



St. George's School

NEWSLETTER

Friday 13th September 2024

NEWS FROM THE HEAD

This week I had the pleasure of attending the Senior Prize Giving ceremony. It is the School's opportunity to celebrate the achievements of our outgoing Y13 students, as well as awarding GCSE and Y12 Prizes. The theme of the evening was inspired not only by recent Olympic and Paralympic Games, but also St Paul's encouragement to us in his letter to the Hebrews that we should, "run with endurance the race that is set before us". It was fantastic to hear our School Captains speak so eloquently on this subject, we also welcomed back Old Georgian Laura Merrifield to speak about her career as an international Lacrosse player.

Just as a race begins at the starting line, so our school year starts with a fresh beginning. For students and especially those starting at a new school, this is a moment filled with anticipation and nerves, much like athletes waiting for the starter's gun.

At school, as in a race, maintaining the right pace is crucial. Start too fast, and you risk burning out; start too slow, and you might fall behind. It's about moving forward, one step at a time, towards the goal.

Every race has its obstacles, whether they are physical barriers in the steeplechase or mental challenges in a marathon. In school, these obstacles take the form of difficult subjects, personal struggles, or unexpected disruptions. Resilience, problem-solving, and support from others are key to overcoming these hurdles.

Some races are individual, while others are relays. In individual races, runners are responsible for their own progress, much like preparing for exams. But, group projects and school-wide initiatives often teach us the most. They require collaboration, communication, and mutual support.

And of course, every race has a finish line, a moment that represents the culmination of effort and perseverance. Public Exams are the most obvious example of a milestone in education, but there are many others across a child's time at school; completing coursework or a difficult essay, finishing House Music or a drama production, mastering a new skill or gaining a commendation.

I look forward to celebrating many more milestones, both big and small over the years with all our pupils and encouraging them to keep running their own race.

Yours sincerely,

Andy Ford - Headteacher

THIS WEEK'S CELEBRATIONS

Senior Prizegiving

Senior Prizegiving took place on Tuesday. It was a wonderful occasion where we got to celebrate some of the amazing achievements of our Year 11s and 13s. We were treated to super speeches from Laura Merrifield (England Lacrosse and OG) and from Mr Ford and our school captains.

We wish all of our Year 13s all the best for their future endeavours and look forward to hearing about their successes.

Medicine and Oxbridge talks

It was a pleasure to welcome back four Old Georgians this week to give inspiring and informative talks to Y11-13 students. Thanks so much to Glen, Fola, Isla, Ruby and Maddie for providing such superb guidance. It was a particular highlight to see so many of our wonderful Year 11s in attendance for the Oxbridge talk yesterday!



NEWS FROM THE REV

Happy New (academic) Year to you all and here is an overview of all things Chapel from the Rev.

In weekday Chapels, we are looking at what makes St George's a Christian School. We are looking at topics like Belief, Prayer, Worship, Service and Faith.

Our Sunday series until half term is the Judges of the OT looking at Deborah (Jael), Gideon, Samson and Ehud. This coming Sunday is an Evening Communion (always busy!!) and the 22nd September is our Annual Harvest Festival Service at 10.00 a.m. All families are welcome and we ask year 7 (and other year groups if they would like) to bring food (canned, dry goods, cereals, pasta, rice) as we restock the Salvation Army Food Bank.

We continue to meet to pray every Tuesday and Thursday morning 8-8.30 a.m. (all welcome) and staff prayers Friday 8.00 to 8.25 a.m. Our Christian Union meets every Thursday lunch time at 1.40 to 2.10 p.m. to read through Mark.

CHANGES TO UNAUTHORISED ABSENCES AND PENALTY NOTICES

Attendance at school is vital for students to make the most of their education and to achieve their full potential. The DfE (Department for Education) has published [research](#) that shows a clear link between attendance and achievement. Consistent attendance not only supports academic progress but also helps students build strong relationships with peers and their teachers.

