

St. George's School Newsletter

Friday 15th November 2024



News from the Head

On Monday, to mark Remembrance Day, the School gathered on the MUGA to commemorate those Old Georgians who gave their lives in the Great War and World War 2. The names of the 43 OGs were each read out whilst the School and House Captains laid wreaths. The School was privileged to have Major Dan French, Officer commanding 21 field squadron, and former student of the School join us for the commemoration. Major French read the Stanza from the poem *For The Fallen*, printed below. The pupils were a credit to the School as they reflected on the sacrifice made and our collective hope that such a tragedy will never happen again.

*They shall grow not old, as we that are left grow old:
Age shall not weary them, nor the years condemn
At the going down of the sun and in the morning
We will remember them*



Remembrance at School Sports

Poppies and Prayers during the rugby matches against New Hall on Saturday.

It was lovely to see so many rugby players from different teams coming together and committed to Remembrance.



This week, we have also recognised Anti-Bullying Week at St George's through several activities, including Odd-Socks Day on Tuesday, the Year 8 Promoting Positive Relationships (PPR) Day, and our House Assemblies. St George's strives to be a school where every pupil feels safe and respected. Whenever the school hears of bullying, we are committed to addressing it—whether through individual support % actions, or through initiatives that influence the entire school community.

Since joining the school in September, I have seen how the school supports and advocates for pupils with neurodiversity. Unfortunately, misconceptions and unkind attitudes towards neurodivergence remain too common in society, and some people use SEND as a way to be unkind to others; children are no exception. Thankfully, society is slowly recognising the profound value that neurodiverse individuals bring to all organisations, from schools to businesses. Matthew Syed's book "Rebel Ideas" is an excellent book on this, highlighting the benefits of cognitive diversity, including neurodiversity, to every organisation. At St George's, we are instilling this understanding in our students through our Behaviour Curriculum, tutor-led sessions and PSHE programme, which emphasise respect and empathy.

In classrooms, pupils with SEND are supported not only by our teachers but also by our dedicated team of Learning Support Assistants (LSAs). These specialists work within departments to assist with teaching and learning. They often work one-on-one with a specific pupil, but also support any pupil in the classroom. At times, they will lead lessons to allow teachers to provide focused support to individuals or small groups. Our LSAs are highly trained and greatly valued members of the St George's community.

We hope this insight into how we support neurodiverse pupils will demystify our approach. Please discuss the role of LSAs with your child(ren) and join us in encouraging respect and appreciation for pupils with SEND and the professionals who support them.

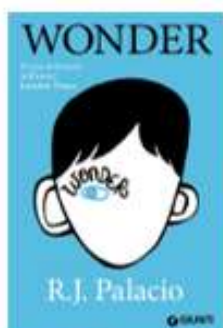


Support for Parents and Carers

For parents and carers, we would like to share this resource pack from the Anti-bullying Alliance: [ABW Parents Pack 2024.pdf](#). There is lots of advice and ideas. Please remember that we are keen to deal with any friendship issues or bullying behaviours so do get in touch with your Head of House or Form Tutor and we will do our best to support your young person.

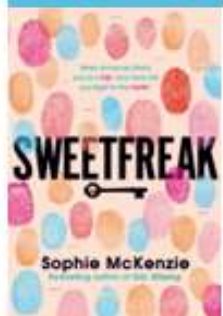
Anti-bullying book recommendations from our Literacy Lead, Mrs Goatly, which deal with bullying in a thoughtful and sensitive way

The National Literacy Trust reported in 2024 that young people often read to support their mental wellbeing and their curiosity, but many also read for social action. We've collected together our recommendations of some great books with anti-Bullying themes which you might want to share with your child. If any spark their imagination, most of these can be borrowed from our school library so please do encourage them to visit in their break time, lunch or after school.



Wonder by R J Palacio

In this story, August "Auggie" Pullman has been home-schooled all his life. Now he is starting fifth grade at a school in New York City. He doesn't want other students to look at him, but that isn't easy when he looks like he does...



