

St. George's School Newsletter

Friday 19th December



From the Head

The final week of term has been both busy and fulfilling, bringing together many of the elements that make life at St George's so amazing.

Last weekend saw a very well-attended Old Georgians' Carol Service, welcoming around 150 former pupils and friends of the school. These were followed on Sunday by two beautiful Senior Carol Services with outstanding contributions from both the Senior Choir and the Chamber Choir. These services provided moments of reflection, celebration and togetherness at the close of the year. Alongside this, we have seen the culmination of House Art, the final fixtures of the term, Christmas Lunch on Wednesday, and many smaller moments that together speak to the strength and warmth of our community.

This week's newsletter reflects the breadth of school life during this final part of term. It includes updates on House competitions, including Chess and Creative Writing; an overview of the current Endeavour Cup standings; highlights from our co-curricular programme, and news from the PSA. There are also features on careers education, trips and enrichment opportunities, confirmation classes, and a number of pupil achievements across the school.

As we head into the Christmas holiday, I hope it offers all our pupils the opportunity to focus on some of the important "**Rs**" that help us to flourish when we are in school:

Rest, first and foremost, is not a luxury but a necessity. After such a busy term, it is important to slow down, sleep well, and give both mind and body the chance to reset.

The second, **Recovery**, is about rebuilding energy and perspective. School life is full of effort, activity and achievement, and it takes courage and determination to give one's best every day. Taking time to recover means recognising how much has already been accomplished, taking pride in it, and allowing space to recharge before starting again.

The third, **Restoring relationships**, reminds us that friendships, family and connections need time and attention. The holiday is a chance to reconnect — with family, friends, and perhaps even with oneself. Simple acts such as sharing meals, helping at home, or spending unhurried time together all help to strengthen the bonds that underpin our community.

And finally, **Reading** — the "R" that keeps curiosity alive! A good book can transport you, broaden perspective, spark imagination, or simply offer a moment of calm. I hope every pupil finds a story to enjoy over the break.

If we can all attend to these "Rs" with care, we will return ready, my final "R", for a new year full of learning, growth, and the opportunity to make the most of all that the new term will bring. Have a wonderful Christmas!

House Chess Results

Last week, the final chess matches were played, bringing this year’s House competition to a checkmate conclusion. The House chess teams went face-to-face across the board, showing grit, determination, and plenty of clever moves. Every match was a real battle of wits, with players thinking three moves ahead and refusing to be pawned off easily.

It was a well-fought competition, full of rook-solid strategies and knight-worthy performances. After all the pieces were moved and the dust settled, the results were clear:

1st - Goddard 2nd - Monk 3rd - Grant 4th - Watts

Well done to all our Chess players.

Inter-House Creative Writing

This year's creative writing competition was a huge success! The first round, in which students responded to an image and word prompt in 100 words, received a record number of responses so Houses had an excellent range of candidates from which to select their finalists.

Each House selected their best writer in Years 7-13 to compete in the Final on November 21st. Students were given a word prompt ([Psalm 139](#); 9-12) for inspiration and had one hour to produce a creative response with an advisory limit of 500 words. Their writing was then passed to our guest Judge, published author and all-round St. George's legend, Paddy Storrie.

The standard of work was incredibly high, as always. We have such talented students that a decision is always exceedingly hard.... but the results are now in:

