

St. George's School Newsletter

Friday 23rd January 2026



From the Head

Talking about... Attendance

This week in our "*Talking about...*" series, which explores the different threads that make up the fabric of school life, we are focusing on attendance.

At St George's, we are proud of our pupils' commitment to attendance. At the start of this academic year, our community was ranked second in the county for attendance, reflecting the high value our families place on education and on daily participation in school life.

There is a clear and well-established link between strong attendance and academic achievement. Every hour in the classroom matters: it is time spent learning, strengthening friendships, and accessing the opportunities that enable pupils to *Aim Higher*.

Meet Ms Julie Fleming, our Attendance Officer

To support these high expectations, we were delighted to welcome Ms Julie Fleming to the School as our new Attendance Officer earlier this term. Ms Fleming is based at Goddard Reception from 8.00 a.m. to 4.00 p.m. each day. Ms Flemming joined us after a long career in the Police where, in her last role, she worked as a sergeant in safeguarding the custody command. She says of joining St George's "Everyone has been so welcoming and so friendly and helpful... It really is a lovely place to work"

Ms Flemming's role is to ensure that every pupil is accounted for each day. If a pupil has not been marked present by 10.00 a.m. and we have not heard from home, Julie follows a clear safeguarding protocol:

- She will first telephone the primary contact on record.
- If there is no answer, she will leave a voicemail and immediately contact the secondary number.
- She works closely with the Leadership Team, Student Services, Safeguarding Team and Medical staff to ensure that every pupil is safe, supported and supervised.



How parents and carers can support attendance

To enable our systems to work effectively and to keep pupil safety at the centre of our work, we ask for your partnership in the following ways:

- **Use Edulink:** Please notify us of any absence as early as possible via the Edulink app.
- **Advance notice:** For planned absences, such as medical appointments, at least 48 hours' notice is required.
- **Term-time holidays:** In line with government guidance and our school policy, holidays must not be taken during term time. Absence for holidays will not be authorised, as time away from school disrupts learning, routines and progress.

I asked Ms Flemming what one message she would give to parents about attendance: "Communication, I would suggest, is the key to everything. Contact the school early, through Edulink, and we can sort something out sooner rather than later."

We know that things are not always easy, so Heads of House and Student Services are available to work with families where pupils are experiencing difficulties returning to, or maintaining, full attendance. By working together, we can ensure that every pupil at St George's has the secure foundation they need to thrive.

St George's take Wycombe MUN by storm

Last weekend (15th to 16th January) fifteen year 11 and 12 students participated in their first large scale Model United Nations conference at Wycombe Abbey school. Over the two days, they had to represent their country's view on challenging topics from the militarisation of outer space to the rights of civilians in occupied territories, and everything in between. They had diplomatic conversations with students from 12 other schools from across the country and internationally.

The students were fantastic and managed to get 11 resolutions approved by the approvals board, with Josh G's being chosen to be debated in committee. Over the course of the weekend, they made 43 points of information to others speeches and 9 larger speeches to whole committees. They also made 25 amendments to others resolutions and helped to pass these through their respective committees.

On the Friday night, students were also treated to a Highland ball and were able to get dressed up in style for the energetic dancing. The students really enjoyed the weekend and have already been asking to go to more conferences and to incorporate some of the things they learned into our weekly sessions at school.

On behalf of Mr Ellis and myself I would like to let all the students know how proud we are of all they accomplished at this conference and say that we look forward to seeing how it has developed their MUN and debate skills.

If you would like to get involved in MUN we run weekly sessions for year 9s - 13s on a Wednesday after school, and after the easter break we will be creating a juniors' club which will run on a Thursday lunch time (more information to follow).



Year 10 Interview Morning - we need your help!

We are looking for parents and carers who would be willing to come into school on Tuesday 3rd March between 9am and 11am to help Year 10 learn and practise their interview skills. By volunteering your time to conduct short, friendly interviews, you will give students a valuable opportunity to practise speaking about their strengths and answering questions clearly and confidently. This experience helps to build essential communication skills and prepares students for future potential university, college, apprenticeship, and job interviews.

If you would be willing to support this event, please fill out this form: <https://forms.gle/Us617g1yrycqST5d8>
If you have any questions, please contact esabato@stgeorges.herts.sch.uk Thank you very much.

