

St. George's School Newsletter

Friday 26th September 2025



From the Head

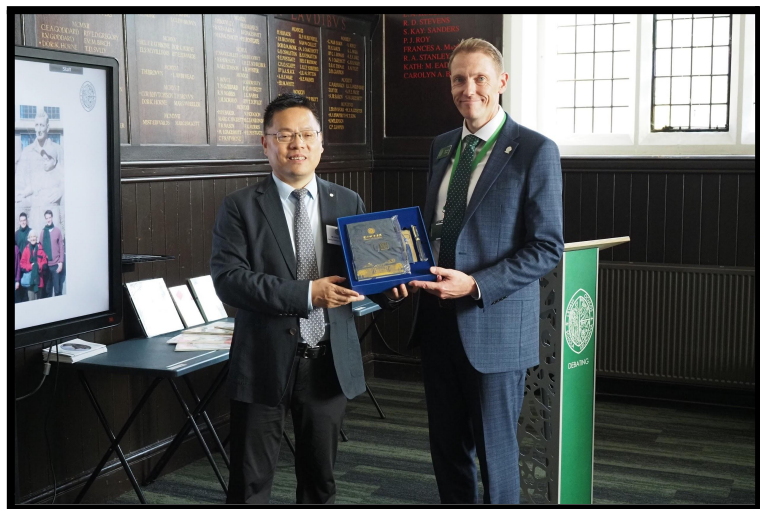
Over the past fortnight we have been marking 80 years since the death of George Hogg, one of our most remarkable Old Georgians. I spoke to pupils about his life in Chapel two weeks ago as part of our series on *Aiming Higher*, and on Friday we had the privilege of welcoming a delegation from Gansu Province in China to St George's to commemorate his extraordinary legacy.

Hogg was born in Harpenden in 1915 and educated here at St George's. After studying at Oxford, his travels eventually took him to China during the Sino-Japanese War. There he threw himself into work reporting on, and then supporting ordinary Chinese people. He was an internationalist; learning Mandarin, working with communities, and eventually running a school for orphaned boys. When their safety was threatened, he led sixty children on a 700-mile journey up the old Silk Road, over mountains and deserts to Gansu Province – an astonishing act of courage and compassion. Tragically, he died in 1945 from tetanus at the age of just 30, but the school he founded still thrives today in Shandan, a city in Gansu Province.

In China, Hogg is remembered with reverence: statues have been erected in his honour, books and even a feature film have been made about his life, and his name is known across the country. Yet, he remains practically unknown here in Harpenden. Our visitors from Gansu, along with members of the Harpenden Historical Society, are seeking to redress that balance, and it was wonderful for our pupils to meet them and share in their pride in St George's, and Hogg's story. You can read about the life of George Hogg on the [Harpenden & District Local History Society website](#).



It is a privilege to be part of a school with such a rich history and heritage. But history is not static: we are part of a living tradition. The choices we make, the values we live by, and the actions we take will be remembered by future generations. George Hogg is admired not only for his achievements, but for his kindness, compassion, and courage. I wonder which of our current pupils will go on to achieve similarly great things, to be remembered for their kindness and positivity, just as Hogg is today.



Mrs Gill Ingram

It is with great sadness that I also share the news of the death of Gill Ingram. Mrs Ingram was both a parent of the school and a long-serving governor, who gave many hours of generous service to St George's over a number of years. Our thoughts and prayers are with her family at this time of mourning. The family ask that, if members of the St George's community want to do something in Gill's memory, they treat themselves to tea and cake in her honour!

Governor Elections

Many thanks to the many parents and carers who have expressed an interest in, and offered their services to the school through becoming a parent governor. We are pleased to announce that there will be an election underway shortly. This will start next week, so look out for further communication on how to vote.

House Cross Country: a RUN-derful start to the Endeavour Cup 2025-26

Wednesday saw our whole school community put its *best foot forward* as 226 runners laced up and raced in the annual House Cross Country event. Witnessed by over 1200 students and staff as they walked in step through town to Rothamsted Park.

The competitors certainly didn't *drag their heels*—from the starting gun, they sprinted like they were *sole-searching* for glory. The course tested every stride, but the determination on display was nothing short of miraculous.

Meanwhile, the walkers brought the *cheer factor*. They paraded through town in a colourful stream of house colours, waving banners and raising spirits. Locals might have thought it was a *march of champions*, and in truth, it was: a whole school united in steps, claps, and chants.

Every house had its *pace-setters*, and whether students ran like the wind or jogged with a smile, the finish line was a festival of high-fives, hugs, and healthy exhaustion.

🏆 House Results

- 1st Watts
- =2nd Goddard and Grant
- 4th Monk

A big thanks to our fantastic PE Department and Medical Team for ensuring that the event went smoothly, and to Mr Wallace for the fantastic photos.



Open Evening reminders

🏠 Friday 3rd October – school finishes at 11.00am and students are asked to return home and not hand around in town.