SweetFreak by Sophie McKenzie

"Friendship matters. Right? Being loyal. Being honest. Being there". Of course, but how does it feel to be accused of betraying your best friend in the entire world? That's exactly what happens to Carey, the likeable, girl-next-door lead in this tense teen page-turner.



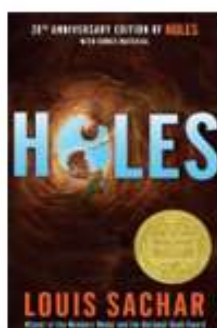
Do You Know Me? by Libby Scott & Rebecca Westcott

Tally is autistic and proud. She used to feel like she had to hide her autism, but now Tally is determined to make sure people see who she really is. She quickly falls in with the popular girls and is grateful that they don't make a big deal about her autism, but it's not long before Tally realises that, while the girls are popular, they aren't very kind. But will she find the strength to stand up for herself and the people she knows are being treated unfairly, or will she stay quiet? And will Tally ever find her people?



The Boy at the Back of the Class by Onjali A Rauf

Told with humour and heart, 'THE BOY AT THE BACK OF THE CLASS' offers a child's perspective on the refugee crisis, highlighting the importance of friendship and kindness in a world that doesn't always make sense.



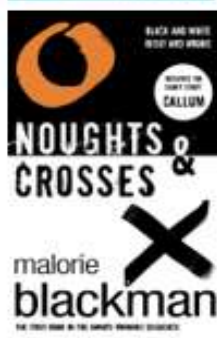
Holes by Louis Sachar

Stanley Yelnat's family has a history of bad luck so he is not too surprised when a miscarriage of justice sends him to Camp Green Lake Juvenile Detention Centre. Nor is he very surprised when he is told that his daily labour at the camp is to dig a huge hole, and report anything that he finds. The warden claims that it is character building, but this is a lie and Stanley must dig up the truth.



Tremendous Things by Susin Nielsen

Tremendous Things packs in plenty of humour and heart as it tells a page-turning story underpinned by big emotional themes, in this case finding confidence through battling the effects of bullying.



Noughts and Crosses By Malorie Blackman

*They've been friends since they were children, and they both know that's as far as it can ever go. Noughts and Crosses are fated to be bitter enemies - love is out of the question. Then - in spite of a world that is fiercely against them - these star-crossed lovers choose each other. But this is *love*, a story that will lead both of them into terrible danger... and which will have shocking repercussions for generations to come.*



My Brother Ben by Peter Carnavas

Quiet Luke sketches birds, while Ben leaps off the Jumping Tree. The boys couldn't be more different, but they share a special bond. When Ben starts high school, unfamiliar changes are brought into their lives. Can their unique friendship survive?

News from The Library

To celebrate Anti-Bullying Week and Odd Socks Day, the library has put up a fabulous display (plenty of odd socks were spotted in the library on Tuesday!). We've also been celebrating World Kindness Day by creating a wall of kindness. It's been lovely to see so many students writing some very encouraging messages of kindness. Our windows are now decked with an inspiring and motivating display. A huge thank you to all those students who contributed to our wall of kindness this week – it looks amazing!



Student Voice: From the School Captains

On Tuesday morning, we met with the senior leadership team to discuss the outcome of the autumn-term student voice which centred on chapel life at St. George's. We asked questions about what students enjoyed about chapel; how we could increase student participation and develop singing as well as how the chapel was used during the school day.

In a constructive conversation with the Head and the SLT, we conversed about the benefits of, and improvements to chapel that students would like to see going forward and the senior leadership team was responsive to those messages and will undertake further reviews on how best to respond to the proposals put forward. We will be feeding back to students about the areas of their suggestions.

Inter-house Football

Congratulations to **Grant House** for winning last week's House Football tournament. Watts came second; Goddard third and Monk fourth. The competition was watched and enjoyed by many.



