

St. George's School Newsletter

Friday 31st January 2025



From the Head

This week, I had the privilege of presenting Bronze Duke of Edinburgh's (DofE) Awards to 166 of our Year 11 pupils. As a passionate advocate for the award, I firmly believe in the opportunities it provides, and this evening was a fantastic celebration of our students' achievements.



To have such a large cohort successfully complete the award—far above the norm in most schools—is a testament to their dedication; the support of their families, and the commitment of our dedicated staff. I would like to take this opportunity to thank Mr Lumsden, Mrs Howard, and all the staff who work as volunteers and assessors.

During the presentations, Mrs Howard spoke about the programme's impact on our local community. Last year, St George's Bronze participants contributed 3224 hours of volunteering—equating to an incredible £17,022 worth of service! This is a remarkable demonstration of our pupils' willingness to give back.

After the ceremony, I asked students which of the four sections (Volunteering, Skill, Physical, or Expedition) they found most challenging. Their answers varied: some struggled with the early Sunday mornings to go and coach a team; others found stepping outside their comfort zone to volunteer with strangers daunting, and many recalled the perseverance needed to keep going on the expedition despite aching feet!

Psychologist Angela Duckworth, author of *Grit: The Power of Passion and Perseverance*, studied leaders across various industries to uncover the key to their success. She summed up her finding saying: **"The highly accomplished are paragons of perseverance. They are the tortoises that have outrun the hares."** The DofE Award embodies this idea—it is not just about starting something but about seeing it through, despite the obstacles. Our Y11 pupils have shown remarkable determination, overcoming challenges and pushing themselves beyond their comfort zones. Their achievements demonstrate resilience, a quality that will serve them well far beyond this Award.



Dragon's Den

Following 3 months of preparation, eight teams of Year Nine students presented their business ideas to a trio of Business Dragons from the world of commerce. The initial launch in September attracted 25 teams which were reduced to eight for the Final based on their proposed ideas. Teams were given the task of creating an innovative product or service that would attract investment from our Dragons.

Highly professional PowerPoint presentations offered a variety of products under the company names of 'Fridge Saver', 'Allerfree', 'Dismissed and Recycled', 'Econails', 'Kolouryourlife', 'Stylease', 'Sipsmart', and 'Minecraft Masterclass'.

The key elements of Finance, Marketing, Operations and HR were covered by all of the teams prompting probing follow up questions. The Dragons commented on the creativity, organisation, communication and teamwork skills of all students before, with a suitable fanfare, declaring the winners to be 'Stylease' who presented 'a hairbrush which can brush hair but adds value by holding any liquid or gel-based hair product for convenient, controlled application'.

Many congratulations to all participants who will undoubtedly have learnt more than they can imagine to take forward into the workplace. Thanks also to our Dragons for giving up their time. Testament to the success of the event is that it took little salesmanship to sign them up for next year!



A big thank you to Mr Reynolds for organising this exciting event - the standard was incredibly high.

Year 9 Options Fayre

This week, we have held our Options Fayre for our year nines to help them think about their options and to give them the opportunity to speak to current year ten students about what it's like to do the course. The year tens were superb subject ambassadors and spoke passionately and with insight about their subjects.



Celebrating Chinese New Year – Year of the Snake!

A huge thank you to all those students who helped decorate the school library to celebrate Chinese or Lunar New Year which started on January 29th this year. The library was a hive of activity, with students creating some fabulous paper chain, finger puppet and curly snakes, as well as producing some popular New Year greetings and blessings. It all looks amazing and so vibrant! Celebrations culminate with the Lantern Festival on February 12th, so our decorations will be cheering the Library up until then.

We have a fantastic selection of books on Chinese history and culture, as well as information about the zodiac and traditions of the festival on our lovely display.



News from the Rev

This term is well underway and we have been busy in chapel with the weekday chapels looking at 'Awe and Wonder' (the stars and planets, the human body, the mathematics of the universe). In Sunday chapels, we are looking at parables (the sower, good and bad builder and the rich fool). We also have a new student bible study happening on Wednesday lunchtime and 13 students have signed up for Confirmation classes. Busy, busy, busy. Please continue to pray for us.

If you are wondering what Rev Warner does in his spare time - well, he writes songs and his latest offering is a song called 'Son' which can be heard and streamed on the Spotify link: [Click here](#)

Netball Update

Senior Netball: St G v Sandringham

A tense and highly competitive match saw St George's senior netball squad beat Sandringham by just one point! All girls displayed a fantastic level of skill and commitment and we are so very proud of them.

