

St. George's School Newsletter

Friday 10th October 2025



From the Head



Fight for mental health today, and every day

Join the campaign **10 October 2025**

Today marks World Mental Health Day, a moment to reflect on the importance of wellbeing. At St George's, we recognise that young people learn best when they feel supported, understood, and valued. Our Student Services Team plays a vital role in ensuring that every pupil receives the care and guidance they need to flourish — both personally and academically.

Working as House Pastoral Assistants (HPAs), our Student Services colleagues are an integral part of each House team. They provide an additional layer of support for pupils, working closely with Heads of House, Tutors, and teaching staff to ensure that every student has someone to turn to. Whether offering a listening ear, helping to navigate friendship challenges, or supporting pupils returning to school after a period of difficulty, their contribution is deeply valued.

Much of their time is spent in the Student Services area, where pupils can find a calm and supportive environment during the school day. It is a space designed for reflection and recovery; whether that means taking a short break, seeking practical help, or receiving emotional support. We also help students learn how to self-regulate so that they are able to return to lessons.

We are extremely fortunate to have such a caring and professional team at St George's, whose work embodies our commitment to ensuring that every pupil feels they belong, are known, and are supported to aim higher in every aspect of life.

Well-being and Mental Health Support at St. George's

Our aims:

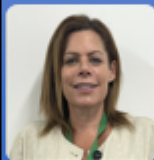
- To promote positive mental health and well-being in order to develop a culture of acceptance and understanding.
- To provide early help and signposting to well-being services.
- To respond to all students in need with direct support through our pastoral support team with referral to specialist services and when required



Mental Health Leads



Mrs Roberston
Safeguarding Lead & Assistant Head
Find me next to Grant House Office



Mrs McCarney
Pastoral Support Manager & Designated Safeguarding Person
Find me next door to Student Services



Mrs Grainger
Student Services Supervisor
Find me in Student Services

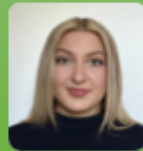
Mental Health Champions



Miss van Schalkwyk
Monk House Pastoral Assistant



Mrs Robinson
Grant House Pastoral Assistant



Miss Payne
Goddard House Pastoral Assistant



Miss Cooke
Watts House Pastoral Assistant



0300 123 3393
Open 9am-6pm weekdays

Parent Governor Elections - final chance to vote this week!

Thank you very much to all of you who have voted in our Parent Governor Elections. Please vote if you haven't done so; there are ten nominees. We have two vacancies to fill and you have two votes as a parent.

Please use [this form](#) to vote. If you would like to read more about the ten candidates, their profiles are available [here](#). Voting is open until 17th October, 3.00pm.

We've officially launched our brand-new website—and it's bursting with fresh energy!

We're absolutely thrilled to unveil our redesigned online home, crafted with care to be brighter, bolder, and easier to explore than ever before. Whether you're a curious visitor, a proud parent, or one of our amazing students, we invite you to dive in and discover all the exciting updates we've made just for you.

What's new?

- A sleek, user-friendly layout that makes finding what you need a breeze
- Stunning new photos that capture the spirit, joy, and brilliance of our students in action
- Fresh features that showcase upcoming events, achievements, and ways to get involved
- Quick links in the top right corner for easy access to the things you need.

So go ahead—click around, get inspired, and let us know what you think. This isn't just a website; it's a celebration of everything that makes our school extraordinary.

Ready to explore? Your adventure starts here: [St George's School Harpenden](#). If you do want to give us any feedback about the new website, please use [this form](#) to let us know.

SOCS Calendar

If you had synced the school calendar from the old website, you will need to re-sync it. Do this by going on the [new website](#) to News & Events > Calendar > Calendar Sync (on the left-hand side) > Select from the options based on your preference and browser.

Year Seven is off to a Flying Start!

We couldn't be prouder of our new Georgians! Their energy, positivity, and enthusiasm have lit up the school, and they've embraced every challenge with confidence and flair. From mastering the two-week timetable to exploring new subjects and navigating the bustling lunch options, they've shown incredible resilience and spirit.

Progress Reviews Coming Soon

Mark your calendars! Year Seven's Progress Reviews will be released on 22nd October, offering a snapshot of their effort, progress, and achievement in lessons. You'll be able to access everything via Edulink: [Please click here for help and advice](#)

Dates to Remember for Year Seven Parents:

- Get ready for one of the most exciting events of the term! House Music takes centre stage on 17th October at school, followed by the grand performance at The Grove Theatre on 21st October.
- Extended Half-Term Break begins on 22nd October – a well-earned rest!
- Year Seven Parents' Evening is scheduled for 26th November – a great opportunity to celebrate progress and connect with teachers. We look forward to seeing you there.

