St. George's School Newsletter

Friday 14th November



From the Head

Remembrance

This week has been shaped by our focus on Remembrance and the importance of looking back at events that have shaped our world. We were very proud of the way our pupils conducted themselves, both in Sunday's Chapel service and during the formal act of remembrance here at school on Tuesday. Pupils who took part by singing in the choir, playing the trumpet, reading or laying wreaths added significantly to our acts of remembrance. All pupils approached these occasions with a seriousness and respect that showed a deep understanding of its significance.

On Sunday, a particularly moving moment for me came as the names read by our School and Boarding Captains in Chapel were later read again at the Town War Memorial. Hearing those same names in both settings brought home the lasting legacy of the Old Georgians who gave their lives, and reminded us how closely the school's history is tied to the life of the town. It was also great to welcome back OG Dan French who spoke at the service.

On Tuesday, our pupils were exemplary. I spoke to a number of pupils afterwards about how much they valued the brief moment of stillness and quiet in the middle of a busy day. That pause is important: it ensures that remembrance is not simply something we do each year, but a genuine moment to consider the human cost of conflict.

By reflecting on the sacrifices of the past, we help our young people to understand those things we prize: courage, service, and sacrifice. Our act of remembrance is both a tribute to those who died and a reminder of the kind of thoughtful, responsible global citizens our pupils are becoming.

When you go home. Tell them of us and say. For your tomorrow. We gave our today.



Five-Year Priorities

As I wrote to you earlier this week, I am extremely proud to serve as Head of St George's School and of all that is accomplished here for the benefit of our pupils. Over recent months, the Governing Body and Senior Leadership Team have been looking ahead, carefully considering how we continue to grow and thrive as a community. This work has involved listening to pupils, parents, carers, and staff about what our school needs to do next; thank you if you have spoken to me or another senior colleague about what is needed for St George's.

I am therefore delighted to share with you our <u>new five-year strategic priorities</u>. It represents a broad and ambitious commitment to the future of St George's, and I am excited to lead the school forward as we put it into action. The <u>letter</u> I sent gives you the opportunity to feed into the next steps of our journey by attending a meeting with me and other members of the Senior Leadership Team.

My sincere thanks go to our Governors for their vision, dedication, and ambition for the school, and for their invaluable role in helping to shape this plan. They play a vital part in setting our long-term direction and in acting as both challengers and supporters of the leadership team.

Images from Remembrance Day











Remembering Cuthbert Bilton: A Story of Service

This week in Chapel, the Reverend shared the story of Cuthbert Bilton, a young man who was part of the support staff at St George's before the Second World War. His fascinating story was shared to honour the service and sacrifice made by all members of the school community, including staff, during times of conflict.

Cuthbert Bilton was born in Newcastle-Upon-Tyne in 1923. He was the son of a butcher in the City called Thomas Bilton and his mother was called Beatrice. We don't know how he came to leave school and home, but by the time he was 16 he had



travelled 250 miles south to work as a servant at St George's, living in lodgings near the school with other members of staff at Malton Lodge in Carlton Road. We do not know much about him, there is not even a photograph of him in our Archive.

We do know that, sometime after 1939, Cuthbert left St George's and joined the Royal Navy. Tragically, he was killed at the age of 19 on 16 June 1942 when his ship, H.M.S. Hermione, a light cruiser (in the image above), was torpedoed and sunk by a German submarine off the coast of Alexandria, Egypt. Cuthbert was one of 88 crew members who lost their lives. He is commemorated on the Chatham Naval Memorial. His life serves as a powerful reminder of the sacrifices made by those connected to St George's during the war.

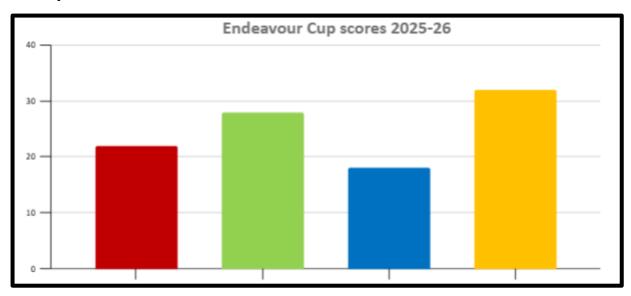
Inter-House Football

Last week's indoor pitch was packed with passion as our houses battled it out in a thrilling Inter-House Football showdown! After a series of nail-biting matches and standout performances, Watts House stormed to victory, claiming the championship title with style and spirit!