Endeavour Cup Result

1st Watts
2nd Monk and Goddard (tied)
3rd Grant

Individual winners

Emily W, Grant
Sophia G, Watts
Kalane V, Goddard

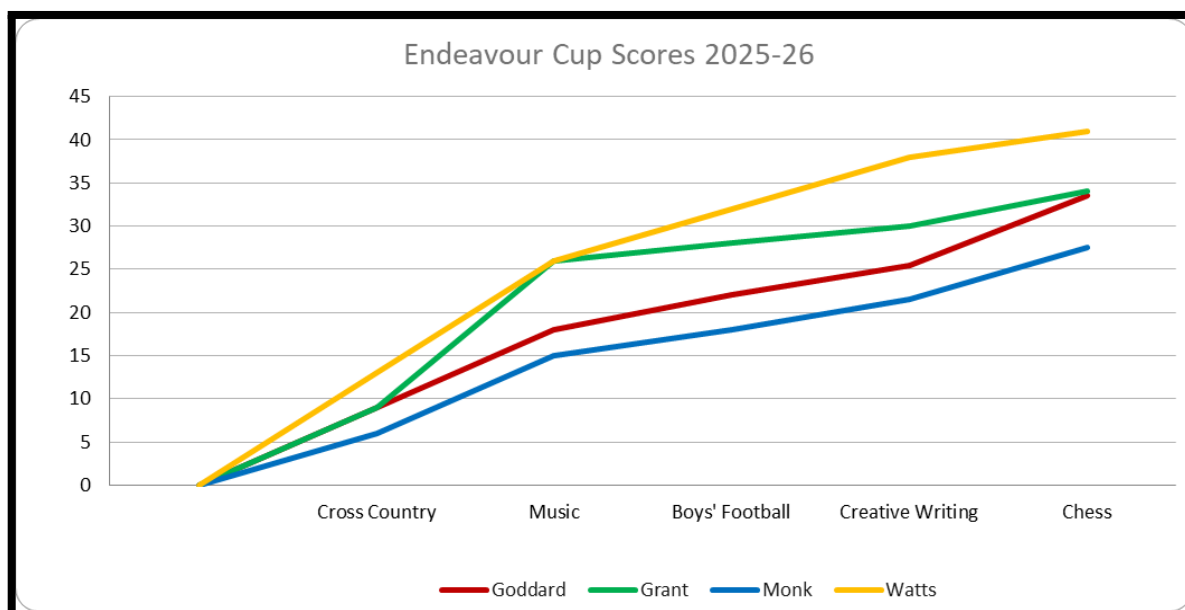
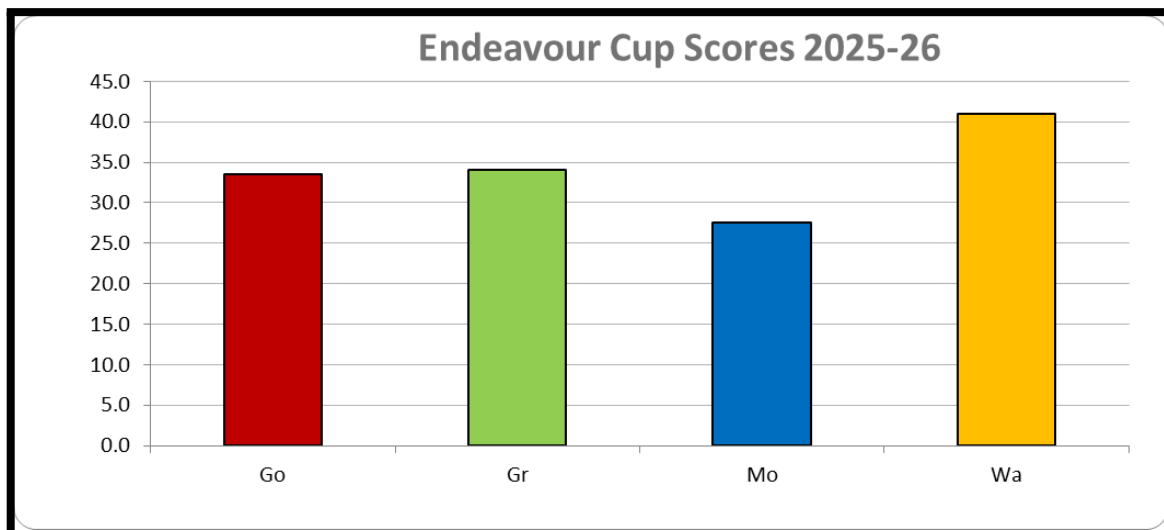
Thank you to everyone who participated, supported and promoted this competition - and to anyone out there who loves to write. Remember Creative Writing Club is Monday lunchtime in Watts 5.

Merry Christmas, from St. George's English Department 🎄

Autumn Term Scores on the Doors

The last two House competitions have truly shaken up the board in the Endeavour Cup! Watts continues to hold a commanding lead, but the race for second place is heating up, with Goddard pressing hard against Grant. Meanwhile, Monk has made a spirited comeback, scoring much-needed points in both Chess and Creative Writing—proof that every move counts in this thrilling contest.

And the excitement doesn’t stop there... Next term promises an action-packed calendar with eight House events ready to test skill, creativity, and teamwork. From the spotlight of Drama to the clash of ideas in Debating, the fast-paced energy of Basketball, and the splash of competition in Swimming, every House has the chance to lead the scoreboard.



From Classroom to Lab: AstraZeneca Director Ignites Students' Passion for Science Careers!

