

St. George's School Newsletter

Friday 7th March 2025



From the Head

World Book Week at St George's

One day was simply not enough! At St George's, we have embraced a full week of celebrating books, stories, and the joy of reading. There have been activities in lessons, reading for homework and lots of events taking place in the library; our pupils have immersed themselves in the power of words.

Reading is more than just a skill - it is a gateway to imagination, empathy, and lifelong learning. Through books, our pupils step into the lives of others, broaden their perspectives, and develop a deeper understanding of the world. Research also shows that reading for pleasure has significant benefits for wellbeing, reducing stress and enhancing emotional resilience.

As adults, we play a crucial role in fostering a love of reading. Whether it is sharing a favourite book, talking about what we are reading, or simply making time to read ourselves; modelling good reading habits has a lasting impact on our young people.

I would like to thank colleagues from across the School for their enthusiasm and creativity in making this week such a success. You can read more about what has been happening below - happy reading!

International Women's Day – A Shared Responsibility

This Saturday, 8 March, is International Women's Day - a moment to celebrate how far the fight for women's equality has come, but also a day to take stock of what still needs to be achieved. As the UN says, "This is more than a celebration – it's a call to action."

At St George's, we believe that the messages children receive - both at home and at school - shape their understanding of the world and their place in it. The way we talk about women and men, the role models we highlight, and the expectations we set all contribute to the future our young people will inherit.

While much has changed for the better, barriers still exist. Women continue to be underrepresented in leadership, face gender pay gaps, and experience bias - conscious or unconscious - in all walks of life. As teachers and parents, we have a shared responsibility to ensure that every child grows up believing in their own potential and respecting the aspirations of others.

This week, I encourage us all to reflect on the messages we pass on to our children. Whether it's through the stories we tell, the careers we celebrate, or the everyday conversations we have, we each have a role in shaping a fairer and equitable future.

Thank you for your ongoing partnership in this vital work

Inter-House Drama

This week, we enjoyed watching four houses performing on stage in House Drama led by the Drama Captains. The plays were a diverse mixture of comedy, fantasy, mystery and murder with everyone on stage looking like they were thoroughly enjoying themselves. House Tech teams also ran the lighting and sound for their houses.

Last night, our adjudicator, Jamie Davis, had the difficult task of awarding house points and the results are (drum roll please):

- 1st - Goddard with 'Education, Education, Education'
- 2nd - Watts with 'Alice in Wonderland'
- 3rd - Monk with 'The Patient'
- 4th - Grant with 'Whitney Darling'.

Best Director went to Denise T in Watts.

The results were very close indeed so congratulations to all students who took part. We know how much time, effort and energy our students put into their house events.



World Book Week (3rd – 7th March)

We have been running an array of exciting events in the Library this week to celebrate World Book Week. Activities have included 'Guess the Book in the Jar', a student (and staff) book swap and 'First Line of a Book Quiz'.

There has also been a tutor base emoji book quiz running all week, which is definitely going to be a closely run contest! Thanks to all those students who participated this week, especially to those who brought along books for the book swap. It's been great to hear students discussing and recommending their favourite books to each other.



Scholastic Book Fair (10th – 14th March)

Advance notice that the Library will be hosting its annual book fair next week. Students will be able to browse the fair at break, lunchtimes and also during any lessons booked into the Library. As usual, there will be a brilliant selection of books and stationery, so please encourage students to come along and have a look. Your support is much appreciated as the Library receives commission on any sales, so it's a great opportunity to stock the Library with new titles.

MFL Theatrical Experiences

After the success of the Spanish play at the beginning of February in the past few weeks our French and German students have also enjoyed some amazing language immersion experiences with two more plays – *Prendre Sa Revanche* and *Auf dem Campingplatz*. There were lots of opportunities for the students to get involved on stage and it was great to see them getting into character and delivering lines on stage. We hope to invite Onatti Productions – www.Onatti.co.uk back to St George's again next year. Thank you to all parents and guardians for your support in enabling this to happen.



Fri 5 Programme

As part of our whole school Personal Development Strategy, we run a series of tutor-led sessions and talks and activities for the whole school during period 5 on Friday - hence its nickname 'Fri 5' (and sometimes naughtily referred to as 'Cake Friday').

This term so far, students in different year groups have had talks on challenging harassment and misogyny, student leadership, consent, online safety, careers, apprenticeships, exam preparation, discipline policy and drugs, sextortion, homelessness, option choices and revision skills.

In addition to this, tutor-led sessions have included railway safety, positive mind-set, study skills, revision skills, internet safety, World Book Week, Book Club and Careers Week.

Today, all tutor bases have been involved in Pupil Voice Week which is run termly by our Senior Prefect Team and enables and encourages all students to participate in student feedback. The Prefect Team select the focus

of each Pupil Voice and they then present the ideas and feedback to the Leadership Team for discussion and consideration.

Ask your children what they did today in Friday 5.