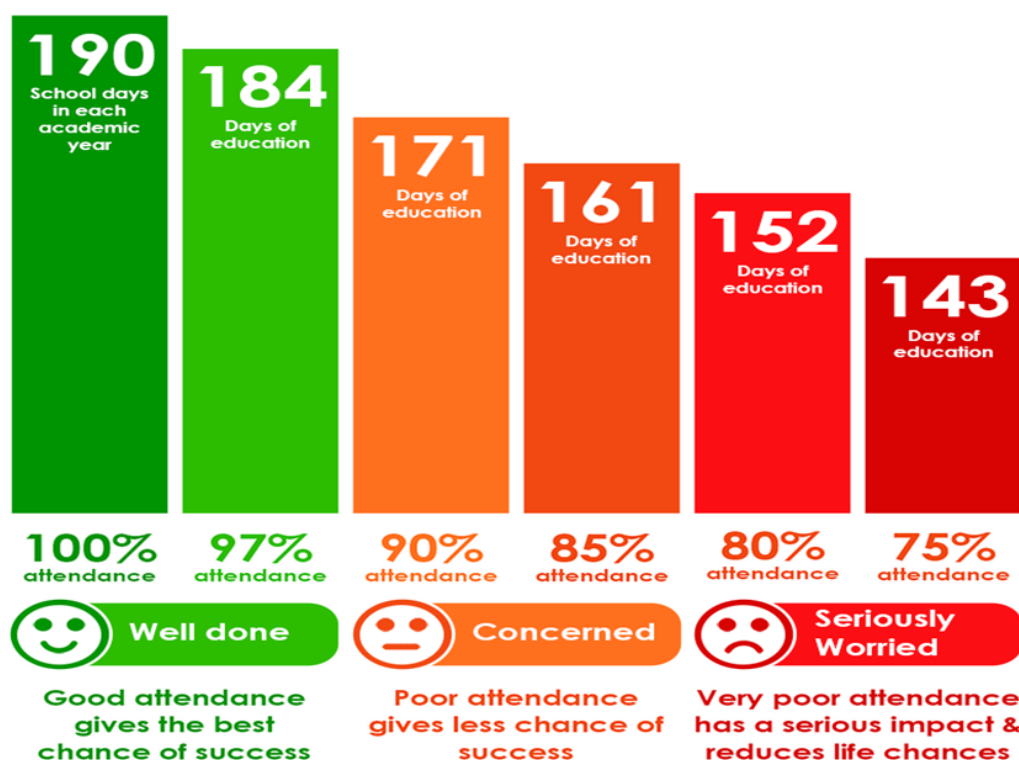
At the start of this academic year, new regulations on attendance came into force, emphasising the importance of being present at school every day. This includes a new National Framework for Penalty Notices for school absence, including unauthorised holiday absence. These new Government regulations came into effect from 19 August 2024, and we wanted to bring this to your attention now, as it will affect when penalty notices are issued in Hertfordshire.

What are the changes?

1. There will be a new national threshold of 10 unauthorised sessions for any reason (equivalent to 5 school days) within a rolling 10 school week period for when a penalty notice must be considered.
2. Therefore, the new rules mean you will no longer be able to take your child out of school for one week's holiday without a penalty notice being issued.
3. There will be an increase in the penalty fine from £60 to £80 if paid in 21 days. If the fine is not paid by the first 21 days, it will rise to £160 if paid within 28 days of being issued.
4. If a second penalty fine is issued to the same parent for the same child within a 3-year rolling period, the fine will automatically rise to £160 with no option to pay the lower rate of £80.
5. If a parent then commits a third offence in a 3-year rolling period, the local authority will need to consider other enforcement options available to them.

Please avoid taking your child out of school during term time.

For more information, please click onto the link here: [Penalty notices for unauthorised absence | Hertfordshire County Council](#)



THE SCHOOL CALENDAR

New categories have been added to the school calendar this year. If you view the calendar in Outlook you will need to resubscribe this year to include the information for the additional categories. [Click here for the website link](#)

NEWS FROM THE PE DEPARTMENT

Rugby Fixtures

There have been a few logistical changes from earlier on in the week. These are all now updated on SOCS:

1st XV Hertford Rugby Club KO 10am

2nd XV Hertford Rugby Club KO 10am

U16A vs Gordons School, Home pitch 1

U15 A and B Hertford Rugby Club 10am KO

U14 A home KO 10:30 pitch 2

U14 B home KO 10:30 pitch 3

U13 A home KO 9:30 pitch 2

U13 B Home KO 9:30 pitch 3

Away fixtures for rugby are all via parent transport. Thank you in advance for your support with this.

Lacrosse Fixtures

We have our first set of fixtures this season for lacrosse against North London Collegiate School. Rounds begin at 9:30 a.m. and 10:30 a.m. Please check [SOCS](#) for full details.

