



ST GEORGE'S SCHOOL

The Old Georgians Association



February 2025

Georgian Newsletter February 2025

Greetings from St George's!

As we move through the academic year, we're thrilled to share some of the exciting developments and accomplishments from the start of 2025. It's been a busy and productive term so far, filled with opportunities for growth, achievement and inspiration.

Academic Highlights

Our Year 13 & 11 students recently completed their mock exams, and we are immensely proud of their dedication and resilience. Preparations are now underway for the summer, with teachers and pupils working together to achieve the best possible outcomes. Meanwhile, across the school, our younger pupils continue to thrive, with Year 9 especially engaged with choosing their options at the moment.

Co-Curricular Success

Our co-curricular programme remains as vibrant as ever with so many activities taking place. Pupils have been excelling on the sports field, performing on stage, and showcasing their creativity through art and design. Highlights include recent success in the County Lacrosse Tournament (where the 1st team finished fourth overall), a win over Roundwood Park in the Rugby and our debating team took part in the Oxford Schools' competition. We are looking forwards to the Spring Concert after we get back from half-term!

School Captains elected!

We have just been through the process of electing the new School captains. From a field of 54 applicants, 8 Year 12 students made the short list. Having taken part in hustings, interviews, pupil panel and written tasks we were very proud to announce the successful candidates last week to the pupils and parents.

House Events continue

We have enjoyed a number of House events this half-term including Swimming, Art and most recently Debating. Students are also preparing for the Drama competition after we return; if the rehearsals are anything to go by, we are in for a real treat! The House system continues to inspire and nurture our pupils in an amazing way.

Celebrating Awe and Wonder

This half-term in chapel, our theme has been '*Awe and Wonder*,' encouraging pupils and staff to appreciate the beauty and power of creation. These thought-provoking chapel services have been given by staff across the school representing a diverse range of subjects, from Maths to Photography. Meanwhile, on Sundays the Rev has been leading the pupils through a number of Jesus' parables, exploring their importance for us today.

We'd Love to Hear from You!

As always, we love staying connected with our alumni. If you have any updates, memories or news to share, please get in touch. Your stories inspire our current pupils and remind us of the lasting legacy of a St George's education. If you would like to come back and speak or contribute in any way, do get in touch.

Thank you for continuing to be part of the St George's family. Your support means so much to us, and we hope this update gives you a sense of pride in all that's happening at your school.

Andy Ford, Headteacher

Updates from the Development Office

Save the Date

Super Saturday— 22nd March 2025 9.00am—1.30, come along and watch the Rugby and Lacrosse teams compete in the winter finals.

Tea & Cake—13th June 2025 2.00pm, are you an Old Georgina who is also a parent? Come and join us in the Old Library to chat with fellow old Georgians who also have children at the school over tea and cake.

Founders Weekend— 28th & 29th June 2025

Message from Georgian Association

Welcome to the Spring Georgians Association newsletter. If you came to the Georgians Association Carol Service in December it was lovely to see you. Sue and I were just blown away by how many of you attended :) It was good to see so many new faces as well as be able to welcome some familiar faces back. It was great to catch up, to hear your stories of school life and to relive some chapel memories with you. Thank you also for your generosity regarding the collection, we raised £297.06 which was divided between Georgian Association and Save the Children. If you signed the visitor's book (and I could read your handwriting!), you should have received a personal email from me after the event.

In order to try and raise a little money we made some 'Rekindle the Flame' candles - a lightly scented candle made from wax recycled from the candles that we burn in the chapel chandeliers at Christmas. We also made a small batch of Plum jam - made from the plums from the tree which was planted in memory of Bernadette Ryall and stands just outside School House. If you purchased one of these items - THANK YOU. We raised just over £220. A relatively small amount, but one which will enable us to meet some of our annual costs.

It would appear that during a period in the early 2000's our Alumni database captured the email address of parents of pupils rather than pupils themselves. In an effort to reconnect with those students we have sent an email out to parents asking them to forward this to their offspring. If you have contacted us, and are reading this newsletter for the first time - welcome.

Our next event is Super Saturday - details of which are included in this newsletter - It would be good to see you if you are in the vicinity and fancy coming and cheering on some great lacrosse and rugby matches. If you attend be sure to pop by the Georgians Association gazebo and say hello, and pick up your House Badge!

We look forward to seeing you soon.