Sixth Form Subject Fair

On Monday 19th January, we were delighted to host the Sixth Form Subject Fair in the Old Gym. Our current Year 12 students manned the subject stalls and spoke with such interest, enthusiasm, and honesty about their A Level studies. It was wonderful to see so many Year 11s attending and engaging in meaningful conversations about their future study plans.

Many Year 11 students commented on how valuable this experience has been, especially when combined with the "Friday 5" visits to Sixth Form tutor bases last week and the lunchtime subject drop-in sessions that have taken place this week.

The deadline for Sixth form applications to St George's is on **Friday 6th February**. Full information can be found [here](#).



Year 9 GCSE Options - link and webcode

An email was sent out on Thursday to your Y9 child's priority 1 contact; please check that email has been received. You will need to use the WebCode in that email to access the options form.

If your child has more than one parent listed as their priority 1 contact, the email has been sent to your child's school email address instead. This is because the code can only be sent to one email address for the selection process.

If you have not received the email containing this link, firstly please check your junk/spam folder and if you are still not in receipt of the email, inform Mr Glass via rglass@stgeorges.herts.sch.uk providing your child's name and house.

The deadline for the submissions of GCSE subjects is **11th February**. Until that time, you may continue to make changes by resubmitting your choices; any previous submissions will automatically be overridden by

the most recent one. Further information, along with additional guidance, can be found on the school website here: [Click here](#)

Behaviours for Aiming Higher

It has been a few weeks since we updated you on our Behaviour Curriculum. So far this term, students have been focusing on ‘Aspiring and Aiming Higher’; the importance of using their words to communicate kindness and respect, and taking care of our school environment.

Next week, students will be reminded of our expectations around email etiquette. The slide they will see is included below. Developing good email habits helps students build professionalism, respect, and independence - all essential skills for success both in school and beyond.

OBVIOUSLY KIND...

Email Etiquette



**Be polite:**

- Address staff correctly (e.g. “Dear Mrs Smith”)
- Write in full sentences
- Use please and thank you.
- Sign off appropriately (e.g. “Kind regards”)

**Be formal** – Email is not social media! It is a professional communication tool.

**Be clear** – Explain your query clearly.

**Be considerate** – Send emails at an appropriate time and not at the last minute; teachers may not see late messages in time.

**Aim *Even Higher*** – Show thoughtfulness and maturity: emails should be calm, polite, and respectful.

Future Doctors in the Making: MedSoc Packs the Room!

Our student-led MedSoc was buzzing with energy yesterday as an impressive crowd of aspiring medics filled the room. Led with real professionalism by Year 12 organisers Teni and Alastair, the session welcomed local GP Dr Anna Benson, who shared an honest, inspiring look into the world of medicine.

Nineteen students took part in a lively deep dive into the medical career pathway — exploring the realities of life as a junior doctor, the highs and challenges of general practice, and the process of discovering the specialty that truly fits. A brilliant afternoon of insight, ambition, and future healthcare leaders in action. Thank you, Dr Benson!



Co-Curricular

We have had over 886 students sign up and take part in various activities during and after school this term which is always a pleasure to see. There really is something for everyone!

So far, we have only received around 230 consent responses and hope this is just an oversight. Please go to Parent Pay and give your consent for your child to take part - The deadline is today, 23rd January 2026.

This Saturday's Lacrosse fixtures away at Putney are now cancelled for all teams due to waterlogged pitches. Our rugby games this Saturday are a mix of home and away games against Northampton Boys.

Please refer to SOCS for further details on the match times for each game.

Smash, Serve, Triumph: House Badminton Heats Up!

This week saw students go head-to-head in a fast-paced, fiercely competitive round of House Badminton as they fought for those all-important Endeavour Cup points. The atmosphere was electric, with crowds of students packing in to cheer on their peers, every rally met with shouts of encouragement and school spirit in full force.

Early results hinted that Monk were off to a strong start, but with the final standings still under wraps, the suspense is building.

A brilliant display of skill, teamwork, and house pride — and we can't wait to reveal the winners soon.



St George's School

GIVING DAY 2026



On 12 February, we're hosting our first ever Giving Day — a 24-hour community fundraiser to help transform our Assembly Hall.

