

# ST GEORGE'S SCHOOL

## The Old Georgians Association



July 2023

# Welcome from the Headmistress

## Helen Barton

Georgian Newsletter – Summer 2023

I used to think that the second half of the summer term was one where the sun shone; exams were finished for another year and school was slightly less busy, but those days seem to be a thing of the past. BUT this term, although busy, has been filled with all those things that we all love – The Summer School Fete; Activities Week with all of those trips and outings and the odd music and theatre activity going on. This year has been no exception. It was lovely to see so many OG 's at the Summer Fete on Founders Weekend. We ran tours; served drinks and had some great conversations with all of you who came to visit – and boy what stories you can tell of life at StG's in the not so dim and distant past. We also held our Founders Day Service and our Old Georgian Association AGM on Sunday. We reviewed the year that had been and made some decisions on investment - it was lovely to be able to share tea and cake with you at that opportunity as well.

As I sit here today Year 7 are firing rocket cars outside as part of activities week; trips to Harz in Germany; PGL in Shropshire and the Year 8 trip to Edinburgh all departed this morning. If you have memories of your Activities Week in school it would be great to hear them. Do you remember Brittany and those oysters? Perhaps you landed on a Normandy Beach? Or did you go to the Zoo or other activities? Got a photo you could share? We'd love to do a piece on Brittany through the ages. The trip ran for 35 years.....a bit of a StG's rite of passage I do believe, so if you have a photo it would be fabulous if you could email it to us..... Just a photo and year would be great. I wonder if we could get one for every year that it ran.....that would be through the Mike Dines leadership era and beyond.

We've loved meeting more of you over the last 12 months.....it would be lovely to hear from you, so keep in touch.

Best Wishes

Miss Barton



# Updates from the Development Office

## Candlelight Carol Service 2023

### Save the Date:-

Old Georgians Carol Service by candlelight. **Saturday 16th December at 4.00pm**. Prior to this the Old Georgians V The School Team Lacrosse match will be taking place.



### **The Old Georgians need you!**

Would you like to form a group to organise an event, are you able to volunteer a few hours of your time to the committee? Could you provide a talk to inspire current students, or write an article for the newsletter?

This is a really exciting time to get involved as we revitalise the association, so if you could help rejuvenate the Old Georgians then please email:-

[development@stgeorges.herts.sch.uk](mailto:development@stgeorges.herts.sch.uk)



Georgians Harpenden



oldgeorgians100



# Updates from the Development Office

## Staff Leavers Summer 2023

**Rory Browne** - “ I am definitely not retiring. Just getting on with my main vocation/calling of being an artist after 32 years of joyful distraction in teaching! I would like to say though that I loved St George’s when I arrived 28 years ago, ( I called it ‘teacher heaven’) and still do and I am leaving, still in love with the place!”

**Catherine McIlwaine** - “I’m going to become a marketing and communications consultant working from home. My husband is going to be working away in the future and with three children (and a dog!) I need to go back to working from home. I will be setting up my own consultancy which will take some time but then hope to move into the Education/charity sector.

I have thoroughly enjoyed working at St George’s and being part of a fabulous team with amazing students. I will really miss everyone.”

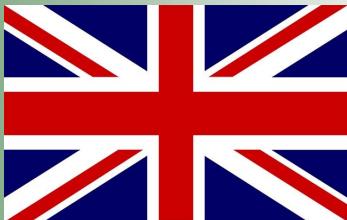
**Matthew Hadley** - “I am going into teaching next year and studying for my PGCE to go into primary school as a teacher in Nottingham.” Thank you Matthew for your work in Crosthwaite.

**Jeremy Hollingsworth** - “I am going to St. Columba's College in St Albans. I am going off to do some Cover, some teaching and some work on Student Responsibility. I will very much miss St George's after 21 years and will keep in touch. I will also be continuing to write music. I have a music publisher and have sold two songs to a big artist in Israel and have songs on her latest album which will be released in December. I have recently sold two songs to country artists in Nashville and am looking forward to seeing what happens. It is also my intention to have a go at voice over work, though it is very competitive. I have completed a showreel in readiness. I am also planning to move West in the next couple of years and then do lots of travelling. There is a whole world out there and I need to get out and into it! Indonesia, Japan and Peru are at the top of my list!”