- ☐ Goddard House gave a fierce fight and secured a well-earned second place.
- ☐ Monk House showed grit and teamwork to take third.
- ☐ Grant House brought energy and heart to every match—true sportsmanship all around!

Huge cheers to all players, supporters, and referees for making it a week to remember. The house spirit was off the charts!

Endeavour Cup Scores on the Doors



The House Points drama continues! Watts have galloped into the lead with a heroic 32 points. Grant are still riding high on their Music win with 28 points and a grin that won't quit. Meanwhile, the Mighty Goddard House sits proudly on 22, probably composing a victory speech just in case. And Monk? Oh, Monk. Their cunning plan to lull the other houses into a false sense of security is going perfectly... with a stealthy 18 points and a wink. Go Monk!

House Chess has officially begun to see who will be king of the board and House Art is splashing its way forward with flair. There's still a whole buffet of events to come — has your young person jumped into the fray yet?

House Creative Writing

This year, students have been given an image as a stimulus for their 100 word round one entry piece which must be with their Heads of House by Monday 17th November. House teams will then select one entry per year group to go through to round two which involves them taking part in a masterclass and then producing a written response up to 500 words which will take place on Friday 21st November. So students, sharpen your pencils, flex those metaphors, and prepare to write your way to glory. We are sure that the day will be punctuated with brilliance.



Anti-Bullying Week

Anti-bullying Week kicked off this week with a colourful Odd Sock Day. The leadership group led the way with a full turn out of bad taste and daringness. See how many of them you can guess from the photo!

On Tuesday, our Year Eights enjoyed a day of timetable for their PPR Day working with STEP (an amazing St. Albans and Harpenden Christian Charity) who work with students focusing on positive friendships and relationships. Topics included friendships, identity, worth, forgiveness and justice and gave students a lot to think about.

Year 8 parents and guardians joined us in the evening to listen to the results of the year 8 PPR results as well as experiencing some of the activities that their



children enjoyed during the day and it was great to see so many of them turning out.

We have also had assemblies on Anti-bullying as well as Friday 5 sessions on bullying through Literature (year 7 and 8) using Nathaniel Lessore's *King of Nothing* to explore how hard it can be to be labelled by others, to feel like you need to be somebody else, and to be on the receiving end of 'banter'. Year 9 and 10 had a session on the impact of cyberbullying (y10/11); year 12 and 13 looked at sexual harassment in the wider world and its impact and finally, year nines had a talk about cyber security and cyber bullying from our local police.

In the library, the library has a fabulous curated display of fiction and non-fiction books featuring kindness, empathy and respect (plenty of odd socks were spotted in the library on Monday!). We have also been celebrating World Kindness Day by creating a wall of kindness. It has been lovely to see so many students writing some very encouraging messages of kindness and positivity. Our windows are now decked with an inspiring and motivating display. A huge thank you to all those students who contributed to our wall of kindness this week – it looks amazing!







Behaviours for Aiming Higher

Next week, our Behaviour Curriculum is focusing on lunchtime queuing. Please encourage your young person to continue to be considerate of others, tidy up after themselves, and meet expectations to ensure a calm and safe lunchtime environment.

OBVIOUSLY RESPONSIBLE...

Lunch Queues





Be patient -Y10 wait at the picnic tables, Y9 after Y8. Wait your turn.

6th Form 12:45-13:20 or after the younger the years

Solution Be respectful – give others, including teachers, enough personal space while moving through queues, corridors and the dining hall.



Be inclusive – students with packed lunches also queue.



Aim Even Higher - model patience, respect, and responsibility to ensure a positive experience for everyone.

Social Media Refreshed

We are happy to launch our new social media platforms to share and showcase all that we do in school. Please follow us!

Facebook: https://www.facebook.com/profile.php?id=61579789473404

Instagram: St. George's (@stgeorges school harpenden) • Instagram photos and videos

We will be publishing new stories, events, updates and insights into StG's so keep an eye out!

