Month this year is 'Reclaiming the Narrative', celebrating and recognising the narratives of black history and culture. The Anti-Racism Committee will be in House Assemblies this month, sharing some of their icons. These include literary legends like Toni Morrison and Chimamanda Ngozi Adichie (the first black player to be called up to the national football squad), Jack Leslie, and political and musical trailblazers who continue to inspire us.

In our pupil bulletins this month, we are recognising people who have contributed to our society and forged a path for people of colour in our community and beyond. In the words of Benjamin Zephaniah, "This planet is for everyone, borders are for no one. It's all about freedom."

Black History Month is a very important part of our school's celebration of diversity and inclusion and every year students and staff take part in learning about all those people who have contributed so much to this country.

This year we would like to share with you one of our favourite school heroes: Eric Walter Samuel Kidman (1894-1960). He was StG's first student of colour in 1907 and so therefore part of the very first cohort in the school. He actually started at Keswick School in the summer of 1903 before the Headmaster moved the entire school down to Harpenden.

Eric was born on 23rd August 1894 in Buenos Aires, Argentina. He was a very likeable and charming lad and threw himself into school life. He was a chorister, a prefect and he played cricket and rugby at a level which won him colours in 1912. He then embraced the school's ethos of 'service beyond self' and served in the Royal Army Medical Corps in World War One. He survived, got married, became a food importer and lived until 1960.



Here is Eric rallying the crowds on the touchline at a rugby match.



The very first whole school photo-taken in 1907. Eric is in the centre group in front of the Chapel West door (dressed in choir robes) front row, right.

Thank you Eric - you are a true Georgian role model.

NEWS FROM THE ST. GEORGE'S MUSIC SOCIETY CHOIR: COME AND JOIN US!



St George's Music Society Choir (or MusSoc) is one of the oldest societies in the school with its origins dating back to the 1910's. It was founded as a non-auditioned choir open to all parents/carers of pupils at the school, and staff. The choir is still going and it is still non-auditioned and meets for rehearsals on a Tuesday evening during term time from 7.00 pm until 8.15 pm in the Old Library.

The choir sings regularly through the year at various concerts and services, most recently singing Haydn's Nelson Mass and Vivaldi's Gloria as part of a massed choir in a concert at Our Lady of Lourdes, Harpenden back in June. This term the choir is preparing music for a Remembrance service at St Leonard's, Flamstead on Saturday 9th November and for the Georgian Carol service on Saturday 14th December in the school Chapel.

We are currently recruiting new members and if you enjoy singing and are interested in joining then please come along to the Old Library on a Tuesday evening, you will be most welcome.

If you require any further information then please contact the choir's director, Russell Tucker at: rtucker@stgeorges.herts.sch.uk

MAINTAINING OUR STANDARDS

Next week we are reminding students of our expectations around uniform. Please support us by ensuring that your young person leaves home each morning with the correct uniform. Thank you.

Focus on... **UNIFORM BASICS**

- Shirts must be tucked in (except the revere collared ones)
- Skirts should be an appropriate length
- Jumpers should only be worn WITH a blazer and not instead of
- If you are wearing a tie, it needs to be long enough and your top button must be done up



KINDNESS

Smile and comply if a teacher asks you to correct your uniform

POSITIVITY

We have high standards and take pride in our appearance

THANKS FROM THE SENDCo Miss Linsell

Thank you to everyone who attended the SEN coffee morning on the 1st October. It was lovely to see you all. We hope to see you all again at the next one in the Spring Term on **12th February**. If there is anything specific you would like us to cover or you'd like more support with, please do drop your ideas to Mrs Hines at: vhines@stgeorges.herts.sch.uk. We will continue to share information with you that we receive in the bulletin, so please keep an eye out for that. This week we are advertising the coffee mornings held by DPSL7 (attached at the end of the newsletter).

THIS WEEK'S SPOTLIGHT: Supporting our students' mental health

We are extremely lucky to have a dedicated team in school to support students with their mental health. It is estimated that currently, 1 in 6 young people nationally need some additional support.

In school, we have a Senior Mental Health Lead, who works on whole school strategies (Mrs Robertson) and a Senior Mental Health Lead (Mrs McCarney-Redford) who oversees pastoral

care in Student Services. Mrs Grainger is also a Mental Health Lead and she is based in Student Services and supports students who need some time out or immediate support.

Each house has its own Pastoral Support Assistant who are also trained in mental health and work with students in their house, building up relationships and giving students strategies to help them support themselves.

If you are concerned about the mental health of your young person, please let us know as there is support that we can put in place for them as well as signposting additional support to you and referrals.