**Alison Williamson** - “It has been an absolute privilege to work at St George’s for the majority of my career but after 35 years here and 37 teaching in total, it is time to retire and I am looking forward to being a little bit selfish, focussing on myself more instead of other people’s kids, and enjoying my “silver years” whilst I still have the enthusiasm and energy to do so. This will undoubtedly involve some travelling – Costa Rica is top of the list, spending more time with family and friends, picking up hobbies that have been neglected due to always being too busy and doing some voluntary work. I have absolutely loved being a part of St George’s, both professionally and personally - not only have I worked with amazing colleagues and young people but I was also married in the Chapel, my own three children were christened there and have all benefited from the fantastic all-round education the school offers. St George’s will, therefore, always hold a very special place in my heart and as I start a new chapter in my own life, I wish all of you the very best in the years ahead.”

**Hannah Halford** - “I am moving on to a school in Aylesbury as Head of Faculty for Science.”

# On the Grapevine



## Coronation Celebration

On the 5th of May, to celebrate the kings coronation, the school held a coronation celebration day.

It was a day for all to enjoy and take part in, and though obviously themed around the coronation, celebrating the crowning of a new king, we were also able to celebrate British values, inclusive of all, in the run up to the event.

Staff and students were asked to wear red white and blue for the occasion and we were impressed by many of the outfits worn.

The money raised will go to the schools development office in order to improve school facilities.



A range of events were scheduled throughout the day starting off with a cupcake competition. This was won by Olivia Stretch in year 7 with a crown design.

The Dining Hall was decked out in bunting and pupils enjoyed a traditional lunch, which consisted of a roast dinner. After this, an oak tree was planted to replace one that was lost a few years ago, in order to restock the line of trees which were initially set out in the time of Cecil Grant, the schools, founder.



We finished the celebration off with an old school sports day. The students and staff were able to compete in a range of activities, including the egg and spoon race, the relay, and welly Wanging, in which Miss Laker, tried hard to hold onto her long held title from when we held a similar event to celebrate the Queens Diamond Jubilee.



Well done to all those pupils and staff who took part in the coronation celebration event and big thanks to those who helped organise the event, in particular, the new Senior students and Prefects teams. Special thanks to Mrs MacKenzie, who came up with the concept and worked really hard planning the event!

Let us hope that the Kings reign will be as happy and glorious as our Coronation celebration day turned out to be!

# On the Grapevine

## Summer Fete 2023

A number of staff members received a soaking in the stocks this year and Mr Hollingsworth stepped it up with bids for pouring a bucket of water over his head!. The entertainment and variety of stalls made for a successful event thanks to the PSA.



# On the Grapevine



# On the Grapevine

## Activities Week 2023

### **Bletchley Park**



On Wednesday we visited Bletchley Park famous for its WW2 code breakers, Alan Turing and the development of computer technology. This is a fantastic trip with so much to see and it often takes students by surprise at how interesting it is. Really appealing to students who are good at Maths and like logic and you often see quiet students come into their own on this visit as it taps into their strengths. With a tour from a very knowledgeable and funny volunteer as well as a Ciphers and Codes workshop where teams of students (and the teachers) competed to crack parts of codes to find out the message using the different techniques we had learnt about during the visit. The different buildings have lots of interactive displays with recordings of the actual people who worked there, videos, lots of real exhibits and information, including dressing up in period costumes! The students demonstrated exemplary behaviour throughout their time out of school. Mrs Povey

### **Edinburgh Trip 2023**

On Monday 3rd July, 170 year 8 pupils and 18 staff set off for bonnie Scotland. A brief stop at Bamburgh Castle and some time on the beach provided some light relief from the coach! Arriving at the university provided much excitement as students learnt who they were to share a room with and had their first meal in the massive dining room with so much choice of food. We finished the day out on the hill in Holyrood Park playing frisbee, football and rounders.