Junior Netball: Samuel Ryder

We had two matches this week against Samuel Ryder. The girls were lucky enough to be able to sit and support each other's matches and cheer each other on. The U12Bs game started slow but the girls worked as a great team and pulled away, finishing the game with a great win of 14-4. The U12As match was very

competitive throughout but the girls stayed strong, playing some great netball and ending the match with 15-9 to us! Our MVPs were Libi (A) and Elodie (B) and a special thank you to Harriet who stepped up and played both games, so we had enough players for the Bs, don't know how you had the energy!



School captain application and selection process

Thank you to all students who completed the written task for school captain last week. Miss Peters and Mr Ellis were honoured to read such candid and personal accounts from a range of Year 12 students who applied.

The shortlisted 8 students (from 54 applicants) are about to commence their selection phase including the Hustings on Friday, where students vote, followed by the assessment day. This includes a panel interview, conversations with the Head Mr Ford and a student voice / panel discussion.

We wish all candidates the very best of luck!

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PSA Quiz – Saturday 8th March 2025

The St George's PSA Quiz is back with a new host at the helm. The much-loved Mr Storrie has hung up – or dropped – his mic but we're carrying on regardless.

This year's quiz may be less *Mastermind* and more *Blockbusters*, but you're guaranteed an evening of fun, food and some fiendish frustration. And I hope you're all now humming the Blockbusters theme tune!

Tickets are still only £15 per person, including a delicious choice of curry. Get together eight of you for a whole table or pick up a pair and we'll build your team for you. [Buy your tickets now!](#)



School Site Opening Times – Important Information

We have noticed a growing trend of students arriving on site very early in the morning, while at the same time, an increase in students arriving late to registration. While we understand that family schedules, work commitments, and travel disruptions sometimes lead to early drop-offs or late collections, this is not ideal and presents challenges for us in ensuring children are safe.

Students should only be on site within the time frames set out below unless they are attending a supervised activity. We kindly ask for your support and cooperation in ensuring all students arrive and leave at appropriate times to support both their safety and punctuality. We hope the following information helps clarify expectations:

	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri
Arrive on site	8:00 am – 8:25 am				8:15 am – 8:45 am
Breakfast available	8:00 am – 8:25 am				8:15 am – 8:45 am
Library open	8.15am – 4:00 pm				8:30 am – 3:00 pm
Day students depart	By 3:40 pm				By 3:10 pm

Exceptions

Students may remain on site outside of these times if they are:

- Attending a staff-organised and supervised activity.
- Required to attend a detention.
- In the library (until closing time).
- Boarding students, who have separate arrangements.
- Signed in as a guest in a boarding house.

If you have any comments or concerns please contact your young person’s head of house.

Flute and Saxophone recital - Monday 3rd February

A final reminder that this recital is happening in the Old Library on Monday 3 February at 7pm. The featured artists are flautist Clare Childs (née Robson) and saxophonist Dom Childs. They are both professional musicians and Clare attended St George’s from 1994-2001, being the school captain in 2000/01. It is great to welcome Clare and her husband back to school for what promises to be a wonderful evening including music by Bach, Debussy, Bernstein and Madeleine Dring. They will be accompanied on the piano by Alison Farr.

Tickets cost £10 and are available now via ParentPay. Due to the size of the Old Library there are only 50 tickets available and these will be allocated on a first come, first served basis.

Refreshments before the recital and during the interval will be provided by the PE department as part of their fundraising efforts for their forthcoming Rugby and Lacrosse tour to America.

NOTICES

Cake Sale for GOSH

On Saturday 8th Feb (9.30am to 12 noon) at High Street Methodist church, our students Keira and Joshua S will be holding a charity bake sale in memory of their brother Benjamin for Great Ormond Street Hospital to help fund their new Children with Cancer centre.

To read about Benjamin's story and the motivation behind raising money for this charity then please see the just giving link below. They are looking for baking volunteers to join in with the fun and boost funding. I

If you would like to take part in the baking then please contact Baldeep Salter by emailing baldeep.punni@googlemail.com in advance so that the guidelines can be sent to you.

Please come and support Keira and Josh if you are free and enjoy the delicious treats. Every penny counts and will make a difference to the lives of the children and their families. We thank you in advance for your generosity and kindness. [Click here](#)



How to get help with a sick child

Having a poorly child can be frightening, and it is sometimes hard to know what to do for the best. If you are concerned about your child's health, contact 111 online, www.111.nhs.uk (for children aged 5 and over) or alternatively call 111 or speak to your GP or a local pharmacist. They are trained to recognise the symptoms of serious illness and will direct you to an A&E if that's the best option for your child.

