

St. George's School Newsletter

Friday 28th February 2025



From the Head

On Monday 3rd March, the School will be celebrating #WorldBoardingStaffDay, an event organised by the Boarding Schools Association to recognise the invaluable contribution of all staff who support borders in schools.

Here at St George's, we are fortunate to have a dedicated team who care for our pupils, often going above and beyond to ensure their happiness and wellbeing. But don't just take my word for it - here's what some of our pupils have to say:

- *"In the 5 months that I have been here for, the house staff have been so incredibly welcoming. They are always there if you need support and have the funniest jokes."* - Y12 girl
- *"Thank you for making me feel welcome to boarding within the house from the start of the year"* Y10 boy
- *"Our boarding staff are like our parents away from home. They are always kind, cheer us up when we're down, and make our boarding house feel like home. We're so lucky to have them!"* - year 7 girl
- *"Thanks for giving me respect and for that I am most grateful for"* Y11 boy
- *"Our boarding parents go out of their way to make boarding a fun experience. I love baking and the end of term hot chocolates that we get in Siddaw."* - Y13 girl

You may have heard a recent Radio 4 documentary, How Boarding Schools Shaped Britain, hosted by Nicky Campbell. The first two episodes explored the history of boarding and were critical of how some schools operated in the past. As both a former boarder and now the Head of a boarding school, I found this difficult listening. However, the final episode painted a far more positive picture of modern boarding, particularly state boarding schools, describing them as "education's best-kept secret" - and I couldn't agree more!

May I take this opportunity to thank all the staff who contribute to boarding at St George's, so ably led by Nicola Borland-Peel, our Director of Boarding. Our boarders bring so much to our community, enriching the life of the School in countless ways. I am incredibly proud to lead a state boarding school and to see firsthand the dedication of our staff and the vibrancy our borders bring to St George's.

Some of our Wonderful Boarding Staff:



Inter-House Drama Tickets are now on sale!

We are thrilled to announce that tickets are now on sale via ParentPay for this year's Inter House Drama Competition.

The Drama Captains for Goddard, Grant, Monk and Watts House have been working hard to present a short play for your entertainment. We have four very different tales - each filled with excitement, humour, mystery and suspense! It is going to be a brilliant event and we can't wait for you to see the hard work each cast and crew member has put into this event. This year we will be running a matinee performance starting at 5.00 p.m on Wednesday 5th March. The final, adjudicated performances will be on Thursday 6th March starting at 7.00 p.m.

This year, our House plays will be adjudicated by the very talented Jamie Davis who is the writer and creator of the ITV drama YOU AND ME. It was described as 'a sharp original drama', 'deftly written' and 'profound' by The Guardian, and Jamie was singled out as 'a promising new writer' by The Times. He has since been selected to be part of the BBC Writers Academy and has written extensively for both CASUALTY and EASTENDERS. He began his career as an actor appearing in a wide range of television programmes and on stage for the Royal Shakespeare Company.



We expect this to be an incredibly exciting night and can't wait for you to join us!

Reminder for KS3 Parents:

Students in KS3 will have reduced homework, and any that is set will be reading-related. We encourage students to use this time in the evenings to immerse themselves in books, and we would greatly appreciate your support in fostering this habit at home.

'Guess the book in a Jar'

MONDAY- FRIDAY

in the Library

Book vouchers to be won!

Book Emoji Competition

ALL WEEK

In Tutorbases

Winning Tutorbase Prize!

Coming up...

WORLD **BOOK DAY**

Week

3rd - 7th March

And in Tutorbase we're going to...

Drop Everything And Read...

So come ready with the book you're reading

Book Swap

TUESDAY and WEDNESDAY LUNCHTIME

in the Library

Students can bring a book they no longer want and swap it for a new read. Or just come along to grab a new book!

'First Line' Book Quiz

THURSDAY LUNCHTIME

in the Library

Prizes!

Parent and Carers' Support for Exam Preparation

We were pleased to welcome Elevate to our school on Wednesday 12th February who delivered a really informative speech on study and revision techniques to some of our parents. As part of the programme package, we are able to have free access to the Parent Webinar Series, which are fortnightly sessions that cover various topics to help you get the best for your child.

The next webinar is running on **Tuesday 11th of March 6:00 – 7:00 p.m.** and will be on **Exam Preparation**. You can register at the link <https://go.elevateeducation.com/ukwebinars> and you will receive a recording if you can't make it. We hope you find this useful.

If you would like to receive their free ebook, register your interest at: [Elevate Education](#)

Leavers hoodies Year 11 and Year 13

Leavers' hoodies for [year 11](#) and [year 13](#) are on sale! This year, Tylers, a local sportswear company, is supplying both.

Orders close on 8 March 2025—no late orders accepted. Hoodies, available in 11 colours at £19.20, will be delivered to school and distributed via tutor bases in early April. When ordering, select 'Delivery to Tylers' to ensure you do not get charged a delivery fee and the school will receive the hoodie, for distribution.

