

St. George's School Newsletter

Friday 8th November 2024



News from the Head

Schools play an important role in helping each generation understand the mistakes of the past. This week in chapel, pupils have sat among the shadows of those Old Georgians who lost their lives in the two world wars. It is a poignant reminder that these wars had a direct impact on our community, taking away young men and women who, like our students today, held bright futures. We tell these stories not to glory in what took place, but to help ensure that we never make the same mistakes again.



This is, indeed, a season where remembrance takes on a central role in our lives. Whether it is in honouring the saints and our departed loved ones on All Saints' and All Souls' Days, recalling "the 5th of November," or in the solemn commemoration of those who made the ultimate sacrifice on Remembrance Day, we are reminded of the weight of history.

Unpacking these events in school can lead to questions at home, but this is important as we remember so that we can move forwards. I was moved by the simple tribute in our chapel this week, where a Perspex figure and small plaque reminded pupils of the sacrifices made. I look forward to seeing many of you on Sunday for our act of remembrance in the chapel and at the town centre. On Monday, the whole school will come together to mark this moment.

Lest we forget

Remembrance Events

Service Sunday 10th 9.30 a.m.

Our annual Remembrance Service focuses on remembering those OGs who fell in the First and Second World War and the stories around their sacrifice. Our service will be held at **9.30 a.m.** (instead of the normal 10.00 a.m.) and we aim to finish by 10.30 a.m. and encourage parents/carers and students to join with the other churches and uniformed organisations in the town at the memorial at 11.00 a.m. (after our service). Please ensure your child comes early for the service and is seated by **9.20 a.m.** This is a serious and solemn service and therefore we will not let people come into chapel late! You are also welcome to join us in this special service.



Remembrance Service on Monday

Our senior students have been selling poppies all week and on Monday 11th November at 11.00 a.m. we will gather as a whole school in the MUGA for a joint Remembrance service, last post and reading of the names of the fallen. It is a very moving moment for everyone.

The library has displays of war-related books (fiction and non-fiction) to encourage students to learn more about war and how it impacts every one of all nations.



Set Sail for Treasure Island

This November, the St George's Drama Department want to take you on a perilous journey across the high seas as they go in search of hidden treasure. On the 19th, 20th and 21st of this month, students from years 10 to 13 will be presenting their production of Robert Louis Stevenson's, 'Treasure Island'.

The cast is made up of our A-level and GCSE students, who've been in rehearsals since September, navigating their craft, in this upper school production that promises, laughter, swashbuckling adventure and a tiny bit of skulduggery.

Please come and join us for a fabulous evening of entertainment and excitement. The show starts at 7.00 p.m. and runs for about 2 hours and 20 minutes which includes a 20-minute interval. Tickets cost £5.00 and are available on Parent Pay.

Dates for your Diary

Monday 11th

Inter-house Chess begins
Y13 Rotary Mock Interviews in the
Town Hall 6.15 to 9.15 p.m.

Tuesday 12th

PPR Day Evening for year 8 parents in
the assembly hall at 7.30 to 9.00 p.m.

Wednesday 13th

Berlin History Trip departs
Inter-school Geography Quiz at RPS

Saturday 16th

LAX v Caterham – all teams at home
Rugby v St. Albans – 1st, 2nd, U14A/B,
U13A/B – away.
U16A/B, U15 A/B, U14A/B,
U12A/B/C/D - home

Sunday 17th

Communion Chapel 6.00 p.m.

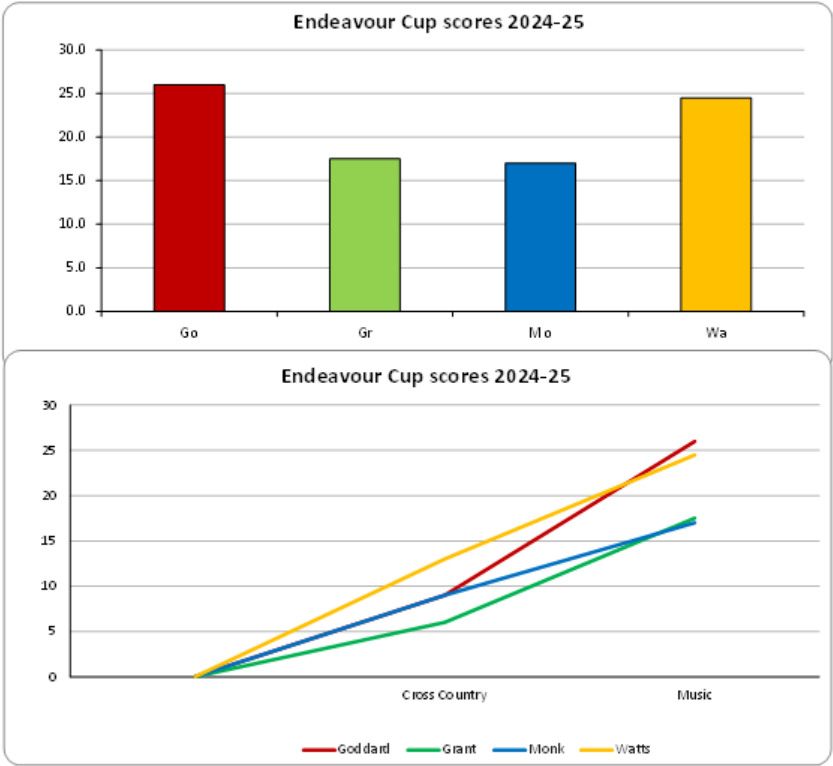
Year 7 Parents Evening Feedback Opportunity

