

St. George's School Newsletter

Friday 23rd May 2025



From the Head

The summer exam season is in full flow, so it is the perfect time to shine a light on one of the unsung teams at St George's: our exceptional invigilation team, led with great dedication and expertise by Mrs Carly Monson, our Exams Officer.

Examinations are, for many pupils, the final stretch of a long and demanding race - a culmination of years of effort. In that race, the invigilation team are the stewards at the trackside: setting out the course, ensuring the rules are followed, and maintaining the calm, ordered conditions in which each runner can focus, push forward, and give their very best performance.

This team plays a vital role in the life of the school, not only during the public examination period but throughout the academic year. Whether supervising GCSEs, A' Levels, or internal mock exams, they are ever-present, ensuring that every assessment is conducted with integrity, fairness, and calm professionalism.

The Exams Office Invigilators must possess a detailed understanding of examination regulations, but their role goes far beyond that. They are responsible for creating an environment in which pupils can perform at their best - especially at one of the most intense and high-pressure moments of their school journey. Their quiet presence, reassuring manner, and professionalism help to create the conditions in which our pupils can concentrate, stay calm, and ultimately succeed.

I would like to extend my sincere thanks to the entire team, and especially to Mrs Monson, for their tireless work and unwavering commitment to excellence. They play a crucial part in helping our pupils cross the finish line with confidence.



Senior Leadership and Staffing Update

As we approach the end of the academic year, I share with you some important staffing changes within our Senior Leadership Team and wider academic structure at St George's.

Miss Georgina Peters, Our Director of learning for Sixth, will be leaving St George's at the end of this academic year to continue her career at Richard Hale School. Miss Peters has led our Sixth Form with energy, care, and ambition, and we are immensely grateful for her contribution to the life of the school and to the many students she has supported during her time here.

I am pleased to announce that **Mr Ben Cullis** has been appointed to lead our Sixth Form from September. Mr Cullis, already an Assistant Head, will continue to oversee admissions alongside his new responsibilities. He brings great knowledge, enthusiasm and strategic insight to this important role, and he is excited to work closely with our Sixth Form students and their families during this significant phase of their education.

In addition, I am delighted to confirm that **Mr Ryan Glass**, currently our Director of Learning for Mathematics and Computing, has been appointed to the role of Assistant Head, Academic. This appointment follows a national search and a highly competitive process. That Mr Glass has been selected is a testament both to his own outstanding leadership and to the strength of professional development at St George's. Since joining the school, Mr Glass has led the Mathematics faculty with vision, rigour and innovation and his appointment to the Senior Leadership Team will further strengthen our focus on academic excellence.

As a result of Mr Glass's appointment, I am pleased to share that **Mr Johnny Wright** will be the new Director of Learning for Mathematics and Computing. Mr Wright brings a wealth of experience, having previously served as Head of Mathematics and subsequently Director of Studies at Highgate School in North London. I am confident that he will lead, determined to continue the excellent progress made by the faculty under Mr Glass's leadership.

I hope you will join me in congratulating Mr Cullis, Mr Glass and Mr Wright on their respective appointments, and in thanking Miss Peters for her service and wishing her the very best for the future.

The Georgian is now live

This week, Mr Ellis and his amazing editorial team launched the second edition of 'The Georgian' magazine and are extremely proud of the final product. Over 50 students and staff were involved with this issue, and it certainly highlights so much of what makes St George's such a wonderful community.

Mr Ellis said, "There are too many people to thank personally, but our outgoing editorial team of Freya B, Milly M, Tolu O and Eleanor R have been magnificent and they have been integral in bringing 'The Georgian' back to life. We would also like to thank our executive editor, Sam Stow and Mr Gnanendran for all of their expert help and guidance."

Please see a link to a digital copy of the magazine attached below, hopefully it will provide you with some enjoyable half-term reading. Articles range from a feature on our Olympic star: Phoebe Gill, an exclusive interview with Mr Ford and a 'desert island discs' feature with Mr Finnegan.

<https://www.stgeorges.herts.sch.uk/the-georgian-school-magazine>

The editorial reins have now been handed over to the new Year 12 editorial team this week, and they plan on producing two issues a year. As always, we are impressed with the amount of talent, commitment and energy that our students give to projects like this.



Year 10 Promoting Positive Relationships (PPR) Survey Results

Every year we survey year 7,8,10 and 12 to get a snapshot of what life is like for them and compare this date with previous years' data as well as tracking each year group. This enables us to focus on interventions and support as well as feeding this intel into our Personal Development Programme and Friday 5 talks. All responses are anonymised.

Our students have told us:

- 100% of them have at least one friend (80.7% have more than 4 friends)
- 98% of students feel confident that their friends will always support and be loyal to them

As we know, teenage friendships can be rocky at times but these figures are very good:

- 95% reported that their friends have not said anything unkind to them online
- 92% said that their friends haven't said anything unkind to them in the real world.
- 90% of students have fallen out with a friend in the last half-term (but 44% have made a new friend in the same time period)

When it comes to coping with things which are challenging for them, students feel less overwhelmed than last year's cohort with the majority of students saying that they are able to cope when faced with adversity.

Overall, 97.8% of year ten students said that they feel confident and happy most of the time. This may surprise you to hear!

We always keep a close eye on sexualised/sexist behaviours and in the last half-term, the year tens reported that 95% of them have not experienced this in school. The national figure (2024) for sexual harassment was 59% of girls reporting these types of behaviours in school with 71% hearing sexual name calling (1.12% at StGs). We will continue to tackle all reports of sexualised language behaviours and encourage all students to be upstanders and to challenge their peers.