Year Seven Parents' Evening

For year 7 parents who are looking for slots for the upcoming Parents' Evening on 27 November, there are still some appointments available. We will be making amendments for those on the waiting list, as and when appointments come up. If, for whatever reason, you can't make your reserved appointments anymore, please amend your booking in [SchoolCloud](#) so we can allocate these to parents on the waiting list. Thank you.

Ordering School Photographs

'Gillman & Soame' took Years 7, 9, 11 & 12 portrait photographs earlier in the autumn term. If you haven't already (and would like to), please order these photographs as soon as possible - especially if you would like them for Christmas. If details have been mislaid, please contact Gillman & Soame directly at action@gillmanandsoame.co.uk or on 01869 328200 with your child's name and quoting the security password stgeorgesharpenden482hck2024 and they can assist. They will then be able to retrieve your individual login details for you.

Careers Feedback

We always welcome feedback on our careers provision so would be grateful if you could take the time to fill in our Careers Programme Evaluation This will help us with forward planning.

[Careers Programme Evaluation 2024 - Google Forms](#)

Debating News

On Monday, we hosted the other three Harpenden secondary schools for the sixth Harpenden Schools Debate Competition. Students from Katherine Warrington, Roundwood Park, Sir John Lawes and St George's competed in nine debates, with a wide range of challenging motions - involving all year groups!



Well done to debaters from all schools who represented their schools superbly, the standard gets better every time. A special shout out to Bella B (Y10) who won best individual debater and one of half of best debate pair with Athena C (Year 10). We look forward to the next competition at KWS next term! Mr Ellis would also like to thank outgoing senior debate captains Olivia L and Ed W for the magnificent work over the last year.



Promoting Positive Relationships Day for Year Eight

On Tuesday, the whole of Year 8 was taken off timetable for a 'Promoting Positive Relationships' PPR day. All students engaged in a range of workshops and activities all with the overriding aim of giving them the tools to challenge prejudices and unhelpful beliefs; recognise how stereotypes can affect power dynamics and how we can learn to be upstanders not bystanders and how to build healthy connections with our friends through recognising their 'friendship language'.

The sessions throughout the day were run by STEP including two, 'Animal Instincts' and 'Friendship Languages' which was run jointly with Year 13 students who had undergone special training to help them deliver this workshop. It was lovely to see some of our older students engaging so well with the Year 8s in these interactive sessions that look at how we can best handle conflict and the way we respond when faced with different scenarios as well as learning how to proactively spot others 'friendship language.'

Understanding healthy and positive friendships and relationships is something our Year 8 students will need to continue to do as they progress up the school and throughout their lives. PPR is a fantastic and interactive way to start both understanding this and putting it into practice.



St George's PE News

Rugby and Lacrosse home fixtures tomorrow: tea, coffee and bacon rolls are available as normal with all proceeds going towards the Senior Sports tour. We will also be taking pre-orders of new and exciting stash - please see the poster below with all the information. As always, parent support on the side-lines is greatly appreciated and let's hope for a fab morning of matches.

Please can we also take this moment to encourage parents to check their child has the appropriate clothes needed for outdoor PE and extra-curricular. With the weather starting to get colder, we need to make sure we keep our child safe and well therefore please make sure they are packing the appropriate layers.

In exciting news our senior 1st X lacrosse girls are taking part in their Friday Night Lights match against STAHS next Friday 22nd November at HRFC. We will be playing under the lights with the draw at 5:30pm. It would be great to see lots of parent and student support to cheer on the girls!

With Christmas round the corner and busy diaries please make a note of Saturday 14th December where we will be hosting an Intra Lacrosse and Rugby festival. Open to all players in year 7-10, concluding with our annual St George's 1st X vs the Old Georgians at 12:30pm. It would be great to see the St George's Community out in full force!



St George's Stash!

Available for all years and members of the school community.