Last week, we were delighted to host our second *Careers in Science* talk, and it was a fantastic success. We welcomed Fernanda, a Commercial Director from AstraZeneca, who spoke to a group of 45 enthusiastic pupils from across the school. It was brilliant to see students from lower and upper years coming together to hear about real careers in the science world.

Fernanda gave us a fascinating insight into her role, explaining how no two days are ever the same and how there is, as she put it, *always something new and exciting to discover in science*. She works closely with a huge range of professionals—scientists, doctors, IT engineers, statisticians and even AI specialists—showing students just how many different pathways can lead into scientific work.

One of the messages that resonated most was that she didn't always know what she wanted to do. She encouraged pupils not to worry if they're still unsure about their future, reminding them that interests change and opportunities appear when you least expect them.

Students asked lots of thoughtful questions, and several even stayed behind afterwards to speak to her in more detail about her role and the wider pharmaceutical industry. Fernanda also shared that she is currently involved in work related to developing a weight-loss drug, which certainly caught everyone's attention!

A big thank you to all the pupils who attended—your curiosity and engagement made the session really special. Also, a massive thank you to our science technicians Mohinder and Karen for co-ordinating these talks. We look forward to welcoming more guests in our Careers in Science series later this year, as you collect 'hole punches' on your punch cards.



Co-Curricular Update

Our final weeks of term have been as busy as ever with Rugby fixtures against Richard Hale, Roundwood Park and St. Albans Schools, Netball and Basketball have had matches competing against Sandringham, Beaumont and Sir John Lawes. The finals of our Inter-house Art competition have taken place and many enjoyed our Jazz Band Winter Warmer evening.

There is always something happening in addition to the standard school day and it is rewarding to see just how many students are involved with Co-Curricular activities at St. George's.

- Over 1000 students have been involved in Co-Curricular clubs and Inter-House events this term
- Millie S in Year 8 has been involved in the most - 8!
- 93 clubs and activities have run this term - thank you to all our staff running these.
- Debate club has the largest number of pupils at 153 attending regularly!
- 98% of Year 7 students have been involved in at least one co-curricular club with the average number of co-curricular clubs and inter-house events being 3 per student for Year 7 - well done Year 7!

House Events 2025/26	
Spring Term	
Badminton	w/b 19th January
Swimming	6th February
Debating	w/b 9th February
Photography	Launched 9th February (finalists set up 15th May)
Half Term	
Drama	4th & 5th March
Netball	w/b 16th March
Basketball	w/b 16th March
Super Saturday - Rugby & Lacrosse	21st March
(SPDOF)	13th March

A huge Thank you to all staff, volunteers, parents and students for supporting our clubs with such enthusiasm and making them a great success! As always, you can view next term's clubs and fixtures on our website and also on SOCS. Enjoy the Christmas break! [Clubs and Activities](#)

Confirmation classes for Y7 and Y8 students in 2026

Confirmation classes will run during Friday 5 lessons in January, February and March. If any students would like to attend these classes and learn more about confirmation, please email the Rev. swarner@stgeorges.herts.sch.uk This will be followed by the annual Church of England Confirmation service

on Sunday 14th March at 10.00 a.m. We are honoured and delighted that the Bishop of Hertford, Dr Jane Mainwaring will be joining us for this joyful occasion.

T Club's Christmas Party

This week our Year 7 T Club students had their Christmas party - enjoying festive music and snacks whilst making some lovely Christmas craft! This included hanging tree decorations, cards, mindful colouring and a Lego snow scene of London. Merry Christmas from T Club!



Well done the Rugby Boys

The Senior Rugby team at St George's School have had an outstanding Movember campaign, raising an incredible £5,384 and placing the school in the top 20 out of more than 500 participating schools nationwide.

The team showed incredible commitment throughout the month, taking on a series of memorable challenges, including an epic 110-mile bike ride to Brighton, and bravely singing the school hymn in front of the entire refectory. The campaign was capped off in unforgettable fashion under the Friday Night Lights, where the team delivered a historic victory against St Albans Boys, our first win over them in 13 years, making this Movember effort one that will be remembered for years to come.

News from the PSA

Christmas Ball — A Significant Boost to Our Fundraising Total

We are delighted to confirm that the Christmas Ball raised a fantastic **£11,647** for the school. Huge thanks to the Christmas Ball team, our volunteers and school staff — your time, energy and generosity truly make a difference to our school community.