St George's Saturday Cafe

This Saturday, the cafe is back open and we will be selling tea, coffee and bacon rolls to all spectators at our home fixtures! Please come along and support the fundraising efforts where all proceeds will be going towards the Lacrosse and Rugby Tour 2025!

HEADCASE CONCUSSION AWARENESS

This year we will be asking all of our rugby players to complete the HEADCASE MODULE relating to concussion. In order to raise further awareness of signs and symptoms and treatment for concussion we would also like to invite ALL parents to complete the OPEN ACCESS MODULE. This will be extremely useful for any parent to complete not just those whose children play rugby.

Please find the link below:

HEADCASE Concussion Awareness e-learning in the following link: [OPEN ACCESS ELEARNING: PARENTS & GUARDIANS OF AGE GRADE PLAYERS](#)

Even if you don't have a child playing this week-end, do come up and have a look. The atmosphere is fantastic.

OPEN EVENING 4th OCTOBER 2024

We are now taking online bookings via [Eventbrite](#) this year for our Headteacher talks for prospective students. Tickets will be available from Monday 16th at 8.00 a.m.

BEHAVIOUR CURRICULUM: MAINTAINING OUR STANDARDS

Next week we are continuing our half termly focus on conduct in lessons. These notices serve to remind students of expectations across lessons in school. Thank you for your support in helping us to maintain consistency of behaviour for all students.

Focus on... LESSON END

- Work right up until the teacher instructs you to stop
- Pack away when the teacher instructs you to (and not before!)
- Stand quietly to be dismissed from the classroom
- Do not wait for each other in the corridors!



KINDNESS

Respect your teacher's request for silence during dismissal

POSITIVITY

Be ready and willing to learn for the full hour - there's lots to do!

THIS WEEK'S SPOTLIGHT: Reporting an absence

Please report your child's absence from school via EduLink by 8.15 a.m. on the day (and every day) that they are absent.

EduLink should be used for both 'on-the-day' absence reporting and 'known-in-advance' absence requests.

For support using EduLink, please see the information in the parents' section: [EduLink Support](#)

Alternatively, report an 'on-the-day' absence by telephoning 01582 716225 and include your child's name, tutor group and a detailed reason for their absence.

Diarrhoea and vomiting – to avoid spreading infection, please keep students at home for 48 hours (2 days) after symptoms have stopped.

REMINDERS

Does your young person have an EPIPEN or Inhaler?

Please can you check that your young person has **two** EPIPENS on them for school. They should be named and carried with them at all times (including lunch and PE lessons).

Likewise, inhalers should be named and carried with the student at all times.

If there are any changes to your young person's health, please update our records via Edulink and let our medical team know: firstresponder@stgeorges.herts.sch.uk

Car Parking on Site

Please remember that parents and carers are unable to park on the school site to drop off and pick up students at the start or end of the school day. The layby is for coaches and minibuses at these times, so please do not park there as it creates a dangerous situation for our students. Please be mindful of our neighbours and avoid parking in front of their drives. Thanks

What's on next week?

Monday 16th September	It's week 1!
Tuesday 17th September	USA Economics and Politics Trip launching to 6th formers in the assembly hall at 7.00 p.m.
Wednesday 18th September	Music Dept trip to the musical 'Wicked - a matinee performance at 2.30 p.m. Year 11 'Planning for the Future' evening for all students and parents/carers in the chapel from 7.00 to 8.00 p.m. DofE Gold Award Launch to year 12 in the assembly hall at 7.00 p.m.
Thursday 19th September	PSA 'New Parents and Carers meet the tutors and informal Quiz night'. 7.00 to 10.00 p.m. in the assembly hall: attendance expected of all our new parents in years 7 to 10. Peace Day performance by the Chamber Choir.
Friday 20th September	Culture Day - celebrating different cultures and traditions in the assembly hall all day.
Saturday 21st September	LAX V LEH: all teams (away) Rugby V Mill Hill: 1st, 2nd, U14A, U14B (away) and U16A and B; U15A and B (home) PSA Painting Weekend
Sunday 22nd September	Junior Harvest Festival Chapel 10.00 a.m. - all welcome

UPCOMING EVENTS

ST GEORGE'S SCHOOL
PSA PAINTING DAY
21 SEPTEMBER 2024

Come and paint the school!

Paint provided. Fun guaranteed!