House Music Competition - The Grove Theatre Dunstable- October 21st

Thanks to all those who have purchased their student performer allocated tickets this week. We are pleased to be able to offer additional tickets to watch the competition on Oct 21st. These will be available on Parent Pay from 09.30 on Monday 13th Oct, until they have sold out. Tickets will be distributed to students from Wednesday 15th.

Expectations and Behaviour

As we approach House Music and the end of another incredibly busy half-term, our weekly focus is on Supporting Each Other - and being *Obviously Together*. We're reminding students that success isn't only about performance, but about teamwork, humility, and kindness. You can help by talking with your child about how they can lift others up, celebrate successes, and show resilience when things don't go to plan.

OBVIOUSLY TOGETHER...

Supporting Each Other



 **Be present** – Arrive on time for practices, rehearsals, and events with the right equipment.

 **Be supportive** – Contribute positively to your peers and school leaders.

 **Be caring** – Look after each other, especially during busy periods.

 **Be positive** – Cheer on your house and celebrate others' efforts.

 **Aim Even Higher** – take initiative to help, encourage, and include others so our community thrives.

We are Georgians and we Aim Higher by being...

Obviously KIND <i>We go above and beyond to support and respect others.</i>	Obviously POSITIVE <i>We strive to be optimistic, resilient, and embrace challenges.</i>	Obviously RESPONSIBLE <i>We do the right thing — even when no one is watching.</i>	Obviously TOGETHER <i>We include others, build each other up, and act as one team.</i>
--	---	---	---

Changes to Holiday Food Vouchers Scheme for children receiving Free School Meals

Since December 2020, the Local Authority has issued food vouchers to eligible families, funded through various government schemes. From October 2021, this was supported by the **Household Support Fund**, a Department for Work and Pensions (DWP) initiative.

In the latest grant allocation (April 2025 – March 2026), Hertfordshire County Council received **12% less funding**, prompting a review of all programmes to ensure continued support for residents.

As part of **Household Support Fund 7**, vouchers will now be issued only during the main school holiday periods:

- **Easter 2025** – £30 per pupil
- **May 2025** – £15 per pupil
- **Summer 2025** – £60 per pupil
- **Christmas 2025** – £30 per pupil

We recognise that this change may have an impact on families, especially as the scheme has been in place for the past three years. For families requiring additional support, we recommend visiting this website: [‘support with cost-of-living pages’](#) on the Hertfordshire County Council website.

What's happening locally to celebrate Black History Month

At the St. Albans Museum and Gallery, *Our Stories* is a powerful project by St Albans Black History Research Group, that brings together an exhibition and a newly published zine. With research spanning 2,000 years—from Roman Verulamium to the lives of Black communities today - go along to find out more.

[Our Stories: Tracing Black Histories in Hertfordshire | St Albans Museums](#)

One Woman Black History Show – Letchworth Garden City. A performance weaving songs, Caribbean dance, folktales and quizzes. Runs Friday 3rd October – Thursday 30th October. Engaging for families and small school groups.

Mr Fabulous (Jay Kamiraz) – speaker, TV judge and diversity champion, Friday 31st October. Suitable for older secondary pupils as an inspirational encounter at County Hall, Hertford.

Banned Books Week (5-11th October)

This week we have been marking Banned Books Week in the library - an annual event that highlights the value of free and open access to information. It is a week to celebrate books that have been challenged, removed or silenced historically and/or currently in some countries.

Our fabulous display of banned books has attracted lots of interest and we have had some thought-provoking discussions on the reasons why particular books might have been banned. We ended with a quiz, providing an opportunity for students and staff to see whether their reasons were correct. Many were surprised to see that some of the most popular and well-loved titles in the library were on our Banned Books display. Rest assured, they are all still available to borrow from the library!



Supporting families with Kinship arrangements

Kinship is an umbrella term for all arrangements where a child is looked after by someone other than their birth parents. This could include grandparents, aunts and uncles, close family friends, or others within the child's extended network. Herts County Council are keen to share the full range of support available to kinship families in the area. This includes support for both kinship carers and the children they care for.

Please visit their website for more information: [Hertfordshire Kinship Support Offer | Hertfordshire County Council](#)

Co-Curricular Updates

We have had a busy week with our Iceland trip departing, the launch of House Art, Boarders Senior Dinner, Senior Maths Challenge, Netball fixtures against SJL and our Senior Counties Lacrosse tournament for our 1st, 2nd & 3rd teams which took place on Thursday. Our U15 Rugby team played St Columba's College in the National Cup this week and our U14 Rugby team travel to Oundle next week for their next round in the School Sports Magazine National Cup game. Our U15 Lacrosse team also have their County Tournament next week with Basketball fixtures taking place too along with our Geography students heading off to Brick Lane!