We are looking forward to seeing you on the 27th November and would like to use this opportunity to gain parent and carer feedback about the transition period; how well your young person has settled in and how things are going for them. Our Sub-prefects will be approaching you to complete a short survey on an iPad so please do take a few minutes to take part. Thanks.

Scores on the Endeavour Cup Doors

So how is your house doing? Goddard are in an early lead closely followed by Watts but it is early days and there are many events left. Every child is encouraged to take part in house competitions and there are events which everyone in the house can take part so please help them to get involved.

	Go	Gr	Mo	Wa
Cross Country	9	6	9	13
Music	17	11.5	8	11.5
Boys' Football				
Chess				
Art				
Badminton				
Swimming				
Debating				
Drama				
Basketball				
Netball				
Rugby				
Lacrosse				
Photography				
Girls' Football				
Quiz				
Cricket				
Rounders				
Tennis				
Dance				
Sports Day				
Total	26.0	17.5	17.0	24.5



Anti-Bullying Week 11th to 18th November

Every year we take part in the national anti-bullying campaign run by the Anti-bullying Alliance to raise awareness about how students can stand up to bullying; how to report it and how to support those on the receiving end of any type of negative behaviour. To be fair, our students are already pretty great at doing this already.



This year, the focus of the campaign is 'Choose Respect' and it promotes the conversation around how to handle disagreements and differences of opinion without resorting to bullying. The idea is to support each other to champion kindness, because being kind is not a sign of weakness but a mark of strength.

Next week, there will be assemblies, PSHE lessons, Friday 5 talks (the police are coming in to talk about cyberbullying), activities at lunch times, displays and stickers and most importantly 'Odd Sock Day' on Tuesday 12th. There will be prizes for the most outlandish odd sock combination so do encourage your young person to take part.

We encourage all our students to be upstanders and to report any unkindness or negative behaviour towards others. Please get in touch with your Head of House if you have a concern or contact the safeguarding team: safeguardign@stgeorges.herts.sch.uk

Debating News

Just before half-term, we hosted Loreto - with 16 debaters in our squad. It was a fantastic event and kicked off this year's set of fixtures.

Next Monday, we host the other Harpenden schools in the Old Library for Round 6 of the Harpenden Schools Debate Competition and later this month, we travel to Berkhamsted for a fixture, as well as taking two teams to compete in the rotary competition.

Debate club is back this week (every Thursday) and we look forward to seeing more students enjoying developing their skills over the coming months.



This Week's Spotlight: Extra-curricular Opportunities

We offer a wide range of extra-curricular clubs and activities and it is a great way for students to learn a new skill or develop a new hobby but it is also great for students to make new friends and develop their social skills.

Please encourage your young people to get involved. This term's programme is here: [extra-curricular clubs schedule](#)

Electrical Issue today

We had a small electronic fire in a computer unit in the library today, with the fire brigade attending with one engine.

Both pupils and staff handled the situation very well and it was good to see that our students followed instructions carefully and our recent drill ensured everyone knew the correct procedure.

Fortunately, it was a minor incident and no further harm was caused.

Super Curricular Activities

We are super keen to encourage our students to try new things which will stretch and inspire them. Below are a few suggestions from Mrs Dodds, who is our lead in this area.

Sutton Trust Pathways to Consulting programme Year 12

Aimed at students interested in Business, Economics, problem solving, project management, or politics. Students who are accepted onto the 18-month programme will receive:

- Work Experience Placements and networking opportunities with top tier firms.
- Employability Skills Training in presenting, communication and problem solving.
- Higher Education Access support, such as a personal statement building tool and free A-level tutoring.

