

St. George's School Newsletter

Friday 21st March 2025



From the Head

A series about a teenager accused of murdering a girl from his school was the most-watched show on Netflix this week. Meanwhile, former England manager Sir Gareth Southgate expressed concerns in a lecture about boys spending excessive time on pornography, gambling, and gaming. So it has been that the media's focus has turned towards adolescence, masculinity, and the challenges facing boys today.

Even for those of us who work with young men every day, the national statistics highlighting that boys are not thriving in our schools are alarming. According to the [Centre for Social Justice](#), boys' progress now lags behind girls at every educational key stage. The reasons for this are complex, and far too intricate to summarise in this newsletter. However, I believe that there are two points worth making today:

Firstly, a national issue identified by Sir Gareth Southgate is the lack of meaningful male role models for many boys - particularly role models who exemplify what might be termed "positive masculinity." To be clear, this is not something I see at St George's. Rather, I see pupils benefiting from student leaders and staff who model compassion, empathy, and emotional literacy. I acknowledge that we are far from perfect and can still improve. Nevertheless, our House system, lessons, activities, personal development, and mentoring programmes all provide boys with lots of opportunities to express themselves, learn how to lead and follow, and see positive role models in action.

However, our boys are potentially exposed to the social media and influencer culture where bad actors have rushed to fill the gap in schools and communities. We must be aware that this is having a huge influence on our boys if we don't know or understand what they are viewing on TikTok and other platforms.

My second point is that, as a community, we must avoid framing discussions about identity, masculinity, or indeed any group's welfare, as a "zero-sum game". We must resist the mistaken belief that supporting one group somehow undermines another. Advocating for girls' education, for example, does not mean boys are disadvantaged. I firmly believe that "a rising tide lifts all boats," and working to support *any* group in school benefits everyone. We are all Georgians, and our aim is to see every pupil flourish in our school.

If you have any concerns about your child, or if you need support in this area, our door is always open. Please feel free to contact your Head of House or tutor.

Spring Concert

A huge congratulations, bravo and well done to all pupils who took part in the Spring Concert last night. The audience were treated to an amazing series of performances inspired by *The Big Country*. The range of pupils taking part was amazing and the standard phenomenal. Our orchestra was amazing, especially when accompanying Jemima playing *Rhapsody in Blue* - an astounding individual performance. Our choirs sang

beautifully, Jazz Band, String Quartet, and other small groups were brilliant. It was a privilege and joy to be part of the audience.

A huge thank you to all staff who assisted on the night and a special thanks to Ms Humphrey and Mr Burrett for inspiring, motivating and nurturing all the musical talent and potential we have at St George's.



Senior Football News

Over the last two weeks, Senior Boys and Senior Girls, coached by Mr Reynolds, have represented the school in football matches versus local schools. Taking into account our limited training sessions, compared to other teams that have been playing together since Y7, both the boys and girls acquitted themselves really well.

The boys kicked off by beating KWS 5-1 in a friendly before losing 1-4 to Sir John Lawes in the District Cup. In both games they showed typical Georgian team spirit and commitment.

The girls were excellent in a valiant defeat to Beaumont 1-3. Having never played together before their teamwork and communication were outstanding. It is planned to schedule further games over the next few weeks.

News from the PSA: Fundraising round up

Another cracking PSA Quiz Night took place on 8th March, with 16 teams battling it out over some challenging rounds—fuelled by curry, beer, and a healthy dose of competitive spirit! Congratulations to Team ‘Spezs and Decks,’ who breezed through the questions to claim victory.



With your support, the quiz night raised a fantastic £1,800 for the PSA! Special thanks go to John for stepping up as quizmaster, the catering team, our PSA volunteers and the brilliant bar team who kept the drinks flowing all night.

Speaking of thirsty crowds, thank you to the bar team for running the interval bar at House Drama last week and raising £420. Not bad for a few hours’ work!

