

St. George's School Newsletter

Friday 21st November



From the Head

This week has been marked by remarkable variety at St George's — not least in the weather! We have experienced all the seasons; bright sun, strong winds, heavy cloud, torrential rain, and of course snow! Our activities have been just as diverse...

It has been show week in school, with the whole-school production of *Fame the Musical*. Over three evenings our pupils delivered outstanding performances to packed audiences. It has been a pleasure to see pupils from all year groups contributing so confidently and sharing their talents in acting and music. Congratulations to the cast and the creative team for a production that will live long in the memory

Sport has been equally lively. For the past two Fridays fixtures have taken place under the lights at Harpenden Rugby Club. The lacrosse fixture is featured in *The Times* this week, and further details can be found below. The rugby fixture against St Albans School produced a dramatic and well-deserved win for St George's in an excellent match.

Beyond the campus, pupils have taken part in trips to Berlin and to Tate Britain, enriching their learning by engaging directly with art, culture, and history. My thanks go to the staff that organised these opportunities. Within school, the fundamentals remain firmly in focus, with great learning and teaching going on in lessons. Pupils in Years 11 and 13 are preparing well for their forthcoming mocks as the most demanding phase of the academic year continues.

It has also been wonderful to see pupils and staff raising awareness of men's mental health through this year's Movember fundraising. There is still time to support the Sixth Former's efforts before the end of the month - <https://movember.com/t/green-army-s-movember?mc=1>

Finally, this weekend brings the long-anticipated PSA Christmas Fayre. This is a great community event, offering an opportunity to pick up some early seasonal gifts while supporting the school. And, if you arrive at the right moment, you may even spot me dressed as an elf!

School Hits the High Notes of Fame

The school production of *Fame* was nothing short of spectacular, showcasing the incredible talent of students from Years 7 to 13. From the moment the curtain rose, the audience was swept into a whirlwind of 1980s energy, passion, and creativity that perfectly captured the spirit of the iconic musical.

The cast delivered outstanding performances, with each student bringing their own flair to the stage. Younger pupils impressed with their enthusiasm and confidence, while older students demonstrated maturity and professionalism that rivalled seasoned performers. Together, they created a dynamic ensemble that kept the audience engaged throughout.

The music was a highlight of the evening. The live band provided a powerful soundtrack, and the singers delivered every number with precision and emotion. From upbeat ensemble pieces to heartfelt solos, the musical score was executed with skill and flair, leaving the audience humming long after the final bow.

Equally impressive were the choreography and staging with our students operating sound and lighting adding depth and atmosphere to the performance.

This production of *Fame* was a true celebration of student talent, inclusion and teamwork. The students on stage looked like they were having a blast!

A massive thanks and well done to Mr Wallace, Miss Crosby-Carter, Ms Humphrey, Mr Burrett, Mis Linsell, Miss Ashwell and all the helpers on the Fame Team.



From Side-lines to Headlines: St George’s Lacrosse Shines



TIMES PHOTOGRAPHER MARC ASPLAND/Times

If you haven’t seen this article written by parent Marc Aspland about StG’s Lacrosse featured in the Times, then it’s definitely worth a read: [Skill, showmanship and soggy weather — an Unseen lacrosse special](#)

The annual “Friday Night Lights” lacrosse showdown between St George’s School and St Albans High School for Girls (STAHS) lit up Harpenden Rugby Football Club once again. Founded four years ago by Head of Lacrosse Jess Foster, the event champions women’s sport—especially lacrosse—and brings fierce competition and community spirit together under the floodlights.

Before the first whistle, players raised their sticks in a powerful pre-game ritual, honouring their opponents and the sport itself. A tradition rooted in respect, and a match that continues to inspire.

STAHS surged ahead early and held their lead to clinch a 12–7 victory. Both teams showcased impressive skill and sportsmanship, making it a thrilling and hard-fought match from start to finish.

From Picasso to Pitta Bread: A Picture-Perfect Day Out

On Friday, November 9th, Year 12 Art, Design, and Photography students from Harpenden visited the Tate Modern in London, led by Miss Kimmings.