Tuesday was a rainy day but this did not stop us having a great day. Lots of walking was done as two coaches spent the day in Edinburgh City. They saw the build-up and security in place for the arrival of King Charles the next day. For the other two coaches - a day on the coast provided lots of opportunities for some sketches and learning about coastal geography.

On Wednesday the groups swapped locations and the groups out at Dunbar definitely had the better weather for a stroll along the coast. Whilst in the town centre, the atmosphere was building and the pupils were able to see the Red Arrows fly past and some lucky students even managed to wave at King Charles as he left at the end of the day. Another evening in the park finished off the trip perfectly.

Thursday morning saw the 'big pack' as students discovered how much mess they are able to make in just 3 days! But we were all packed up and on the buses by 9:30 and started the long journey back to Harpenden. Lots of films and singing were enjoyed on the coaches and we were soon arriving back in front of Chapel to be greeted by friends and family.

# On the Grapevine

## Activities Week 2023



**Imperial War Museum** On Thursday, we took 27 students in years 8, 9 and 10 to Duxford Imperial War Museum for the day. Students enjoyed learning to be a film crew and created presentations about the exhibits in the Battle of Britain hanger. They also got to explore some of the many hangers and amazing exhibits as well as see Spitfires and Hurricanes flying past. One student told me they enjoyed exploring the inside of some of the planes that you could walk through. Another student told me they enjoyed learning and seeing how planes have evolved through time. The staff and volunteers we spoke to were very informative and everyone had a really good trip. Mrs Povey

**Art Sculpture Day** I really enjoyed Activities Week, maybe even more so than the students. The sculpture day enabled me to see true teamwork in action and the ingenuity and creativeness of the students participating was marvellous. Their collaborations resulted in solid animal paper sculptures that addressed the brief. Genuine joy in the activity was easy to observe. (Year 10)

**Year 7 Whipsnade Zoo trip** Two fairly overcast days saw 195 Year 7 students and 25 Staff descend upon Whipsnade Zoo. Year 7 were out to study adaptations and habitats and design postcards for Science. Map reading skills were fully utilised as students navigated their way round the zoo. Steps were certainly clocked up, with some reaching 14,000 by the end of the day. Students camouflaged in PE kits, showed an active interest in the animals and helped each other complete their work booklets. Whipsnade staff showed a keen interest in our activities, eagerly taking sample booklets that the year 7 were filling in along with some of the postcards, which had been previously designed by our students.

The animals, undeterred by the gloomy weather, were out in full force observing our students with much interest. There was lots of discussion about which of the chimpanzees had earned a place on the cricket / rounder's teams with their awesome one handed catches. The gambolling bears were a delight to watch as they played with the new gym equipment. Baby elephants and baby giraffes were clearly a sight to see meriting lots of oohs and ahhs, but I think everyone was in no doubt that the multi-coloured Macaws stole the show with their amazing aerial display. A good day was had by all, with some extremely exhausted students and staff ready to put their feet up with a nice cup of tea to finish the day. Ms Kelly said "Accompanying Year 7 was a delight. The students were very well behaved and completed the work booklets set. They showed genuine interest and treated the staff at Whipsnade with respect and courtesy. The weather was wonderful and the whole day went off perfectly." Mrs Mistry

# On the Grapevine

## Activities Week 2023

### **Year 7 Identity Day**

This is led by local charity "Step" who take the students through a range of thought-provoking sessions designed to encourage students to reflect on 5 "I matter" statements. As we walked around Batford Nature Reserve and observed the beauty around us, we explored the statement 'I am connected'. A competitive trainer-making fairtrade game that explored the injustices of the commercial world challenged us on how 'I am responsible', whilst a questioning space encouraged reflections on how 'I am created'. A helping of cutthroat 'paper plate' games and quality choc-chip cookies rounded the day off. It was a real pleasure to spend the day with such a deeply thoughtful, engaged and enthusiastic group of students.