Helen Barton
Georgians Association President

On the Grapevine

Black History Month

The theme of Black History Month this year is 'Reclaiming the Narrative', celebrating and recognising the narratives of black history and culture. The Anti-Racism Committee will be in House Assemblies this month, sharing some of their icons. These include literary legends like Toni Morrison and Chimamanda Ngozi Adichi (the first black player to be called up to the national football squad), Jack Leslie and political and musical trailblazers who continue to inspire us.

In our pupil bulletins this month, we are recognising people who have contributed to our society and forged a path for people of colour in our community and beyond. In the words of Benjamin Zephaniah, "This planet is for everyone, borders are for no one. It's all about freedom."

Black History Month is a very important part of our school's celebration of diversity and inclusion and every year students and staff take part in learning about all those people who have contributed so much to this country.

This year we would like to share with you one of our favourite school heroes: Eric Walter Samuel Kidman (1894-1960). He was StG's first student of colour in 1907 and so therefore part of the very first cohort in the school. He actually started at Keswick School in the summer of 1903 before the Headmaster moved the entire school down to Harpenden.

Eric was born on 23rd August 1894 in Buenos Aires, Argentina. He was a very likeable and charming lad and threw himself into school life. He was a chorister, a prefect and he played cricket and rugby at a level which won him colours in 1912. He then embraced the school's ethos of 'service beyond self' and served in the Royal Army Medical Corps in World War One. He survived, got married, became a food importer and lived until 1960.



Here is Eric rallying the crowds on the touchline at a rugby match.

On the Grapevine



The very first whole school photo-taken in 1907. Eric is in the centre group in front of the Chapel West door (dressed in choir robes) front row, right.

NEWS FROM THE ST. GEORGE'S MUSIC SOCIETY CHOIR: COME AND JOIN US!



St George's Music Society Choir (or MusSoc) is one of the oldest societies in the school with its origins dating back to the 1910's. It was founded as a non-auditioned choir open to all parents/carers of pupils at the school, and staff. The choir is still going and it is still non-auditioned and meets for rehearsals on a Tuesday evening during term time from 7.00 pm until 8.15 pm in the Old Library.

The choir sings regularly through the year at various concerts and services, most recently singing Haydn's Nelson Mass and Vivaldi's Gloria as part of a massed choir in a concert at Our Lady of Lourdes, Harpenden back in June. The choir sung at the Georgian Carol service on Saturday 14th December in the school Chapel.

We are currently recruiting new members and if you enjoy singing and are interested in joining then please come along to the Old Library on a Tuesday evening, you will be most welcome.

If you require any further information then please contact the choir's director, Russell Tucker at:
rtucker@stgeorges.herts.sch.uk

On the Grapevine

THIS WEEK'S CELEBRATIONS: INTER-HOUSE MUSIC



What a wonderful evening of music and celebration at this year's Inter-house Music Competition. From Billy Joel and Heather Small to Phantom of the Opera and The Beatles. An absolute feast for our ears. The talent, commitment and enthusiasm of our students of all musical abilities impresses us every year as does the outstanding leadership skills of our senior students and Music Captains - skills such as teamwork, organisation and discipline with the odd bit of chocolate bribery on the way.

Then there was the Jazz Band - what a joy - and the staff band which gets 10/10 for effort.

We were so lucky to have three wonderful external judges: Claire Moore (a West End superstar); James Slimings (The Director of Performance at All Saints Catholic College) and Lynn Holman-Fox (Founder and CEO of Barnet Education Arts Trust and accomplished musician). All of them commented how blown away they were by the sheer numbers of students performing on stage.

What we appreciate is the value that extra-curricular Music adds to our students' lives and to the life of the school. The whole school has been alive with the sound of music for the last 7 weeks. So we give a big thanks to the hard work and commitment of Ms Humphrey and Mr Burrett - two outstanding Music teachers who are inspiring future generations of musicians and performers. Bravo!

On the Grapevine

GEOGRAPHERS TRIP TO LONDON

On Wednesday 16th October, the Year 12 Geography students embarked on their first A' Level field trip of the year to Spitalfields and Brick Lane in London. The day started at Liverpool Street collecting data in the financial district before moving east to collect data about the economic, social and environmental characteristics of Spitalfields Market, the north and south of Brick Lane and Altab Ali Park in Whitechapel.

The trip provided some great case study notes about the impact of migration in this part of East London as well as giving students an opportunity to trial a range of quantitative and qualitative data collection techniques.