📖 Subject help + 6th Form – register 4.45 p.m. (subject rooms / Assembly Hall)

🧑 Guides (Years 7–10) – register in Assembly Hall at designated House time:

Monk ● Arrive 4.45 p.m. to Assembly Hall ● Tour and drop at 6.15 p.m. Chapel talk ● Sign out at 6.30 p.m.	Watts ● Arrive 5.20 p.m. to Aim Higher ● Collect from Chapel and tour ● Sign out at 7.10 p.m.	Goddard ● Arrive 5.30 p.m. to Assembly Hall ● Tour and drop to the 7.00 p.m. Chapel talk ● Sign out at 7.20 p.m.	Grant ● Arrive 6.00 p.m. to Assembly Hall ● Tour and drop to the 7.30 p.m. Chapel talk ● Sign out at 7.45 p.m.
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Please encourage your child to walk to school, or drop them in one of the local car parks to walk up from there to avoid the congestion around school.

Our students always do us proud at Open Evening and we know this year will be no exception.

Annabelle’s England Women’s Under 17 Debut

Congratulations to Annabelle Tang who was called up to the England Women's Under 17 football squad and spent last week on a training camp in Spain with her team. She made her debut in their match against Spain.

Annabelle has also been selected to represent England at a UEFA tournament in Poland in October. Well done Annabelle - we look forward to watching your career with England and Arsenal progress!



Expectations and Behaviour

Next week, our Behaviour Curriculum is focusing on **Open Evening**. Thank you for your support.

All our students (apart from year 11 who get the year off for their previous years of service) are expected to attend Open Evening.

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>
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On Open Evening, remember to be OBVIOUSLY...

KIND... welcome visitors warmly, be polite, and offer help with a smile.

TOGETHER... support your peers, staff, and House; contribute positively to make the evening a success.

POSITIVE... be enthusiastic about your subjects, show pride in your school, and embrace the opportunity to shine.

RESPONSIBLE... arrive on time, wear full uniform, and follow the instructions you're given.

Is your young person a young carer?

If they are under 18 and look after someone who is ill, disabled or uses drugs or alcohol, then they are a young carer.

A young carer is someone who does things that would normally be done by an adult. Often, this means they do jobs to help a family member meet their daily needs. Such as cooking meals, going shopping or making sure someone takes their medicine. They may also give someone emotional support on a regular basis.

If you think this applies to your young person, we want to help! Please contact Miss Baxter, St George's Young Carers Champion to make her aware - nbaxter@stgeorges.herts.sch.uk There is a lot that we can do to support them.

Missing spectacles or Jewellery?

Our lost property currently has an abundance of glasses waiting for their owners to collect them. If you recognise any of these are your child's, please encourage them to go to the School Shop at break or lunch time where Mrs Arichi will be able to give them back.

On a similar note, Mr Tookey has a large number of jewellery items that were confiscated last academic year and not collected. If they are missing something, please encourage your young person to go and see him before he reaches out to "Cash-4-Gold" or fires up an EBay account.



Year 12 Deadline for re-sitting English and Maths exams

Y12 students are reminded that the deadline to request an entry in the resit examinations for GCSE English Language and/or Mathematics is Friday 26th November. If you missed this deadline, please contact the Exams Office as soon as possible. For more information on dates and fees, please visit the [school website](#).

Key Dates for your Diary

- Launch of Inter House Art on Monday - information will be given in assemblies
 - Flu nasal vaccines 2nd October - please complete the permission forms if you haven't done so yet
 - School open evening next Friday - school finishes 11.00 a.m.
 - Exeat weekend with Monday off for Staff INSET
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Supporting your child on the sidelines

When supporting from the sidelines, we ask all parents and spectators to help model the schools' behaviours for Aim Higher by being:

- Obviously Kind** – show respect, encouragement, and support to players, officials, and fellow spectators.
- Obviously Together** – celebrate teamwork, include others, and build each other up.
- Obviously Positive** – stay optimistic, resilient, and encourage a love of challenge.
- Obviously Responsible** – model integrity by doing the right thing, even when no one is watching.

Together, we ensure that every fixture reflects the behaviours of Aiming Higher at St George's. Thank you

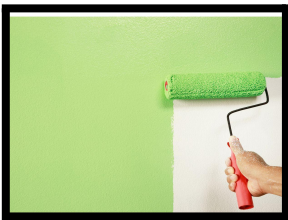
News from the PSA

New Parents Welcome and Social Evening – Thursday 25th September

All new parents and caregivers in Years 7–10 were warmly invited to this relaxed evening, co-hosted by the PSA and the school in the Assembly Hall (Sun Lane entrance). Our new parents enjoyed meeting their child's tutor, senior staff and other families – with refreshments and a fun quiz.



Coming Up!



