



ST GEORGE'S SCHOOL

The Old Georgians Association



July 2025

Welcome from the Head

Andy Ford

Georgian Newsletter July 2025

As I reach the end of my first year as Head at St George's, I would like to reflect on what has been a remarkable twelve months. It has been a privilege to lead this amazing community – a place shaped by tradition and values, yet with its eyes firmly set on the future.

One of the most significant moments of the year was our Ofsted inspection in the Spring Term. I am delighted to share that the school was judged Outstanding in every category – a recognition of the high standards, exceptional teaching, and the nurturing environment that our staff work so hard to create. For those who have known and loved this school for years, I hope this outcome confirms what you already felt to be true: that St George's is a place where young people thrive, both academically and personally. It was great to have that recognised by inspectors. A large part of the credit for this result goes to Helen Barton and Paddy Storrie who led the school so effectively until this year.

This term has been hugely busy with many activities, trips and events taking place. Importantly, our Year 11 and Year 13 students completed their public examinations. These are always pivotal moments in the life of a school, and we are proud of how they approached the challenge with resilience and maturity. That said, St George's remains a school that offers far more than examination preparation. Our curriculum, our culture, and our co-curricular life all seek to develop confident, compassionate and well-rounded young people who are ready to go out into the world and serve

This year's House events have demonstrated just that. From fierce competition on the sports field to thoughtful contributions in House Assemblies and impressive performances in the Arts, our students have shown remarkable dedication and creativity. The Endeavour Cup – awarded not simply for winning but for commitment, participation and contribution – encapsulates the spirit we seek to foster.

Looking ahead, we are excited to celebrate the achievements of our younger pupils at the forthcoming Lower School and Middle School Prizegiving ceremonies. I am particularly pleased that we will welcome back Old Georgian Isaac Pengelley (2019) as our guest speaker for Middle School Prizegiving. Now training as an actor, Isaac embodies the courage and ambition we hope all our pupils will carry into the world.

To all our alumni, thank you for the part you continue to play in the story of St George's. Your connection to the school enriches our community and we look forwards to welcoming you back at an event soon!

Kind Regards

Andy Ford

Headteacher

Updates from the Development Office

Save the Date

Saturday 13th December 2025— 3.00pm

Old Georgian Carol Service followed by refreshments.

Message from Georgian Association

I can't believe that it was nearly a year ago that I retired and took on the role of President of the OG's. It's been a real privilege to serve the extended StG's community in this way.

The real joy and delight has been to meet people who have rekindled a connection with the School both at the Christmas Carol Service and more recently at the Summer Fete. It's been lovely to hear from many of you via email and it is great to see that more of you are following us on Facebook and Instagram. We've tried new easy ways of raising the profile of the association this year through simple measures such as selling a small amount of merchandise (which has also raised a small amount of funds): being present at all of the major school events; ensuring that the newsletter has been a regular feature of our communication with you and by updating our Alumni records. We also proposed a coffee morning to help us make contact with OG's who are also current parents, but this didn't seem to be popular - we will however continue to try new ideas in our aim to widen our connections and strengthen our community.

The Summer Fete was great; the sun shone; good food was available and we offered OG's who attended a tour of the school grounds and a talk on the School Chapel. A big thank you goes to Russell Tucker who helped organise these and offered his time to assist.

We would love to make more contact with OG's who have left the school in more recent years. It would be amazing if you could share some of your news with us. We know that some of you still meet together as friends; attend weddings together and even marry each other, it would be lovely to see some photos and perhaps hear a little about your continued connections. We would also love to know where you have ended up in the world of work - so don't be surprised if I send you an email :)

I hope that you have an amazing summer.

Helen Barton
Georgians Association President

Updates from the Development Office

Brathay 10 in 10.....



I'm always surprised at where an OG often pops up, especially when it is in an unexpected location.

