

St. George's School Newsletter

Friday 5th December



From the Head

It is always encouraging when the work taking place at St. George's is recognised by those who come and spend time with us. Throughout the year we welcome a range of visitors who meet our pupils, observe our practice, and offer reflections on our school. Their insights are often a lovely reminder of the strength and character of our community.

Last week, we hosted The Good Schools Guide, who have now published their full review on their website. It is an excellent piece that captures the spirit of St. George's and celebrates the way we are aiming higher across so many aspects of school life.

I was particularly pleased that the reviewers highlighted the 'nurturing feel and warmth' of the school, recognising that our staff 'take a personal interest in the students doing well'. It was wonderful to read that our success is shaped by teachers 'who seem to really love teaching' and who 'have real passion for their subjects'.

THE
GOOD
SCHOOLS
GUIDE

The review also reflects the distinctive culture of St. George's, describing it as "such a warm, welcoming place" where "the ethos and values resonated". They highlighted the strength of our pastoral care, observing that the House system creates "a sense of identity and belonging far exceeding most state schools".

I am also very grateful to the parents who were interviewed. Your contributions clearly made an impression, with the Guide noting the enthusiasm with which you spoke about the school, and the shared sense that "there's real pride in St. George's being different".

Our pupils were, as they always are, outstanding representatives of the school. They were described as "polite, friendly and sparky", and it was particularly pleasing to read that they feel staff are "all on your side".

I will close with the final paragraph of the review, which sums up their experience of St. George's:

"You can't go wrong with any of Harpenden's state schools – and they all have a distinct offering. This is the 'traditional one', with its oldy-world building, tweed blazers, rugby, boarding and chapel all contributing to the more serious, heritage feel. Academically top of the pile too. Families couldn't be prouder of St. George's if they tried."



Library Advent Calendar!

It's beginning to look very festive this week with the launch of the Library Advent Calendar. Twenty-four new books have been beautifully wrapped, labelled, ready for students and staff to open at break every day until the end of term.

Mrs Kelly kick-started proceedings by opening the first book, *MOSCA, ¡¡MOSCA!!* The library has purchased a series of very accessible Spanish readers, which are highly recommended by our MFL department. The festive fun continued with Mohammed M (Year 7) revealing *Loki: A Bad God's Guide to Ruling the World* (a great series of humorous reads), Mr Ford opening *Seven Million Sunflowers* (a compelling and moving story about a Ukrainian teenage refugee) and Francesca C (Year 10) opening Sue Wallman's *Watch Your Back* (one of our very popular thriller authors). Big thanks go to all those students and staff who have opened books this week. There are lots more to open next week!



Careers in Science Talks

We were delighted to hold our first *Careers in Science* lunchtime talk today (27th November), and what a brilliant start it was. We welcomed Sarah O'Rourke, a high-dependency midwife, who spoke to pupils about her day-to-day role, the qualifications and training she completed, and how her work links to the science they study in school. The pupils were fascinated to hear how the biology they learn in the classroom plays such an important part in real-life medical care.

We had an amazing turnout of around 30 pupils, which is fantastic for our very first session. Thank you to everyone who came along with such enthusiasm and for also asking such great questions.

We can't wait to welcome pupils back over the next few weeks as we continue the series with more guest speakers. Pupils will need to sign up in advance, and early lunch passes are available for those attending. Everyone who comes along receives a badge and a punch card so we can keep track of how many talks they take part in; let's see how many they can collect!

We're really excited to bring in even more inspiring speakers and continue showing pupils the wide range of opportunities that science can lead to.



Future Economists Face the Big Questions in London

On Tuesday, twenty of our Economics students stepped into the heart of London for a major conference that brought theory to life in spectacular fashion.

The line-up of speakers was nothing short of impressive: Ed Balls—broadcaster, economist, former politician, and yes, Strictly Come Dancing star—alongside Torsten Bell MP, Hugh Pym (journalist and author), Stephen Flynn MP, and economist-author Vicky Price. Each delivered passionate insights into the state of the UK economy, unpacking last week's Budget decisions and offering bold projections for the future.

Discussions ranged far and wide: the political stance of the current Government; China's growing influence on global markets; the disruptive power of AI, and the ripple effects of seismic events—from the 2008 Financial Crisis to Brexit, the Pandemic, and the ongoing Russia-Ukraine war. For our students, it was a masterclass in connecting classroom theory with the real-world forces shaping economies today.