Order your Child's Individual Photographs

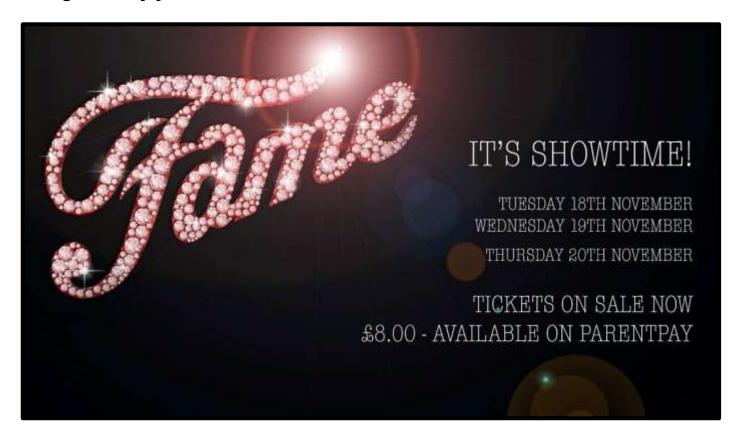
Gillman & Soame took Year 7, 9, 11 and 12 portrait photographs earlier in the autumn term. If you haven't already, please order these photographs as soon as possible, especially if you would like them for Christmas. If details have been mislaid, please contact Gillman & Soame directly at action@gillmanandsoame.co.uk or on 01869 328200 with your child's name and quoting the security password stgeorges391rsn2025al54td and they can assist.

Friday Night Lights

This Friday we have our 1st Senior Rugby team playing St Albans Boys at Harpenden Rugby Club for their Friday Night Lights fixture. Kick off is at 5.30 p.m. Please come along to support the boys and your school to watch some excellent Rugby! There will be a bar available for over 21s.

A gentle reminder: As representatives of our school, both on and off the pitch, we ask that your behaviour and support consistently reflect respect, fairness, and good sportsmanship. This applies to interactions with teammates, opponents, officials, and spectators alike.

Don't forget to buy your Fame tickets!





The Christmas Fayre is next Saturday 12.00 to 4.00 p.m.!

Please support this lovely Chrissmassy event by dropping off donations next week for the stalls - we really need your help:

- Cakes and mince pies shop bought or homemade
- Books and games (age 10+) no DVDs
- Bottles alcohol and non-alcohol (including mulled wine)
- Unopened beauty products and toiletries
- Wrapped sweets and chocolates
- Unwanted new gifts

Where to Bring Donations?

Students can bring donations to Mrs Howard's Office on the Grant corridor from 8:00 - 8:20 a.m. Monday 17th to Thursday 20th November and 8:30 - 9:00 a.m. on Friday 21 November. Don't worry, I send reminders will be sent out on WhatsApp groups the week of the Fayre. For alcohol specific donations, a PSA representative will be in the Goddard Coach Bay to collect any such bottles from students before coming into the premises. Thank you for your help and support.

Please read the attachment for full details.

Volunteer Spotlight

We are looking for more volunteers to help with Lacrosse for our younger years – **NO EXPERIENCE NECESSARY!!** We are especially looking for volunteers in Year 7, 8 or 9.

Due to the huge number of girls we have playing at weekends, it is always helpful to have parent helpers to enhance our programme and fixtures. You don't need to have played or have any knowledge of the sport! Just a keen positive attitude and willingness to help! You don't need to give up every Saturday and our group of volunteers are a fun and friendly bunch!



Please get in touch if you would like to know more about volunteering with us: amorris@stgeorges.herts.sch.uk

We couldn't run our sports programmes as effectively without our valuable volunteers. Below is a short piece from one of our helpers and what they have gained from volunteering in school..

Simon Spiers (no previous knowledge of Lacrosse!) writes: "I've been at the side-lines since 2015 with my first daughter and coaching since 2017 on arrival of my second when I realised that there was too much to do with the younger year groups for the staff involved.

I was coached and nurtured by the staff team into the St G's way of coaching - much more of a sell, rather than tell philosophy. This then means much more encouraging, noticing good play and asking whether there is anything to improve that they can see from the pitch - rather than being the expert (which I candidly tell all I am not!). There are always pointers that an adult without experience can see to fill in the blanks if nothing is coming back. I've still one daughter in the school - but now in Year 13 and she's had to put up with me through home, away and national events. It's been a superb experience throughout - wish only that my work would have allowed more than just the Saturdays I've been able to commit to. In the end it's about creating memories and a competitive culture, but not to the exclusion of everything else - even sometimes the occasional win."

A big thank you to all our volunteers and helpers who contribute so much.

Our Saturday sport sees our Lacrosse teams heading AWAY to Caterham this Saturday and our Rugby teams are a mix of home and away against St Albans Boys School and Bedford Modern. Please see SOCS for timings.

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.