I was invited to friends at Christmas for a glass of wine and a nibble on a very nice homemade mince pie. During that lovely evening my friend, let's call her Emily (because actually that is her name!) outlined to me the annual challenge that she had set herself for 2025. That challenge was to attempt the "Brathay 10 in 10". Set on the shore of Lake Windermere the Brathay Trust inspires young people to build a brighter future through outdoor learning experiences and community based projects working with young people from primary school age through to early careers. Part of their annual fundraising is the Brathay 10 in 10, a challenge to run 10 marathons in 10 days. Mad I thought! Why don't you bring your caravan and come and cheer me on, she gaily said, and as I am now retired I thought "why not?" So on the 7th May 2025 Emily packed her running shoes and a mountain of snacks and I hitched up a caravan and headed north.

I could only be there for a week, but for 6 days she ran a marathon every day, and I cycled one beside her. Donning more lycra than I thought I possessed within my wardrobe and cycling more miles and up more hills than I thought I could do, it became my own private challenge. I was just glad I had invested in an ebike a little over a year ago. I must confess my bottom didn't know what had hit it, BUT it was worth it as it was just a real privilege to be there. The challenge was real, and intense at times, but by day 7, when I went to cheer her off before leaving to go home, there was the realisation that, barring any major injuries there was the distinct possibility that she would do it. And do it she did.....10 Marathons over 10 days in times of 4 hours 20 minutes to 4 hours 40 minutes, coming in as the fastest lady. 15 people started the challenge, only 10 managed to complete it. She is a legend! Emily is a member of our Georgian community; she is a current parent who has two children at the school. She raised over £6000 for the cause and as Watts directed us to do definitely left the world a better place (that day) for the effort that she made.

Updates from the Development Office

Brathay 10 in 10.....

On day 6 her passing comment to me at the start of the day was “this is bonkers”, and yes it was. So who dreams up such a “bonkers” challenge.

That answer lies with a man called Sir Christopher Ball. He came up with the idea of running 10 in 10 as a challenge when he heard that Sir Ranulph Fiennes had run 7 in 7 across 7 different continents. His first challenge was 7 in 7 along the Thames..... Which was only enhanced when his wife asked whether he could run another one tomorrow. He considered that he could run another one on day 7 and 8 and 9, but 10 might be too far..... so the idea of the challenge was born and he approached Brathay to help make his fundraising idea a reality. In 2007 at the age of 72 years he, and 6 others set off to see whether the challenge was possible. The “Brathay 10 in 10” was born and has been running every year since, with some really mad people doing it more than once.

The best thing is that Sir Christopher Ball is himself an OG....and he is a true Georgian not only for the many amazing things he has done in his life, but also because at the age of 90 Sir Ball turned up at Brathay on the final day of the 2025 challenge - running the last 10km to hand out the medals and congratulate all that had made it to the end. So on a sunny day in Ambleside an OG celebrated the success of a current member of the StG's community, and met two young Georgians. They may have somewhere in the region of 80 years between their school experiences, but I would hope that we are still helping our young people to develop skills and attributes that will make them the Sir Christopher Balls of the future.



On the Grapevine

Did you take part in Inter House Drama? This year at Inter-House Drama we enjoyed watching four houses performing on stage in House Drama led by the Drama Captains. The plays were a diverse mixture of comedy, fantasy, mystery and murder with everyone on stage looking like they were thoroughly enjoying themselves. House Tech teams also ran the lighting and sound for their houses.

Our adjudicator, Jamie Davis, had the difficult task of awarding house points and the results are (drum roll please): 1st - Goddard with 'Education, Education, Education' 2nd - Watts with 'Alice in Wonderland' 3rd - Monk with 'The Patient' 4th - Grant with 'Whitney Darling'. Best Director went to Denise T in Watts. The results were very close indeed so congratulations to all students who took part. We know how much time, effort and energy our students put into their house events.



On the Grapevine

Year 12 Art Trip to Florence: a jewel box of a city

Mrs Turner writes: Our residential school trip to Florence, Italy, was an unforgettable experience filled with rich Renaissance history, stunning art, and cultural immersion. We explored some of the city's most renowned landmarks. At the Uffizi Gallery, we marvelled at masterpieces by Botticelli, da Vinci, and Michelangelo. We also visited the Galleria dell'Accademia, home to Michelangelo's iconic statue of David, a true symbol of Renaissance art.