PSA Painting Day Success

Thank you to the merry band of 25 volunteers who sacrificed their precious time last weekend to wield paintbrushes and rollers in the name of school improvement! Corridors and classrooms were cleaned, prepped and painted - thanks to Dean Harris for rallying the troops and organising the day.

PSA Coffee Meet – your school community starts here! Tuesday 25th March - 10-11.30 am – Oval Cafe

Are you an enthusiastic parent with energy and great ideas? Or happy to roll up your sleeves and get stuck in? If you’d like to be part of a great school community and help



raise essential funds, please come along to our first PSA coffee morning meet on Tuesday 25th March. Drop in anytime between 10.00 a.m.to 11.30 a.m. in the back room of the Oval Café where the coffee is on us. Meet the new committee, mingle with fellow parents, and find out how you can be part of your PSA's exciting plans. We look forward to seeing you there.

Indoor Athletics

Following on from their success in the District round of Indoor Athletics, the indoor athletics team went to Ware this week for the County finals. The team put in a huge effort across the board and produced some excellent individual and team performances. The girls finished 3rd in the county and the boys finished 2nd, missing out on the top spot by one singular point.

Well done to all who competed in the finals, as well as those who tried out for the teams and attended training sessions. These positive results bode very well for the upcoming athletics season in the summer term.



Music Recital-Old library, Monday 28 April 2025

The third and final Monday evening recital of the academic year will take place on Monday 28th April at 7.00 p.m. in the Old Library. The featured artist is Matt Harrison, a professional trombonist who is currently Principal trombonist with the Bath Philharmonia and English Touring Opera. Matt will be playing a selection of original and reimagined music for trombone and piano spanning over 300 years, including pieces by Emperor Joseph I of Austria, Mozart, Berg and three living composers.

Refreshments before and during the recital will be provided by the P.E. Department as part of their fundraising efforts for the forthcoming tour to America.

Tickets are £10 and will be available via ParentPay from Monday 24th March and are limited to 50 due to the capacity of the Old Library so get your ticket promptly! GCSE and A-Level music students can obtain a free ticket from their music teacher.

Has your child done their three chapels this term?

If you have a child in years 7 to 11, they are expected to attend three Sunday chapels each term and this is a very important part of our community worshipping and your commitment to the school. There are only two Sunday chapels left: Sunday 23rd March at 10.00 a.m. and Sunday 30th March at 6.00 p.m.

Please make sure that your child fulfils this required attendance. Thank you.

Year 12 Progression Day

This Thursday, Year 12 were off timetable for 'Progression Day'. They were treated to talks from outside speakers on university applications, apprenticeships and gap years. It was also a pleasure to welcome back three 'Old Georgians' - Tyla, Derin & Seb to talk to them about their experiences since leaving us. The evening before, we held a progression evening for Year 12 parents.

In the afternoon, the whole year group attended a careers fair at Sir John Lawes, along with the other Harpenden schools - where they got to network and seek advice from a wide range of companies. We would like to extend our gratitude to all who helped out, including those at SJL for putting on the careers fair.

We hope that all students and parents found the events useful, informative and a good starting point for 18+ decision making.



St. George's Year 11 Prom - Monday 23rd June 2025 7.00 p.m.

This non-school event is being run by some very kind year 11 parents. On their behalf, we announce that Prom 2025 tickets are now on sale. These can be purchased on ParentPay and cost £46 each.

Please would you also complete the Google form below. This sets out the Code of Conduct and T&Cs that must be agreed by students before they attend. You will appreciate that much of this is required by the venue itself. The form also asks for photography consent, dietary requirements and contact details for the night.

[Click here](#)

The price includes a pizza buffet, non-alcohol bar, DJ and dancing, photo booth and an outside garden with sofas for some chilling. You will not need any further money for the event itself. In addition, there will be a professional photographer to take arrival photographs of the students with their friends, and further photos throughout the evening. All the professional photos will be available to purchase afterwards. We hope it is going to be a fabulous evening!