Request for lidded plastic containers

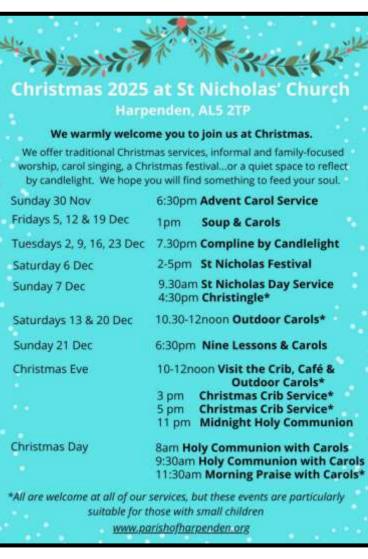
As the festive season approaches, if you have any spare lidded plastic containers (sweet tubs are ideal) it would be appreciated if they could be passed on to the Food Department for use as spare containers. The staff would be very grateful. Thank you in advance.

Memorial Rugby Match for Ed - Supporting The Stroke Association and Ruth Strauss Foundation

Ed Knight made a significant impact on many students and families during his time coaching here as a parent volunteer. We know that many current and former students, parents, and younger siblings will have fond memories of him. Harpenden Rugby Club will be hosting a **Memorial Rugby Match** in Ed's honour in a few weeks' time:











Our beloved annual Christmas Concerts are coming back to the Oval again this year, and we would love to see you there!

The Kings Chamber Orchestra continues its faithful journey performing the most beautiful music spontaneously and with great joy! This year marks the 40th anniversary since conductor Gerard Le Feuvre had a dream to found an orchestra with a 'difference' - and KCO will be on sparkling form to deliver a champagne bottle of a programme celebrating all the years they have been together!

The theme this year is "the light fantastic" and there will be many fantastic elements, carols, stories, surprises, and music from the silver screen, along with classic favourites by Tchaikovsky, Nielsen, Strauss, Mozart and many more!

Come and join our Christmas celebration!

The Teddy concert for younger children is a magical way to kickstart the holiday season. Always aiming to produce fun and games, there will be lots of interaction, lots of famous music, and lots of bonkers moments that all family members, aged zero to 95, will enjoy!

Please see the flyer for details and QR codes to purchase your tickets - book soon before they sell out!



This is now being run at St. George's School. Click here for your free trial: https://unitedkravmagaforce.co.uk/home/

JOBS & APPRENTICESHIPS

Young people aged 16 to 18 can register with SfYP to receive tailored information about job vacancies, apprenticeships and further education opportunities.



11-5 Hub at Hemel Hempstead Young People's Centre

Young people can get information, advice and support with a wide range of issues, including mental, emotional and physical health, healthy relationships, personal safety, benefits and finances, housing and homelessness, alcohol and drug use, and smoking and vaping.

We provide sexual health services, including free condoms, free chlamydia and gonorrhoea testing, and free pregnancy testing and support.

Young people who are not at school or college can come to the 11-5 Hub for help with finding a course, job or apprenticeship.

Hemel Hempstead Young People's Centre First Floor XC Centre, Jarman Park Hemel Hempstead, HP2 4JS

Monday to Friday 11am-Spm For young people aged 11-18, up to 25 for care leavers and those with SEND

HARPENDEN & PIONEER YOUNG PEOPLE'S CENTRES

The above information, advice and support is also available at SfYP's Harpenden and Pioneer Young People's Centres. Young people can call 01442 454060 to make an appointment.

Harpenden Young People's Centre, 27 High Street, Harpenden, ALS 2RU Pioneer Young People's Centre, Heathlands Drive, St Albans, ALS SAY

For more details of the youth work projects in the St Albans area, please visit the district project page on the SfYP website using the QR code below.

Tet: 0300 123 7538 Text: 07860 065173
styp@herifordshire.gov.uk
www.servicesforyoungpeople.org
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YOUTH WORK PROJECTS FOR YOUNG PEOPLE



Hertfordshire County Council Services for Young People

ST ALBANS

AUTUMN TERM 2025 Enabling young people to succeed

Area Service Manager: Karen Haswell Youth Work Practice Manager: Robert Brown



01442 454060 sfyp.stalbans@hertfordshire.gov.uk www.servicesforyoungpeople.org



RAISING ASPIRATIONS

Pioneer Young People's Centre Heathlands Drive St Albans, AL3 SAY Mondays 12pm-2pm

Support for young people aged 11–17 who are home educated or missing from education

ST ALBANS SEND YOUTH COUNCIL

Harpenden Young People's Centre 27 High Street Harpenden, AL5 2RU Mondays 6pm-8pm

