

St. George's School Newsletter

Friday 10th January 2025



From the Head

It has been wonderful to welcome pupils and colleagues back to school this week as we begin a new term. With a busy and important few months ahead, there is much for every child to focus on and strive towards.

This week, I had the privilege of awarding my first set of Headteacher Commendations. These special awards are given to pupils nominated by their tutors, recognising a wide range of achievements and qualities. Recipients are presented with a badge and bookmark and spend a few moments with me to reflect on their success. I have been deeply impressed by the pupils themselves - humble, eloquent, and fascinating to speak with - and equally inspired by the diverse reasons for which they were commended.

Some pupils have been recognised for remarkable journeys of progress, overcoming challenges with determination and perseverance. Others have been acknowledged for their consistent effort over time, doing the fundamentals well—an achievement well worth celebrating. And there are those whose outstanding contributions to the school demanded recognition, whether that's academic excellence, approach to learning, participation in our co-curricular programme, or acts of kindness and support towards others.

Presenting these commendations has served as a powerful reminder of the breadth and depth of this extraordinary school. Together we are nurturing and developing remarkable young people—each on their own unique journey, each contributing to the fabric of our school in their own special way.

Road Safety

Thank you if you are one of the parents who have shared concerns about the road safety around the school site. Unfortunately, the school has no real jurisdiction over the area beyond our boundaries. We have written to the council on several occasions with minimal success. We will continue to try but **YOU CAN HELP...**

- ★ If you see a specific safety issue (dirty damaged or obstructed signage, faded road markings, poor or ill functioning lighting, overgrown trees/hedges, etc) please **report the dangers to the council here:** [Hertfordshire.gov.uk - Report a problem](https://www.hertfordshire.gov.uk/report-a-problem) ...we have been told that multiple reports will increase the chance of action.
- ★ Please encourage your young person(s) to
 - Always use designated pedestrian crossings and look both ways before stepping onto the road.
 - Avoid distractions such as mobile phones or headphones when near traffic.
 - Be mindful and considerate of other pedestrians, being sensible and giving space.

We have also put up a 'no right turn sign' at our exit at Musicale. This is one way we are really trying to reduce traffic issues and risk our students. Please use it!

This Week's Behaviour Curriculum Focus

What it means to be a Georgian



Obvious **KINDNESS**
We go above and beyond for others

Obvious **POSITIVITY**
We always strive to be optimistic and resilient

A reminder... SCHOOL DURING EXAMS

- Year 13 exams will be taking place over the next few weeks - we all need to play our part to support students sitting exams
- Keep an eye out for signs outside exam areas. If it asks for silence, be silent. Remember exams are not only in the hall but all over the site!
- Encourage your friends to also be quiet around exam areas
- One-way systems may be in place to move footfall away from exam areas. Please follow them quickly and without fuss

KINDNESS
Empathise with those sitting exam and behaviour considerably

POSITIVITY
Wish Year 13s luck if you see them waiting for an exam

As the year 13 mocks begin, we remind students to be mindful of those exam areas and the need to be quiet.

Year Eight Parents and Carers Feedback Evening

We warmly invite Year 8 parents and carers to sign-up for an online feedback evening on Tuesday 4th February, via Teams. Your feedback is really important to us and we are keen to listen to your thoughts and ideas about different aspects of school life. The evening will commence at 7.00 p.m. until 8.00 p.m. and you will get the opportunity to talk to different members of the Senior Leadership Team in breakout rooms on topics such as the curriculum, teaching and learning, communication, pastoral care and student leadership.

We hope to get a range of voices in each group, reflective of the student body, and have used the online system to enable more people to attend.

If you would like to take part in the evening, please use the QR code [or this link to register your interest](#) and we will inform you of more details. Please be aware that places are limited.

Thank you.



Snow Plans!

This time of year means there is an increasing likelihood of snow with potential disruption over the coming weeks.

On a snow day the school may have one of two responses:

- a) "A staggered start" is when we move the opening of school to a later point in the day. This usually means a start time of 9.40 a.m. allowing us time to register students with teaching commencing from period 2. The staggered start gives our site team time to make the site safe; allows for staff and students to travel in daylight. This option may be in the first instance, with a decision on full closure coming at a later time.
- b) We close. If this is the first day of closure, we normally allow for some recreational time in the morning (who doesn't like building something out of snow!) with some online learning being provided from 11.15 a.m. onwards (i.e. from period 3). On the first day this may be more creative; if closure is looking like it will be for a longer period of time; more in depth learning will be provided.

Early closure

If we experience a heavy snowfall during the school day, which may be deep enough to determine that by staying open we are at risk of pupils and staff not being able to get home safely, we may close school early.

So with these ideas in mind can we encourage you to:

- Consider who/where your child could go if we were forced for any reason to close early?
- Can we ask you to make sure that your contact details are up to date. All information will be sent to you via Edulink, email and text services. You can update your details through the Edulink app.