Regarding dresses, we know how expensive they can be. There is a wonderful organisation in Harpenden, 'All Dressed Up', that can provide Prom dresses to those who qualify. If you would like further information about this, do visit the website at www.alldressedup.org.uk.

Finally, the Prom Committee students will be handing out tickets on Leavers' Day, May 2nd. Please make sure you've bought your ticket by TUESDAY 29 APRIL 2025.

Any questions, please email Rebecca (rebeccawestlake@hotmail.co.uk) and Claire (jonald_claire@outlook.com).

A reminder about ordering Year 11 Yearbooks

The deadline is fast approaching to order yearbooks which is priced at £19.51 and can be ordered by clicking on the following link: allyearbooks.co.uk/buy/23316

When placing your order, please ensure that you enter your child's full name in the "Who the book(s) are for" section. The yearbooks will be delivered to the school, labelled with your child's name, and distributed on Year 11 Leavers' Day. Yearbooks are a popular purchase, with approximately 95% of the year group typically choosing to purchase one. **The deadline for orders is Friday, 28th March at 3:00 PM.** Allyearbooks will not accept orders after this date, and we will be unable to print additional copies at school.

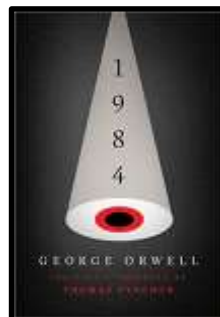
Year 10 Exams

Just a reminder that these start on Monday 24th March and the final exam is on 2nd April. Students are able to revise at school in the library in between exams. Please reassure them that these exams are just to test their knowledge and understanding and to give them exam practice as well as to inform teachers of any areas that need to be revisited.

History Book Club

History Book will be exploring the George Orwell book '1984' next term. Sessions will be held on a Tue lunchtime - week 1 in the Humanities Department.

War is peace; freedom is slavery and Big Brother is watching. This is a world ruled by warring states and a power structure that controls not only information but also individual thought and memory. More relevant than ever before 1984 exposes the worst crimes imaginable, the destruction of truth, freedom and individuality.



This is a great read for our Year 9 students as our curriculum currently explores the European Dictators of the 1930's, and for our Year 10 students who study the Cold War and its lingering effects on the world.

Rory Browne's Art Exhibition

Many of you may remember our old Head of Art, Rory Browne. Rory was at St George's for 29 years and in 2023 left to pursue his vocation as a full time artist. He has an upcoming exhibition here in Harpenden which opens on Saturday the 29th March at the Highfield Oval Chapel. Details are in the attached brochure. Parents, staff and students are most welcome. I'm sure Rory would love to see you. Click here: [Brochure](#)



Join Our Team as a Finance Assistant

We are seeking a reliable and numerate individual to join our dynamic team as a Finance Assistant. If you're passionate about finance and looking for a new challenge, this could be the perfect opportunity for you! For more details and to apply for this position, please visit: [Click here](#)

Parking Outside the School Premises

Please can you help with student safety outside the school by not parking on the double yellow or zigzag lines outside of the school entrance. Not only does this make it harder for students to cross the road and for traffic passing, but it also causes a great hindrance to our neighbours. Please arrange to pick up your child further away from the school entrance like in Lydekker car park. Thank you.

Nationals Lacrosse Round Up

Over the 5 days from the 7th to 11th March, we embarked on the annual trip to the Nationals Lacrosse Championships. This event is a real highlight in the calendar year for many as it is a chance for us to show what we are capable of and the tournament did not disappoint! Over the course of the 5 days, we had 110 girls take part; 5 staff involved; 10 parent volunteers; 50 tournament games and 1 set of minions hitting Camberley High Street on the Friday night! All teams played with grace, determination and unbelievable sportsmanship. They were a credit to the school. Across the 5 days we had wins, losses and draws but every team held their own and proved our worth at this national event. Below are various photos that we feel capture the event and re-emphasis our priorities; teamwork, togetherness and fun! A lot of memories were made and that is our sole purpose!



