

St. George's School Newsletter

Thursday 28th November 2024



From the Head

This week in House assemblies, pupils had the opportunity to hear from a fellow student in their house about a book that holds special meaning to them. I want to extend my gratitude to those pupils who volunteered to share their reading habits—it has been truly inspiring to see the incredible variety of books they chose. From a gripping murder mystery to a Gothic fiction classic, from an imaginative fantasy novel to sharp political satire, the diversity of titles has been remarkable. You can see their recommendations below:



Following these student contributions, I spoke about the benefits of reading and took pupils through my own love of “The Lord of the Rings”. I made the point that reading expands our vocabulary, encourages deeper thinking, and has the power to transform how we approach important ideas. It also connects us to others, helping us develop empathy and a greater understanding of the world around us.

CS Lewis once reputedly said, “We read to know we are not alone.” This sentiment captures the way reading allows us to bridge gaps of isolation, connect with others’ experiences, and fosters a sense of shared humanity.

This is particularly significant at a time when [The National Literacy Trust](#) has reported a troubling trend: the percentage of children and young people who enjoy reading is at its lowest recorded level. This matters greatly, not only because reading is an essential academic skill but also because it is closely linked to improved wellbeing, greater empathy, and enhanced progress in all subjects.

At St George's, we are committed to cultivating a love of reading and encouraging lifelong reading habits in our students. You should have received our recent request for pupils in Year 7 to 11 to bring a reading book to school every day. By creating more frequent and varied opportunities to read, we hope to inspire every student to discover the joy and personal benefits of reading for themselves.

As I concluded in assembly, the upcoming long weekend is a perfect opportunity to pick up a book. Why not make it a family activity? You could swap watching TV together for shared reading time, or even discuss what you're reading around the dinner table (see some suggestions later in the newsletter). If that feels like too big a change for now, remember that modelling your own enjoyment of reading is one of the most powerful ways to encourage your child. Whether it's fiction or nonfiction, a book or a magazine, the most important thing is simply to read.

Thank you for your support in helping us nurture a love of reading at St George's.

News from the Rev

This weekend is BIG for the Christian church as we begin Advent! This season we prepare for the coming of Jesus and the festival of Christmas. We have some wonderful services planned for this Christmas period and these are listed below:

Sunday 8th December 5pm - Junior Carol Service featuring the Junior Choir and Junior Band (brass and strings). Our theme is 'Christmas around the world' and we celebrate our international community within St. George's with readings, carols, prayers and performances. The service is a Junior one and is strictly first come first served basis (doors open at 4.30 p.m.)

Saturday 14th December 3pm - Old Georgian Carol Service. We will welcome Georgians past and present to this service of Nine Lessons in Carols. All are warmly welcome to join us for the service and mulled wine and mince pies afterwards.

Sunday 15th December 5pm and 7pm - Nine Lessons in Carols - featuring our Chamber Choir and our Senior Choir. This is a Senior Candle Lit Service and always very special. All are warmly welcome.

Year Sevens Quality of Life in Schools Survey (QUALIS)

On the 15th November, our year sevens completed their QUALIS surveys in the computer rooms. This annual survey gives us a snapshot of what life is like for our year sevens and helps us to celebrate how brilliant they are as well as helping us to support those who may be finding school a bit more challenging. The questions are based on what has happened to them in the last two weeks and we compare the results with previous years' results. Some of the highlights are below:

- 96.5% of students reported that another student had said something nice to them
- 95.4% of students reported that another student had smiled at them
- 84.7% of students reported that another student shared something nice with them
- 91.3% of students reported that another student had played a game with them

There are so many clubs and activities for your young person to get involved with and to meet like-minded chums - such as Chess Club, Computing Club, Warhammer Club, STEM and Gardening Club. The extra-curricular activity sheet is on the school website: [St George's School AIM HIGHER Extracurricular activities](#)

Next week, the results of the survey will be fed back to the students and they will be asked to think about their role in year seven and what they can do to make everyone feel included and valued.

'Treasure Island' hits the spot

What a joyous production we were treated to last week. Thank you to all the staff and students who worked so hard to make this a great show.



Relationships & Sex Education Morning: Parent and Carers Feedback Opportunity

If you are interested in taking part on our consultation and PSHE lesson taster morning on Monday 9th December from 9.00 to 10.30 a.m., then please email Miss Hartley: ahartley@stgeorges.herts.sch.uk
The session will be informative and fun.

Thank you to the PSA for the Christmas Fayre

We would like to say a massive well done and thank you to everyone who helped at the PSA's Christmas Fayre. It was very well attended, brilliantly organised and very Christmassy!