The deadline to apply is Monday 11th November. To apply use the link:

<https://pathways.suttontrust.com/>

Medic Mentor - Get into Medicine/ Dentistry; Online Conferences for Years 9 to 13

These conferences are suitable for any student aged 14 or above, from any school or background, who is interested in becoming a doctor or a dentist. The dates are:

- Saturday 9th November from 9:30am - 3:30pm
- Saturday 23rd November from 9:30am - 3:30pm
- Sunday 24th November from 9:30am - 3:30pm

To register use the link: <https://airtable.com/appgXnyzN5ZD9lwk6/shry7MZYtt3MGPjvO>

Get into Dentistry Conference

Sunday 1st December from 9:30am - 3:30pm

To register use the link: <https://airtable.com/appgXnyzN5ZD9lwk6/shrBuiR7SBACc19kE>

The conferences will provide tailored advice, covering essential topics such as:

- Application Timelines
- How to Tactically Choose Medical/Dental Schools
- CV Building
- Personal Statements - New format from 2026
- Medical/Dental School Interviews
- UCAT - Entrance Exams to Medical/Dental School
- Medical Leadership and Awards Programmes
- Accessing Work Experience
- Accessing Scholarships

Students will be awarded a certificate of attendance, which can be listed on their UCAS applications for 'activities that support higher education'.

Invest-IN free webinars – Years 9 to 13

InvestIN's webinar series offers resources for both students and their parents. They are designed to support students in exploring the world of work and equipping parents with the tools to guide them. All events are led by industry experts and are free to attend.

Each webinar takes place at 6.00 p.m. If you are unable to attend live we would still recommend registering in order to receive the event recording and relevant resources.

Tuesday 19th November:	Breaking into the Creative Arts	Breaking into Psychology
Wednesday 20th November:	Breaking into Medicine	Breaking into Banking
Thursday 21st November:	Breaking into Law	Breaking into Engineering

To register use the link: [Invest- Free webinars](#)

Springboard – Virtual Work Experience Years 9 to 13

To find out more use the link: <https://www.springpod.com/virtual-work-experience>

If your child attends any of these online events, Mrs Dodds would be grateful for your feedback: jdodds@stgeorges.herts.sch.uk

Financial Assistance

There are several local charities that may be able to assist families who meet their criteria and provide financial assistance towards school-related costs, e.g. uniform, trips, etc.

Harpenden Trust: The Harpenden Trust has a Care Fund that supports families and young people in need within Harpenden (AL5 postcode). Families are helped on a confidential basis. Contact details can be found on their [website](#).

James Marshall Foundation: The James Marshall Foundation can assist with the cost of school uniform, educational residential trips, extracurricular activities, study books and career development.

If you live in Harpenden, Flamstead, Kimpton, Markyate, Redbourn or Wheathampstead, you can apply to the JMF for financial assistance by filling out their [online application form](#).

Redbourn Community Group: This group helps individuals and families in the local community where there is a specific need, e.g. educational school trips. More details can be found on their [website](#).

Wheathampstead Community Group: This community organisation supports local families in many ways, e.g. help with study equipment, food costs during school holidays, making up the shortfall for a school trip, etc. If you would like practical or financial support, contact the [Community Secretary](#) for advice.

Notices and Information

The logo is circular with a black border. Inside the border, the text "ST GEORGE'S" is at the top and "LACROSSE & RUGBY TOUR" is at the bottom. In the center, there are two lacrosse sticks flanking a lacrosse ball. Above the ball, the year "2025" is written.

We have organised a Bag2School collection in order to raise funds for the 2025 Lacrosse & Rugby Tour to Canada & USA.

As well as raising funds for the Tour, it also helps the environment by helping to divert good quality unwanted textiles away from landfill.

Sort through your cupboards & wardrobes and donate good quality unwanted textiles in any large bin bags then bring to school during morning drop-off.

Bags can include adults' & children's clothes, shoes (tied together please), hats, belts scarves & handbags.

**Bring your bags to Goddard Coach Bay
8:00-8:30am; Mon-Thur 18th-21st November**

The logo features a blue cartoon bag with a face and arms, next to the text "BAG 2 SCHOOL" in bold black letters.



Delivering Special
Provision Locally

SEND Coffee Mornings

DSPL7 & Vista St Albans+ host coffee mornings where School and SEND Family Workers are available to support parents / carers of children with SEND regardless of a diagnosis. This is an informal and safe place for parents / carers to share information and chat. The DSPL7 SEND Lead and other professionals may also be available for discussions. There is no need to book to attend this drop in session

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 support
29th January	Lyndsey Hooper - Mental Health Support Team
19th March	Thelma Mugovera - 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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**The
Pioneer
Club**
REGISTERED CHARITY NO. 362455



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

Vaping and under 18-year-olds

- It is illegal to sell vapes containing nicotine to children under 18, or for adults to buy them on their behalf.
- Their developing lungs and brains mean they are more sensitive to its effects.
- Some cheap, illegal vapes may contain heavy metals and dangerous chemicals, and even illegal drugs.
- Lithium-ion batteries in vaping devices can overheat and explode, causing fires.
- If you find a retailer selling either nicotine vapes or tobacco products to under-18s, you can report them via the Citizens Advice online portal



Report sales to children
(under 18)

[www.citizensadvice.org.uk/
consumer/get-more-help/
report-to-trading-standards/](https://www.citizensadvice.org.uk/consumer/get-more-help/report-to-trading-standards/)