After a smooth train journey, students spent the afternoon exploring a wide range of contemporary and modern art. Highlights included the Picasso exhibition, offering first-hand insight into his revolutionary style and its

impact on 20th-century art. In the Rothko Rooms, students reflected on the emotional power of colour through his large-scale paintings. They also encountered Cildo Meireles' Babel—an installation of hundreds of radios tuned to different stations—which sparked discussion on communication and conceptual art.

The visit provided valuable connections to their curriculum and encouraged deeper thinking about artistic expression.

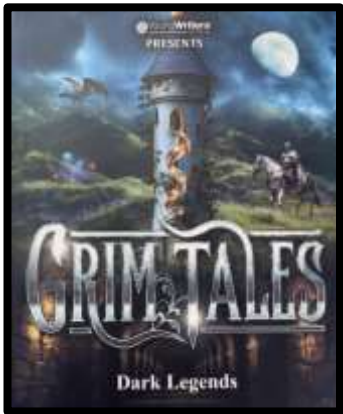
The day ended with a relaxed dinner at a Greek restaurant, where students shared their favourite moments and reflected on the experience. The trip was a resounding success, combining cultural enrichment, creative inspiration, and meaningful learning outside the classroom.



Creative Writing Club

One of our latest creative writing adventures was the Grim Tales Writing Challenge—a spine-tingling invitation for students to dive into the world of eerie, imaginative storytelling. Drawing inspiration from the twisted charm of classic grim tales, students conjured original narratives brimming with mystery, magic, and the macabre. From shadowy forests to haunted whispers, their stories embraced the thrill of the unknown and showcased some seriously spellbinding creativity.

We are delighted to announce that three students, Bea H, Konrad and Lehanri S, have had work published in "Grim Tales", a Young Writers publication! Well done to them all!



Mayor Meets the Debaters!



Last Thursday, Debate Club had a VIP visitor—Harpenden’s very own Mayor, Councillor Beth Fisher! She joined us for a lively lunchtime session, presenting awards to some of our standout students and taking part in a spirited Q&A.

Huge congratulations to Clara A, Amelia J, Jacob T, and Freya W (all Year 12), whose thoughtful questions were featured in the mayor’s interview with the Chair of the Harpenden UNA. Their insightful contributions earned high praise and sparked meaningful discussion!

Debate Club is the place to be every Thursday lunchtime, and Model UN takes the global stage after school on Wednesdays. It’s been fantastic to see so many students stepping up, speaking out, and seizing these opportunities—and we’re always excited to welcome new voices!

Open to all students in Years 7–13 for Debate Club, and Years 9–13 for Model UN. Come join the conversation—your voice matters!

Parent Voice: OFSTED Parent View

We need your help! Please can you spend a few minutes to complete this year’s Parent View for the OFSTED parent platform. So far, we only have one response!

This is a platform that parents and careers use to judge and compare schools so it’s really important that we get as many positive responses as we can early on. Both parents/carers can complete the survey so please give them a gentle nudge as well. Thank you.

<https://parentview.ofsted.gov.uk/login?destination=/give-your-views>

Are your child’s details up-to-date?

Please can you spend a few minutes checking in Edulink that your child's details are up-to-date. This is particularly important for:

- Ensuring that you have two points of contact
- Medical details and any changes.

Thank you

Behaviours for Aiming Higher

As we continue to remind our students of the small (but important) things that make our school a kind, positive and welcoming place, next week our behaviour curriculum focuses on ‘Supporting Exams’. A timely reminder to students before our Year 11s embark on their mocks the week after.

OBVIOUSLY KIND...