Perhaps the highlight? Watching our students confidently step up to the microphone, posing sharp questions to the panel in front of an audience of more than 1,000 people. Their curiosity and courage shone through.

Whether the day sparked a lifelong passion for economics and politics—or convinced a few that this world is best left to others—it was an unforgettable experience. A huge thank you to Mrs Potter and Mr Reynolds for running this exciting trip.



The Catering Department is proudly supporting The Teenage Cancer Trust

Students who are purchasing healthy snacks at break will be actively supporting this fantastic charity as 10% of the cost of every snack will be donated. Please encourage your young person to support this great fund-raising scheme.



Co-Curricular Update

As we near Christmas, we still have a few Netball and Rugby fixtures to see out the term. Our choirs are busy rehearsing for our Carol services with Junior Carols taking place at 5.00 p.m. this Sunday. Our Debaters are taking part in the Harpenden School Debate Competition and our Economics students have been busy at a conference.

Mock exams have been a noticeable feature around school and we wish everyone well. The Year Elevens are revising hard whenever we see them at school.

Rugby games are taking place this Saturday against The Pearse School. Please see SOCS for full details of home and away teams.

Next Saturday, we have our last Lacrosse matches of the year! We have had HUGE sign up for our interschool fun Lacrosse festival as usual with mixed year groups competing against each other. The games are due to start at around 9.00 a.m. and finish with a short presentation at 12.00 p.m. (Further details will be up on the Sports noticeboards for the teams)

We then have our 1st Senior Lacrosse team playing against the Old Georgians at 12.30 p.m. which is looking to be a very competitive game this year!! The OGs Carol Service will take place after at 3.00 p.m. We would love you all to come along and support all the games if you are available. Tea, coffee and bacon rolls will be available during the morning including the opportunity to purchase our school 'Odd balls' woolly hats.

A Positive Reminder for Our School Community

Each morning, our dedicated staff are at the gates to welcome children with a smile and to help keep everyone safe around busy traffic areas. It's a wonderful start to the day, and we truly appreciate the friendly interactions we share with so many of you.

Recently, however, staff have experienced a small increase in challenging conversations when reminding parents that parking on school grounds is not permitted for drop-off or pick-up. We know mornings can be busy, and we appreciate your cooperation in keeping our site safe and calm for all families.

We kindly ask everyone to continue using respectful language and tone—both in person and via email—when speaking with our staff, who are always working with your child's best interests at heart. Thank you for helping us maintain a positive and supportive environment.

To ease congestion and reduce the risk of accidents, please encourage your child to meet you a short distance away from the school site whenever possible.

Vaccinations for those Year 9 who missed it

These will be taking the place on Friday 12th December from 9.00 a.m. Please remember to send your young person in with a short-sleeved shirt if they have one. Thanks.

Extended Homework Club

Homework club runs every day after school from 3:30–5:00 pm and is open to all students with SEND or Pupil Premium (PP) status. This provides a quiet, supportive environment where staff are available to help students complete their assignments and build confidence in their learning. Parents are encouraged to remind students to attend regularly to make the most of this valuable support.

If you would your child to attend, please can you email Mrs Hines to reserve your space vhines@stgeorges.herts.sch.uk

Creative Writing Club

Here is some winter cheer from the very popular Creative Writing Club! They have been working recently on a winter-themed haiku challenge. Here are the winners:

Eva R

Winter has arrived
Snow falls softly into place
Orange turns to white

Sophia G

Sparkling icicles
Peppermint and gingerbread
Glistening baubles

Online Safety Support for Neurodivergent Children

Online scams like trust trades and fake giveaways can cause harm and upset to all children, but neurodivergent children are at greater risk of falling victim to scams. Internet Matters have worked with Ambitious about Autism and Roblox to create new resources to help families with neurodivergent children learn and stay safe from scams within games.

There's a guide for parents, a video for children and young people, plus stories for families to read and discuss together to explore the risks, with practical actions for children to take to help stay protected. Find all the resources [here](#).

Is your young person looking for some excitement and a new opportunity?

The Harpenden Cadets Attachment are looking for new recruits
Why not send them along to find out more information:
Monday Evenings 1900hrs – 2100hrs
Waldegrave Park, Harpenden, AL5 5SF.