Please note, these items can not be worn in school or as school uniform/PE kit



Lounge Pants

Red/Navy
Navy/Green

St George's Lacrosse or St George's Rugby Print

Sizes available: XS,S,M,L,XL,XXL

Cost £25

Available to pre order in time for Christmas on the following dates:

16/11/24 home fixture
23/11/24 (Christmas Fayre)



Odd Balls Bobble Hat

Cost £20

Available to pre-order in time for Christmas on the following dates:

16/11/24 - Home fixture (pre-order)
23/11/24 - Christmas Fayre
7/12/2024 - Rugby home fixture
14/12/2024 - Lacrosse and Rugby Intra School Festival



NORFOLK GROWN NORDMANN CHRISTMAS TREES FOR SALE

The trees are Nordmann Fir (non drop) Norfolk grown and will be freshly cut and delivered to Harpenden for the festive season.

These trees were so well received last year with nothing but glowing reviews about the quality, make sure you secure a fabulous tree this Christmas.

Collection and Delivery Dates
Saturday 30th November
Sunday 2nd December
Saturday 7th December

Please complete the google form to secure your booking
<https://forms.gle/2XPuY5NcmNhbbCYs7>

Contact : Louise 07773178783

Safety for students walking home

As daylight hours have become shorter and it's getting very dark after school quite quickly, we want to remind everyone of the importance of student safety as they travel home after school.

Please have chat with your young person and remind them of the following safety principles:

- Agree on the route that your young person will take to travel home

- Encourage them to walk on busy and well-lit pathways.
- Encourage them to wear some type of hi-vis clothing or put reflective strips on their bags
- Encourage them to walk in pairs or groups - especially if they are using more secluded routes
- Remind them to stay alert and not to walk with their heads in their phones.
- Remind them to look before they cross the road! Drivers cannot see them easily at this time of day.

Online Safety: Grooming

The NSPCC have recently posted data on the most common platforms that perpetrators used to target children online (in cases where the means of communication was disclosed).

- Snapchat 48%
- WhatsApp (Meta) 12%
- Facebook and Messenger (Meta) 10%
- Instagram (Meta) 6%
- Kik 5%.

Perpetrators typically used mainstream and open web platforms as the first point of contact with children.

This can include social media chat apps, video games and messaging apps on consoles, dating sites and chat rooms. Perpetrators then encourage children to continue communication on private and encrypted messaging platforms where abuse can proceed undetected.

Figures, provided by 45 UK police forces, show 7,062 Sexual Communication with a Child offences were recorded in 2023/24 – up 89% since 2017/18 when the offence first came into force.

There are age restrictions on all of these social media platforms of 13 years. Do you know what platforms your young person is using? Do you know who they are chatting to online?

Every year, we are supporting more and more young people and their families who have been victims of online grooming. Some targeting has included child sexual exploitation and some has involved child criminal exploitation. **Please keep talking to your young people about how to keep themselves safe online.** For more information: [Keeping children safe online | NSPCC](#)

Notices and Signposting



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



St George's School Drama Department presents

TREASURE ISLAND

by ROBERT LOUIS STEVENSON - adapted by BRYONY LAVERY



19th - 21st November

7.00pm - in the Assembly Hall

Tickets: £5.00 available on ParentPay

This amateur production of "Treasure Island (Lavery)" is presented by arrangement with Concord Theatricals Ltd on behalf of Samuel French Ltd.

**PSA Christmas Fayre – One week to go!
Saturday 23 November 12:30 - 4 pm**

Dear all,

We look forward to seeing you all! Here's a reminder about ways you can help.
We can't do it without you.

DONATIONS

Please donate if you can any of the following:

Baking

If you are able to help by baking a cake, cupcakes or mince pies, this would be hugely appreciated.

Please let us know if you are able to bake, this helps with the planning. Contact:
emma.morrow@hotmail.co.uk.



IMPORTANT: PLEASE VOLUNTEER

We really need many more volunteers to help run the Fayre – it's a huge event. There are only a few slots filled at the moment. Students can volunteer too.