On Friday 10th October, our Friday night lights games at Harpenden Rugby Club are taking place. U13A & U13B teams Kick off at 2.00 p.m. with our senior team playing at 3.00 p.m. against Watford Grammar. We would love you to come and support the boys and school!

This Saturday's Lacrosse fixture is AWAY at Habs, and our Rugby fixtures are a mixture of home and away against Watford - please see SOCS for team details. (Please note that there is an open morning at HABS so it will be busier than usual and parking may be trickier).

We are still having a number of girls turn up for Lacrosse without goggles and a mouthguard - these are essential pieces of protective equipment that MUST be worn. Please ensure your daughter has these items and remembers them for every practice or game. The school shop sells both of these items – gum shields especially can be purchased at lunchtimes should a student forget theirs. We no longer have items to loan as these have been depleted so unfortunately if your daughter attends training or a game without these items, they may be turned away for their own safety.

Our young people and staff have also been working hard and getting ready for our House Music finale, which is taking place on 21st October at Grove Theatre in Dunstable. It is looking to be an exciting evening as always, where our students showcase their musical talents with lively and friendly rivalry. It's not just about the competition, but also about building school spirit, fostering creativity, and bringing the school community together through the universal language of music. Look out for the ticket letter coming out via ParentPay.

Important Safeguarding Notice: Children's "Spy" Books

We want to make you aware of a recent issue affecting some popular children's books by Andrew Cope, including the *Spy Dogs*, *Spy Cats*, and *Spy Pups* series.

Some editions of these books include a printed web address at the back. This link used to go to the author's website, but the domain is no longer under his control. It has since been taken over by another party and now leads to inappropriate adult content.

The publisher, Puffin, has paused sales and distribution of the books and is working with schools, libraries, and retailers to remove copies from circulation. They have stressed that the website has no connection to the author or publisher.

What this means for you:

- If your child has any *Spy Dog*, *Spy Cat* or *Spy Pups* books at home, please check the back for website links and make sure they do not try to visit the site.
- It is safe for children to continue reading the stories themselves — the concern is only with the outdated link.
- We recommend talking with your child about the importance of not following web addresses in books without checking with an adult first.

Parking and Road Safety

We are concerned about the parking behaviours of a small minority of parents and carers. Unsafe and inconsiderate parking poses a risk to pedestrians (including many of our students) and other road users. It also negatively affects our relationship with neighbours and the wider community.

Specific concerns include:

- 🚫 Parking on double yellow lines and “school keep clear” markings.
- 🚫 Parking on pavements and across driveways.
- 🚫 Stopping in the middle of the road to drop off or collect children.

If you need to drive your young person to/from school, please adopt a “Park and Stride” approach if possible. Two nearby public car parks are ideal for this:

- 🚗 Lydekker Car Park (off Sun Lane)
- 🚗 Bowers Way Car Parks

Rather than driving to the front of school, please consider dropping off a short distance away and encouraging your child to walk the rest of the way.

Better for them, better for you, better for the environment, better for the community!

News from the PSA

👏 Thank you to our Open Evening volunteers!

A massive thank you to all the PSA volunteers and 6th formers who helped serve refreshments to prospective parents, children and the teachers at the Open Evening last week. All hands were on deck serving hot drinks, over 1,100 cups of squash and a record amount of biscuits! Your efforts were much appreciated. Huge thanks also to our catering manager, Simon, and his team for all their help.

Christmas Ball - Saturday 29 November

The Christmas Ball is just over a month away, and we can't wait to see you there! **Tickets go on sale this evening at 6:00pm**

You can book a table of 12 or simply join another table - it's a fantastic opportunity to enjoy great company and kick off the festive season together.

The evening promises a wonderful four-course meal, live band, auction, raffle and games - always one of the highlights of the school year! 👉 Purchase your tickets here: [Tickets](#)



Auction Item Appeal

The Christmas Ball is one of the biggest fundraising events of the year and the auction is a key part of its success. We are looking for exciting items for the auction and we'd love your help! If you have access to tickets for sporting or music events, spa days, holiday homes or rounds of golf that you'd be happy to donate, please get in touch at psa@stgeorges.herts.sch.uk.

Christmas Fayre - Calling All Student Entrepreneurs!

The PSA Christmas Fayre returns on Saturday, 22nd November (12.00 to 4.00 p.m.)