Supporting Exams



 **Be aware** – exams take place all over the site, not just in the hall.

 **Be silent** – if passing an exam space.

 **Be considerate** – Follow any signs and one-way systems and think about how your actions affect those sitting exams.

 **Be encouraging** – wish Year 11 and Year 13 luck!

 **Aim Even Higher** – show empathy and maturity by helping to create a calm, respectful atmosphere across the school.

Lessons in Humanity: Year 11 Confronts Berlin's Past at Sachsenhausen

Bella S (Y11) writes: The school history trip to Berlin gave us a much clearer understanding of several major events we've studied these past few years, especially the impact of World War II and the division of Germany during the Cold War. The visit to a WWII bombing bunker showed us the conditions civilians faced during air raids. Being inside the reinforced rooms made it obvious how limited the space was and how intense the atmosphere must have been when thousands of people gathered there for protection. It helped us see the practical realities of wartime survival rather than just the strategic or political side, really highlighting how civilians and everyday people were forced to live.

Sachsenhausen provided a direct look at the brutality of the concentration camp system. Walking through the remaining barracks and open grounds highlighted the severe overcrowding, forced labour, and harsh treatment prisoners experienced. The layout of the site made it easier to understand how the camp operated and how controlled and oppressive the environment was as they were constantly watched by people prepared to kill them for no good reason. Seeing the physical space added a level of severity of the camp that is difficult to get from the classroom alone.

Altogether, the trip was incredibly moving and really helped to bring together what we learn in class with the harsh realities of what went on in Germany before and after the Second World War.



Need a little more knowledge on drugs?

If you haven't used 'Ask Frank' then we recommend that all parents and carers have a perusal of this website which contains all sorts of up-to-date advice for parents and carers (as well as young people).

[Honest information about drugs | FRANK](#)

The government has launched a new campaign to alert young people to the dangers of ketamine, counterfeit medicines and adulterated THC vapes. Did you know that Ketamine use and drug poisonings highest on record with 8 times more people seeking treatment since 2015?

Young people are being warned that they risk irreparable bladder damage, poisoning and even death if they take ketamine, synthetic opioids or deliberately contaminated THC vapes, as part of a new anti-drugs campaign.

If you are worried about any young person who you might be coming into contact with drugs, then please contact the school for support safeguarding@stgeorges.herts.sch.uk or visit www.talktofrank.com or call the FRANK helpline on 0300 123 6600. Our priority is always to give young people the advice and support that they need to thrive.

PARENT VOICE: Homework Review

We are currently conducting a brief survey to help us better understand students' homework experiences and make improvements where needed. We kindly ask all parents to complete the survey linked below honestly—your feedback is incredibly valuable to us. The survey takes no more than five minutes to finish, and your responses will play an important role in shaping our approach moving forward. Thank you for your support: <https://forms.gle/GGjPczDkaxwUwhdPA>

Co-Curricular Update

This week has been a busy week with our fabulous *Fame* production taking place over three nights – what a show! Our Christmas Fayre is taking place this Saturday, 12pm - 4pm. Please don't forget if your young person has been taking part in a sports fixture then you can grab a free hot chocolate thanks to the PSA. Next week is a little quieter and we have an occasional day on Friday 28th November.

We have our usual Saturday Sports fixtures this week with Lacrosse away at Berkhamsted School (Chesham Playing Fields if you plan to come and watch) and Rugby will be a mix of home and away against Campion.

If you are travelling to Campion this Saturday, Please see the details below regarding the site.
Parking: There will be limited parking on Saturday (reserved for SGS coaches and minibuses).
Conduct on Site: Dogs are not permitted. Smoking or vaping is strictly prohibited anywhere on site.
Café Campion: We're pleased to confirm that Café Campion will be open, offering refreshments for staff, pupils, and parents.

Hooray for Bookbuzz!

Our Year 7 students were very excited to hear that their long awaited Bookbuzz books had arrived last week. Good news definitely travels fast! By the end of this week, all 6 classes will have received their chosen book during English library lessons. The most popular choice was 'The Nine Night Mystery' by Sharna Jackson – chosen by 41 students! It has been lovely to see Year 7 enjoying reading their Bookbuzz books, not only during English reading lessons, but also at break, lunchtimes and after school.

