

St. George's School Newsletter

Friday 25th April 2025



From the Head

"From afar, we admire talent. Up close, what counts most is character".

Happy Easter! I hope that everyone in our community enjoyed a wonderful Easter celebration. We have returned this week to a very busy time in the academic year: Exams, revision and feedback now dominate the academic lives of Years 10 to 13, whilst pupils in the lower school continue to be busy in and beyond the classroom. Highlights this week have included a staff vs student debate, the inaugural meeting of the Carnegie Book Club and a Year 8 Maths challenge. We also marked St George's Day on Wednesday, and preparations for the 80th anniversary of VE Day are well underway. In this newsletter, you will find a flavour of all that is going on in our busy school, and information about our upcoming events.

A busy term, full of learning and enrichment! But it is worth pausing to reflect on what underpins everything we do. As the quote at the top reminds us, while talent may capture our attention from a distance, it is character that truly matters in the close-up of daily life. At St George's, our core purpose is to provide an environment where character and endeavour can flourish, and where pupils are inspired to aim higher. Every day, in our classrooms, corridors and conversations, we help shape the habits and mindsets of our pupils. What we choose to recognise and reward sends a clear message about what truly matters. You can impress others with your skills, but you earn their trust by standing for something greater than yourself. True success is not simply a matter of intelligence or ability; it is shown through resilience, when things go wrong, kindness in how we treat others, positivity in our outlook, and integrity in all we do. These are the qualities we seek to nurture and celebrate in our pupils every day. We know that we are not alone in this work.

We are already proud of all we do at school to help develop pupils' character, alongside all they learn and experience at home and beyond. But we also believe we can always be doing better. To this end, we would love to hear more from you on this topic and so are running a survey for the next two weeks. It seeks to find out what character traits you most value, and what do you think we should be intentionally developing in our young people?

[Please do take a moment to complete our short survey.](#)

Celebrating St. George's Day

On Wednesday, we decked the dining room with red and white bunting; flew the St. George's Cross; held a bake sale and ate a traditional English dinner to celebrate the patron saint of England. The only thing missing was Morris dancing. If you are part of a Morris Dancing troupe, we would love to hear from you.

The St. George's Day cake-off was a great success and there were lots of delicious entries. We were also pleased to raise £81.50 for Macmillan's Cancer Support. Well done to all involved and especially our top 3 bakers -

1st place - Lowri T

2nd place - Luella B

3rd place - Toby A



The Catering Team produced an outstanding feast of traditional roast chicken dinner with all the trimmings and apple crumble and custard for pudding. Students learnt about St. George and his stand for his Christian beliefs through the daily student bulletin and a good time was had by all.



Music Recital-Old Library, Monday 28th 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 are available via ParentPay. Please come and join us for this special event.

RSC Chemistry Olympiad 2025

The RSC Chemistry Olympiad is a national competition for the most able chemistry students consisting of a gruelling two hour written exam applying their A level Chemistry knowledge and skill.



16, 000 of the most able students from across the UK, many from private schools, took part with certificates being awarded only to those scoring highest relative to the others - Bronze (top 65%), Silver (top 33%), and Gold (top 8%).

Many congratulations to the following students who obtained a Silver Award: Genevieve A, Dan M, Mylo N and Joseph T.

HfL Maths Challenge

Last term, we were proud to have three Year 7 teams take part in the Herts for Learning Team Maths Competition. All teams performed brilliantly, showcasing great teamwork and problem-solving skills, with one team qualifying for the finals.

On Thursday 24th April, our qualifying team took part in the final. All students performed brilliantly and had a great time, finishing 10th out of 21 teams on the day — and 10th out of 144 teams overall! What a fantastic day out and a great opportunity for some more maths problem-solving.

A huge well done to all the students involved — we're incredibly proud of you!



StGs ridesThe Language Bus

Tim writes: This was an interesting and fun event held virtually where students and professors at King's College Cambridge gave different presentations about studying languages at university and where languages can take you. There were presentations on studying medieval languages of Europe; seeing how the different words would have been pronounced and how those languages have inspired today's speaking; and on studying a language from scratch in university. At the end of the day language students from King's College talked about the different jobs that involve languages such as tourism and law and explained what courses they were taking in university regarding their language learning. Overall it was a very informative and engaging event which I would definitely recommend to people wanting to do languages throughout school and in the future and people who enjoy learning languages.

Emily writes: During the Easter Break, I (and other Yr9 students across the school and country) took part in a Virtual Language Bus, run by the students at King's College. It included many sessions and guest speakers talking about a specialist subject in languages. Some of the sessions included Medieval Soundscapes, Learning Languages from Scratch and The German Reunification, all from professors who had a lot of experience and knowledge. It also ended nicely with where you can go with languages such as careers, and university courses. I enjoyed the experience a lot and highly recommended it to anyone in younger years who likes to learn language subjects both in and out of school.