- Meet the team
- See what we do
- Find out how YOU can get involved

Whether they're looking to build confidence, learn new skills, or just take on their next big adventure – this is where it starts.

Register your interest @ <https://armycadets.com/> or just drop in on the night!

News from the PSA

St George's PSA Christmas Ball - A Heartfelt Thank You

We are delighted to share that this year's PSA Christmas Ball was a spectacular success, and we would like to extend our sincere thanks to everyone who helped make the evening so special.



A huge thank you to the Ball Team, **Suzannah Goodchild, Jenny Cooper, Natalie Allmond and Charlotte McHugh**, for their creativity, coordination and commitment.



Special appreciation also goes to **Gemma Keane and Aoife O'R (Y10 student)**, who generously gave their time on Friday and Saturday to help set up and add the finishing touches that helped create such a magical atmosphere.

We would also like to thank **Simon Blackwood and his team**, for the outstanding catering, along with the **Y12 and Y13 students**, whose professionalism and hard work on the night were truly impressive and appreciated.

A big cheer to our brilliant Bar Team, expertly led by **Pete Macaskill**, with the outstanding support of **Chris Cole, Andy Ford, Suzannah Goodchild, Katie Fenner, Andrea Gott, Carol Stevens and Justine Soothill**. You kept spirits high, glasses full and conversations flowing all night long. Without you, the evening would have been far less bubbly... 

We are also incredibly grateful to the **Site Team**, led by **Sergio Gomez**, and to **Sue Mackenzie, Claire Vos, Nicola Lewis, Sara Sparrow, Winnie Hui and Zoe Cassidy**, whose support was invaluable, from preparation behind the scenes to promoting the event far and wide.

Finally, a special mention must go to **Richard Thompson**, whose energy and wit as MC helped drive the success of the auction and added to the evening's entertainment.

The total amount raised will be released in due course. Thank you to everyone involved, your commitment, teamwork and enthusiasm helped create a truly memorable evening for our school community.

Finally, I would like to wish everyone who attended, supported, and participated in the event a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

May you all enjoy a wonderful festive season and a well-deserved rest.
Sarah O'Rourke St George's PSA Chair

Support the School through Give as You Live

If you weren't able to attend, donate or volunteer at the Christmas Ball or Christmas Fayre, you can still support the school. A direct contribution via **Give as You Live Donate** (<https://donate.giveasyoulive.com/donate?cid=269374#amount>) goes straight towards student projects. You can also help at no extra cost by doing your Christmas shopping through **Give as You Live Online** (<https://www.giveasyoulive.com/charity/stgeorgesschools>), where retailers automatically donate a percentage of your spend to the school.

2026 GCSE MATHEMATICS REMOTE REVISION WORKSHOPS FOR STUDENTS.

Our secondary maths advisers will be leading 24 topic-based online GCSE workshops over four Saturdays from 28th February to 21st March 2026 – 12 for Foundation Tier and 12 for Higher Tier.

Designed to motivate and challenge students in an engaging and active learning environment, these workshops provide opportunities to take part in focused revision activities and practise exam-style questions.

Each session lasts 50 minutes, and students may wish to attend two or three consecutively, with short breaks in between.

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To find out more and to book places, scan or click on the QR code. Or contact our Events Team with any queries at training@hfleducation.org or call 01438 544477

£10
per student
per session
(including VAT)

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<https://hfleducation.org/gcsemaths>

ACCESS TO RECORDINGS OF SESSIONS

All workshops will be recorded and accessible via the confirmation email link, allowing booked students to watch the sessions at any time up to their exam.

FOUNDATION TIER

Saturday 28th February 2026, 9:30–10:20am	FRACTIONS
Saturday 28th February 2026, 10:30–11:20am	SOLVING PROBLEMS WITH RATIO
Saturday 28th February 2026, 11:30am–12:20pm	DIRECT PROPORTION
Saturday 7th March 2026, 9:30–10:20am	NEGATIVE NUMBERS AND ALGEBRA
Saturday 7th March 2026, 10:30–11:20am	LINEAR EQUATIONS AND INEQUALITIES
Saturday 7th March 2026, 11:30am–12:20pm	ALGEBRA WITH BRACKETS
Saturday 14th March 2026, 9:30–10:20am	PERCENTAGE CALCULATIONS
Saturday 14th March 2026, 10:30–11:20am	STRAIGHT LINE GRAPHS
Saturday 14th March 2026, 11:30am–12:20pm	ANGLES
Saturday 21st March 2026, 9:30–10:20am	PYTHAGORAS AND TRIGONOMETRY
Saturday 21st March 2026, 10:30–11:20am	VOLUME AND SURFACE AREA
Saturday 21st March 2026, 11:30am–12:20pm	AVERAGES

