

St. George's School Newsletter

Friday 17th January 2025



From the Head

Over the holiday, I had the chance to revisit Stephen R. Covey's *The 7 Habits of Highly Effective People*. One idea that struck me was the distinction between “listening to reply” and “listening to understand”. Covey explains that when we listen merely to prepare our response, we are not truly engaging with the speaker’s words or feelings. By contrast, listening to understand demands an effort to see the world through someone else’s eyes, deepening empathy and enhancing our interactions. It resonated with me as this is what I hope to be able to do, with parents, over the next few weeks.

I would like to extend an invite to parents and carers to hear their views about the school. I am initially inviting parents from **Years 9, 10 and 12** for round-table discussions. This is an opportunity to share valuable insights and opinions on a variety of topics related to our school.

During the sessions, I would like to discuss a range of issues, led by you. These might include:

- Our school values and culture
- The GCSE / A Levels options process
- Smartphones
- Our co-curricular offering
- Parent evenings & student reports
- School communications

If you would be interested in attending please complete the attached google form, [click here](#). The closing date for responses will be **Monday 27th January**. Once we have received all responses we will randomly select parents and send out invitations. Please understand for the round-table sessions to work effectively and for everyone to be heard we will be limiting spaces.

Your feedback will be invaluable as we develop our strategic plan for the next five years. I believe that by working together, we can create an even better learning environment for our students.

On another note, I would like to extend my heartfelt congratulations to all pupils who participated in the 75th Harpenden Gang Show this week. I had the pleasure of attending on Wednesday evening, and it was a truly joyous occasion, showcasing the remarkable talent and dedication of young people from across the Harpenden Schools. Congratulations to all the scouts and volunteer leaders involved, and “break a leg” to everyone taking part in the final performance on Saturday.



Year 10 Careers Interview Morning: We need you!

This term, we are holding a year 10 interview practice morning on the **14th of March**. This will hopefully prove to be a very useful and informative experience for our students who will gain tips, advice and feedback on their interview techniques helping to equip them for their next stages in education and employment. To prepare them for this morning, students will be working hard on their CVs and interview skills and will be applying for one of the exciting fantasy jobs on offer.

We are looking for 40 volunteers who would be able to give up their time to complete up to four practice interviews with our year 10 students in the assembly hall. We know that our parents and carers have a lot of talent and experience so don't be shy in signing up.

We will be providing job information, interview questions and examples of feedback you can give the students as well as an initial briefing with coffee and pastries.

If you are interested in taking part in this exciting and worthwhile morning, could you click the link here: [Click here](#) or use the QR Code. Alternatively, you can email directly to: careersinterviews@stgeorges.herts.sch.uk Thank you very much.



News from The Rev

On Sunday 16th March at 10.00 a.m., we welcome Bishop Jane (Bishop of Hertford) to our school for a Church of England Confirmation Service. This service is open for all year 7 and 8 pupils (also some older pupils if they wish) who have been Christened and now wish to be Confirmed.

To prepare for this service, the Rev holds Confirmation preparation classes during Friday P5 in January/February/March. These are designed for pupils to investigate beliefs and practices of Christians and to enable them understand what Confirmation means. These classes are open to everyone who is thinking about Confirmation and would like to investigate this further. Some pupils do the classes and decide to be Confirmed; some decide Confirmation is not for them.

If your child has not been Christened but would like to be Confirmed we can do a Baptism and Confirmation at the same time. Unfortunately, we cannot perform a Catholic Confirmation but we encourage students to join with our friends at Our Lady of Lourdes church for their Confirmation classes. If you would like your Child to attend Confirmation classes please email the Rev at: swarner@stgeorges.herts.sch.uk

Youth Support Services Agreement: Sharing of Information to Providers of Youth Support

Once your child is aged 13 or over, we are required by law to pass on certain information to providers of youth support services in your area. This is the Local Authority support service for young people aged 13 to 19 in England and this enables them to provide youth support services and careers advice. We must provide both the child's name, address and date of birth as a legal minimum, and will also share any further information relevant to the support services' role. A parent or guardian can object to any information in addition to their child's name, address and date of birth being passed to their Local Authority or provider of youth support services by informing us. This right is transferred to the child once they reach 16 years of age.

For more information about young peoples' services, please go to the [Directgov Young People page](#) at or the Services for Young People website

If you wish to opt-out of this arrangement, please inform Sally Jackson, St George's School Data Manager, by emailing: sjackson@stgeorges.herts.sch.uk

Year 8 Parents and Carers Feedback Evening

Thank you to those parents and carers who have already signed up to take part in this feedback evening but if you missed this invite there is still time to be involved. We are holding 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.