We explored the peaceful San Marco Monastery, known for its serene atmosphere and exquisite frescoes by Fra Angelico. Santa Maria Novella, a beautiful church with its famous façade, offered a glimpse into Florence's architectural history and beautiful fresco commissioned by the Medici. A visit to the Santa Maria del Fiore Cathedral and Duomo left us in awe of the intricate details of its design, especially as we gazed out from the top of the Duomo, overlooking the city.

The Piazza Michelangelo offered one of the best views of Florence, with a breath-taking panorama of the city and its surrounding hills and rewarded us with unforgettable sights.

The weather was perfect with clear skies, and we enjoyed delicious Italian cuisine, especially the gelato, which was a favourite treat. Florence truly offered a blend of cultural experiences, history, and beauty, making it a trip we will cherish forever. A special memory is the whole group riding the antique 'Giostra' in the ancient Roman Piazza della Repubblica. This year 12 group of Art, Photography and Graphic Communication students represented the school as true Georgians.

Thanks to Miss Laker, Miss Murphy, Mrs Robertson and Mr Ellis who came on the trip.



On the Grapevine

Year 12 Progression Day

Year 12 were off timetable for 'Progression Day'. They were treated to talks from outside speakers on university applications, apprenticeships and gap years. It was also a pleasure to welcome back three 'Old Georgians' - Tyla, Derin & Seb to talk to them about their experiences since leaving us. The evening before, we held a progression evening for Year 12 parents.

In the afternoon, the whole year group attended a careers fair at Sir John Lawes, along with the other Harpenden schools - where they got to network and seek advice from a wide range of companies. We would like to extend our gratitude to all who helped out, including those at SJL for putting on the careers fair.

We hope that all students and parents found the events useful, informative and a good starting point for 18+ decision making.



Lucky Dip Draw for Buckingham Palace

Gemma Keane, from the Learning Support Department, was extremely pleased to have her name drawn out of a hat to accompany the Head to Buckingham Palace. The Head was invited to a very special Garden Party at Buckingham Palace on Wednesday 14th May, which was held to celebrate and recognise all those working in the field of Education and Skills. They did not get to chat with the King, but they did enjoy seeing the Palace grounds and enjoying some delicious tea and cakes



On the Grapevine

Boarders make a splash!

Mr Blair writes: Boarders from Keswick and Crosthwaite Houses seized the rare June heatwave with a day at H2O Rampage Water Park, because what better way to start the summer than with inflatable chaos and water-fuelled competition?

Booked for the 3.00 p.m. session, the crew wasted no time jumping in as soon as the whistle blew. Ethan O and Maksim wasted no time making tidal waves with their Olympic-level belly flops before launching into an allout race to the island...dignity optional.

What followed was a solid hour of jumping, chasing, and diving, all with big laughs and no shortage of friendly trash talk. Tolu and Chakamso weren't about to let the boys steal the show, boldly racing them around the trickier obstacles while others took the more graceful (cautious) route across the inflatable mayhem.

Parker, our occasional boarder and full-time daredevil, fearlessly squared up to Year 11 titans Marcus and Flynn in a dramatic showdown on the high tower. The jump into the murky abyss below was met with cheers, gasps and probably a mouthful of lake water!

Of course, no trip involving floating inflatables would be complete without a few unsolicited WWE auditions. Damilola (clearly convinced he's on Monday Night Raw) treated fellow boarders to surprise RKO's and powerbombs, all in good humour and (mostly) within the rules of inflatable warfare.

All in all, it was a brilliant day, part adrenaline rush, part waterlogged mayhem, and all-out good fun. A memorable way to soak up some sun, say farewell to our year eleven and show off serious boarder spirit.



House Bake Off 2025

Following the successful introduction of House Bake Off last year, this year, points are being awarded towards the Endeavour cup.

On Friday 27th June, students created their Celebration Showstoppers in 90 minutes. We were bowled over with the creativity, care and attention to detail students paid to their fabulous dishes. Many dedicated students had practised their dishes multiple times and refined it in preparation for the big day.

However, with temperatures 25 °C outside of the classroom, the heat from the ovens provided an additional challenge. All our finalists kept their cool and worked solidly, producing magnificent dishes which looked professionally made. Staff were impressed with how well students worked; the quality of their skills and the decoration of the Showstoppers.



The overall winner of House Bake Off 2025 was **Monk House**.

