St. George's School Newsletter

Friday 7th November



From the Head

It has been wonderful to see how quickly pupils have settled back into school life after the half-term break. Within days, routines have re-established themselves and the steady rhythm of lessons, rehearsals, and activities has returned. It is always impressive to watch how swiftly our students find their stride again.

At our 'Thriving in Sixth Form' evening this week, six Year 13 students spoke with real insight about the importance of rhythm and balance in their lives. They described how routines, from managing deadlines, setting priorities and knowing when to pause and have fun, have helped them to sustain both wellbeing and achievement. Their reflections were a reminder that true success is built not on last-minute effort, but on the quiet discipline of doing the right things consistently.

As partners, school and home share the responsibility of shaping these habits, particularly in our younger pupils. Setting boundaries, providing structure and offering the reassurance of clear expectations are among the most valuable supports we can give. These guard rails help young people develop the stability and confidence they need to flourish, both now and in the years ahead. This is why we place such importance on pupils being in school on time each morning, ready to learn, to participate and to thrive.

As the half-term gathers pace, there is much to look forward to in the weeks ahead: our whole-school **Act of Remembrance** next Tuesday; the school production of **Fame** opening on 18th November; a busy calendar of **sports fixtures**, including the **Old Georgian Lacrosse** fixture on 13th December; **Concerts** such as a number Jazz Winter Warmer on 11th December; trips and visits including the **Berlin History Trip**; the **PSA Christmas Ball and Fayre**; and of course, the many **Carol Services** that will bring the term to a close. It promises to be a full and joyful few weeks as we move forward together, in stride.

Chapel this Sunday

This Sunday is our Remembrance Service which is always very special and well-attended. Please remember that this service starts at 9.30 a.m. (so students should be seated by 9.20 a.m.) so that those who wish to can join the Remembrance event in the High Street afterwards.

Remembrance - Cadets in Uniform on Tuesday 11th November

As part of our school's observance of Remembrance, we recognise and value the contribution of students who are members of Cadet or other organisations affiliated with the Armed Forces. These students are warmly invited to wear their uniform in school on the day as a visible sign of respect and remembrance.

We ask, however, that students do not travel to and from school in that uniform unless they are in a car. This is to ensure safety, privacy, and consistency with other local schools. Students are very welcome to bring their uniform, change into it once on site, and then change back into regular clothes before leaving at the end of the day.

Get Your Jazz Hands Ready — FAME Is Here!



You want fame? Well fame costs. And here is where you start paying for it in sweat.

Well, actually you can purchase tickets via ParentPay and the good news that there is still availability for all nights. Performances are on Tuesday 18th to Thursday 20th November. The show starts at 7.30 p.m. and runs for approximately 2 hours.

An entire evening of great music and dance numbers awaits you so get ready to sing, strut, and sob (in a good way) as our talented cast belts their way to stardom—one high kick at a time. It's got passion, it's got power, and yes... it's got a lot of hairspray.

From Big Apple to Capitol Gains!



Written by Zoe B (Y13): The USA Politics, Economics and Business trip was an unforgettable experience: full of learning, memorable experiences and lots and lots of walking!

In New York, we toured around the United Nations building, where we gained insight into the inner workings of global politics, followed by a walking tour of Wall Street. We also took in many of the city's famous sights, including the Statue of Liberty and Ellis Island, Grand Central Station, cycling around Central Park, and a visit to the Top of the Rock's observation decks. Additionally, we observed a poignant visit to the 9/11 memorial museum and walked over Brooklyn Bridge with breath-taking views. We were lucky to enjoy several memorable trips, such as a visit to Macy's, time in Little Italy and an incredible night watching 'Six' on Broadway.

After New York, we travelled through Philadelphia to reach Washington DC, where we saw iconic American landmarks, including the Washington Monument and the Lincoln Memorial. We also had the opportunity to visit the White House, the Capitol and the Supreme Court which all brought to life our studies of the US government. We were also fortunate to have a question-and-answer session with political journalists working within the US, bringing to life the reality of American politics and journalism, and to celebrate a few birthdays in a truly memorable fashion. We finished the trip with a visit to Georgetown.

It was fantastic and illuminating to see and visit so many landmarks and institutions that we study as part of our courses. A massive thank you to Mr Reynolds and Mr Ellis for organising the trip, and to Mr Day and Mrs Potter for making it possible - their coordination and enthusiasm made it an incredible experience.