Year 9 Students' Mindfulness Programme

Lucy Mortimer from 'Mindful Space' will be delivering the annual St George's 8-week Mindfulness Programme with Year 9 students starting from Tuesday 14th January from 3.30 to 4.30 p.m. The course covers aspects such as understanding the link between mind and body; how to respond to situations rather than react and how to step back from unhelpful thoughts. The sessions are practical, visual and relevant. Each student will receive home practice work to run alongside each session. This helps them to develop lasting techniques which can be used in a range of situations such as sports matches, friendships, exam anxiety...any situation which they find challenging at any point in their lives.

More information about the programme can be found at: www.mindfulnessinschools.org

If your child would like to attend the course, please email Lucy Mortimer at contact@mindfulspace.me

This is a structured course with the sessions building on each other so it is important that students attend each one.

Traffic Works Causing Delays

As you may be aware, temporary traffic lights have been installed on the A1081 Luton Road which are causing significant disruption to traffic coming to school from that direction. The traffic lights are scheduled to be in place until 7th March 2025.

Please plan your journey to and from school accordingly, allowing extra time to ensure students arrive punctually for morning registration. Thank you.

Student Leadership: School Captain Selection process

We are starting the exciting process of beginning the selection process for the next cohort of School Captains. This is a much valued and respected role within the school and is open to all students in year 12. It's a credit to our student body that we regularly have over 40 applicants for this post. To give you an insight into the rigorous selection, the following key dates are below:

Fri 17th Jan - student leadership talk

Fri 24th Jan - written task for candidates

Thurs 30th Jan - students informed of the shortlisted candidates

Fri 31st Jan - Hustings for shortlisted candidates

Mon 3rd Feb - Assessment Day for shortlisted candidates

Thurs 6th Feb - Announcement of successful candidates at break in the Chapel

After this process is completed, the hunt for new House Captains and Prefect Teams begin!

Super-curricular opportunities

Years 9 & 10: Gonville & Caius College, Cambridge: Caius 9&10 Programme

Application deadline: Midday on Friday 21 March 2025

The programme will consist of a series of online after-school sessions. The students will receive both guidance and ideas on how to explore subject interests, and an introduction to studying at University.

Students will also have the chance to talk to current Cambridge students and attend an online lecture.

Please note that students who took part when they were in year 9 last year should not re-apply, as this is the same programme.

Session 1	Wed 23 April 2025, 4:30-5:30 p.m.	Introduction to studying at university and Oxbridge
Session 2	Wed 7 May 2025, 4:30-5:30 p.m.	Exploring subject interests
Session 3	W/C 19 May 2025, 5:00-6:00 p.m.	Taster lectures (one STEM lecture, one humanities)
Session 4	Wed 11 June 2025, 4:30-5:30 p.m.	Student Life Q&A (life at university, clubs, societies)
Session 5	Wed 18 June 2025, 4:30-5:30 p.m.	Session chosen by students

Students need to register their interest by completing a short survey form. Please note, this form requires a digital signature from a parent/guardian/carer (this can be done on a touchscreen device or with a mouse on a desktop computer): [Click here](#)

The deadline for signing up is midday on Friday 21st March 2025 and students will be notified by Wednesday 26th March 2025 whether they have been successful in gaining a place on the programme. The college welcomes applications from all students and will prioritise applications from high-achieving students with a widening participation background (e.g. Free School Meals, living in care etc.)

Year 10 to 13: Medic Mentor - Get into Medicine/Dentistry Conference

Students and parents will have the opportunity to learn about personal statements, entrance exams, interviews and meet some of our successful students to learn from their experiences. Following the conference all students will instantly be enrolled onto the free virtual work experience programme (with access to speak to doctors, dentists and current students alongside). Dates are Saturday 11th January 9:30 a.m. - 3:30 p.m. or Saturday 25th January 9:30 a.m. - 3:30 p.m. [Click here](#)

Get into Dentistry: Sunday 12th January 9:30am - 3:30pm: [Click here](#)

If your child attends any of these online events I would be grateful for your feedback.

Mrs Dodds (jdodds@stgeorges.herts.sch.uk)

It's Panto Season (Oh yes it is)

We are very pleased to hear that many Georgians are taking part in the Dick Whittington Pantomime - oh yes they are. So if you want an uplifting and entertaining theatrical experience, then do contact the EMC to purchase tickets.

[Box Office: Open | Hurst Childrens Theatre Group.com](#)

Supporting your year 11 child with their English Literature revision

Herts for Learning are offering online masterclass revision sessions which are held on Saturday mornings. All sessions are recorded and can be accessed by those students who attend. They are very popular so sign-up soon.