Mrs Goatly

### **Bake Off!**

On Wednesday of Activities Week, Students from years 8, 9 and 10 took part in St George's first ever activities week Bake Off! The day was a huge success and both students and staff had a wonderful day. The focus, determination and effort applied by all was exceptional.

First, we started with a technical challenge whereby students had a very basic Swiss roll recipe, with much information missing, and very little help from their teachers. All students managed to bake a successful cake. Hooray (as we had to eat them). All Swiss rolls were judged anonymously, and our star baker badges were awarded to Jemima Ho and Anton Baxter-Pronk. A huge well done!

We then moved on to making popcorn which was a popping success (if a little jumpy) and sushi making with Ms Yip, where students were shown how to build the sushi and roll it, but the best part was getting to eat them both!

For our final challenge of the day, the signature bake. All students designed, baked and decorated cupcakes with a theme of their choice. The standard was excellent, and all students should be really proud of what they achieved, with a special mention to our fabulous support staff for their fantastic decorative efforts! Our star baker aprons were awarded to Micah Mahtani and Emma Lok for their creativity and superb finish.

It was a delightful day that made us very proud to be your food teachers at St George's. Here's to St George's Bake Off 2024..... will you be our next star?

# On the Grapevine

## Harz Mountains 2023



An adventurous party of 50 year 9 students set out early on Monday from St George's to visit the Harz region of central Germany for a three-day exploration. The aim of the trip was to introduce the youngsters to aspects of Germany and challenge their perceptions of the country by revealing something of its Medieval past, its quirky and sometimes quite eccentric culture, and to look at memorials to World War 2, the brilliance of German science and the brutality of suffering that resulted. We spent a day exploring reminders of the divided nation and the now diminishing traces of East Germany. To add colour to the trip, we paid a visit to a family-based tourist resort where the witches of the Harz are remembered, taking the opportunity to ride a mountain bobsled, and visited the summit of the Brocken, the highest and most visible landmark of the region, taking a steam train to do so.

In the words of one of our students:

*The school trip to the Harz Mountains was an incredible learning experience. I delved into the rich history of the region, discovering the harsh realities of life in a German concentration camp and the production of the V2 rocket. It was eye-opening to grasp the magnitude of suffering and understand the significance of these historical events. Additionally, I gained insights into the complexities of crossing the border during the division of Germany into West and East Germany. The trip was highly educational, but it wasn't all serious. We also enjoyed some activities like the Harzbob Rodelbahn mountain bobsled, an exciting quiz night and two fun evenings of bowling. I am deeply grateful to our teacher for organizing such engaging activities, imparting us with a wealth of knowledge, and instilling in us a positive mindset throughout the trip.*

# On the Grapevine



We did !!! Amazing work from everyone who took part in sports day but also all the other house events this year!!! Endeavour Cup Champions 2023!!!!

## Lacrosse News



We have been following the performances of our numerous Old Georgians at the European Under 21 Championships. We are delighted to report that Lucy Evans and Rachael Ball played a key part in the victory of England U21 over Czechia in the final last Sunday. Well done girls.