**House Bake Off 2025
Overall Rankings:**
1st Monk
2nd Grant
3rd Goddard
4th Watts

On the Grapevine

Celebrating St. George's Day

We decked the dining room with red and white bunting; flew the St. George's Cross; held a bake sale and ate a traditional English dinner to celebrate the patron Saint of England. The only thing missing was Morris dancing. If you are part of a Morris Dancing troupe, we would love to hear from you.

The St. George's Day cake-off was a great success and there were lots of delicious entries. We were also pleased to raise £81.50 for Macmillan's Cancer Support. Well done to all involved and especially our top 3 bakers - 1st place - Lowri T 2nd place - Luella B 3rd place - Toby A T



The Catering Team produced an outstanding feast of traditional roast chicken dinner with all the trimmings and apple crumble and custard for pudding. Students learnt about St. George and his stand for his Christian beliefs through the daily student bulletin and a good time was had by all.



On the Grapevine

From the Archives: VE Day at St George's on 8th May 1945

Mr Tucker, our archivist, has very kindly dug out this report from the school archives which is a wonderful insight into how school marked VE Day in 1945. This account titled 'VE DAY' is taken from the Georgian magazine, Vol XLIX, August 1945, No 2, pages 27-8:

'For some days before the beginning of the term it had been a matter of speculation, among both pupils and Staff, whether or not Germany's final surrender would anticipate, and so postpone, their return to school. It did not.

The summer term began on the day appointed. But to settle down to a normal routine with such an event impending was hardly possible; the school existed in a state of more or less suppressed excitement until at last the good news came through. That was Monday evening: at once prep ended. Horne Hall was cleared, dancing began. Boys and girls sang, romped, ran wildly over the school field, gave full vent to their feelings. The staff on the whole took the news more calmly.



About 10:30 p.m. that night three members of staff, ambling home from the cinema, met a stream of boys and girls rushing full tilt down Sun Lane. After a few moments of surprised incredulity, conviction dawned; yes, it was St George's! Something phenomenal must have occurred; why, of course it had! Victory in Europe! Whither the race went is still unknown to the writer; but the participants trickled back to bed in breathless twos and threes not long after.

Next day, those who could went home; those who could not remained. Which side had the better time is still in dispute! At school, a late breakfast was followed by prayers; then rules were abandoned; one did what one wished. At 3.00 p.m. we foregathered on the gravel to hear Mr Churchill announce the cessation of hostilities. Again we did what we liked. At 10:30 p.m. Mrs Watts applied a match to a huge bonfire erected in the middle of the Lower Rugger Field. Round this we danced, hand in hand in a huge, unwieldy circle, other bonfires about us; Verey lights from the camp at Batford starred the sky and showered down their cascades of light. We burst into song; the choir, led by Mr Dawn, gave shape and tune to our singing. Some enthusiasts from Remove broke into Greek, clashing discordantly with the English melodies coming from the other side of the fire. Meanwhile, the flames had blazed to their zenith; they dwindled and fell; then we leaped through them-at first in hesitant ones and twos, then, as the others grew in confidence, whole parties leaped in succession or hand in hand through the dying heat. Midnight! There was no official bedtime that night; we went away as we were summoned by fatigue.

Next day, too, there were no rules until after supper, then bedtimes came as usual. Fortunately, we were blest with fine weather: the open sky could be our roof. What did it mean - all this merriment, wild effervescence of spirit, fun laughter? How many of us stopped to think? The youngest of us could scarcely remember a world at peace; the oldest looked back - with relief? Yes - for we trusted that out of the ashes of Europe new life would spring. Both young and old felt, surely, that the victory bonfire was a symbol; the world as we had known it, now cleansed and purged by the fires of suffering, had set foot on the road to a purer and more vital existence'

Notes:

- Horne Hall is now the computer room at the top of the corridor by the dining room
- Verey lights - flares used for signalling and night lights
- Camp at Batford - a PoW camp initially containing Italians and later German PoWs - opened 1943.



Old Georgians



Mr Harris bumped into **OGs Paul Simon and Max Eke** at the Bath vs Saracens game



kimcinnnes

London, United Kingdom



THE SWEET SPOT



The ascent of Kim Innes and her Humble Crumble brand has been anything but straightforward. And yet the tough early years were worth it in the end

Devastated after another terrible day's business, Kim Innes felt her dreams of running a successful venture were over.