SIGN UP NOW! ↓ ↓ ↓ ↓



Thursday 19th September 2024

New Parents Drinks and Teambuilding Evening

Timings and Location	Event
7.00 - 7.40 pm Goddard Assembly Hall	Drinks will be served. Head of Houses, Senior Staff and Tutors will be in attendance as well as Governors, PSA and representatives of the Cecil Grant Trust.
7.40 – 8.05 pm Tutor Bases	Split into Houses and year 7 Tutor Bases to meet your child’s tutor, discuss how they are finding life at St George’s and meet other parents in their tutor base. There will be House staff available for all other year groups in the Assembly Hall.
8.20-9.00 pm Goddard Assembly Hall	Drinks and nibbles and the “all important” Quiz! A guaranteed fun night.

QUIZ NIGHT

Extra curricular activities, Autumn term 2024-25

AM – Before the start of school

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
	Lacrosse Strength and conditioning Sports Hall	Lacrosse Strength and conditioning Fitness Suite	Morning prayer 8-8.30am	
	Morning prayer 8-8.30am	Fosters Fitness - all girls welcome Sports Hall		

Lunch time

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
Badminton and Table Tennis Club 1.30pm Sports Hall	GCSE PE Practical support Sports Hall	U12/U12 Basketball Sports Hall	U14/U15 Basketball Sports Hall	House Orchestra
Nov onwards: Chamber Choir Old Library	Tuesday club Old Gym	Senior Goalie Club Old Gym	House Orchestra	Chess club 1.30pm Wa13
GCSE & A Level PE Theory support Go101	Nov onwards: Senior choir Yr 9 - 13 Old Library	House Junior Choir	Nov onwards: Junior Concert Band Old Library	Lego club and Rubiks Cube Club in Maths
House Senior Choir	House Junior Choir	Nov onwards: School Junior Choir Old Library	School production rehearsals Assembly Hall	Walk and talk run by Health Ambassadors, Student services
Friendships club run by Health Ambassadors, Student Services	House Senior Choir	Computing Club Gr13/14	Christian Union Gr106	Senior Basketball Sports Hall
English creative writing group, Wa5	Anti racism group, Wa2	Friendships club run by Health Ambassadors, Student Services	Friendships club run by Health Ambassadors, Student Services	String Quartets
STEM club 1.30pm Mo12	Friendships club run by Health Ambassadors, Student Services	Green Power F24 STEM Club	Debate Club, 1.30pm, Go2/3	
Cross Country training Field	Y7 Cyber Club Gr14/Gr15	Gay Straight Alliance - GSA - Goddard 101	Warhammer club Mo15 1.30pm	
School production rehearsals Assembly Hall	U13 Rugby Field	Year 11 French Drop in Gr109	Expressive Art Club in Learning Support 1.30pm	
Year 11 Science Revision Club, 13.40-14.00 Mo7	Sabor Latino Spanish culture club for Y7 & Y8 1.40pm Gr108	A level Psychology drop in and revision, Mo10 13:45-14:15	Yr12&13 A Level Biology Tutorials (Mandatory for select students) in Wa1	
GCSE D&T Catch up Tech 4	Lower School Drama Club 13.30 Drama Studio	GCSE FPN NEA Support Tec 102 from 13.30	GCSE D&T Catch up Tech 4	
	Lunchtime Physics A-level drop-in Monk 15	Lower School Textiles Club Tec 103	Chemistry A-level drop in Mo6	

After school

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
Senior and U16 and U15 Rugby Field	U12 and U13 Stick Skills Field	U12 Lacrosse Field	Senior and U15 Lacrosse Field	U13 and U14 Lacrosse Field 3pm start
Senior Lacrosse Field	U14 and U15 Netball Sports Hall	U15 Lacrosse Field	Senior Rugby training Field	U12 and U13 Rugby Field 3pm start
U12 Netball Sports Hall	House Orchestra	U12 and U15 Rugby Field	U14 and U16 Rugby Training Field	Nov onwards: Senior Orchestra Old Library
School production rehearsals Assembly Hall		Chamber Choir Old Library	House Senior Choir	School production rehearsals Assembly Hall
House Junior Choir		School production rehearsals Assembly Hall	Nov Onwards: Jazz Band Old Library	
Lacrosse Goalkeepers Field		Senior Netball in Sports Hall	Gardening club all years Secret Garden	
Boarders' Science HW Club Y9-11, 16:30-17:30 Wa 1		Year 11 Spanish Drop in Gr108		

St George's School
Aim Higher