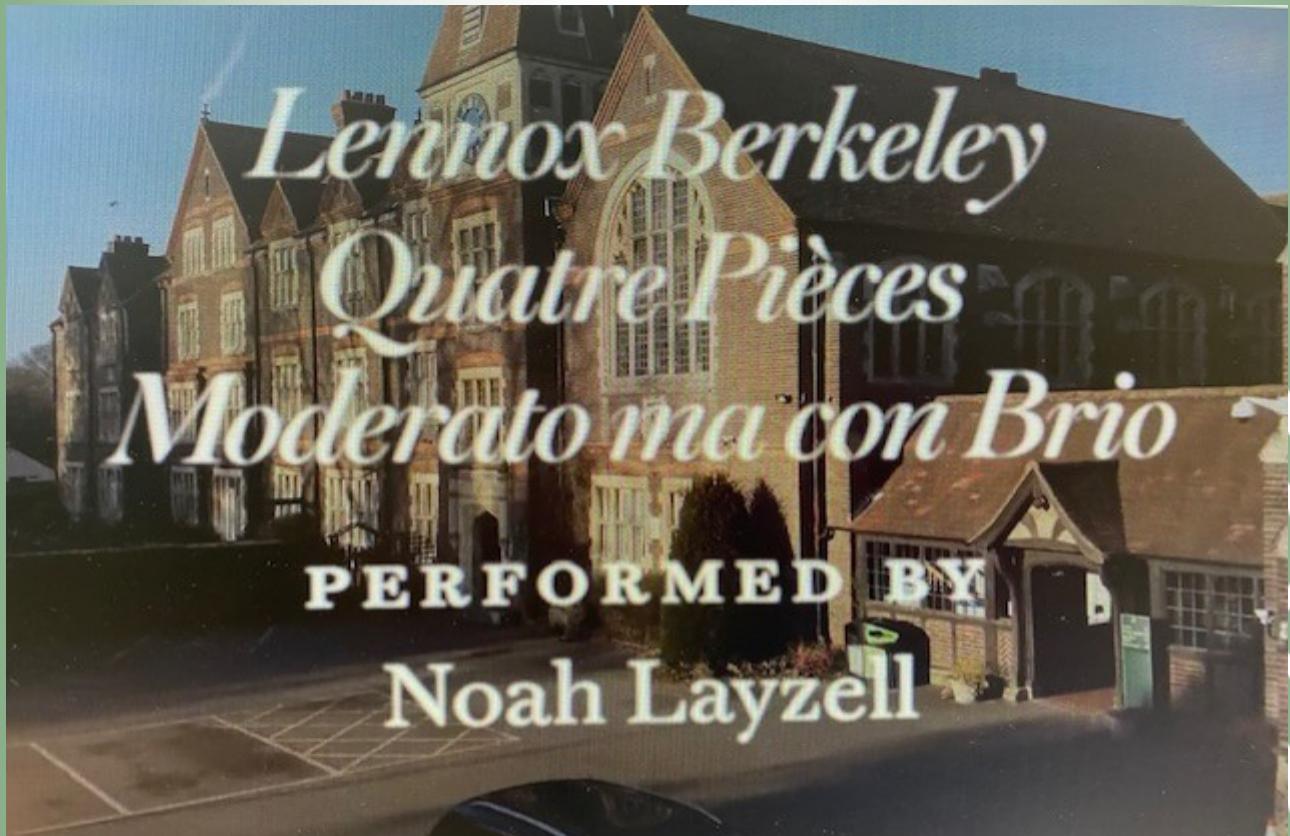
News from our

# Old Georgians

## Obituaries:

Jenifer Blackden ( 11:11:1933- 14:06:2023) was head girl at St Georges and led a full life; she loved drama, theatre, ballet, music, gardening & reading. Jenifer died peacefully at home surrounded by family on June 14th 2023.





Noah Layzell plays Lennox Berkeley's Quatre Pièces, II. Andante con Moto

"As a project for my final year of study at the Royal Birmingham Conservatoire, I made a series of video performances celebrating English music for the classical guitar - which I think marks some of the highest quality music in the repertoire. Given the aims of this project, it seemed prudent to include a work by Lennox Berkeley. He is one of the most important composers of the 20th Century and wrote five works for Guitar across his life. Each of these pieces show great understanding of idiomatic features and are well and truly a part of the instruments canon.

Part of the project was to find a location to shoot that had a connection to the music. So, once I found out that Berkeley attended St George's school and first had his music publicly performed there, I found it an irresistible place to film. Being the son of an earl, Berkeley and I don't have much in common from our respective childhoods, however, being educated in Harpenden is one thing that we do share."

Noah is a Classical Guitarist from Harpenden in his fourth year of study at the Royal Birmingham Conservatoire producing a series of video performances of English Classical Guitar music as part of his degree. He intend to film these videos in locations that are significant to the composer.