The Cecil Grant Trust Fund (CGTF) very generously funded this reading programme which focuses on 'choice' (Year 7 had 16 books to choose from), which the National Literacy Trust promotes as a key factor in supporting students' motivation to read and also their reading engagement.

We hope that these books will inspire and encourage Year 7 to enjoy reading for pleasure. For those students who had difficulty choosing which book they would like, the other 15 books will be available to loan from the school library. We would be very interested to hear what Year 7 think about their book choice, so please pop into the library and let us know.



Anti-bullying Week: follow up help and advice for parents and carers

Last week, we focused on the impact of cyberbullying with the middle school tutor bases and reminded them about how to report any unkindness or offensive remarks to the social media platforms as well as who they could ask for support and advice at school.

If you would like to learn more about this form of bullying, please have a look at the resources provided by Childline: [Bullying on social media | Childline](#)

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.

Christmas Fayre Saturday 22nd November 12 - 4 pm

A great day out for all the family. Some highlights:

- Come out from the cold and start your Christmas gift shopping all under one roof.
- Over 30 stalls with gorgeous gifts, some new and old favourites (see list below).
- Take part in some fun new games – look out for your favourite teachers dressed up!
- Enjoy delicious food & drink and treats at our Café. Our signature hot chocolate, mulled wine, mince pies and candyfloss are back.
- Be in with a chance of winning luxury raffle prizes, including a Christmas Hamper worth nearly £400, a six-week fitness membership package, a private group Pilates class, a silent disco and so much more... (see below)
- A professional festive photo shoot with an award-winning photographer. Slots are limited. Book your photo session [here](#).
- Don't miss the second hand uniform sale – this is replacing January's sale.

Entry £1 for adults and children go free. Credit cards accepted. Games will be cash only. Cashback is available.

We Urgently Need More Volunteers

Please sign up here: <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10C0545ADA72FAAFBC07-58946683-fayre#/>

Raise Funds for St George's as You Shop Online

Doing your Christmas shopping online? Don't forget you can support the school at no extra cost by using **Give as you Live**. Simply start your shopping through the platform and a percentage of every purchase will be donated to the school. With thousands of retailers involved, it's an easy way to raise valuable funds while ticking off your festive gift list! Start here: [Give as you Live](#)

Follow us on Instagram [@psastgeorges](#) for the latest news and events. 

SEND 25/26 Coffee Mornings

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 25 th November	Harri Nicholas - NESSIE - Anxiety, Mental health & EBSNA
Wednesday 28 th January	Laura Tarrant - ASD & PDA
Tuesday 17 th March	Jess Pickle - First Steps, eating disorders, ARFID
Wednesday 13 th May	Tanya Suri - Speech & language
Tuesday 30 th June	Elaine Bridle- ADHD

Vista contact details: EMAIL: info@vistasupportservices.org.uk

WEBSITE: vistasupportservices.org.uk TEL: 01727 519128

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

www.dspl7.org.uk

DECEMBER ACTIVITIES

Booking now open



Mon 1st	Online Cooking
Sat 6th	SPACE to Drive
Sat 6th	Therapeutic Farming
Sat 6th	Parent / Carer Wreath Making
Tues 9th	Lending SPACE Pop-Up (Royston)
Fri 12th	Indoor Climbing
Fri 12th	Parent / Carer Craft
Sat 13th	Gymnastics
Sat 13th	Aerial Gymnastics
Sat 13th	Gaming Club (St Albans)
Sun 14th	Gaming Club (Stanstead Abbots)
Sat 13th	Breakfast with Santa
Sat 20th	SPACE to Drive
Sat 20th	Indoor Roller Skating

Reminder: Lending SPACE in Stanstead Abbots is open every Mon, Wed and Sat this December. Bookings (which are free) are required on Saturdays and during the school holidays, and will open at 7pm each Monday for the week ahead. Our festive Lending SPACE schedule will be released soon.



Unwrap your December with an exciting SPACE activity.

Book your place via the SPACE
Eventbrite - SPACE Hertfordshire



Autism | ADHD
Neurodiverse Conditions