Scrum-believable Scenes at St George's!



St George's Sports Hall was transformed into a fortress of rugby greatness as Saracens took the place over at half-term and we welcomed back with great pride, OG's Owen Farrell and Maro Itoje. The poor rain was our gain when the local rugby club were looking for a large sports hall to train for the match against Northampton. The team kindly donated a signed shirt that the PSA will be auctioning at the Christmas Ball!

Maro, who was a boarder at the school, also met up with Mr Pickard who provided him with a tour of the boarding house. Owen and Maro chatted with staff about when they were at St George's and how long it has been since they have been back. We hope it won't be long until they visit us again.

St. George's Rugby Team Movember Campaign

This November, the St. George's rugby teams are proud to be taking part in Movember to raise awareness and funds for men's mental health and testicular cancer. The boys have set themselves a target of £1,500, and we're thrilled to share that they've already raised £600 in just four days! Every donation, big or small, makes a real difference and is greatly appreciated.



To show their commitment, the whole team is growing out their "mos" throughout the month and will also be hosting a raffle during the Friday Night Lights match against St. Albans Boys on November 14th. We'd love to see as many supporters as possible come down, cheer on the team, and help us reach our goal for this fantastic cause.

You can make a donation and follow the team's progress here: St. George's Movember Team Page

Promoting Positive Relationships Evening for Year 8 Parents and Carers

If you haven't signed up for this informative and hopefully fun evening on Tuesday 11th November at 7.30 to 8.30 in the assembly hall, there is still time to do so via ParentPay (no costs are involved). We would love to see you there to share the PPR survey data that your children have generated as well as share some of the activities that they were involved in on the PPR Day. Do you know what your love language is? Come and find out!

Next Week is Anti-bullying Week: get ready to rock your socks



Next week, we're proud to be part of National Anti-Bullying Week, a powerful campaign that shines a light on the impact of bullying in all its forms — and how we can be the change. This year's theme is 'Power for Good', reminding us that even the smallest acts of kindness can make a big difference.

Kick things off with ODD SOCK DAY — Monday 10th!

Please encourage and remind your children to let their feet do the talking by wearing their wackiest, wildest, most wonderfully mismatched socks to show your support. There will be prizes for the best and worst combo.

All week long, there'll be thought-provoking assemblies and interactive activities in the Library, Learning Support and Student Services for students to come and explore, reflect, and to get involved.

Friday 5 Highlights:

- Lower School Book Club dives into 'King of Nothing' a powerful story about friendship, identity, and standing up for what's right.
- Year 9 will hear from local police about cyberbullying and online safety a must for navigating the digital world.
- Year 13 will take part in a vital session on Misogyny and Sexual Harassment, empowering students to challenge harmful behaviours and foster respect.

We're excited to empower our students to be kind, courageous, and connected — thank you for your continued support in making our school a safe and inclusive space for all.

Extra-Curricular Updates

Friday Night Lights: This Friday we have our 1st Lacrosse team playing STAHS at Harpenden Rugby Club. The draw is at 6.30 p.m. Please come along to support the girls and your school and watch some excellent Lacrosse! There will be a bar available for over 21s.

We kindly ask all competitors and supporters to be proud of how they represent our school both on and off the pitch. Your encouragement and conduct play a vital role in fostering an environment of respect, fairness, and good sportsmanship — towards teammates, opponents, officials, and fellow spectators.

Our Saturday sport is back on tomorrow with mixed home and away Rugby games against New Hall, and Lacrosse games are at home against STAHS. Bacon rolls and tea/coffee will be available as usual.

Please see SOCS for further information on individual teams.

To log in:- SOCS Login

The password for this year's log in is:- STG2024

Next week we have another jam-packed week with the launch of Inter-house Chess, Remembrance Day, Interschool Geography Quiz, Netball matches against St Columbus & Samuel Ryder and our Year 11 Berlin trip heads off.

Next Friday night is the turn of the boys to play at Harpenden Rugby Club for their 'Friday Night Lights' with a kick off time at 5.30 p.m. Please come along and support. Our Lacrosse games next Saturday (15th) are away at Caterham with school transport provided.



Old Georgian Carol Service

St George's Music Society Choir (or MusSoc) is a non-auditioned choir that is looking for new members. The choir dates back to 1912 and consists of Old Georgians, parents, staff and friends of the school.