One piece in the project is Lennox Berkeley's Quatre Pièces. As Berkeley is St. George's alumni, and the first public performance of his music was at the school, he thought that one of the school halls or chapel would be a perfect location to shoot the video. He thought this would be a fantastic opportunity to showcase both the wonderful spaces at St. George's school and the music of an influential composer that the school helped to produce.

Noah Layzell performs Quatre Pièces, III. Lento, (movement de sarebande) at St George's School in Harpenden. Lennox Berkeley attended St George's School as a teenager between 1918 and 1919 and it was where his music was first publicly performed.

# Old Georgians

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

On Saturday 13 May 2023, we were delighted to hold the baptism of our first child, Elizabeth Jacqueline, at the School Chapel. St George's was more than just a school to us; as boarders James and his siblings called it home for 12 years and it was on a school ski trip that we met many years ago! To be able to bring Eliza back to such an important place in our history to celebrate with family and friends (many of whom are also Old Georgians) was incredibly special and memories to cherish.



# Old Georgian News

## FOUNDERS WEEKEND 2023

Thank you to all the OG's who made it to Founders weekend and came to chat with us. We wanted to share a few photos and stories from our OG's with the OG community.



Miss Barton ready to welcome the OG's



Our Group of OG's returning for a reunion 50 years on from leaving St. G's

# Old Georgian News

FOUNDERS WEEKEND Continued



Drinks for our four legged Friends

# Old Georgian News

## FOUNDERS WEEKEND Continued

### **Shona Hutton-McLean 1980—1985**

“Here today with Helen Hunter (nee Skinner who actually got married to Paul Hunter in the school chapel in 1991) who I met on my very first day at St. George’s. 43 years of fabulous friendship and travel built on the encounter in an English class in September 1980, many good memories of my 5 years here as a boarder and lots of exeat weekends with Helen and all the Skinner family”

### **Richard Copas 1966—1973**

Good to see everyone at a 50 years reunion. Haven't met anyone and still working full time. Just retired last year after working 42 years working for the Environment Agency and others covering a vast area of England. “

### **Rob Mainstone 1966—1973**

“Remembers hanging a big banner from the clock tower on leavers day with a message to the headmaster referring to his nickname chopper”

### **Pam Tabour 1948, returned for a school tour.**

“A trip down memory lane. We were taught in mission huts. All the new buildings are spectacular. The Art is much more advanced. The dining room, now the Library. The Old Library, a beautiful painting of St George and the dragon which has now sadly gone. A wonderful school with amazing facilities”

It was lovely to see so many OG's at Founders weekend, we hope to see you all at the Carol Service on the 16th December.

# Old Georgians news

## OG's V Students Cricket Match

OG's batted first scoring 182-2 from 20 overs. The students chased but could only come up 2nd best scoring 141-6.

OG's win by 41 runs. Great spirit of the game by all!



Thank you to the following OG's for taking part :-

Mark Fettes  
David Washington  
Nick Bonner  
Mark Bashford  
Mark Faulkner  
Craig Redford  
Dan Hitchin  
Berwyn Petrie  
Miles Briggs  
Jack Faulkner

# Old Georgian News



## Old Georgians - Mumtaz Mooncey

### Aim Higher, Dream Big

My time at St. George's School began in 2002, and I am grateful for the experiences I had here. In particular, I made some incredible friends, many of whom I still have now and I am sure will go on to be friends for life. I was a great believer in the House system and extremely proud to have been House Captain for Goddard House. During my 6th form years I was inspired to apply to study medicine, as I dreamt of undertaking a career in which I could help and significantly change the lives of others.

Unfortunately, despite my best efforts, my applications to medicine were rejected. I was forced to explore alternative options, and came across the path of studying Biomedical Science (with the potential for transfer across to medicine afterwards). However, 'hard core science' was definitely not what I had in mind and I knew that competition to transfer would be tough. The only saving grace was that I would be studying at St George's University – my family said I loved St George's so much that I had to find a new one... (My dad also said if St. George was still around I would probably marry him!)