News from PE Department

Thank you to all the spectators who came to watch the Lacrosse Friday Night Lights; it is estimated there were around 350 people who attended which is incredible. The atmosphere was electric and a real joy to

be a part of this feast of sport. STAHS won the game 10-9 after an incredible fight back from our girls. Well done to everyone on both teams who played so well.

On Saturday 14th December, we are holding our annual Old Georgians Lacrosse tournament with a new touch Rugby Festival. Years 7 & 8 play together as do Years 9 and 10. Teams are arranged into mixed ability across all year groups. The morning will start at 9.30 a.m. and finish at 12.00 p.m. with a presentation. Following the games, our Old Georgians Lacrosse v our current 1st Lacrosse team match will start at 12.30 p.m. It would be great to see as many supporters as possible for the OGs game! Parents are very welcome to come and watch - there will be tea, coffee and bacon rolls available.

If you would like to take part in the matches or if you are an older year group and would like to also be involved in the day, please sign up using the links below

Lacrosse - <https://forms.gle/3DXNk5zQhMhL6D9U9>

Rugby - <https://forms.gle/VNPFm6GzPJiNvYQ76>

See you all there!



Update on House Creative Writing Competition

Last Friday saw the final round of House Creative Writing, in which 28 students competed for their Houses to win points for the Endeavour Cup by creating beautiful flash fiction pieces - in a single hour.

The finalists were chosen by each House team from an impressive number of entries in Round One, where students submitted 100 word responses to an image and word prompt.

Students worked extremely hard on their final round, 500 word pieces. Our guest judge, local author and St George's legend Paddy Storrie, will now be carefully scrutinising each piece closely and ranking each year group's entries, as well as awarding overall first, second and third prizes for outstanding creative writing. We are very excited to see which House triumphs in this creative challenge!



UK Parliament Week

Last week was UK Parliament Week, the aim of which is to give students of all ages across the country a greater insight into how Parliament and democracy works in the UK. This is a vital part of our teaching of Fundamental British Values.

On Friday, we were fortunate to have our local MP, Victoria Collins, visit the school. Some of our Year 12 magazine leads conducted an interview with Victoria for the school magazine. Following that, Mr. Ellis chaired a Q&A with Victoria, which we opened up to all year groups - and this was extremely well attended.

As always, our students were a credit to the school and asked insightful, respectful questions, in a lively, engaging session. For more information on this and future events: follow [@stgeorgespolitics](#) on Instagram.

We also have our annual St George's Question Time event taking place on Friday 13th December.

We would like to thank Mr Ellis for making these events so exciting and for encouraging our students to be active citizens who are interested in the world around them



Cecil Grant Founders Trust Newsletter - Look Out for It!

We're excited to share the latest Cecil Grant Founders Trust Newsletter, packed with updates about the Trust's work and the positive impact of your generous contributions. Inside, you'll find highlights such as the Cecil Grant pin badges with house colours and student handbooks; updates on funding for vital resources like new textbooks; subscriptions, debating, PE and art equipment and the ongoing ICT project to install new PCs across the school. We also reflect on a busy year, welcome new trustees, and say a heartfelt thank you to our donors for helping us continue the Trust's important mission of supporting all St George's pupils. Look out for the full newsletter in your inbox or on the school website! <https://cafdonate.cafonline.org/25388>



Best regards, Ben Noakes (Chair of CGFT)

News from Design & Technology

Year 9 students have been busy in the workshop this term designing and making some fantastic desktop storage units using recycled scrap wood. They took inspiration from architectural styles and pop culture

and built upon the skills and knowledge they have learnt during years 7 and 8 to create some fantastic prototypes.

Mr Reddings has been thoroughly impressed with their accuracy, attention to detail, creativity and range of joinery skills throughout the project. Well done Year 9!



Super-curricular Opportunities

Futures Programme: This presentation, held by medical students, is designed to help Year 9 – 11 students decide whether 'Medicine', or becoming a doctor, is for them. It may also be helpful for anyone else seeking information about the process – including parents and teachers. It will be held on the 3rd of December 7.00 to 8:30 p.m. on Zoom. Please fill in the sign-up form below to receive the log in details: <https://forms.gle/RLXmFJwb456kw8yo7>

The application form closes 29th of November. The evening will include:

How do I know medicine is right for me?