Rehearsals are on a Tuesday evening, 7.00 - 8:15 p.m. in the Old Library during term time and the next event for the choir is the Georgian Carol service which is happening at 3.00 p.m. on Saturday 13th December in the school Chapel.

If you like singing, and who doesn't love a carol service, then you would be most welcome to attend our next rehearsal which will be on Tuesday 11th November. If you would like further details then please email Russell Tucker on rtucker@stgeorges.herts.sch.uk

Attendance Award: Every day counts

A big thank you and congratulations to all our students and parents who have once again helped us achieve this prestigious award. Your continued support, dedication, and enthusiasm play a vital role in our school's success.

We are especially proud of the excellent attendance and commitment to learning shown by our students throughout the year. Every day in school counts, and it's clear that our shared focus on education, personal growth, and community spirit is making a real difference.



Do you work in STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Maths) or have you previously?

Do you know someone who does? Would you/they like to share the wonders of your career with our students and inspire a generation of Scientists? Look no further!

The Science Department is setting up a series of lunchtime sessions for students to hear about careers in Science. We are looking for anyone interested in doing a short presentation to our students, followed by a quick Q&A about your career in STEM. It should be about 15-20 minutes.

If you would like more information, please send an email to Mrs Sandhu (msandhu@stgeorges.herts.sch.uk) who can get the process started.

St. George's Prayer Group

There is another meeting of the St George's Prayer Group on Monday 17th November at 7:30pm – 8:30pm. They meet in the Green Room, just left of the main assembly hall at the Reception area. All prayers of any faith are welcome and there is no pressure to pray aloud if you are not keen.

DofE Bronze year 11 cohort celebration evening

We are very much looking forward to celebrating your completion of the Bronze DofE and achievements in January on Thursday 29th for those of you that have fully signed off all your sections.

If your child has an assessor report still outstanding - please arrange for this to be completed ASAP as we would hate to not be able to include them in our celebration evening.

Admission Arrangements Consultation

St George's School is consulting on the proposed admissions arrangements for the school year 2027/28 and is seeking responses from parents/carers, schools and community groups.

The proposed changes can be found <u>here</u>.

The consultation period runs from 1st October– 12th November 2025. Please send your comments regarding the proposals to the school direct at admissionsconsultation@stgeorges.herts.sch.uk

Hertfordshire County Council is also running a consultation on the proposed admissions arrangements for community and voluntary controlled schools for the school year 2027/28 and is seeking responses from parent/carers, schools and community groups.

HCC's proposed changes are:

- 1. To reduce the published admission number (PAN) at three community primary schools
- 2. Retain the remainder of the county council's existing admission arrangements for 2027/28, including PANs, Relevant Areas and schemes of coordination.

The consultation period runs until 7th December 2025. Please visit www.hertfordshire.gov.uk/admissions2027 for more information and to respond online.

The County Council's admission arrangements will be determined by Cabinet on 16 February 2026.

Two Weeks to Go until the Christmas Fayre

Saturday 22 November, 12-4pm

Enjoy the day and get involved!

Kick off the festive season with a brilliant family day out

Fayre Highlights

Our first ever Fayre-based **second-hand uniform** sale and a festive **family photoshoot** with a gorgeous Christmas backdrop with award-winning photographer, Sally Masson.

Photoshoot Booking System Live Now: Slots are limited. Book your photo session here. Sessions cost £20 (or £17.50 each if you buy more than two) payable on the day. (The link may show a redirection message, please follow instructions).

Gift Shopping - Shopping with over 30 stalls gets your shopping off to a cracking start. A mix of new stalls and old favourites.

Food and Drink - Pop into the Christmas Café for hot food, tea, coffee, hot chocolate, cold drinks and plenty of festive treats. Lunch is sorted! Our popular mulled wine and mince pies are back.

Entry £1 for adults and children go free

How to get involved?

Volunteer Your Time

The PSA needs your help with a few jobs leading up to the Fayre and on the day. This is a fantastic school community event. Please volunteer some time if you can - we can't do it without you! Students can volunteer too. Please click on the links below:

Jobs before the Fayre

□ Sign up to help before the Fayre (The link may show a redirection message, please follow instructions).

On the day

There are also plenty of ways to get involved on the day - from running a stall to lending a hand for an hour.

□ **Volunteer on the day of the Fayre** (The link may show a redirection message, please follow instructions).

Donate an item or two - We will be running the café, fun games and fabulous stalls thanks to your generous donations.