Biomedical Science was intense, as expected. However I had my hopes set on medicine and I was willing to try and climb that mountain backwards if that's what it would take. Studying Biomed taught me one of life's most important lessons to date "Life is about the journey and not the destination". It was to my surprise that I had an unforgettable university experience and most importantly I felt extremely grateful for the people I met along the way. So, it turns out what they say is true "What doesn't kill you really does make you stronger". (Or as Drake would say; "Started from the bottom, now we're here").

I am delighted to say that I was in fact successful in transferring to medicine and I qualified as a doctor seven years ago. I am grateful to be working in such a fulfilling career, alongside inspirational people. Thank you for reading about my story. My message for you today, is that if you believe, then you can. If you want to do something, do it! If I can do it, then you most definitely can too, and remember – never let anyone dull your sparkle - 'Aim Higher, Dream BIG'. Thank you very much.

# Old Georgian News

## 2019 - The 10 Year Reunion

The St. George's Class of 2009 was lucky to have our 10 year reunion, in 2019, (just before the pandemic hit). After taking a poll for the most popular date and location for the event, we arranged to meet at a Central London venue, in late 2019. This was a fantastic celebratory event and it was so wonderful to see so many of us there (some people who had not been reunited since we left school!) We are pleased to say that the event was a huge success and we are already looking forward to the next one!:)



If you have had a reunion since leaving St G's then please do share your stories and photos with us.

If you would like to hold your reunion back at school then please email  
[development@stgeorges.herts.sch.uk](mailto:development@stgeorges.herts.sch.uk)

# Join The Legacy Wall



Name to appear on brick/s 2 lines max. 16 characters per line, punctuation and spaces count as characters, no accents.

## Join Our Legacy Wall Booking Form

A minimum donation of £48 will buy a brick which can be engraved with up to 2 lines of gold lettering.

I would like to buy  bricks at a cost of £48 per brick

I would like to donate £..... per brick

Total Donation £..... (Please make cheque payable to St George's School for the attention of the Development office)



Name:..... Address:.....

.....  
.....  
.....

Postcode:.....

Telephone Number.....email:.....

I am a UK tax payer

### Gift Aid Declaration

Please treat any and all donations that I make to St George's School (Harpden) Limited on or after the date of this declaration (unless and until I inform you otherwise) as Gift Aid, and reclaim tax on them. I will pay an amount of UK income tax or capital gains tax at least equal to the tax I am asking St George's School (Harpden) Limited to reclaim. I understand that other taxes such as VAT and Council Tax do not qualify. I understand that the charity will reclaim 25p of tax on every £1.00 that I give on or after 6 April 2008.

Signature: ..... Date: .....

# 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.

Development Office,  
St George's School,  
Harpden, HERTS, AL5 4TD  
Tel 01582 765477

Barclays Bank A/C 03517586  
Sort Code: 20-03-62

or [development@stgeorges.herts.sch.uk](mailto:development@stgeorges.herts.sch.uk)



# OGA Tie

**Why don't you commemorate your time at St George's School by purchasing a 100% Silk Old Georgian Tie**

If you would like to make a purchase, please complete the form below and return to:

Development Office,  
St George's School,  
Harpenden, HERTS, AL5 4TD  
or [development@stgeorges.herts.sch.uk](mailto:development@stgeorges.herts.sch.uk)



# Old Georgians 100% Silk Tie Order Form

I would like to order \_\_ \_\_ 100% silk tie(s) at £15.00 each (plus P&P)

P&P national delivery: £2.50 P&P international delivery: £5.00

**TOTAL: £ \_\_\_\_\_ (include P&P)**

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Postcode: \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_

## **PAYMENT BY CHEQUE**

I enclose a cheque for the sum of £ \_\_\_\_\_

Payable to St George's School (Harpenden) Ltd

## BANK TRANSFER

Sort Code: 20-03-62

Account Number: 00018414

## Reference: Tie-Surname

Thank You

# ST GEORGE'S SCHOOL HARPENDEN

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[twitter.com/MissB\\_at\\_StGs](http://twitter.com/MissB_at_StGs)

The Old Georgians Association website – <https://eu.ptly.com/uk/>