The Application Process

The Medical Degree - Foundation Years (Post Degree)

Dentistry vs Medicine

If you have any more questions, please contact molly.butcher@nhs.net

If your child attends any online super-curricular events, Mrs Dodds would be grateful for your feedback. jdodds@stgeorges.herts.sch.uk

Talking about books

We know that reading is a vital skill which impacts on all areas of the curriculum. As a school, we are committed to embedding a reading culture and encouraging as many of our students as possible to become active readers. Whilst you may not always have the opportunity to read with your children, it is really useful to get them to talk about what they have read. Below are some questions which might help you create meaningful book conversations with your young person.

- Before reading:
- Why did you select this book?
- What do you think the book is going to be about?
- Why does it interest you?
- Does this book remind you of anything else you've already read or seen?
- What kind of characters do you think will be in the book?
- What do you think is going to happen?

As they are reading:

- How are you finding the book? What's happened so far?
- What do you think will happen next?
- What are your first impressions of the characters?
- Where is it set? What sort of atmosphere is created?
- If you were that character, what would you have done differently?
- If the book was a TV show, which actors would you cast in it?
- If you met the characters, which ones would you be friends with??
- Did you learn any new words or facts so far?

After reading:

- What was your favourite part of the book? Why?
- Who was your favourite character? Why?
- What was the most interesting thing you learned from the book?
- Why do you think the author wrote this book?
- Would you have ended the book differently? Did it end the way you thought it would?
- If you could change one thing in the book, what would it be?
- Would you read another book by the same author or from the same genre?

Don't forget to talk about the books that you are reading as well.

Sixth Form Uniform

Although we have been really impressed with the manner in which both year 12 and year 13 have started the year in terms of conduct and attitude, please be aware there are strict rules regarding skirt/dress length for female students.

We have copied a section from the sixth form dress code policy, which all students have signed to agree to adhere to, and wish to point out that it states the following:

This policy is designed to comply with the school's Equal Opportunities Policy and allows for sixth formers to express individuality whilst keeping to common, formal guidelines.

COMPULSORY:

A formal tailored suit (blazer and trousers / skirt or dress)

Skirt/dress length must be no shorter than below outstretched fingers

Suit jackets must be worn at all times

DON'TS:

Coats and neck scarves are not to be worn indoors

No thick-knit jumpers/cardigans
No sculpted, lycra-style or body-con style skirts

Any student who breaches the Sixth Form Dress Code can expect to be sent home to change.
Some alternative suitable clothing is available for those who prefer to remain in school, students will be required to leave a deposit for each borrowed item.

Please see the photographs below of female sixth form students who have appropriate styles of uniform.
Parents, we welcome your support in ensuring students adhere to the dress code.



SIGNPOSTING

During a busy and noisy time of year,
High Street Methodist Church invites you to
hear the sound of something extraordinary

A sound of joy, hope, peace and love **for everyone**

You can join us at our Sunday services in person or online
9:15 and 11am each Sunday

CHRISTMAS 2024 AT HIGH STREET

Sunday 22 December

10:30am Nativity Service*

6pm Carols by Candlelight*

Tuesday 24 December

3pm Family Christingle

5pm Family Christingle

11pm Christmas Communion*

Wednesday 25 December

10:30am Christmas Day Celebration*

Sunday 29 December

10:30am New Years Service

** also live streamed*



highstreet.church 
the church in the high street



OG's Intra School Lacrosse & Touch Rugby Tournament

Saturday 14th December 2024

9.30am – 12pm

Please sign up if you would like to play in mixed teams and
are in
Years 7, 8, 9 or 10

If you are in an older year group and would like to help out
please also complete the form.

You can sign up via the google link which has been sent to
you via Edulink or Google classroom or the QR code below.

Spectators welcome - Tea, coffee and Bacon rolls will be
available all morning.

The Old Georgians game will start at 12.30pm



Lacrosse Sign up



Rugby Sign up

Sign up will close on 5th December



Initial Teacher Training

Applications

open now

Register your interest today.



**It's really hard when you think
your child isn't safe.
We are here to listen and help.**

A black and white photograph of a woman with long hair, seen from the back, standing by a large window. She is pulling back a sheer curtain to look out at a multi-story building. The scene is dimly lit, with light coming from the window.

My daughter isn't safe,
she is having to do
things which could get
her into trouble with
the police.

I feel isolated and
nobody is telling me
what is going on.

SAFECALL
It's your call.

Call or text 116 000, 7 days a week, 9am-11pm
for free, confidential support

Safecall is a county lines exploitation support service operated by the charity Missing People
Registered charity in England and Wales (1020419) and in Scotland (SC047419)

A square QR code located in the bottom right corner of the advertisement.

If you are concerned that your young person is in trouble outside of school, please let the school's safeguarding team know. There is so much that we can do to support you and your young person: safeguarding@stgeorges.herts.sch.uk We are here to help.