£10
per student
per session
(including VAT)

HIGHER TIER

Saturday 28th February 2026, 1–1:50pm	SURDS AND ALGEBRAIC EXPRESSIONS
Saturday 28th February 2026, 2–2:50pm	QUADRATIC EQUATIONS
Saturday 28th February 2026, 3–3:50pm	CIRCLE THEOREMS
Saturday 7th March 2026, 1–1:50pm	INDICES
Saturday 7th March 2026, 2–2:50pm	QUADRATIC AND OTHER CURVED GRAPHS
Saturday 7th March 2026, 3–3:50pm	VOLUME AND 3D TRIGONOMETRY
Saturday 14th March 2026, 1–1:50pm	SINE AND COSINE RULES
Saturday 14th March 2026, 2–2:50pm	SURDS AND ALGEBRAIC FRACTIONS
Saturday 14th March 2026, 3–3:50pm	SIMILARITY AND CONGRUENCE
Saturday 21st March 2026, 1–1:50pm	RATIO AND PROPORTION
Saturday 21st March 2026, 2–2:50pm	HISTOGRAMS
Saturday 21st March 2026, 3–3:50pm	GEOMETRIC AND ALGEBRAIC PROOF

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HFL Education

Activate Camps 2026 is live!

We're thrilled to host Activate Camps again next year.

Book now to secure your child's place and up to 30% OFF with their launch offers!

 The Cricket Academy – Summer

 Netball Fever – Summer

 Ultimate Lacrosse Experience – Summer

 The first 30 customers to use the code LAUNCH30 get 30% OFF



25% OFF for all other customers in 2025 with the code **SAVE25**

BOOK NOW → <https://www.activatecamps.co.uk/venues/st-georges-school/>

#ActivateCamps #HolidayCamps #SportsCamps #ActivityCamps



Train to Teach with Us

Online event 8.12.25 4pm



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Family Support Worker

Location: Harpenden (travel around the local area, some homeworking)
Contract: Part time, 30 hours per week worked across 4 or 5 days, term time only

The Harpenden Plus Partnership of Schools is seeking a compassionate, skilled and proactive Family Support Worker to join our dedicated and awarding winning team on a term-time only basis. The team works closely alongside 23 schools to support local families, and this highly valued role involves providing practical, emotional and targeted support to children, young people, and their families.

As a Family Support Worker, you will:

- Build trusting relationships with families and provide early help to address their diverse and challenging needs;
- Offer practical support with routines, boundaries, positive discipline, behaviour management, parenting strategies, financial hardship and accessing specialist services;
- Work collaboratively with families to complete assessments, identify needs, develop bespoke, outcome-focused support plans, and monitor progress in their home or school;
- Deliver evidence-based interventions and emotional well-being courses for children and parents/carers;
- Liaise effectively with a wide range of external professionals, including working closely with local schools, health, social care and voluntary organisations to ensure a coordinated, multi-agency approach to family support;
- Act as the lead professional on FFAs and in TAFs for a caseload of families, recognising potential safeguarding concerns and escalating them appropriately in line with local multi-agency safeguarding procedures.
- Maintain accurate, confidential case notes and ensure safeguarding is at the heart of your work;

The role will be based in our office at Sauncey Wood Primary school for 30 hours per week and the successful applicant will need to commit to occasional flexible working. We offer a supportive, friendly team environment with regular supervision. For more information, please visit www.teachinherts.com or to discuss the post in more detail contact Helen Fitzakerly on 07908 459540 or hfitzakerly@saunceywood.herts.sch.uk

Closing date for applications: 12th January 2026 via Teach in Herts www.teachinherts.com & initial interviews for early applicants on the morning of Wednesday, 17th December 2025.

We reserve the right to close this vacancy early should sufficient applications be received.

Sauncey Wood Primary School is committed to safeguarding children and young people. All post holders are subject to a satisfactory enhanced Disclosure and Barring (DBS) check and reference and medical pre-employment checks.