For young people aged 11–25 with SEND who want to make a difference in their community

CREATIVE SPARK SEND PROJECT

Harpenden Young People's Centre 27 High Street Harpenden, AL5 2RU Mondays 6pm-8pm Support for young adults aged 18-25 with SEND

DUKE OF EDINBURGH AND SEND

Hemel Hempstead Young People's Centre First Floor XC Centre, Jarman Park Hemel Hempstead, HP2 4JS Mondays 6pm-8pm For young people aged 11+

CREATIVE SPARK SEND PROJECT

Harpenden Young People's Centre 27 High Street Harpenden, AL5 28U Tuesdays 6pm-8pm Support for young people aged 11–17 with SEND

ST ALBANS YOUTH COUNCIL

Harpenden Young People's Centre 27 High Street Harpenden, AL5 2RU Wednesdays 6pm-8pm For all young people aged 11–17 who want to make a difference in their community

GIRLS ALLOWED

Pioneer Young People's Centre Heathlands Drive St Albans, AL3 5AY Thursdays 5pm-7pm
For girls and young women aged
11-17 who need additional
support

EMOTIONAL WELLBEING PROJECT

Harpenden Young People's Centre 27 High Street Harpenden, AL5 2RU Thursdays 6pm—8pm For young people aged 11–17 who need support with their mental health and wellbeing

PIONEER POSITIVE PATHWAYS PROJECT

Pioneer Young People's Centre Heathlands Drive St Albans, AL3 5AY Fridays 6pm-8pm Helping young people aged 11-17 stay safe, learn new skills and make informed decisions

HARPENDEN POSITIVE PATHWAYS PROJECT

Harpenden Young People's Centre 27 High Street Harpenden, AL5 2RU Fridays 6pm-8pm

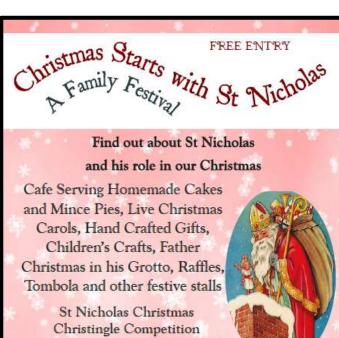
Helping young people aged 11–17 stay safe, learn new skills and make informed decisions

COTTONMILL POSITIVE PATHWAYS PROJECT

Cottonmill Community & Cycle Centre Old Oak, Cottonmill Lane St Albans, AL1 2EF Fridays 6pm-8pm Helping young people aged 11–17 stay safe, learn new skills and make informed decisions

To attend any of the projects please call 01442 454060 or email sfyp.stalbans@hertfordshire.gov.uk or visit www.servicesforyoungpeople.org





Saturday December 6th 2.00pm - 5.00pm St Nicholas Church

(see flyer or contact parish office for entry details)

Church Green Hamenden (01582 765524) Carols and Restive Music



Sign up to our free 6-week online group

Do you feel you are constantly nagging at your child to get what you need?

Join our free dads together 6-week online group to help increase your confidence in parenting and improve communication and listening



- · Wednesday 12th, 19th, 26th November & 3rd, 10th, 17th December 2025
- 7.00pm to 9.00pm
- · Online via MS Teams

To book your place, call Louise on 0204 522 8700, email services@familylives.org.uk or scan our QR code to use our online referral form



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Autumn term workshops 2025



Reducing Conflict: Tuesday 11 November, 9.30am to 11.30am

This workshop explores different types of conflict. It will provide support in understanding the causes and impact of parental and family conflict on children and gives practical steps and strategies.

Anxiety around ADHD: Wednesday 26 November, 7pm to 9pm

A workshop to help parents/carers understand what ADHD is, why it makes sense for a child to be anxious if they have ADHD and strategies to help support you and your child

Its a Dad's Life: Tuesday 2 December, 7pm to 9pm

This workshop aims to empower dads with the knowledge and skills to develop deeper connections with their children

Sibling Rivalry: Wednesday 3 December, 7pm to 9pm

This workshop aims to provide parents with strategies and tools to effectively foster positive relationships, promote co-operation and manage conflict between children

Navigating the Storm (for parents of teens): Tuesday 9 December, 7pm to 9pm

A workshop designed to provide effective strategies for parents in managing challenging teenage behaviour

To book your place:

- Call Louise on 0204 522 8700
- · Scan our QR code to use our online referral



We build better family lives together

www.familylives.org.uk





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