Netball News

The U14Cs and U13Cs had their first match of the year against Beaumont yesterday. Both teams played really well with some great defensive play and teamwork. Staff were very proud of how well the girls played in multiple positions and the movement they had on court throughout the game. U13 just lost by 2 goals in the last quarter. The U14 match ended 7-3 to Beaumont. A big well done to our MVPs Holly & Danai (U13) and Chiemenem (U14)!!



Reminder:

U14/U15 training has changed to Mondays after school. Please encourage your children to come along even if they haven't come to any past training before - especially U15 as some schools have shown interest for some friendlies! U12 training is at Thursday lunch. Please encourage your year sevens to get involved!



Lacrosse Fixture Tomorrow

Tomorrow we are away to Guildford - please see important information below regarding meet times.

8:10am Meet Goddard Bus Bay - Teams: 1st, 2nds, 3rds, 15A, 15B, 14C, 13A, 13B,
10:00am Meet Goddard Bus Bay - Teams: 14A, 14B, 12A, 12B

Game Times

11am: 1st, 2nds, 3rds, 14C
12pm: 15A, 15B, 13A, 13B
1pm: 12A, 12B, 14A, 14B

Driving Daughters to and from Fixture

If you are taking your daughter to and from or collecting your daughter from the venue you should have emailed ifoster@stgeorges.herts.sch.uk to confirm this. Please state your daughter's name and year group that they are in. Please arrive 45 minutes before the start of game time.

Venue Postcode: London Rd, Guildford, GU1 1SJ

A3 Closure

Please be aware that the A3 junction on the M25 is shut this weekend so you will need to go via the M3. See map below.

Parking at the Venue

Please see information here from Guildford re: parking for spectators.
Due to our central location there is very limited parking available on-site at the Sports Centre (GU1 1SW).
Here are our local suggestions for Spectators wishing to visit:

- Parking on the roadside (see signage for free period between 2-4 hours) GU1 1TH (0.2 miles)
 - Guildford Spectrum (Free) Parkway, Guildford GU1 1UP (0.6 miles)
 - London Road Station Guildford (Pay and Display) York Rd, Guildford GU1 4EB (0.4 miles)
 - York Road Car Park (Pay on departure) Guildford GU1 4DS (0.6 miles)"
-

Flute and Saxophone recital - Monday 3rd February

Following Alison Farr’s wonderful piano recital last term, it is time to promote this term’s recital which will take place in the Old Library on Monday 3rd February starting at 7.00 p.m.

The featured artists are flautist Clare Childs and saxophonist Dom Childs. They are both professional musicians who live locally and Clare attended St George’s, being the school captain in 2000/01. It is great to welcome Clare and her husband back to school for what promises to be a wonderful evening of music.

Tickets cost £10 and will be available via ParentPay from 9:30 a.m. on Monday 20th January. Due to the size of the Old Library there are only 50 tickets available and these will be allocated on a first come, first served basis. A further 24 tickets have already been allocated to current GCSE and A’ Level music students and these do not need to be purchased as the students concerned will have signed up for a ticket with Ms Humphrey.

Refreshments before the recital and during the interval will be provided by the PE Department as part of their fundraising efforts for their forthcoming Rugby and Lacrosse tour to America.

Fundraising for GOSH

On Saturday 8th February (9.30 a.m. to 12.00 p.m.) at High Street Methodist Church, our students Keira and Joshua S will be holding a charity bake sale in memory of their brother Benjamin for Great Ormond Street Hospital to help fund their new Children with Cancer Centre. To read about Benjamin's story and the motivation behind raising money for this charity, please see the just giving link below. They are looking for baking volunteers to join in with the fun and boost funding. Their mother's employer will also do a 3:1 match on the money raised.



If you would like to take part in the baking then please contact Baldeep Salter by emailing baldeep.punni@googlemail.com in advance. Please come and support Keira and Josh if you are free and enjoy the delicious treats. Every penny counts and will make a difference to the lives of the children and their families. We thank you in advance for your generosity and kindness. [Just Giving Page](#)

Mr Tookey's Skullet



Want to see Mr Tookey in a skullet for a week?

Join us to help raise £1000 for the charity MIND to support mental health awareness!

The Haircut

Event details:

Date: Monday 10th February

Time: Lunchtime

Place: Assembly Hall



On the 10th February, come watch the haircut.live for a £2 donation - this donation will not be included into the £1000 goal that we are trying to raise - however it will still be donated. If our goal is not reached, then the skullet hairstyle will not be adopted by Mr Tookey.

LET'S MAKE A DIFFERENCE, 1 BOLD HAIRCUT AT A TIME!

To donate, there is a barcode linked to the just giving account at the school shop along with a cash donation point there too.



This is a great opportunity to raise money for the Mental Health Charity Mind - so please keep giving. The more money that is raised - the shorter the haircut! Let's get to £10,000!