[english-lit-revision-workshops-flyer-2025-v4.pdf](#)



New 2 hour Workshop - All Feelings Matter

(including the strong and uncomfortable ones)

Online
January 2025



For Mums, Dads & Carers
When:
Tuesday 21 January
9.30am—11.30am
or
7.00pm—9.00pm

Or
For Dads & Male Carers
When:
Thursday 23 January
7.00pm—9.00pm

This 2 hour fully funded workshop is open to all Hertfordshire parents and carers. Learn more about:

- Why all feelings matter for everyone.
- How feelings, thoughts, and behaviour link together.
- Recognising physical and emotional feelings, including anxiety and anger.
- Ways to support healthy emotional development.
- The stress response system and '3-Part Brain' concept.
- The importance of feelings and the Protective Behaviours process.

To book your place please use this link or the QR code

<https://forms.office.com/e/EbRT78axEc>



Please like us on Facebook for further updates @familiesfeelsafe

Families Feeling Safe Protective Behaviour Services has been funded through HCC to provide Families Feeling Safe programmes across Hertfordshire. We deliver Protective Behaviour training for professionals and provide programmes and workshops to children and their families. www.familiesfeelsafe.co.uk E-mail: enquiries@familiesfeelsafe.co.uk



INVESTIN THE ULTIMATE WORK EXPERIENCE

Weekend Career Opportunities

Choose your career, maximise your potential



We're excited to share that our weekend programmes are now open for registration! This spring, we're running weekend programmes for students aged 15-18 with 15 exciting careers to choose from, such as medicine, architecture, investment banking, law and many more.

Our weekend programmes provide students with the perfect introduction to an industry, where they can meet top professionals, participate in interactive career simulations and build practical skills to prepare for their future career.

What's more, students will gain real-life experience as well as a personalised certificate to boost future university applications!

View Programmes

IN-PERSON



Taking place at UCL in London, our in-person programmes allow students to fully immerse themselves in the day in the life of a professional in London.

ONLINE



Our online programmes are delivered live by our industry experts. Nothing is pre-recorded and all our content is carefully curated to be interactive and engaging.

SPRING WEEKEND PROGRAMME DATES

9th March 2025 - London or Live Online
Doctor | Architect | Entrepreneur | Computer Scientist | Artist
16th March 2025 - London or Live Online
Lawyer | Dentist | Engineer | Filmmaker | Forensic Scientist
23rd March 2025 - London or Live Online
Banker | Psychologist | International Politics | Fashion Designer | Vet



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We are your helping hand

There's lots of support, advice and services to help you manage the cost of living. Turn over to find out more. Alternatively, visit www.hertfordshire.gov.uk/costofliving or scan the QR code.

If you need help and don't know where to turn, contact HertsHelp on 0300 123 4044



We are Hertfordshire County Council



HertsHelp
Independent advisors offering free, confidential advice on local services and support.
Call: 0300 123 4044
Email: info@herts-help.net
www.herts-help.net

Money and benefits advice
Free guides on debt and benefits, disability, bereavement, housing, retirement, carer support.
www.hertfordshire.gov.uk/moneyadvice

Age UK
Supporting older people with advice, including financial support, and many other services to help maintain independence.
Call: 0300 345 3446
www.ageuk.org.uk/hertfordshire

Warm Spaces
Find a Warm Space near you, locations all across Hertfordshire.
Call: 0300 123 4044
www.hertfordshire.gov.uk/warmspaces

Citizens Advice
Receive free, local, confidential advice on benefits, money and credit problems, employment, housing and family issues.
Call: 0800 144 8848

Local food support
Find information on food support available near you and to get a referral.
Call: 0300 123 4044
www.hertfordshire.gov.uk/foodsupport

Welfare Assistance Service
Support scheme to help Hertfordshire residents facing an immediate financial crisis.
www.hertfordshire.gov.uk/was

Mental health
Advice and support available for your happiness, wellbeing and mental health.
www.hertfordshire.gov.uk/mentalhealth

Health and Independent Living Support (HILS)
Meals on wheels and other independence-promoting services for older and disabled people.
Call: 0330 2000 103
www.hils-uk.org

Beezee by maximus



You don't need a new year to start new habits
Start small, start now!

Sign up to one of our free healthy lifestyle services today to kickstart your health goals for 2025 and beyond.

Beezee FAMILIES

- Free, fun, family-focused support
- Learn about healthy eating
- Get moving more
- Connect with other families
- One-to-one support also available!

Beezee YOUTH

- 13-17 year olds can talk about topics that matter to them
- Learn about physical, mental and social wellbeing
- Get free health resources
- One-to-one support also available!



- Free support for families with children aged 0-5 years
- Explore parenting and healthy lifestyle tips
- Chance to make new friends
- Free toolkit provided!



herts.beezeesuk.co.uk

Start making healthy habits TODAY

@ BZBinfo@maximusuk.co.uk

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