Please contact Mrs Grainger or Mrs McCarney-Redford if you would like to talk about your young person:

lmccarney-redford@stgeorges.herts.sch.uk

hgrainger@stgeorges.herts.sch.uk

PICKING UP AND DROPPING OFF

Could we take this opportunity to gently remind all parents that roads around the school site are very busy at the beginning and end of the school day with around 1400 pupils coming and going. As such, the Aim Higher entrance should not be used by parents/carers either before or after the school day.

We do allow parents to drop students off at the Goddard coach bay before school but please do so carefully with many students crossing the road near that area. Parents/carers are not allowed to collect students from the Goddard coach bay straight after school.

Where students need to be collected, we would ask that you arrange to meet them a safe distance away from the school whilst being respectful to our neighbours. Please avoid Pigeonwick in particular.

If there is a reason why your child needs to be picked up from the Goddard coach bay then please contact their Head of House so that we can issue you with a pass to show to staff supervising this area. Please do respect our staff who are there to protect all our young people. Thank you for your help here in ensuring that our site is safe for all.

News from the Art Dept.



Year 12 Art Trip to the Tate Modern



...follow us for more inspiring Art  @st.georges.art.dept

Our Year 12 Art trip, last Friday, to the Tate Modern in London was an inspiring and enriching experience. Though the day started with a cloudy sky, the weather soon turned sunny, reflecting the bright mood of the group. A group of 71 took the train to Blackfriars and walked along the Southbank to the gallery, all our A Level Art students came on the trip. On arriving at the Tate, we were greeted by its iconic, towering structure and vast turbine hall, setting the tone for the remarkable artworks that awaited us inside.

The exhibitions were both challenging and evocative. Pieces by contemporary artists sparked deep discussions, we were particularly struck by an installation that played with light and shadow, evoking emotions of isolation and wonder. The abstract and conceptual works left us contemplating the power of simplicity and narrative in art. It was clear that the Tate Modern's collection pushed boundaries and forced us to think critically about the world around us.

After a day of absorbing creativity, we ended our trip with a delightful evening meal at a nearby Greek restaurant. The atmosphere was relaxed, filled with conversation about the artworks we'd seen and we enjoyed sharing the delicious meze style food. It was the perfect way to wrap up a memorable day.

Mrs C. Turner- Head of Art



NEXT WEEK'S EVENTS:

Mon 7th Sept	It's week 2! INSET for all staff Boarders return 6.00 to 8.00 p.m. UCAS predictions discussion appointments in the Sixth Form
Tue 8th Sept	
Wed 9th Sept	Flu nasal vaccinations year 7 to 9 in Old Library Boarders' Senior Dinner from 6.00 p.m. Briefing Evening for Y11 Berlin Trip 7.30 p.m. in the Chapel
Thus 10th Sept	Flu nasal vaccinations year 10 and 11 - Old Library LAX Senior County tournament at Berkhamsted - 1st, 2nds and 3rds.
Fri 11th sept	Lax V Habs - all teams (away) Rugby V Stamford School: U13A and B; U12 A and B (Home) Rugby V Watford Grammar: U14A and B; 2nd, U16A and B; U15A and B (Away).
Sat 12th Sept	
Sun 13th Sept	

NEWS FROM THE PSA



A message from the organisers:

This year the St George's Mistletoe and Lantern Christmas Ball is on Saturday 30th November.

Every year, parents and carers are incredibly generous with their donations for the auction and the money raised goes straight back into the school funds to purchase things that students directly benefit from. The Ball raises an extraordinary amount of money; much of that comes from our Auction. Can you help support us with lots for this?

Do you have something to offer that money cannot buy? Or a holiday home that you'd rent out

for a week (you can stipulate conditions). Or can you offer work experience at an amazing place for our students or an amazing experience? Maybe even tickets to a sporting event.

Please could you consider what you may be able to offer or who in your wider circle of contacts you could approach for that unique 'money can't buy' prize and help us reach a record amount this year.

If you can help in any way please email:

suzannahgoodchild@hotmail.com or orourke.sarah77@gmail.com

NOTICES

Free Webinar for parents and carers of Year 10 and 11 to reduce stress and help students to learn

Event Details: "*The Secret to GCSE Success*" Webinar

Thursday, 3rd October 2024, 7-8pm

Hosted by Emily Hughes, author of the 'GCSE Survival Guide for Parents' and founder of Parent Guide to GCSE, this webinar will equip parents with the tools they need to help their children prepare for GCSEs without the stress. Emily is a well-known expert on teen parenting, frequently featured in the media, and her practical, easy-to-implement advice has helped countless families navigate the GCSE journey.

The webinar will cover essential topics such as:

- Why starting now makes all the difference.
- Revision tips and strategies that save time.
- The parent's role in supporting GCSE success.
- Motivating teens to stay on track without overwhelming them.
- A Q&A session to address specific questions from parents.