The highlight for most students, however, was probably lunch! The street food options in the area are second to none and the salt beef bagel proved particularly popular!



CROSS COUNTRY SUCCESS



The season started with the year 7 mob race at Sandringham School on 10th of September. The runners ran very well in difficult, wet conditions. Over 200 year 7s across many schools in Harpenden and St Albans took part. Big shout out to Kit M who finished 4th.

We then moved on to the District League, which consisted of three races at Townsend, Nicky B and Verulam, with the 4th round at KWS cancelled due to torrential rain.

St George's teams constantly performed to a very high standard across those events resulting in Junior Girls and Inter Girls finishing in second place and our Junior boys winning the district league. Well done to all runners.

Finally, last Thursday we had the District Champs in Verulamium Park. Again, an excellent performance from our runners. Runners should be proud of their efforts this term.

A big thank you to Mr Edwards who has assisted at both



On the Grapevine

Year 11 Berlin trip 2024

Six very lucky staff and 50 students spent four days in Berlin in November. The trip is an opportunity to see at first hand places which have shaped the 20th Century. With a focus on the topics relevant to the iGCSE course, there was a focus on the sights associated with the Weimar and Nazi era, and then the Cold War. Highlights included seeing some amazing architecture leftover from the 1930s – the enormous airport at Tempelhof, the former air-ministry, and the spectacular Olympic Stadium, where, ironically, Jesse Owens is remembered more than the men who built the arena. We followed this with a sobering visit to the concentration camp at Sachsenhausen. The remainder of our time was spent looking at the relics of the Cold War era – we spent time looking at the Berlin Wall as it is now and through the inspirational painting of the Wall as it was in its final months at the wonderful panorama painting by Checkpoint Charlie. Supplemented by a visit to the Reichstag and the incredible Fernsehturm (TV broadcasting tower), we were able to take in all the layers of the history, from its Prussian roots at the Brandenburg Gate and the Reichstag, to the 21st Century of the 2006 Central Station. Naturally there was plenty of opportunity to indulge in the traditional German cuisine of Bratwurst, fries, pretzels... and the occasional McDonald's!

As ever, the students were exemplary and a delight to accompany. Our thanks go to them for their engagement with the trip, and their enthusiasm, which made the experience so enjoyable for us all.



On the Grapevine

SAILING FUN AT OCTOBERZEST

The St George's School Sailing Club held its annual 'OctoberZest' Regatta at Rickmansworth Aquadrome on Sunday 20th October (named after the Zest boats that many of our students sail).

After waiting for some wind for the whole term, they got plenty of it on Sunday! A fabulous afternoon of exciting racing in challenging conditions was had by all, with students battling it out in three different sailing classes – Zests (won by Harvey S), Toppers (won by Christopher F) and Lasers (won by Daniel A).

The races were followed by awards and plenty of cake and hot drinks for the sailors, family and friends. The regatta marked the end of the club's sailing for this year, but we will be back at the start of Summer term 2025.

If any new sailors would like to join us then (all levels of experience are welcome, including those who have never sailed before) we would love to hear from you. Please get in touch through our [Facebook page](#) or contact andrea.gott@hotmail.co.uk.





Obituaries

Old Georgians

We are saddened to report the passing of **Keith Porter** who was a student at St George's between 1953-61. Keith passed away in November 2024.

Susan Henderson (maiden name Susan Askey), also an Old Georgian, died on August 30th 2024. She left the sixth form in the summer of 1955 and went on to Reading University to study art. Susan's sister Helen Carey wrote "My twin sister Ruth, who died in December 2020, and I left in the summer of 1959. Our mother, also an Old Georgian, must have been one of the relatively early Georgians as she went to St George's in 1919, when she was sixteen. What a privilege to have been taught by Cecil Grant - he was obviously very well respected by his pupils. We have all had very fond memories of our life at the school - academically, singing in the school choir in the chapel and playing lacrosse and cricket.

One of my very strong memories is the service of Remembrance during which the Toc H words were spoken about sacrifice, service and "the rent we pay for our room on earth". I wonder if they are still said?"

Richard Dallas Stevens was a student at St. Georges from 1948, he sadly passed away on 28th December 2024.

Dick was Head Boy in his last year at St. George's (1955-56) and attended from about the age of 8.