Call for Volunteers — Second Hand Uniform Sale & Summer Fete

We're looking for parents and caregivers to support two key PSA events.

- The **Second Hand Uniform Sale** is seeking a new lead to help coordinate the sale.
- For the **Summer Fete**, we're looking for someone to work alongside our current lead to support planning and delivery.

Both roles are well supported and very manageable, and they rely on the support of our parents and caregivers. Your involvement helps make these events a success. If you'd like to help or find out more, please email psa@stgeorges.herts.sch.uk.

AGM & PSA Updates and Next Meeting

The minutes from our recent AGM and PSA meeting are now available to read:

- [AGM minutes](#)
- [AGM Treasurer's Report](#)

- [Annual Report and Accounts](#)
- [PSA meeting minutes](#)

Our next PSA meeting will take place on **Monday, 19th January at 8.00 p.m.**, and all parents and caregivers are warmly invited to join us. It's a great opportunity to hear updates, share ideas and get involved — everyone is very welcome.

A big thank you to the PSA from everyone at school! You do an amazing job at raising funds as well as bringing the community together and creating fantastic events!

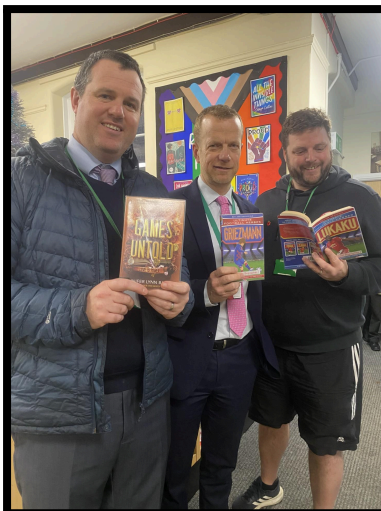


Grand Finale in the Library!

The festive fun culminated this week in Thursday's grand finale with the unwrapping of seven books (numbers 18-24) from the library's book advent calendar. Our student librarians thought it would be a great idea to invite the four Heads of House on the last day, so we were very pleased to welcome Mr Day, Mr Muriss, Mr Ede and Mr Harris who opened more of our very popular football biographies.

Mr Muriss revealed Phil Earle's *The Dawn of Adonis* (historical fiction must be one of our most popular genres), followed by Mr Cullis, who was thrilled to open *Games Untold* by the brilliant Jennifer Lynn Barnes (this series is highly recommended by Mr Cullis!). Finally, Dorcas C (Year 7) revealed Elle McNicoll's *Role Model* (a lovely neurodivergent read), whilst lucky William R and Joel D (Year 7) offered to open the last book, *The Boy to Beat the Gods* (a debut fantasy novel and one of our Year 7 Bookbuzz choices!)

Big thanks go to all those students and staff who have opened books this week. These twenty-four new books will be available for students and staff to enjoy in the New Year!



Whipsnade Zoo Competition Winners

During our trip to Whipsnade Zoo during Activities Week, year 7 pupils (current year 8) looked at animal adaptations and their habitats. They then selected an animal, and described its adaptations in a poster. The 6 best posters were turned into postcards, which the Science Department will be using this year.

The standard was really high and we had some amazing posters. Congratulations to the winners: Lena K, Hudson S, Jamie L, Daisy H, Isla B and Luella B.





DON'T MISS OUT ON TICKETS FOR HARPENDEN GANG SHOW

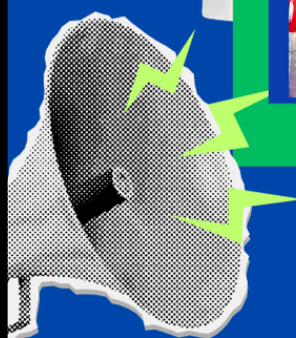
The 76th Harpenden
and Wheathampstead
Gang Show

From 13th-17th of
January 2026

140 cubs, scouts
and explorers

HARPENDEN AND
WHEATHAMPSTEAD
76th
GANG
SHOW
2026

GET YOUR TICKETS TODAY!



<https://everyonetheatres.com/whatson/harpenden-and-wheathampstead-district-gang-show-2026/>

A 45 minute light and
accessible service for
everyone

2026

11 January

8 February

8 March

You don't need any church
background to feel at home,
and everyone is welcome –
any age, any stage of faith.

4:15pm

High Street Methodist Church,
Harpenden

THE

4:15

SERVICE

highstreet.church 
the church in the high street