Please click the link and sign up. <https://tinyurl.com/bdfc7mhd>.

or scan the QR code.



Instructions for dropping off your donations:

Where: Room GR6, Bottom of 6th form block, which is located near Chapel

When: Monday 18 November to Thursday 21 November 8 am – 8:30 am.
Friday 8am – 8:50 am.

Donations (including baked goods) can also be dropped off 3.15 - 5pm on Friday in the Assembly Hall. Thank you!

Please give your items to your young person to bring in

Special Offers from Johnsons

Free* Dry Cleaning of StG’s Blazers

We are grateful that Johnson Dry Cleaners in Harpenden will continue to offer:

- ★ FREE Dry Cleaning of St. George’s Tweed Blazers if you bring it in with two other garments to be cleaned at full price. Or;
- ★ HALF PRICE Dry Cleaning of St. George’s Tweed Blazers.



Harpenden branch only. Please confirm at the desk when you present your garments for cleaning

Green V-Neck Jumper Discount

****OFFER AMENDED****

A reminder that Students currently in Years 10 and 11 will be the last cohorts permitted to wear a grey jumper. If you take your grey jumper into Stevensons’ Harpenden branch, along with proof of purchase, they will ensure it is recycled responsibly through their charitable partnerships and they will give you 30% off a new green jumper. If you are unable to provide proof of purchase the discount will be 15%.



Previous offer is no longer valid. Harpenden branch only. Offer available until 30th November 2024. Limited to one jumper exchange per customer.



Train to Teach Events

November 2024 Thursday 21st November, 4.30pm - 5.30pm Train to teach online event meet.google.com/mw-gsq-jem Tuesday 26th November, 9.00am - 10.15am Train to teach secondary recruitment event Katherine Warrington School, Lower Iuton road, Harpenden AL5 5FH	December 2024 Monday 2nd December, 9.30am - 10.30am Train to teach primary recruitment event Cratree Junior school, Crabtree lane, Harpenden AL5 5PU Monday 9th December, 9.30am - 1.00pm Train to teach school experience day Samuel Ryder Academy, Drakes drive, St Albans AL1 5AB
January 2025 Monday 13th January, 9.30am - 1.00pm Train to teach school experience day Dame Alice Owen's School, Dugdale hill lane, Potters Bar EN6 2DU Saturday 25th January, 2.00pm - 3.00pm Train to teach online event meet.google.com/yxn-bqbo-mg	February 2025 Tuesday 11th February, 4.00pm - 8.00pm Train to teach recruitment event University of Hertfordshire, College lane, Hatfield AL10 9AB Wednesday 26th February, 7.00pm - 8.00pm Train to teach online event meet.google.com/jm-gmuc-bpw

Register your interest here:



Welcome to Justin Craig Education

Justin Craig is delighted to be holding their GCSE & A Level revision courses at St George's School, during the Easter holidays. Our courses at St George's span a variety of subjects at both GCSE & A Level, including Maths, Sciences and English.



Our Courses help students

- Consolidate knowledge
- Improve exam technique
- Build confidence
- Maximise grades

An average class size of 6 means courses are tailor-made to individuals' needs, building upon their existing knowledge and closing gaps – which can make a huge difference to final grades.

Our tutors are all qualified teachers and are skilled at establishing what your child knows and needs during the course. Sessions include coping with overload and anxiety, as well as revision timetables, flow charts and Q&A techniques.

In an environment away from the usual distractions – social media, mobile phones – our courses provide structured tuition and thorough exam preparation during key holiday periods.

Students learn how approaching exams methodically, interpreting questions correctly, identifying command words and formulating appropriate responses can result in extra marks.

With over 40 years' experience, we know our courses keep students focused and calm whilst giving them the confidence and knowledge they need to tackle any exam scenario.

Centre Information

Justin Craig students can attend courses at St George's School as a day student or on a residential basis.