U12 County Lacrosse Tournament

The fun didn't stop when we took three U12 teams to their county tournament on Saturday 15th March. Another successful tournament and seeing the girls progress since the start of the year was a real joy to see!

Electric Ballroom

Next Friday night is our big 90's night at the Electric Ballroom in Camden as part of our tour fundraising efforts. There are still tickets left which is set to be a really fun evening! Please buy tickets via PARENT PAY and come get involved! We are going to be emailing everyone that brought a ticket next week so keep your eyes on your inbox!

Thank Yous

As we draw an end to the lacrosse season, we want to take a moment to say a huge THANK YOU to staff who have run teams or assisted with teams this year: Miss Foster, Mrs Bebbington-Crombie, Mrs Morris, Miss Milstead, Mrs McCrossan, Miss Norris, Mr Ellis, Miss Thornton-Greet and Mr Finnegan. They have given up their time to help our programme run and without them we would not be able to run the number of teams we do.

Secondly, our team of parent volunteers have been exceptional this year! Covering various teams across different age groups, learning how to umpire, sorting through goalie kits and running across pitches to find bibs at the last minute! So thank you to the following parents: Charlie Rickett, Dan Hitchen, Paul Jones, Kate Black, Simon Speirs, Paddy Storrie, Steve Ball, Chris Arnold, Alex Robinson, Peter Edge, Gavin Seaton, Nina Fox and Karen Chalmers.

We are always looking for new parents to join our army of volunteers. If you speak to any of the people above, you will learn that you do not need any experience of lacrosse to get involved; you just need a willingness to get stuck in and offer what you can. Lots of help is needed to make match days run: this involves helping to shepherd students; help with warm ups; make sure subs run smoothly and you will get training from us for your role and you can get involved as much or as little as you wish. If this is something of interest to you, please do email me (jfoster@stgeorges.herts.sch.uk) or come and find her tomorrow on Super Saturday to discuss it further. We are really looking for helpers in year 7 and 8 or if you have someone joining into year 7 next year!

Finally, a big thank you to all players and parents for getting involved in lacrosse this year! We hope you have enjoyed the journey and we look forward to seeing you all again next season

Prize-Winning Book Bundles!

Congratulations to Luella B (Year 7) on winning £100 of Usborne books for the school library. Luella entered a competition with 'First News', a newspaper for young people, covering headlines from around the world after suggesting ways in which the newspaper could be improved. One of her suggestions was to promote and increase awareness amongst young people to become involved in journalism with 'First News'.

This is the second bundle of books received by the Library this term, as Mrs Campbell, one of our Cover Supervisors also won a brilliant selection of fiction and non-fiction books for the library!



This Saturday is Super Saturday! Come and join us!

Super Saturday 2025



Welcome to Super Saturday 2025

I would like to welcome all visitors to today's final rugby and lacrosse event of the season, Super Saturday.

We hope this year's event will be even more successful than last year and I would like to say a huge thank you to all the stall holders and food vendors who are supporting the event today. We have again had very successful seasons within our rugby and lacrosse programs with an increase in player numbers across both sports. We have had 300 students represent the school for lacrosse and the same number again for rugby this year meaning nearly half the school student population has played rugby or lacrosse for the school this year. Today there will be around 600 students taking part in this event across the day.

There is always a great atmosphere at this event with great examples of team work, house spirit, fair play and sportsmanship. We encourage parents and visitors to show support and praise for all players and whilst on the side-line model the same values and behaviour we would expect of the players. I hope you all have a great day and can share in the highs and some lows of house competition with the students and staff.

We hope all participants, staff and visitors have a great day.

Mr D Rees
Director of Sport



Lax Order of Play

	Year 7 Juniors		Year 8 Juniors
8:50am	Stick check for all teams	8:50am	Stick check for all teams
9:00am	Goddard vs Grant	9:00am	Monk vs Watts
9:20am	Monk vs Watts	9:20am	Goddard vs Grant
9:40am	Goddard vs Monk	9:40am	Grant vs Watts
10:00am	Grant vs Watts	10:00am	Goddard vs Monk
10:20am	Goddard vs Watts	10:20am	Grant vs Monk
10:40am	Grant vs Monk	10:40am	Goddard vs Watts

All games will be 10-a-side

All substitutions must be made through the designated subbing area

All current international rules will be played throughout all age groups, including boundaries and restraining lines.