Every donation, big or small, will make a real difference for our students.

More details coming soon — thank you for your support!

News from the PSA

Appointment of New Vice Chair

We are delighted to announce the appointment of Suzannah Goodchild as our new Vice Chair. Suzannah has shown great enthusiasm and a strong commitment to supporting the school community over many years, and we are very pleased to welcome her into this role.

New Second-Hand Uniform Sale Leads

We would also like to extend a huge thank you to Emily Artis-Blizzard, Georgie Love and Julie Cullum for stepping up to lead our preloved uniform sale. These sales not only offer more affordable uniform options for families, but also raise a significant amount of funding in support of the school. We are extremely grateful for their time and dedication.

The next second-hand sale takes place on Super Saturday on 21st March. Please email us at psa@stgeorges.herts.sch.uk if you can help with the set-up from 7:00am - it's an early start but all helpers get first dibs on all uniforms!

Volunteer Appeal for June's Summer Fete

The Summer Fete is one of the most important fundraising events of the school year. It is also a much-loved opportunity for our whole school community to come together and enjoy some summer fun!

The PSA is still looking for **three volunteers** to help with the planning. No special skills are required, just a willingness to get involved. Even one or two hours a week can make a real difference. Please email psa@stgeorges.herts.sch.uk if you can help.

Thank you for your continued support!

Upcoming events:

- 14 March: Quiz Evening
- 21 March: Super Saturday Uniform Sale
- 25 March: PSA meeting
- 28 June: Summer Fete

Charity Bake Sale - Please Support

On Saturday 7th Feb (9.30am to 12.30pm) at High Street Methodist church, Keira and Joshua Salter will be holding a charity bake sale in memory of their brother Benjamin for "Children with Cancer UK". To read about Benjamin's story and the motivation behind raising money for this charity then please see the just giving link below. They are looking for baking volunteers to join in with the fun and boost funding. Their mother's employer will also do a 3:1 match on the money raised.



If you would like to take part in the baking then please contact Bal Salter by emailing baldeep.punni@googlemail.com in advance. Please come and support Keira and Josh if you are free and enjoy the delicious treats. Every penny counts and will make a difference to the lives of the children and their families. We thank you in advance for your generosity and kindness. <https://www.justgiving.com/page/baldeep-salter-8>

Can you spare some time to be a school governor?

Roundwood Primary School are currently seeking governors and would love to hear from St George's parents who may have interest in becoming a school governor or who have had previous governance experience. Please see the link below with details and who to chat to if you would like more information.

<https://mynewterm.com/jobs/117211/EDV-2026-RPS-77456>

Being a school governor is an incredibly rewarding and worthwhile experience.

Want a career that makes a difference?
Join our online recruitment event to find out
about routes into teacher training

Get into Teaching in Hertfordshire

Tuesday, 10 February 2026

18:00-18:45

Online event

Register at bit.ly/TeachingInHerts



In partnership with



University of
Hertfordshire **UH**



BATFORD COMMUNITY CONNECT

Free, drop-in event. Join us for coffee and a chat.

Friday, 30th January 2026, 11am - 2pm

Batford Methodist Church, Lower Luton Road

**Advice on benefits, debt, health,
wellbeing and much more**

11.45: "Keep more money - Energy saving tips"
talk by Citizens Advice St Albans District

12.00: "Quick and filling winter warmers"
cooking demonstration with cook Varsha Manohitharajah
assisted by Harpenden Town Mayor, Cllr Beth Fisher

Enter a free raffle to win an air fryer!

Partner organisations:



Find out more by
following this QR
code or visiting
our website



Event supported by
Citizens Advice St Albans District
in partnership with:



www.harpenden.gov.uk



You are invited to

LUTON SEA CADETS

OPEN DAY

28th January 2026, 19:30

Lower Harpenden Road, LU1 3PL

Whether you are aged 10-17 and looking for fun,
learning new skills, gaining qualifications or a new adventure
or an adult interested in
volunteering and inspiring young people
our open evening is the perfect chance to see what we do.

Please book your place by scanning QR
Code and filling the form.



Luton Sea Cadets
Lower Harpenden Road
LU13PL

CONTACT US

lutonseacadets@gmail.com

OPEN
Mondays and Wednesdays
1915-2130