For residential students, accommodation is provided in comfortable bedrooms and staff remain on site 24hrs per day to ensure student well-being and safety. In addition to a bright and spacious common room for socialising and relaxing, St George's offers beautiful grounds for students to enjoy.

As places fill quickly, particularly for our Easter Courses, it is advisable to [plan and book](#) as early in the school year as possible to ensure the widest choice of subjects.

Discount

We are delighted to offer parents of students at St George's School £100 off the first 2 or 3 day Justin Craig Course.*

To find out more, please call our Course Advisors on [01727 744340](tel:01727744340). They will be able to provide more information about our Courses, how they work and the options that will work best for you.

*not to be used in conjunction with any other offer.



**COMMUNITY SPORTS
& EDUCATION
TRUST**
REGISTERED CHARITY NO. 1082299



An Evening of Football Careers

Where? Sir Elton John Suite, Vicarage Road Stadium

When? 6.30pm–8.30pm | Wednesday 20th November

This evening hosted, by Jon Marks, will provide informative talks and top tips from qualified staff and professionals within the football industry. There will also be stalls and resources highlighting opportunities to support you into the career in football you are looking for, this includes education and live job roles.

Who is this evening for?

15–21 year olds entering into further and higher education. Mature students welcome!

£5 per ticket *(allows entry for two if accompanied by a parent/guardian)*

£3 additional adults

Featuring a panel of Watford FC coaches and staff from across the men's, women's, and academy teams!

Free snacks and refreshments will be available.

To book, visit watfordfccommunitysportseducationtrust.beaconforms.com/form/6721c6d7 or scan the QR code



HOP Into Apprenticeships & T Levels

The Hertfordshire Virtual Careers Fair for parents and carers

Wednesday 29th January 2025

17:30 - 19:00

Online (via Zoom)

What is the Virtual Careers Fair?

Taking place on Wednesday 29th January from 17:30 - 19:00, this free of charge event is designed specifically for parents/carers and students who would like to explore the apprenticeship and T Level options available.

Who should attend?

This event is for all parents and carers but will be particularly useful for those supporting children in year groups 10, 11, 12 and 13. Students in these age groups are also welcome to attend.

Why attend?

This event offers many benefits, including:

- Free of charge to attend (fully-funded by Hertfordshire Careers Hub).
- Meet local training providers and colleges to hear about their apprenticeships and T Level programmes.
- Hear from employers about local vacancies available for talented young people seeking their next steps.
- Ask questions and gather information from the comfort of your own home.
- Discover more about the skills and training provision being offered within Hertfordshire.



- 1 Register for your free ticket by [clicking here](#).
- 2 Once registered, you will receive information to help you prepare for the event.
- 3 Please have access to the Zoom app before the event.
- 4 Log on and join the event online on Wednesday 29th January 2025 17:30 - 19:00

BOOK NOW ➔

Further information

Find out about the event by visiting:

<https://www.hopinto.co.uk/events/hop-into-apprenticeships-t-levels-the-hertfordshire-virtual-careers-fair-for-parents-and-carers/>



The Hertfordshire Virtual Careers Fair is brought to you in partnership by:

Young people are needed to help build the NHS of the future

Get involved this November 2024 with

#RCPCH&Us



Young people are needed to help build the NHS of the future

The NHS has been around for over 75 years and gives UK residents access to free health care when they need it. The UK Government has just launched the biggest ever public conversation about the future of the NHS.

Very often children & young people are left out of these conversations, but we feel that it is important to include you & have your thoughts & ideas represented. It's your NHS & we want to make sure you have a health service that supports your needs.

We are asking children & young people in England to have their voice heard on how to make the NHS fit for children & young people. We will take all the answers and submit them on behalf of children & young people, so that your views are heard.

**Complete the survey by
17 Nov 2024**

RCPCH 2024. The Royal College of Paediatrics and Child Health is a registered charity in England and Wales (105774) and in Scotland (SC038299)
and_us@rcpch.ac.uk



#RCPCH&Us