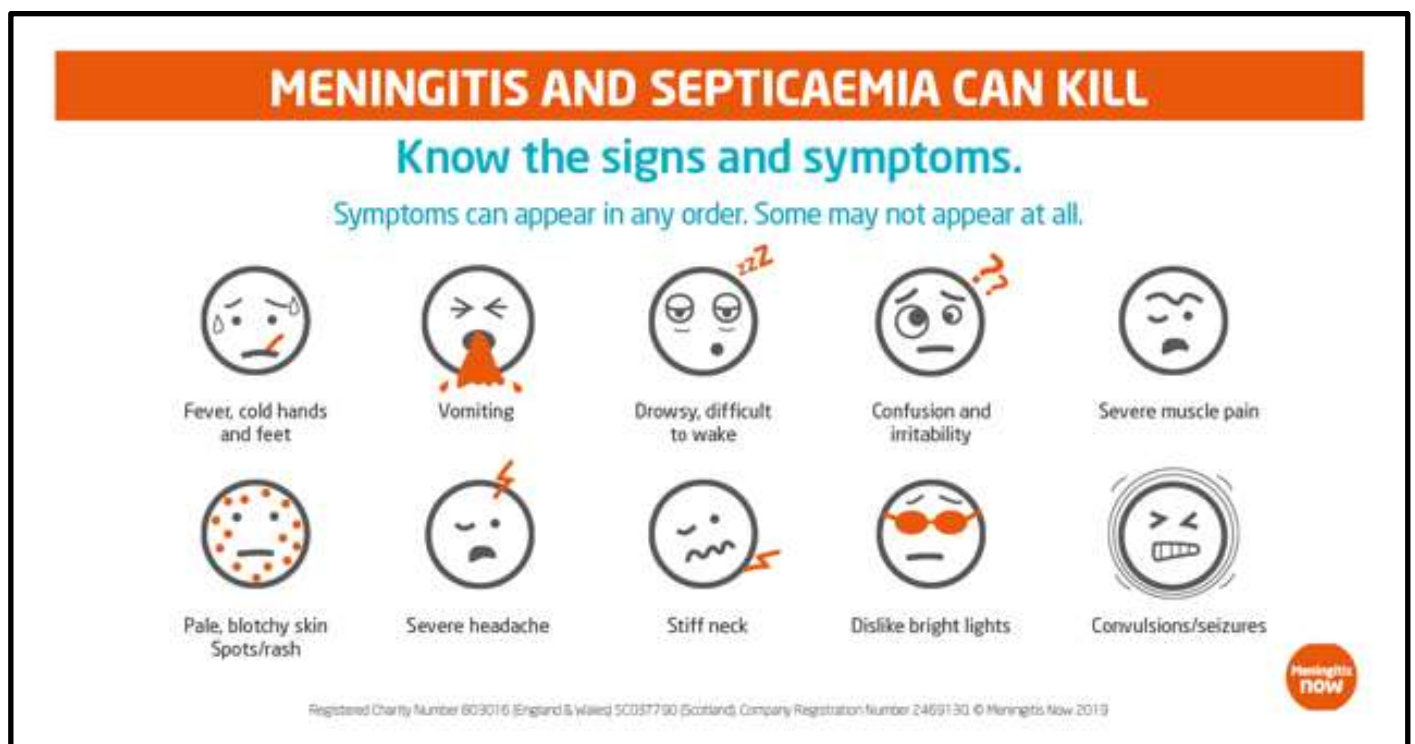
Hamish writes: Over the Easter holidays, I was one of 140 students selected to take part in the inaugural King's College Virtual Language Bus. We took part in several lectures, ranging from medieval soundscapes and exploring Russian, to student-led talks and discussions on German reunification. As someone who has always loved languages and their history, this was an incredible experience. I enjoyed everything but especially the session on medieval soundscapes. It stood out because it felt most foreign from our school

curriculum - I felt like I was discovering something completely new, from the imagined sounds of medieval battles to Dante Alighieri's depiction of the terrifying sounds of hell in The Divine Comedy.

Meningitis Awareness

Today Kate Speirs came in to talk to the year 13's about the risks of meningitis at university and the vaccines available. Her eldest daughter and former Georgian, Sophia, contracted bacterial meningitis B in her first year at university. The following link contains more information. Also attached is a signs and symptoms card. All the students were given a wallet/phone case sized copy today. Kate reminded us all that 90% of cases of bacterial meningitis in the UK are meningitis B, and this is not part of the vaccine programme offered by the NHS to 14 year olds. This vaccine needs to be paid for and arranged privately with pharmacies. ASDA Pharmacies yesterday launched their meningitis B vaccine at a more competitive cost than currently offered at other pharmacies in the UK.