We are looking for the following donations: cakes, mince-pies, books, games for 10+ (no DVDs), bottles (alcoholic and non-alcoholic), unopened beauty products and toiletries, wrapped sweets and chocolate (NO NUTS), unwanted (new) gifts.

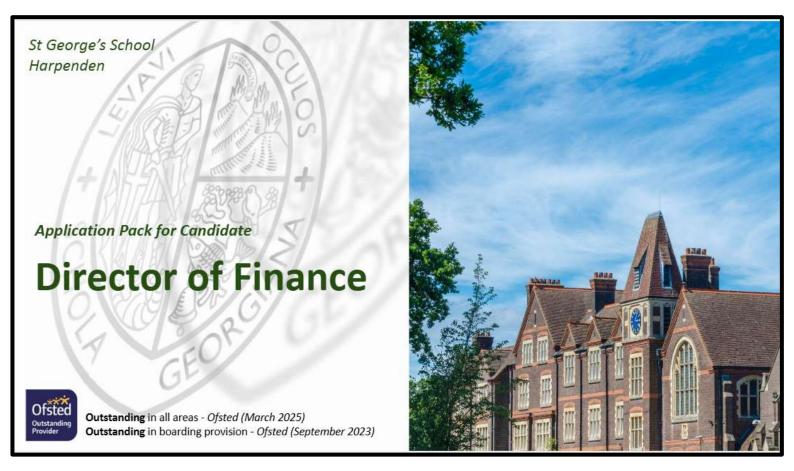
Where to Bring Your Donations? - Donations can be brought by students to Mrs Howard's Office on the Grant corridor from 8:00-8:20 am Monday 17 to 20 November and 8:30-9:00am on Friday 21 November. Don't worry, we will send reminders on WhatsApp groups the week of the Fayre.

Thank you for your help and support.

Carol, Kasia and the PSA Christmas Fayre Team

Follow us on Instagram @psastgeorges for the latest news and events.

Raise free funds for St George's every time you shop online via Give As You Live.



Director of Finance Opportunity

Following the retirement of Christine Ironton after over 20 years of dedicated and faithful service, we are recruiting for a new Director of Finance to lead and shape the delivery of the school's finance function.

This is an exciting opportunity for a dynamic and agile individual to join an amazing school at a senior level, to help drive the next stage of our school's development and improve the effectiveness and efficiency of all aspects of our financial operations. We are especially looking to enhance our financial management information and forecasting, improve our finance systems and use of technology, and simplify processes to add value. Reporting to the Chief Operating Officer and working closely with the Headteacher and other senior leaders across the school, the role requires someone with a proven track record in financial management and an approachable, collaborative style.

The role may suit someone with direct school experience seeking career progression or a new environment, or equally a skilled professional from another sector motivated to bring their experience to our specific context, and offers the chance to have a direct impact on the lives of young people within a fantastic school community. Please share this role with colleagues and friends who you think might be a good fit, or consider applying yourself at Click here

Please Support the Foodbank at Christmas

Once again they are running their Reverse Advent Calendar, and they'd be so grateful for your support in helping them spread the word! Their main goal is to ensure that no one in the community goes hungry due to lack of access to food. This year alone, they have distributed over 10,000 three-day emergency food parcels to individuals and families in crisis, across the St Albans District via their 9 hubs.

The Reverse Advent Calendar is a simple way to give back this season. Here's how it works:

- For 25 days, add an item from the attached list to a box or bag.
- Bring your collection to our Foodbank Warehouse in Redbourn, ready to be distributed to local families in time for the holidays.





Christmas appeal



Help support your food bank this Christmas

In the three weeks leading up to Christmas. the food bank will provide over 1,100 food parcels for local individuals and families facing hardship.

Donate food



Donate an item or two from our shopping list, ensuring we can provide food for people facing hardship in your local community.

Donate money



Scan the QR code to donate. You will help us get food to local families in crisis, cover the costs of distributing food, and develop sustainable community projects that tackle the root causes of hunger.