You will also find comprehensive and clear information on the Hertfordshire and West Essex Healthier Together website - www.hwehealthiertogether.nhs.uk . It has information about a range of common childhood illnesses and their symptoms, all in one place and supplied by trusted local health experts. There are easy-to-follow 'traffic light' descriptions for different illnesses help parents and carers to understand how serious their child's symptoms are, and give advice on what to do if symptoms get worse. There is advice on when and how you can treat your child safely at home, and when you need to get urgent help.

The website includes advice on the following illnesses:

- fever/high temperature
- coughs and colds
- difficulty breathing and wheezing
- Infectious diseases such as measles and scarlet fever
- tummy ache
- diarrhoea and vomiting.

Each page has a language translation function for people who need it. There's also a range of information on important topics and places you can get extra support. If you are seriously concerned about your child's health, don't hesitate to get help. Always dial 999 if you have a life or limb-threatening emergency.



90's FUN HOUSE

FUNDRAISER FOR ST GEORGE'S SPORTS TOUR WITH DJ PAT SHARP

FRIDAY 28 MARCH
8PM - 1AM

@ THE ELECTRIC BALLROOM
184 CAMDEN HIGH STREET (NEXT DOOR TO CAMDEN TUBE)

90'S BANGERS
CLUB CLASSICS

£26

INCLUDES A PROSECCO OR BEER

100% TICKET PRICE GOES TO THE TOUR



SCAN FOR TICKETS

Get the right help at the right time



early help, brighter futures

Need advice and support for your family?

- | | |
|----------------------------|---------------------------|
| Relationship support | Money advice |
| Parenting Advice & Courses | Services for Young People |
| Emotional & Mental Health | SEND Local Offer |
| Staying healthy | Search local services |
| School attendance/anxiety | and much more |



Families
First

Early help, brighter futures



SCAN



Visit Hertfordshire's Families First website:-
www.hertfordshire.gov.uk/familiesfirst

COMMUNITY SUPPORT IN BATFORD

Join us for a coffee morning and find
out more about the support and services
available in your area.

Friday 14th February, 11am-1pm

Batford Methodist Church,
102-104 Lower Luton Road



Information and advice will be available from :

Citizens Advice St Albans District
St Albans Old People's Trust
Harpenden Money Advice Centre

Harpenden Library
Computer Friendly
Harpenden Trust

This event is supported by
Harpenden Town Council



**HARPENDEN
TOWN COUNCIL**
CLOSER TO THE COMMUNITY

COMMUNITY SUPPORT IN BATFORD

This is a drop-in event, we invite you to join us any time
between 11am and 1pm on Friday 14th February. You
will be able to speak to any of these local organisations:

Citizens Advice St Albans District

Advice and support for a wide range of topics such as rights and entitlements to
benefits including Pension Credit and disability benefits, housing issues, family
separation, debt, employment and more.

Harpenden Library

Free social events on offer and services including access to computers, printers
and scanners.

St. Albans Old Peoples Trust

Financial support through grants for people over 60 in need or distress. Household
items such as cookers, washing machines, hoovers, furniture. Support for health
related travel costs and some in-home services such as one-off deep cleaning.

Harpenden Trust

Befrienders, home visitors and wellbeing support as well as financial assistance.

Harpenden Money Advice Centre

Free and confidential advice and support for anyone in Harpenden dealing with
money, debt and other budgeting issues.

Computer Friendly

Help get to grips with computers, tablets and smart phones. Low-cost courses and
free-drop-in sessions available.



**HARPENDEN
TOWN COUNCIL**
CLOSER TO THE COMMUNITY



**Families
First**

Early help, brighter futures

Bringing together
Hertfordshire's
Early Help services

ST ALBANS & DACORUM IFST INVITES YOU TO A NETWORKING EVENT

The event will last from 10:00am to 1:00 pm on Thursday 18th September 2025, with the focus being to spread knowledge and awareness of the many amazing services that schools and families alike can turn to when in need. The event will involve a selection of speakers including from our very own Intensive Family Support Team, and an opportunity to meet and talk with services in our community. Light refreshments will also be provided. We hope to see you there!



Listen to our fantastic speakers from a range of amazing services.

Learn about other services and get social with a round of 'speed dating' with other professionals.

Learn about other initiatives and opportunities to broaden your horizons.

Enjoy some light refreshments in the company of like-minded colleagues.

Meet new people and have fun.

IFST ST ALBANS & DACORUM

Greenhills Resource Centre
Tenzing Road
Hemel Hempstead
HP2 4HS

Any inquires, please call IFST
at 01442 453842 or email
Penny.Smith@hertfordshire.gov.uk