Replay is available. Parents who cannot attend the live event will have access to a replay, as long as they've registered. Please click the link below to register:

<https://events.parentguidetoeducation.com/secret-to-gcse-success>



HERTFORDSHIRE BEE YOU



Understanding Autism and ADHD

For ages 11-16 years, the weekly topics are:

Session 1: What is autism and ADHD? What strengths does this bring us?

Session 2: Executive Functioning

Session 3: Friendships & Relationships

Session 4: Emotional Regulation

Session 5: Female Puberty

Session 6: Male Puberty

Session 7: Body Scanning, how am I feeling?

Session 8: Managing School

Session 9: Masking / Internal Presentation

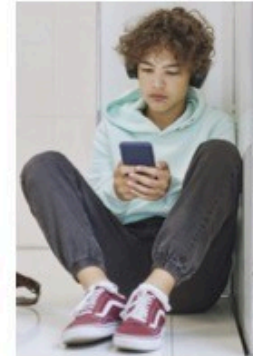
Session 10: Myth Busting – what do people expect from me?

Scan the QR code to complete the contact form for a referral and further information.

Email hertsbeeyou@autismoxford.org.uk if you require further assistance.



Are you concerned about the mental health issues of children and young people in Harpenden?



Dr. Alison Cowan* will explain how support to navigate their way through the challenges can lead to a better future at a

PUBLIC MEETING 7.30pm

Thursday October 17

Katherine Warrington School

*from NHS Hertfordshire and West Essex ICB Hertfordshire
Children and Young Persons Mental Health GP Clinical lead.

**Reserve your
seat via
our web site**



Registered Charity 278154

www.harpendensociety.org



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Pioneer
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Services for
Young People

Emotionally Based School Anxiety Coffee mornings

These EBSA coffee mornings are for parents/ carers with a child in years 5-6 at primary school or years 7-11 at secondary school, who are not attending school because of EBSA issues. This event is being run by DSPL7 with Services for Young People, and **young people are also welcome to attend**. This is a drop-in session with no need to book



Coffee mornings take place at the **The Pioneer Club, Heathlands Drive, St Albans, Hertfordshire, AL3 5AY**, at the community cafe, Suet Yard. Sessions run from 9:30 - 11:30am on the following dates:

Dates	
Tuesday 8th October 2024	Tuesday 11th March 2025
Thursday 21st November 2024	Wednesday 14th May 2025
Wednesday 22nd January 2025	Thursday 19th June 2025



admin@dspl7.org.uk



01727 519229



www.dspl7.org.uk



Delivering Special
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SEND Coffee Mornings

DSPL7 & Vista St Albans are hosting coffee mornings with a School and SEND Family Worker to help support parents / carers of children with Special Educational Needs and Disabilities, diagnosed or not. This is an informal and safe place for parents / carers to share information and chat. The DSPL7 SEND Lead will also be available for discussions. There is no need to book to attend the drop in.

Dates: 9th Oct, 27th Nov, 29th Jan, 19th March, 7th May & 25th June

Time: 9:15 - 11:00am

Venue: The Hub, Fleetville Junior School, 228 Hatfield Road, St Albans, AL1 4LW. The Hub is to the right hand side of the school building at the bottom of the car park. **There is no parking available onsite, but 3 hours free parking is available nearby in Morrisons supermarket.**

Appointments

Running alongside our coffee mornings, there is also the opportunity to reserve a 20-30 minute appointment to speak to the following professionals between 9:30am - 12:00pm.

To book an appointment:

Please email
admin@dspl7.org.uk

Dates	Professionals attending
9th October	Elaine Bridle - ADHD
27th November	Collette Garland - EBSA
29th January	Lyndsey Hooper - Mental Health Support Team
19th March	Faye Den Heijer - Ask Sali
7th May	Clare Tominey-Smith - Challenging behaviour at home
25th June	Niamh Cooper - First Steps ED

Vista contact details: 01727 519128 vistastalbans@gmail.com www.vistastalbans.org.uk
DSPL7 contact details: 01727 519229 admin@dspl7.org.uk www.dspl7.org.uk

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Ages 12-25**

CHALLENGE YOURSELF
BE MORE ACTIVE
IMPROVE YOUR SKILLS
MAKE NEW FRIENDS

MONDAYS:

Harpenden Hub | 6pm - 7pm
(Starting 7 October 2024)
Harpenden Leisure Centre,
Harpenden AL5 2HU

SATURDAYS:

Watford Hub | 11am - 12pm
(Starting 12 October 2024)
Meriden Community Centre,
Watford WD25 9ET

SUNDAYS:

Hatfield Hub | 10am - 11.30am
(Starting 13 October 2024)
Chancellors School,
Hatfield AL9 7BN

CONTACT:

Luke Heskett
luke.heskett@hertscricket.org

HRFC FIREWORKS NIGHT

SUNDAY 3RD NOVEMBER

**BIGGER AND BETTER
FIREWORKS -
FROM AWARD WINNING
DISPLAY TEAM**



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