After leaving St. George's in 1956 he was one of the last generations to do National service. 2 years later, he went on to Emmanuel College, Cambridge to study a Natural Sciences Tripos and with his degree then completed a teaching Diploma. He moved on to teach Biology at Scarborough College, an independent, co-educational boarding school for children aged 3 to 18, not dissimilar to St. George's. There he met his Dutch wife, Rose, who sadly died 2 years ago. Later, through The Ministry of Overseas Development, he went to Kenya to teach A level Biology in an all African Boys State Boarding school where he remained for 7 years. He returned to the UK with Rose and his son and daughter and became Head of Biology at a Comprehensive School in Folkestone. His love of Kenya drew him back in 1979 when he took up a post as Headmaster of Hillcrest International School in Langatta for the next 10 years. He returned to the UK in 1989. Outside his interest in the family business, Dick led a full life, loving Golf, sailing, singing as well as maintaining his large garden. He was a Trustee of the Oxford Preservation Trust and was always ready to welcome people into his home.

He leaves 2 children, Rupert and Myrica and 5 grandchildren, all living abroad but with whom he kept in close touch and were very dear to him.



Richard's funeral was well attended by a number of Old Georgians, Tim Gedge kindly shared the photo below of Old Georgian's who attended the funeral and were at St George's in the 1950s.

Old Georgians

Remembrance Day

To mark Remembrance Day, the School gathered on the MUGA to commemorate those Old Georgians who gave their lives in the Great War and World War 2. The names of the 43 OGs were each read out whilst the School and House Captains laid wreaths. The School was privileged to have Major Dan French, Officer commanding 21 field squadron, and former student of the School join us for the commemoration. Major French read the Stanza from the poem *For The Fallen*, printed below. The pupils were a credit to the School as they reflected on the sacrifice made and our collective hope that such a tragedy will never happen again.

*They shall grow not old, as we that are left grow old:
Age shall not weary them, nor the years condemn
At the going down of the sun and in the morning We will remember them*



News from our Old Georgians

Old Georgian Carol Concert 2024

It was a delight to have over one hundred Old Georgians join us for our Christmas Service on 14th December. A heartfelt thank you goes to our Chaplain, Steve Warner, for organising such a meaningful service, to Sue Mackenzie and Helen Barton for their efforts in publicising and organising the event, and to Russell Tucker for leading our marvellous choir. It was especially wonderful to see groups of OGs and former staff using the service as an opportunity to reunite and attend together. If you would like to organise a reunion with your year group, please don't hesitate to contact Sue Mackenzie for support, development@stgeorges.herts.sch.uk

Although we were very sorry that the OG Lacrosse game could not go ahead due to poor weather, our sincere thanks go to Miss Jess Foster, Deputy Director of Sport and Head of Lacrosse, for all her work in arranging the event. We look forward to welcoming back Old Georgians in many other ways over the next year—remember, you are always welcome at St. George's!



News from our Old Georgians



Liv Best—Old Georgian

Exciting News! I've written an article! Some of you may know that I have been passionately advocating and driving for change in the education of consent and sexual assault. It has been a challenging journey, but I am thrilled to share a significant milestone with you all. I am honoured to announce that my article on this crucial topic has been published by the Higher Education Policy Institute. This opportunity is a proud moment for me and a testament to the importance of consent education. Being an advocate for consent education is not just a role; it's a commitment to creating safer and more informed communities. I hope this publication will contribute to the ongoing dialogue and inspire further action in this field. A massive thank you to Rose Stephenson for providing me this opportunity and supporting me along the way. I'd love for you to take a read below:

<https://www.hepi.ac.uk/2024/10/11/when-it-comes-to-education-on-sexual-assault-and-consent-co-creation-and-co-delivery-are-vital/>

Congratulations to OG Maro Itoje, England Captain for the Six Nations



Old Georgian News

Christening of Angus Fraser Macdonald

"On 30 November 2024 we marked a special milestone - the christening of our son and second child, Angus Fraser Macdonald, appropriately on St Andrew's Day, surrounded by loved ones from around the globe.

The St George's community shone through, with four Old Georgians - Jonny Macdonald, Loretta Furniss (née Hazelton), Olivia Newth, and Sarah Childs (née Freeman) - proudly standing as Angus's godparents.

This joyous occasion brought our OG family together once more, to welcome little Angus to the St George's family!

James Macdonald (1998-2005) and Sophie Macdonald nee Hazelton (2001-2008)"



Make a Donation

How you can contribute to the future of St George's

If you would like to make a donation, please contact the development office who will be more than happy to assist you OR make a donation using the details below.

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