During the Autumn Term students in all four houses, students have the opportunity to get involved in the annual St. George's Inter-House Art Competition.



This year, the Art Department proudly hosted an exceptional art competition on the theme of *Journeys*.

The first round is open to students across all year groups. After selection, the second round of the competition invited selected artists to explore the concept of Journeys—be it personal, emotional, physical, or imaginary. The response is an incredible array of paintings, drawings, collages, and mixed media pieces showcasing the immense creativity and talent of our students.

The theme inspired artwork that explored a wide range of ideas: from reflections on life's milestones to dreamlike adventures and explorations of cultural heritage. The judge was particularly impressed by the skill and originality evident in each piece, making the final decision extremely difficult. The winners of the competition have set an exceptionally high standard with their thoughtful and visually stunning works. Congratulations all participants, whose artwork is now proudly displayed in the monk foyer for the community to admire. Each piece contributes to the vibrant and meaningful celebration of *Journeys*, and every student should feel proud of their achievement.

Thank you to all who took part in making this competition a resounding success. Let's continue to nurture and celebrate creativity!

Congratulations to Monk house who are the winners!

Mrs Turner, Head of Art.



St. George's PSA Pre-Loved Uniform Sale



PE kits, Rugby/Football Boots
Lacrosse Sticks
Blazers, Scarves and more!

Good Condition – Low Prices!



**Saturday 18th January
2025**

**Starts at 9am
Goddard Assembly
Hall**



All funds raised go towards the
School

Thank you for supporting your
PSA!



ARE YOU INTERESTED IN HEARING FROM OUR DIGITAL CONSTRUCTION MANAGER?

MORGAN
SINDALL
CONSTRUCTION



Learn about Emma's
career journey and
the skills she uses in
digital construction

Join us on for our virtual session

Thursday 21 April 2025
10AM – 10:40AM

Please email Emma to reserve a place:
Emma.Coleman@morgan-sindall.com



APPRENTICESHIP WEEK 2025

We are hosting a virtual session
to meet our apprentices

11 FEB 10 - 10:40 LIVE ON TEAMS

Join us to hear more about their journey and learn from our HR Advisor
Please email Emma to join the session:
Emma.Coleman@morgan-sindall.com



Sarah Thomas
HR Advisor

Sam Smith
Apprentice

Alex Baker
Apprentice

Nathan Clark
Apprentice

MORGAN
SINDALL
CONSTRUCTION

with Youth Groups

7 - 12 year olds Group (Tuesdays at 6pm)

13+ Group (Mondays at 7pm)

Topics

- Understanding emotions
- Friendships & Relationships
- Coping strategies
- Self-harm & 5 Ways to Wellbeing
- Abuse & exploitation
- Changes
- Bullying
- How to cope at school
- Homelife
- Identity
- Building confidence & self-esteem

The groups will be running on an 8
week block basis with a capacity of
10/15 young people.

For more information, please email
withyouth@hertsmindnetwork.org
or call us on 0208 189 8400

Mind
Hertfordshire
Network



THE BRIDGE

WHAT WILL THE SESSIONS COVER?

- Topics will include:
- Worries & Anxiety
 - Friends
 - School & Learning
 - Health & Wellbeing
 - Neurodiversity

We want to hear your voice and
will also tailor sessions to meet
your needs.

WHO IS RUNNING THE GROUP?

The main facilitators are Ruth and
Alison from the Intensive Family
Support Team. Sessions will also
be supported by a range of
specialist professionals providing
expert insights and support.

WHAT IS IT?

A support group for young people
(school years 7,8 & 9) who are
finding attending school challenging
and are not attending at all, or are
on a very reduced timetable

WHAT IS IT FOR?

To create a safe and supportive
group focusing on building
confidence and increasing
resilience.

THE IMPORTANT STUFF:

When is it:

Starting Wednesday 15th January 1pm-2.30pm and then every Wednesday for 11
weeks (term time only)

Where is it:

Hatfield Hyde Cricket Club, Beehive Lane, WGC, AL7 4BP

I have some questions, who do I speak to:

Please speak to your family intervention worker if you have one and/or contact
Alison at alison.cowle@hertfordshire.gov.uk OR Ruth at
ruth.coleman@hertfordshire.gov.uk

Most pharmacies can help you with **seven common conditions** without needing a GP appointment

- **Sinusitis**
(adults and children aged 12 years and over)
- **Sore throat**
(adults and children aged 5 years and over)
- **Earache**
(children and young adults aged 1 year to 17 years)
- **Infected insect bite**
(adults and children aged 1 year and over)
- **Impetigo**
(adults and children aged 1 year and over)
- **Shingles**
(adults aged 16 years and over)
- **Urinary tract infection**
(women, aged 16 to 64 years)



Ask your pharmacy for more information about this free* NHS service

Visit your Pharmacy First!