Students are invited to run their own stalls, whether selling handmade crafts, creating new games or showcasing small business ideas.

There are **only six stalls available (£10 each)**, so encourage your children to apply soon! Email psa@stgeorges.herts.sch.uk with their **name, year group and idea by Tuesday, 14th October**.



HRFC Fireworks Night - Sunday, 2 November

Enjoy a spectacular evening of fireworks, food and entertainment at Harpenden Rugby Football Club (AL5 2BA). Gates open at 4:00 p.m., and the show starts at 6:00 p.m.

There will be a DJ, food village, drinks marquee and family entertainment throughout the evening.

 **Book your tickets here:** <https://www.tickettailor.com/events/hrfc/1843837/r/stgeorges>
25% of the net value of tickets purchased via this link goes directly to St George's School.



Give As You Live - a free and easy way to raise money for the school

If you shop online, you can earn cashback-style donations from over 6,000 leading retailers that's directly paid to the PSA. It's so easy and doesn't cost you anything. You'll need to register via our [unique link](#) and then you can shop as normal.

 PSA AGM and Meeting - Monday, 10 November

Join us for the **AGM at 7:00pm**, followed by the **PSA meeting at 8:00pm**.
All parents are welcome - come along to hear updates, share ideas and get involved.

 *Follow us on Instagram [@psastgeorges](https://www.instagram.com/psastgeorges) for the latest PSA news and upcoming events.*

St. George's will
receive 25% of all
ticket sales made by
St. George's Parents
and Guardians!



HARPENDEN RUGBY CLUB **FIREWORKS**

SUNDAY 2ND NOVEMBER
4 - 9 PM

AWARD WINNING FIREWORKS
FAIRGROUND
FOOD VILLAGE
HOT & COLD DRINKS
SHUTTLE BUS FROM HARPENDEN

TICKETS FROM



WWW.HRFC.COM

HARPENDEN RUGBY FOOTBALL CLUB



CLUB LUNCHES 2025/26

11TH OCTOBER

BEACONSFIELD

SUPPORTERS LUNCH -ALL WELCOME

8TH NOVEMBER

BELSIZE PARK

BREAST CANCER CHARITY LUNCH - LADIES ONLY

29TH NOVEMBER

OXFORD HARLEQUINS

SUPPORTERS LUNCH -ALL WELCOME

13TH DECEMBER

TEDDINGTON

CHRISTMAS LUNCH -ALL WELCOME

10TH JANUARY

WINDSOR

SPONSORS LUNCH - ALL WELCOME

7TH MARCH

MARLOW

COACHES LUNCH - ALL WELCOME

28TH MARCH

GRASSHOPPERS

TWICKENHAM RENION LUNCH - ALL WELCOME

HARPENDEN
VANS.com

boyden

harpenden  smiles
DENTAL STUDIO



Applications open on 7th October

With our ITT programme
you'll be supported,
mentored and ready to
thrive as a new teacher.

Register
your
interest
today!



We are proud to be a placement school for Initial Teacher Training at Alban TSH who offer flexible, highly personalised, school-based routes into teacher training. This includes: tuition fee paying, assessment only and Postgraduate Teacher Apprenticeship for a wide range of secondary courses as well as primary (5-11 and 3-7).

There is also the opportunity to gain PGCE status in addition to QTS. Alban TSH is an experienced provider of teacher training and has established partnerships with many outstanding schools in the region. Get in touch with our team teaching@albantsh.co.uk to find out more.



St Albans Community Showcase: Information for schools

On Saturday 25th October between 11.00 a.m. and 3.00 p.m, St Albans Cathedral will be hosting the third 'St Albans Community Showcase'. The event will bring together representatives of more than 60 charities and community groups supporting people or the environment. Most of these are local, and the national and international organisations all have significant local engagement.

Having such a range of community groups and charities together provides an unparalleled opportunity for pupils from our local schools to meet and engage with charities, discover what is happening on the ground to meet social and environmental justice needs, and perhaps take the opportunity to volunteer, gaining valuable experience and insights. It will be of interest to pupils contemplating DofE awards, seeking greater engagement in social or environmental justice activities, or broadening their understanding of citizenship.

The event is designed for all of us living in and around St Albans to learn about and engage with some of the amazing charities and community groups active here. Last year participating charities gained financial support, volunteers, and valuable networking opportunities, and we received enthusiastic feedback.

We would like to invite pupils and staff from all local schools to come to the event and meet some of the inspiring people who are taking part. We look forward to seeing you there! For further information see <https://www.stalbanscathedral.org/Event/st-albans-communityshowcase> or contact Dr Chris Lyal at socialjustice@stalbanscathedral.org