Gum shields and goggles must be worn

Sticks will be checked for compliance at the start of each tournament

Scoring System

4 points for a win,
2 for a draw,
1 losing bonus point (if score is more than half)

Losing bonus points will be awarded if the losing team scores half or more the score of the opposition. E.g. (4-2 loss will = 1 bonus point). If scores are tied at the end of the tournament, the same Endeavour Cup points will be awarded.

	Inters		Seniors
11:30am	Goddard vs Grant	11:30am	Monk vs Watts
11:50pm	Monk vs Watts	11:50pm	Goddard vs Grant
12:10pm	Goddard vs Monk	12:10pm	Grant vs Watts
12:30pm	Grant vs Watts	12:30pm	Goddard vs Monk
12:50pm	Goddard vs Watts	12:50pm	Grant vs Monk
1:10pm	Grant vs Monk	1:10pm	Goddard vs Watts



Rugby Order of Play



	Year 7 Juniors		Year 8 Juniors
9:00am	Goddard vs Grant	9:00am	Monk vs Watts
9:20am	Monk vs Watts	9:20am	Goddard vs Grant
9:40am	Goddard vs Monk	9:40am	Grant vs Watts
10:00am	Grant vs Watts	10:00am	Goddard vs Monk
10:20am	Goddard vs Watts	10:20am	Grant vs Monk
10:40am	Grant vs Monk	10:40am	Goddard vs Watts

Year 7 and 8 games will be played half pitch 10-a-side
Year 9,10 and Seniors will play full pitch 7-a-side

RFU age related rules will be applied to each age grade competition

Scoring System

4 points for a win,
2 for a draw,
Scoring 4 tries or more in one game = 1 bonus point
Losing team lose by 7 points or less (5 points for u12/u13) = 1 losing bonus point

	Year 9 Inters		Year 10 Inters
11:30pm	Goddard vs Grant	11:30pm	Monk vs Watts
11:50pm	Monk vs Watts	11:50pm	Goddard vs Grant
12:10pm	Goddard vs Monk	12:10pm	Grant vs Watts
12:30pm	Grant vs Watts	12:30pm	Goddard vs Monk
12:50pm	Goddard vs Watts	12:50pm	Grant vs Monk
1:10pm	Grant vs Monk	1:10pm	Goddard vs Watts

	Seniors
11:30pm	Goddard vs Grant
11:50pm	Monk vs Watts
12:10pm	Goddard vs Monk
12:30pm	Grant vs Watts
12:50pm	Goddard vs Watts
1:10pm	Grant vs Monk

Super Saturday Pitch Map



P

Parking

T

Toilets



Pro Medicus, First Aid

R

Refreshment Zone



Old Georgian Society
Opportunity to sign up



Selling Hog Roast, cooked
breakfast rolls and soft
drinks



Canada and USA Tour
Fundraising. Tea/coffee
and soft drinks available



New for 2025
Buy rugby balls designed
to improve catch and pass

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HOLIDAY ACTIVITY PROGRAMME

**Harpenden Young People's Centre
27 High Street Harpenden
AL5 2RU**

**Join us this Easter
Monday 7 April to
Thursday 11 April 2025
2pm-6pm each day**

For young people aged 12-16

**Priority booking for those eligible for
benefits-related free school meals**

- Fun physical activities such as sports, dance and team games
- Creative activities such as music production, cooking, arts and crafts.
- Informal healthy lifestyles workshops
- Meet and socialise with other young people
- Free healthy food every day

**Use the QR code below or contact
SFYP St Albans Team to sign up.**

**Area Service Manager: Karen Haswell
Youth Work Practice Manager: Robert Brown**

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