Shopping list

Tinned meat/fish

Tinned veg/fruit

Cooking sauces

Coffee

Milk (UHT)

Cereals

Fruit juice (long-life)

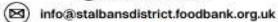
Tinned pudding

Jam

Tea bags

www.stalbansdistrict.foodbank.org.uk

© 01727613019







@StAlbansDistrictFB @ @st_a_and_dist_foodbank



Christmas Opening Hours



THURSDAY

DECEMBER

CLOSED

MONDAY

DECEMBER

CLOSED

FRIDAY

26

DECEMBER CLOSED

TUESDAY

DECEMBER

HRIST CHURC NEW GREENS 1PM-3PM

SATURDAY

DECEMBER

CLOSED

WEDNESDAY

DECEMBER CLOSED

SUNDAY

DECEMBER

CLOSED

THURSDAY

JANUARY

CLOSED

Normal hours resume from Friday 2nd January

If you are unable to get a foodbank voucher, please attend anyway and one will be issued.

> For more information call us on 01727 613019 or email info@stalbansdistrict.foodbank.org.uk





@StAlbansDistrictFB @ @st_a_and_dist_foodbank

INVESTIN

NEW FREE WEBINAR SERIES

'IN CONVERSATION' WITH INDUSTRY PROFESSIONALS

InvestIN has launched a new series of free webinars to connect students with professionals in some of the most competitive careers. Each webinar is led by an industry professional who will answer your questions live, share their experiences and offer tips and guidance for students seeking a career in the industry.

MONDAY 17TH NOVEMBER 6PM (GMT)

Graphic Design:

In Conversation with Billie Sky Walker

Psychology:

In Conversation with Vicky McKechnie

TUESDAY 18TH NOVEMBER 6PM (GMT)

Law:

In Conversation with Sophy Lelliot

Investment Banking:

In Conversation: with Rob Angel

Digital Media:

In Conversation with Karl Mok

The events are suitable for all students in Years 10-13, whether you are just starting to explore your options or preparing applications.

All sessions are free to attend online. If you can't join live, you can still register to receive the recording.



SIGN UP

WEDNESDAY 19TH NOVEMBER 6PM (GMT)

Entrepreneurship:

In Conversation with Rahmon Agbaje

Engineering:

In Conversation with Bhavik Bhatt

Medicine:

In Conversation with Dr Obaid Syed



Get your tickets for the 76th Gang Show this January at the EMC. Many of our students are performing with other cubs and scouts from Harpenden. It's a brilliant show full of singing, dancing and sketches and is always a real hit with sell-out audiences.

Tickets are now on sale at www.harpenden.gs Get yours today!

AUTUMN 2025 AQA GCSE ENGLISH LANGUAGE WRITING MASTERCLASSES.

SUPPORT YOUR CHILD'S REVISION WITH LIVE ONLINE REVISION SESSIONS DESIGNED TO MOTIVATE AND CHALLENGE STUDENTS IN AN ENGAGING, FOCUSED, AND ACTIVE LEARNING ENVIRONMENT

Led by our secondary English advisers, these autumn term workshops will support students determined to get ahead with their revision for the Year 11 mock examinations.

The two masterclasses will focus on the writing sections of AQA Language Paper 1 and Language Paper 2 that make up half of the English Language grade. As an untiered examination, these sessions will be suitable for all students including those aiming for the top grades.

Students learn how to approach exam questions confidently and have access to high-quality model answers for effective revision. Each sessions will focus on:

- · generating ideas
- · planning content and structure
- · crafting writing
- editing to improve

Delivered over a 90 minute session, students will be able to interact using a private question function with the subject teachers delivering the session.

All workshops will be recorded so students who miss part or all of a session can catch up later. The recordings can be instantly accessed using the original joining link sent to everyone who has booked a place.

REVISION FOCUS 2025 THURSDAY SESSIONS:

AQA GCSE English Language: Thursday, 13th November 2025 4:30-6:00pm

AQA GCSE English Language: Thursday, 20 November 2025 4:30-6:00pm

Places may be booked directly by parents/carers or by schools on their students' behalf. Once places have been booked, students will need their school email address to access the sessions.

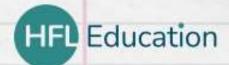
£75
per student per 90
minutes session or £25

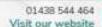
for both sessions

(inc. VAT)