PSA Paint Day – Saturday 15th March

Are you free on Saturday 15th March? We need your help! We are looking for as many volunteers as possible to pick up a paintbrush and freshen up our classrooms. Our painting days happen twice a year and make a huge difference to the school, helping to maintain a bright, inviting spaces for children and teachers. It's amazing what a bit of paint and a team effort can do - it really is very rewarding.

- No painting experience required.
- We'll provide all the equipment plus plenty of refreshments.
- There are four available time slots between 9am and 4pm.
Even if you can only spare an hour or two, every bit of your help is genuinely appreciated.

Students are welcome to accompany their parents.

After the last session of the day, we'll pop to the local pub for a well-earned drink. All helpers are welcome - and the first drink is on the PSA! Click on the link to sign up! <http://bit.ly/4i46lWS>



A Flying Visit from our MP to talk about the impact of online activities

This morning, our local MP, Victoria Collins, dropped in to talk to some of our year 12 and 13 students about their experiences online. She was keen to understand the impact of online activity on young people in our community and is touring local schools running "Safe Screens Listening Tour" sessions. Students talked openly about smartphones, online safety, social media, and their impact on mental health and wellbeing and staff also got the opportunity to feed back some of the challenges that schools face today.

Year 11 and Year 13 Leavers' Hoodies

The deadline to purchase these is tomorrow – Saturday 8th March. Please visit Tyler's website [year 11](#) or [year 13](#) Please select 'Collection from Tylers' at the Delivery Method page. On checkout, please add your child's House and Tutor group to the comments section. Thank you.

Netball News

The Senior Netball squad were outstanding against Samuel Ryder on Wednesday 5th March and won 37-31. The match was played with both a highly competitive spirit, yet well-mannered which was commented on by Samuel Ryder's PE staff.

The girls led in all four quarters by a small margin but secured their victory with a solid final quarter....we even burst the netball in doing so!

Well done to all and a special mention goes to Ella B who played out of position and was awarded player of the match.



This week we had two U12 netball teams play against Samuel Ryder. Both teams were a mix of new players so they started off slowly learning how each other played. The Bs worked well as a team and communicated throughout finishing the match 9-7 to us! The A team's match was fast paced with the girls passing smoothly and getting into clear space, however SRA pulled away finishing the match 8-5 to them. MVPs were Madeleine and Olivia!



Well done to everyone who played! They were both hard matches, especially with both teams switching up on the day.

Have you considered a career in teaching?

If so, St. George's is able to help you! We are a member of the Alban Teaching School Hub who provides initial teacher training offered by the National Institute of Teaching.

We are hosting a 'get into teaching' event on Wednesday 2nd April. You will be able to meet key staff, observe some teaching, and have the opportunity to ask any questions that you may have.

If you would like to attend this event, please email Mr Clark aclark@stgeorges.herts.sch.uk stating which subject you would be interested in teaching.

Junior (Y7 and 8) games will be played 9am - 11am

Inters (Y9 and 10) and Senior (Y 11,12,13) will be played 11:30 - 1:30

SUPER SATURDAY

SATURDAY 22ND MARCH

Inter House Lax and Rugby

Hog Roast
Tea/coffee
Soft drinks
Tour Fundraising
Lax stick sales

SPDOF '25

21/03/25

MUSICAL ICONS

**Tickets will be sold on 7th March at 16:00 on Parent Pay.
Year 7, 8, 9 and 13 will have priority on a first come first serve basis.

WHAT IS SPDOF?

SPDOF is the Senior Prefect Day of Fun! It's the 2024-2025 Prefect's last event and all the money raised goes to charity! It's a performance prepared by the Prefects to entertain the School (and even some of your favourite teachers), full of songs from your favourite musical icons. Book a ticket to see what other artists may make an appearance that aren't on this poster!

WHICH CHARITY ARE WE SUPPORTING?

Herts Young Homelessness supports young people in Hertfordshire at risk of homelessness. They offer emergency accommodation, housing advice, personalized support, outreach, education, life-skills training and access to necessities.

SPDOF Tickets £5

Non- Uniform: £2

ABBA

THE LARGEST SELLING GROUP
IN THE HISTORY
OF RECORDED MUSIC



Spring Term Parent Support Series

Free Parent Webinars

Join us and Elevate Education for FREE. 60-minute webinars designed to help you support your child's studies at home.

Scan the QR code to register.



In the Spring Term, we'll cover:

1. **How to Help Your Child Improve Their Note Taking**
- 23rd January @6:00pm
2. **How You Can Make Technology an Ally (& Not the Enemy!)**
- 6th February @6:00pm
3. **How You Can Help Your Child Prepare for Exams**
- 13th March @6:00pm
4. **How You Can Support Your Child During Exams**
- 25th March @6:00pm

elevate
EDUCATION

healthwatch
Hertfordshire

Smiles of the future

Parents and carers' perspectives on children's oral health

We're looking to hear from parents and carers about their experiences with children's dental care. Whether you take your child regularly to the dentist or struggle to get an appointment, we want to understand what's working and what's not.

Your feedback will help improve services and make dental care more accessible for families!

<https://www.smartsurvey.co.uk/s/HWHOral-health/>

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