[Meningitis amongst students](#)



St George's School Sailing Club - new season of sailing begins

The St George's School Sailing Club will be starting its new season of sailing this Sunday 27th April 2025 (the weather is looking warm, dry with a decent breeze!). We sail every Sunday in term time until October half term, meeting at the Goddard lay-by at 12 noon, then travelling to Rickmansworth Aquadrome by parent transport for an afternoon of sailing and returning around 6pm. Lifts can always be arranged for anyone coming without parents. The cost is £9 per session and there's no obligation to come every week.

If you are already registered with the Club, please respond to the Spond invitation to let us know whether or not you are coming this week. If you have never been to the Club before, we'd love you to come and try out sailing with us, whether you are experienced or a complete beginner.

For more information, please see our Facebook page or contact andrea.gott@hotmail.co.uk

Walking home

Now that the evenings are getting warmer and lighter (hooray!), we just wanted to kindly ask parents to talk to their children about keeping safe after school hours as they will be spending more time outdoors being out and about - which is great.

Please remind your children to always be aware of who is around them by not walking with their heads down glued to their screens and to think about keeping their phones out of sight. Students should not be hanging around after school in their school uniforms and we ask parents to consider the safety aspects of allowing children to be in areas where there is little or no adult presence in the evenings, for example Rothamsted Park.

PSA Ski-Wear Sale

The PSA is excited to announce its first ever pre-loved ski-wear sale, to be held later this year! Please help us to make this a success by donating any items of good quality, clean ski-wear that may be outgrown or you no longer need - that could be jackets, trousers, gloves, hats and any other ski-related gear, including for adults, teens or kids. Your donations will help to raise funds for the PSA, directly supporting our school community, and will also help other families to find affordable ski-wear. Donations can be dropped off at Goddard Reception from Monday 28th April.



Dance the Night Away in St Albans Cathedral

✧ Silent Disco Fundraiser ✧

For one night only, the stunning Nave of St Albans Cathedral will transform into a dancefloor like no other with DJ Fr Will dropping some blessed beats for this silent shuffle.

Join us for an unforgettable silent disco to raise funds for students at St George's School, Harpenden, heading off on a rugby and lacrosse tour of Canada and the USA.

- ❑ Three music channels – dance classics, pop hits & indie bangers
- ❑ Licensed bar
- ❑ Tickets: £25 | Over 18s only

This is a licensed event with a paid bar

[Silent Disco | St Albans Cathedral](#)



Sports Tour Fundraiser on 17th May

Please come and join us for a final fundraiser for our Sports Tour - a USA/Canadian fun themed night of food, fun and a live band .

Tickets cost £35 - which includes a welcome drink and a meal.

7pm until late at St George's School

Dress Code: Smart/Casual, with a little red, white and blue or anything will do! Choices of food: Chicken Burger / Beef Burger or Veggie Burger.

Tickets are available now on Parent Pay. Please indicate your meal choice and if you wish to be seated with another family (Please make a note of surname in the notes section on parent pay)



A Message from Public Health Nursing, Hertfordshire Community NHS Trust

What does your child know about School Nurses?

Hertfordshire Community NHS Trust (HCT) are looking to improve our School Nursing service. They would like to understand what Year 7 children know about School Nursing as this will help them to better support them.

Please can you ask your Year 7 child to complete the survey below. The survey asks them what they know about School Nurses, and whether they know how to access them for support. All responses are anonymous. <https://forms.office.com/e/jHney5i39S>



Families Feeling Safe

Supporting Families with Protective Behaviours

For Mums, Dads & Carers

Online courses starting May 2025



Are you looking for strategies and new ideas to help improve family life?

This fully funded 8-week term time course can help you to:

- Understand what may be influencing your child's behaviour
- Understand how Feelings, Thoughts and Behaviour link together
- Respond to a range of feelings e.g. anger, frustration, anxiety, stress and worry
- Improve communication to build better relationships
- Build on your own and your child's strengths
- Learn strategies to help you and your family feel safe

Tuesday mornings

6 May—1 July
9.30am—11.30am
Course code LS/am

OR

Thursday evenings

8 May—3 July
7.00pm—9.00pm
Course code LS/eve

For eligibility and to book your fully funded place please contact:

enquiries@familiesfeelsafe.co.uk or Tel: 07850 518216

*Please quote the course code and your mobile number