Book now











For Neurodivergent Children, Young People Their Siblings and Parents/Carers

NOVEMBER ACTIVITIES

Date		Sessions	Time	Venue
6th,13th,20th	Thu	Bushcraft/Stem Home Ed Age 4+	10.30-12.00	Potential to Grow Garden
6th	Thur	Connect Secondary Age	16.30-18.00	The Zone@The Galleria
7th,14th,21st, 28th	Fri	Early Years Stay & Play	10.30-12.00	The Zone@The Galleria
7th,14th,21st, 28th	Fri	Parent /Carer Wellbeing	12.30-14.00	The Zone@The Galleria
8th	Sat	Basketball Age 7+	16.00-17.00	Birchwood Leisure Centre
13th,27th	Thur	Trampolining Age 5+	17.30-18.30	Gosling Sports Centre
14th	Fri	Youth Group 16 Plus	18.30-20.30	The Hub@The Galleria
15th,29th	Sat	Free family Football	16.00-17.00	Birchwood Leisure Centre
17th	Mon	Dungeons & Dragons (Full)	12.30-15.30	The Zone@The Galleria
18th	Tue	Roller Skating Age 8+	18.00-19.30	Roller City WGC
21st	Fri	Skateboarding Age 9+	17.30-18.30	Pioneer Club St Albans
22nd	Sat	Archery Age 7+	16.00-17.00	Birchwood Leisure Centre
25th	Tue	Connect Primary Age	16.30-18.00	The Zone@The Galleria
29th	Sat	Tracks Train Club Age 12+	12.00-14.00	The Hub@The Galleria

For futher information email: info@potentialkids.org















DSPL7 & Vista St Albans+ host coffee mornings where School and SEND Family Workers are available to support parents / carers of children with SEND regardless of a diagnosis. This is an informal and safe place for parents / carers to share information and chat. The DSPL7 SEND Lead and other professionals may also be available for discussions. There is no need to book to attend this drop in session.

Dates: Mornings on 8th October, 25th November, 28th January, 17th March,

13th May & 30th June

Time: 9:15 - 11:30am

Venue: The Hub, Fleetville Junior School, 228 Hatfield Road, St Albans, AL1 4LW. The Hub is to the right hand side of the school building at the

bottom of the car park. There is no parking available onsite, but 3 hours free parking is available nearby in Morrisons supermarket.

Appointments

Running alongside our coffee mornings, there is also the opportunity to reserve a 20-30 minute appointment to speak to the following professionals between 9:30am - 12:00pm.

To book an appointment:

Please email admin@dspl7.org.uk

Dates	Professionals attending		
Wednesday 8 th October	Thelma Mugovera - Ask Sali (EHCP advice)		
Tuesday 25th November	Harri Nicholas - EBSA		
Wednesday 28th January	Laura Tarrant - ASD & PDA		
Tuesday 17th March	Jess Pickle - First Steps, eating disorders, ARFID		
Wednesday 13 th May	Tanya Suri - Speech and language		
Tuesday 30 th June	Elaine Bridle- ADHD		

Vista contact details: 01727 519128 vistastalbans@gmail.com www.vistastalbans.org.uk

DSPL7 contact details: 01727 519229 admin@dspl7.org.uk www.dspl7.org.uk

Who's in Charge?

Does your child threaten, hurt, or intimidate you?

Do you feel you are losing control?

Want to better handle conflict?



Reclaim respect and your family!

The Who's in Charge? group is an 8-week program for parents or Carers of young people (8 to 18) who are beyond control, violent or defiant

The group aims to

- Provide a supportive environment to share experiences and ideas
 - · Reduce the guilt and shame which most parents feel
- Offer ideas to help you develop individual strategies for managing your child's behaviour
 - Explore ways of increasing safety and well-being
 - · Help parents feel more in control and less stressed

Starting: 4th November 2025 – 6:30-8:30pm (Evening Sessions)

At: Queens' School, Aldenham Road, Bushey WD23 2TY

8 weeks - 4th November, 11th November, 18th November, 25th November, 2nd December, 9th December, 13th January, 20th January

COST per session: FREE



Enquires: Phone 07872 991566/07870 370938 or email <u>caroline.v@swhp.org.uk</u> collette.garland@hertfordshire.gov.uk



Services for Young People

Hertfordshire County Council

UK Youth Parliament Become a Member of UKYP



This is an amazing opportunity to:

Represent the young people in your area

Meet with decision makers

Influence social and political change

To find out more and express your interest, please complete the short form on the Services for Young People website — scan the QR code below.

Would you like to become a Member of Youth Parliament?

This is your chance to make sure the views of young people are listened to.

Members of Youth Parliament must:

- Be aged 11-18
- Live, work, be educated, or volunteer in Hertfordshire.

You will be supported by SfYP Youth Workers at every stage.

Tel: 0300 123 7538 SfYP@hertfordshire.gov.uk www.servicesforyoungpeople.org



Scan for more details on our website