Save the date old chums! 25th - 26th June

The Drama Department are chuffed to bits to present a simply spiffing rendition of Denise Deegan's *Daisy Pulls It Off*. This frightfully funny spoof of an old English adventure novel is guaranteed to tickle the whole family. Daisy Meredith, a scholarship pupil at the esteemed Grangewood School for Girls, has an awfully tricky time of trying to navigate life at her new school. So, imagine her astonishment when she finds herself solving an age old mystery and saving the school!

Well, spit spot! Jolly well pop that date in your diary! And don't forget to bring your shillings for a spot of fizz - rumour has it there might even be a BBQ. How absolutely first-class! Tickets are now available by ParentPay.



Drama Department Props Request

Do you have 'vintage' luggage or something similar that you could lend us for our production of *Daisy Pulls It Off*? We are in need of as many as we can get our hands on and they need to be available for the whole of June if possible. The older the better but they will be used by students in the Grant Quad... so maybe not your best Louis Vuitton!



Condoover Trip Parents and Carers' Meeting

The parent briefing for the Year 8 trip to Condoover Hall/Ironbridge is on Wednesday 4th June at 7.00 p.m. in the Chapel. Students are not required to attend.

Year 13 Art Private View Celebration

On Wednesday evening, over 200 parents and students gathered for our annual Year 13 Art Private View Celebration - a vibrant showcase of creativity, talent, and hard work. The school's Old Gym is transformed every year into a stunning A' Level exhibition, highlighting exceptional work from students across all year groups.

Guests enjoyed refreshments as they explored a wide range of artwork, from detailed drawings and paintings, photography and graphic communication to imaginative sculpture and mixed media pieces. The atmosphere was full of pride and admiration, celebrating not only the beauty of the work but also the dedication of the young artists behind each piece.

We would like to thank Mrs Turner and her amazingly talented team for their dedication, inspiration and care for our students. The students' work is truly breath-taking.

SEND Parents and Carers' Coffee Morning

This week, SPACE were invited to attend our termly coffee morning and the speakers shared what services and support they provide for students with ADHD or ASD as well as their families. The speakers were blown away with the number of parents who attend these coffee mornings and we were certainly their biggest audience to date.

SPACE runs socials for young people, 1:1 support, a library of resources, workshops and courses but most importantly, they provide a space where parents with similar experiences can meet and share tips and advice.

If you were unable to attend or are interested in finding out more about their many support groups and services, please click here: <https://spaceherts.org.uk/>

All rise for the House of Commons

Last Monday, our Year 12 Politics students had an action packed day, visiting the House of Commons and the Supreme Court. On a baking hot London day, the students had a guided tour of the Houses of Parliament, followed by THREE Q&As. One was with Ella T (Old Georgian) who is now working for an MP, followed by a Q&A with Victoria Collins (MP for Harpenden and Berkhamsted). The final session was held with an established national journalist who talked about the role of media in politics. After a short lunch break, students then had a guided tour of the UK Supreme Court.

It was a fantastic day, and provided so much enrichment and engagement, bringing parts of the course such as parliament and the judiciary to life. Students from all schools (St George's, KWS, SJL & RPS) were a credit to their schools. Thanks to all the staff who came and a special thank you to all of those who gave up their time to speak to our students on the day.



Year 12s put through their paces in a mock trial

Two of our Year 12 students took part in a work experience competition last week, organised by Rayden Solicitors and hosted at the Salvation Army HQ in Harpenden.

Honrick C and Kira M were one of eight students selected from the four Harpenden consortium schools, and they were put through their paces with a whole day mock trial, judged by a panel of experts. This was after a qualifying round, where students had to submit a written submission about a case.

The organisers wanted to pass on that the standard was extremely high and that all students were a credit to their schools.

National Thank a Teacher and Support Staff Day

National 'Thank a Teacher Day' is an annual celebration of teachers and support staff across early years settings, schools, and colleges. This year it will take place on Wednesday 18th June 2025.

Last year over 82,000 Thank a Teacher Day personalised e-cards were sent. If you would like to send your message of thanks and appreciation to a teacher or member of support staff in your child's life, you can send one through the Teaching Awards Trust's [platform](#). We know that our staff would really appreciate the gesture.

Super-curricular and enrichment opportunities: InvestIN

InvestIN delivers immersive work experience programmes in London for students aged 15-18.

For more information:

Click here for a [brochure](#) (15% discount on courses will expire at the end of the half-term holidays)

Click here for an online [career quiz](#)

Click her for recordings of [webinars](#)

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

The Hidden Dangers of Scanning QR Codes

Action Fraud and Sky News have been reporting that cyber criminals are increasingly exploiting QR technology to direct people to malicious websites designed to steal people's personal and financial information.

QR codes have become a convenient part of everyday life—but they also carry hidden risks. A recent Sky News investigation revealed that organised crime groups are using QR code stickers across UK streets, including near schools, to promote illegal online cannabis delivery services. These links lead to slick websites offering next-day delivery, with transactions handled through banks and cryptocurrency. The products are often unregulated and potentially dangerous. [Sky News Report](#)

Meanwhile, Action Fraud warns that criminals are also using fake QR codes to trick people into giving away personal or financial information. Some replace legitimate QR codes in car parks with scam versions, while others send malicious codes via email in phishing attacks known as 'quishing'.

To stay safe, only scan QR codes from trusted sources, avoid using third-party scanning apps, and double-check links before following them. Suspicious QR code activity should be reported to [Action Fraud](#)

Please make your young people aware of the dangers of scanning random QR codes.