Painting Day – Saturday 27th September

We are looking for volunteers to help refresh the Old Gym changing rooms. No experience is needed – all materials and refreshments are provided. Come for as long or as little as you can, meet other parents and help make the school look its best for the Open Evening. **Thank you to those who have already volunteered!** [Sign up here »](#)

Open Evening – Thu 3 October

We're looking for volunteers to help serve refreshments to prospective parents and children at the Open Evening. If you're dropping off your own children, why not stay and lend a hand? Please email psa@stgeorges.herts.sch.uk, addressed to Sara Sparrow.



Double Your Impact with Give as You Live

Do you shop online? Did you know about Give as You Live? It's a really easy way to make money for the school at absolutely no cost to you. Sign up to the scheme which includes over 6,000 popular retailers – including John Lewis, M&S and Expedia - and they will give a percentage of your spend to St George's.

Anything you spend before 30 September will double the donation to the school! It's easy to set up via [our unique link](#).

Book Now for HRFC Fireworks – Sunday 2nd November

The annual HRFC Fireworks Night is on Sunday 2 November 2025 at Harpenden Rugby Football Club. Parents are warmly invited to join the celebration! **25% of ticket sales will go directly to St George's.**

[Book your tickets here »](#)



Dates for Your Diary

- Saturday, 27th Sept - Painting Day
- Monday, 10th Nov - PSA AGM (7pm) + meeting (8pm)
- Saturday, 22nd Nov - Christmas Fayre
- Saturday, 29th Nov - Christmas Ball



ST GEORGES PSA
INVITES YOU TO OUR

Christmas Ball

29

NOVEMBER

TICKETS: £75 PER HEAD
06:30PM UNTIL MIDNIGHT

INCLUDES: 3 COURSE MEAL,
WELCOME DRINK, LIVE BAND,
AUCTION AND RAFFLE

MORE INFORMATION TO FOLLOW

SAVE THE DATE
ST GEORGE'S SCHOOL
CHRISTMAS FAYRE
SATURDAY 22 NOVEMBER
12-4 PM

**Festive shopping, delicious
treats, fabulous raffle, new
games and lots of fun for all the
family**

All welcome!

Sun Lane, Harpenden



Who's in Charge?

Does your child threaten, hurt, or intimidate you?
Do you feel you are losing control?
Do you want to handle conflict better?



Parent Insight



Reclaim respect and your family!

Join our 8-week support group

For parents and carers of young people (aged 8–18) who are beyond control, violent, or defiant



What you'll gain:

- A safe and supportive space to share experiences and ideas
- Reduced guilt and shame which most parents feel
- Practical strategies for managing your child's behaviour
- Explore ways of Increasing safety and well-being
- Help you to feel more in control and less stressed

 **Starts:** Tuesday 7th October 2025

 **Time:** 6:30pm – 8:30pm

 **Location:** The Astley Cooper School, St Agnells Lane

 **Dates:** October 7, 14, 21. November 4, 11, 18, 25 and 2 December 2025

 **Cost:** FREE

Enquires:

Deborah Collins

Phone 01442 394141

E-mail d.collins@astleycooper.herts.sch.uk

PARENT THERAPY GROUP FOR ANXIOUS CHILDREN

SUPPORTIVE PARENTING FOR ANXIOUS CHILDHOOD
EMOTIONS (SPACE)

Recognise any of the below?

'We are already late'

'I don't know how to help them'

'Yes I checked the doors'

'They won't be coming in today'

'They didn't want to go to the party, again'

'You will be ok'

'They always need me by their side'

***Get the tools & guidance you need to
confidently manage your child's anxiety.***

Website: www.lhtherapeuticservices.co.uk

Contact: luisa@lhtherapeuticservices.co.uk



Do you have a child struggling with symptoms of anxiety and/or OCD?

Are you confused on how to help them in the most effective way? Do you feel no matter what you do, their anxiety does not improve?

You are not alone.

Join other parents in similar situations to your own for our next 6 week SPACE Therapy Group. In this group you will be empowered to support your child's anxiety by going through a structured, evidence-based, practical, small group treatment program. This program can be the crucial element to a child's anxiety being better managed, without them needing to directly participate in therapy themselves.

If your child attends their own therapy, this will supplement their work.

If your child is struggling with any type of anxiety symptoms, including constant worry, social fears, separation anxiety, Obsessive Compulsive Disorder or health worries...you will walk away equipped with:

- a better understanding of how to support your child
- tools to communicate better with your child
- how to help your child break the cycle of their anxiety
- practical strategies on how to manage those big anxiety moments
- and much more...

6 WEEKS, WEDNESDAYS STARTING 5TH NOVEMBER

9.30-11am, Held Online

More Info, Questions & Registration

Email luisa@lhtherapeuticservices.co.uk for a pre-therapy group assessment to check this is suitable for your family.

Cost: £50 deposit, £250 thereafter (instalment plans available). Includes intake assessment, 6 week program, and resources for BOTH parents.