After years of working all hours to make her pop-up food stall financially viable, it just wasn't working.

"I remember lying on the floor crying, sure it was time to throw in the towel," she says. Minutes later an email arrived – telling her that she had qualified for a small business grant. It was enough to keep her going just a little longer.

Now, five years later, Innes has been listed as one of Forbes'

30 Entrepreneurs Under 30. She employs 80 people and her business has been valued at "somewhere between £15 million and £20 million".

Innes grew up near St Albans, Hertfordshire, the youngest of five children. Aged 12, she made an apple crumble at school. "We sat and ate it together as a family," she says. "With such a big age difference between my siblings and me, they were often out, so having us all together made me happy."

So Innes made crumble for the family most weeks, little knowing that it would be the

PHOTOGRAPHY: KATE PETERS, HAIR AND MAKE-UP: LUCINDA WORTH

Old Georgian Kim Innes has been interviewed for the Sunday Times Magazine.

Kim is the founder of Humble Crumble. She made her first crumble at St George's!

Please see the link below for the full article

<https://www.instagram.com/p/DJ2QLMKug5e/?>

Old Georgians

OG Lizzie Lenthall



Hi, I am Lizzie and I left St Georges in 2020. At school, I had a great passion for photography - especially in A Levels - so I chose to study fashion photography at Leeds Arts University.

Since graduating last year, I have been a freelance photographer, specialising in fashion and music photography. I have been fortunate enough to photograph a great range of artists, including Jorja Smith, Pink Pantheress, Kairos Keys, Jacob Collier and more. I am wanting to also branch out into the wedding photography scene! I have some experience, however I am wanting to increase this, so I am offering a great discount to any alumni needing a photographer for their special day !

Please get in touch if you are interested. Website: <https://www.elizabethlenthall.com> //

Email: info@elizabethlenthall.com // Instagram: @elizabethlenthall Thank you ! X

News from our Old Georgians

Founders Weekend 2025

It was lovely to see so many OGs at Founders Weekend, either at the Fête or the Sunday Chapel service. We also welcomed a group of 28 Old Georgians who attended a reunion dinner in the Dining Hall on Saturday evening.

If you'd like to host a reunion for your year group, please get in touch at smackenzie@stgeorges.herts.sch.uk.



Old Georgians



Obituaries

Rosemary Horne - (Briggs), sadly passed away in April this year at the age of 92.

Rosemary was born in 1932 so a member of the school group evacuated to Paschoe House in Devon during the war.

Being an OG was a lifelong love for her and she remained closely connected, particularly with the choral weekends every summer until their recent demise.

She loved her years at St George's and used to tell her daughter she was a repeat prize winner, much to her classmates' annoyance! She also remembered being fierce on the lacrosse team and fun days out with the cricket team, going to their matches and making their teas - how times have changed! She kept her school friends all of her life, along with an inquiring mind and thirst for knowledge.

Jennifer Blackden died on 14th August 2023

Jennifer was Head Girl of St George's she was a keen Old Georgian and a great supporter of the school. Her mother, and Grandmother, Jean Blackden set up the Children's House many years ago.



Old Georgian News



Legacy Programme

St. George's is a dynamic place, and throughout its long and distinguished history, it has valued its traditions. It has also adapted to the evolving needs of its pupils and staff. As a valued member of our community, you will appreciate the significant impact of generous contributions made to the school and the difference they have made. Whether your connection to St. George's is through your children, as a former pupil, or another meaningful link, you will understand what a truly special place it is.

The collective support of past and present generations has enabled us to achieve a great deal. For example, it has funded buildings, computers, sporting facilities and equipment. Every aspect of school life has benefited from such generosity, and we now ask you to continue this vital tradition.

No matter the size, a legacy gift in your will ensures that St. George's will continue to thrive.

In addition to the tax-free nature of the donation, charitable gifts can reduce the amount of tax payable on the remainder of the estate.

For further information, please email development@stgeorges.herts.sch.uk



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,
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Barclays Bank A/C 03517586
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