For hoodie queries, contact Tylers via their website.

Other questions? Email leadershipadmin@stgeorges.herts.sch.uk.

Nature Club

Nature Club held its first session of the year just in time for the start of Spring next week! Mr Reddings in the Tech Department held a brilliant workshop and the Nature Club team built seven bird nesting boxes between them. We plan to put them up in various locations around the school in the next few weeks, hopefully some new avian families will be moving in soon!

Nature Club meets every Thursday after school in the school Secret Garden - it is a hands-on club for all who are interested in rolling up their sleeves to grow and tend plants, learn about and look after wildlife in our school grounds and be the best possible advocates for Nature.



Apprenticeships and Technical Education pathways

In partnership with our local Careers Hub our school is participating in the annual Hertfordshire Parent/Carer Apprenticeships and Technical Education Pathways Survey. It doesn't matter whether you have strong views or have little knowledge of apprenticeships to be able to complete this survey. Some of you may have completed previous years surveys – some questions have been added or slightly amended since last year.

All completed surveys are completely anonymous, and responses will be collated directly by Amazing Apprenticeships who have been commissioned to complete the survey across Hertfordshire. If we receive more than 50 responses our school will receive its own individual report which will be incredibly helpful for us in planning future careers activity for both students and parent/carers. Your continued support is very much appreciated. [CLICK HERE to access the survey](#)

The Senior Prefect Day of Fun

SPDOF is back again with a roster of exciting performances from your senior prefects. Big stars and big names will be up on stage, so students are invited to come on down to the Assembly Hall at 1.20 pm on Friday 21st March! Tickets will go on sale (on Parent Pay) on Friday 7th March at 4.00 pm, with year 7, 8, 9 and 13 given priority. See you then!

Stevensons News

This week, we received news that Stevensons are closing their Harpenden branch. They have provided the flyer below to explain their decision. Their St Alban's branch will remain open and their online shop will continue to offer free returns for up to 365 days.

Stevensons, who have supplied St George's uniform since 1988, have assured us that they remain committed to providing excellent service to our families.

STEVENSONS

Dear Customers,

We're writing to let you know that our Leyton Road store in Harpenden will be closing in March 2025.

Since opening the Harpenden store in 2019, we've seen a growing shift towards online shopping—especially after the launch of our new website in early 2024. As we further enhance our online experience, we expect this trend to continue, shaping how we support our customers going forward.

Alongside these changing shopping habits, rising operational costs, including rent, business rates, and the introduction of town centre parking charges have also influenced our decision.

We're incredibly grateful for your support over the years and look forward to continuing to serve you—either at our St Albans branch or anytime online at www.stevensons.co.uk.

Thank you again for being part of our journey.

Best regards,
The Stevensons Group

SPDOF '25

21/03/25

MUSICAL ICONS

**Tickets will be sold on 7th March at 16:00 on Parent Pay.
Year 7, 8, 9 and 13 will have priority on a first come first serve basis.

WHAT IS SPDOF?

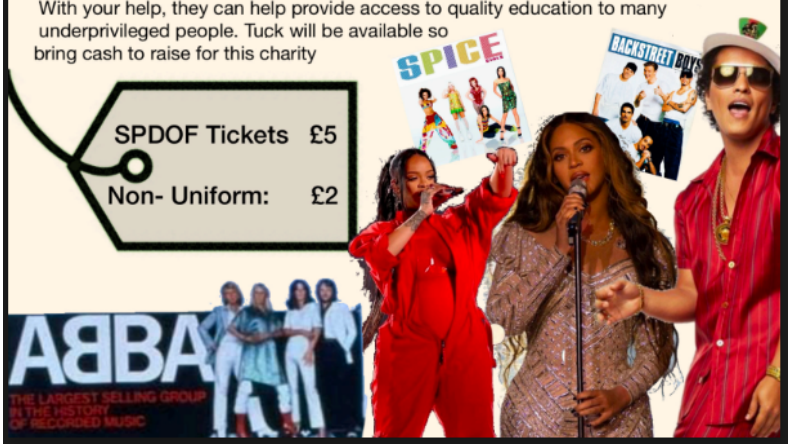
SPDOF is the Senior Prefect Day of Fun! It's the 2024-2025 Prefect's last event and all the money raised goes to charity! It's a performance prepared by the Prefects to entertain the School (and even some of your favourite teachers), full of songs from your favourite musical icons. Book a ticket to see what other artists may make an appearance that aren't on this poster!

WHICH CHARITY ARE WE SUPPORTING?

The Church of Pentecost Chairman Education Foundation (COPCEF). With your help, they can help provide access to quality education to many underprivileged people. Tuck will be available so bring cash to raise for this charity

SPDOF Tickets £5

Non- Uniform: £2





Delivering Special Provision Locally

The Pioneer Club

REGISTERED CHARITY NO. 302455

Services for Young People

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



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www.dspl7.org.uk