*NHS prescription charge rules apply where a medicine is supplied

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	
Wednesday 22nd January 2025	Tuesday 11th March 2025
Wednesday 14th May 2025	Thursday 19th June 2025



admin@dspl7.org.uk



01727 519229



www.dspl7.org.uk

2025 GCSE MATHEMATICS REMOTE REVISION WORKSHOPS FOR STUDENTS.



Following the success of last year's programme, our secondary Maths advisers will be leading 24 topic-based online workshops during March: 12 for Foundation Tier and 12 for Higher Tier.

The Foundation Tier workshops will be aimed at those students aiming to gain Grades 4 and 5. The Higher Tier workshops will be for those aiming for Grades 6 and 7, although students aiming for higher grades may find them useful to consolidate earlier learning.

Designed to motivate and challenge students in an engaging and active learning environment, our remote workshops will provide students with the opportunity to take part in a number of focused revision activities, and to complete exam-style questions.

Each workshop will be 50 minutes long. Students may wish to attend two or three consecutively, with a short break in between each.

Access to recordings of sessions

All workshops will be recorded and can be accessed via the link in the confirmation email so students who have booked a place, but missed part or all of a session, can catch up later.



To find out more and to book places, click on or scan the QR code. Or contact our Events Team with any queries at training@hfleducation.org or call 01438 544477.

£10
per student
per session
(including VAT)

FOUNDATION TIER

DATE & TIME	TOPIC
Saturday 1st March 2025	
9.30 am	Fractions
10.30 am	Solving problems with ratio
11.30 am	Direct proportion
Saturday 8th March 2025	
9.30 am	Negative numbers and algebra
10.30 am	Linear equations and inequalities
11.30 am	Algebra with brackets
Saturday 15th March 2025	
9.30 am	Percentage calculations
10.30 am	Straight line graphs
11.30 am	Angles
Saturday 22nd March 2025	
9.30 am	Pythagoras and trigonometry
10.30 am	Volume and surface area
11.30 am	Averages

HIGHER TIER

DATE & TIME	TOPIC
Saturday 1st March 2025	
1.00 pm	Surds and algebraic expressions
2.00 pm	Quadratic equations
3.00 pm	Circle theorems
Saturday 8th March 2025	
1.00 pm	Indices
2.00 pm	Quadratic and other curved graphs
3.00 pm	Volume and 3D trigonometry
Saturday 15th March 2025	
1.00 pm	Sine and cosine rules
2.00 pm	Surds and algebraic fractions
3.00 pm	Similarity and congruence
Saturday 22nd March 2025	
1.00 pm	Ratio and proportion
2.00 pm	Histograms
3.00 pm	Geometric and algebraic proof



All workshops last 50 minutes. To find out more and to book places, scan or click on the QR code or email training@hfleducation.org

£10
per student
per session
(including VAT)

YOUTH TALK
We're listening

Sign up today



**Leaving School?
Feeling anxious?**

Come and join our Next Steps group

Scan me




 01727 868684
info@youthtalk.org.uk
www.youthtalk.org.uk
Registered charity no. 35433702

Let's talk



Are you leaving school to start a new job/apprenticeship or go to college/university?

Are you feeling anxious about these next steps?

Would you like a safe and confidential space to share your concerns with people who are experiencing the same worries as you?

Use the QR code to find out how to join our Next Steps group starting:

Thursday 6th March 2025
in Southdown, Harpenden



#WeAreListening

Free online
event for your
Year 9-11
parents/carers

The
Secret
to
GCSE
Success

With Emily Hughes
author of
'GCSE Survival Guide for Parents'



30th January 2025
7-8pm online

'ParentGuidetoGCSE' are holding a free webinar at 7.00 p.m. on 30th January with the title "The Secret to GCSE Success". It is aimed at parents with children in years 9-11. [Click here to register your place](#)

The webinar will be delivered by Emily Hughes, author of 'GCSE Survival Guide for Parents', founder of the Parent Guide to GCSE and a regular media commentator on teen parenting issues.

The webinar will cover:

- Useful resources to support their child's revision
- Setting up a revision plan / Revision tips and strategies
- The role of parents in the GCSE process
- Tips for getting your child motivated
- Q&A at the end of the session

**THE
TEENAGE
BRAIN**



(& HOW TO SURVIVE IT!)

**"CHILDREN ARE LIKE PUPPIES
AND TEENAGERS ARE LIKE CATS"**

Come and discover how adolescence rewires the brain and how we can help our entire household navigate this life stage together.

Claire Banham is Director of The Haven, a charitable project based in St Albans, that helps young people build up their mental resilience.



Thursday 30 January 7:30pm
High Street Methodist Church, Harpenden
 Book your place at
highstreet.church/teenagebrain

highstreet.church
the church in the high street