

# St. George's School Newsletter

Friday 6th February 2026



## From the Head

### Talking about... Art

Anyone who has walked down the Art corridor at St. George's will know that we are privileged to have amazing artists and a dynamic department. I recently sat down with Mrs Carmel Turner, Head of Art, to talk about how we help pupils to *talk like artists*, and why Art matters far beyond the classroom.

From the outset, Mrs Turner was clear that language is at the heart of the department's approach to learning. "We are very deliberate about vocabulary," she explained. "Not just the names of tools or techniques, but the language pupils need to analyse what they are looking at." From Year 7, pupils are introduced to the formal elements of art — line, shape, tone, form, pattern, texture and colour — and are expected to use these terms regularly and accurately. "By the time they reach GCSE and A Level, that language should be second nature. They need it to justify decisions and to explain *why* they have made the choices they have."



A key part of this process is helping pupils move beyond a surface response to artwork. "It's easy to say, 'I like it' or 'I don't like it'," Mrs Turner noted. "What we are really trying to do, especially with older pupils, is to get them to analyse meaning and to be critical." In the context of art, she was quick to add, "being critical is a positive thing"; learning to hear and understand different perspectives is a core skill in Art; having specific language makes those conversations possible." Critical thinking empowers young people to navigate today's complex world by questioning information, making informed decisions, and solving real-world problems with clarity and confidence.



The conversation moved naturally to the wider value of art. At St. George's, projects are often issues-based, engaging with themes such as politics, feminism and economics. For Mrs Turner, this is central to what it means to be educated. "Being educated in the true sense includes being able to articulate what you are seeing," she said.

Mrs Turner also offered practical advice for parents and carers keen to support creativity at home, particularly by making use of galleries. She was keen to stress how accessible many of these spaces are. "So many galleries in London are free, and they really do belong to all of us," she

said. “You don’t need hours,” she added. “A ten-minute pop-in to see one artwork can be just as powerful, galleries are for everyone, Art is for everyone”.

As our conversation drew to a close, Mrs Turner returned to the department’s broader ambition. “We encourage students to take an Art subject, as part of a broad spread of GCSEs or A Levels, we want them to leave with confidence in the visual world,” she said. “That might be recognising architectural styles, or understanding why a painting makes them feel a certain way. It’s about having the language, and the courage, to look properly.”

***For more, see the report below on the Interhouse Art competition***

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## Future Leaders Take the Stage

Last Friday marked an exciting milestone in the School Captain selection process as eight impressive candidates took to the stage for Hustings. Each delivered a heartfelt speech on who inspires them, offering thoughtful, moving insights that showed just how strong this year’s field has turned out to be.

On Monday, the candidates faced a demanding assessment day, putting their leadership, teamwork, and communication skills to the test. The final four will be revealed in Chapel this Thursday — a moment the whole school is eagerly awaiting.



Today, we were delighted to announce our four school captains in the chapel this Thursday. Congratulations to **Ella B, Sophie C, Henri H and Chuk-Hei M** for being appointed. They are featured in the photo below behind the outgoing School Captains.

The four new captains went through a rigorous application process, and we were delighted with the standard of applications across the year group: all of the eight short listed candidates performed exceptionally well across the process.

We have now begun the process of appointing house and boarding prefects: and look forward to the new team taking shape after half-term.

Well done to all those who applied for school captain and good luck to all of those applying for prefect roles!



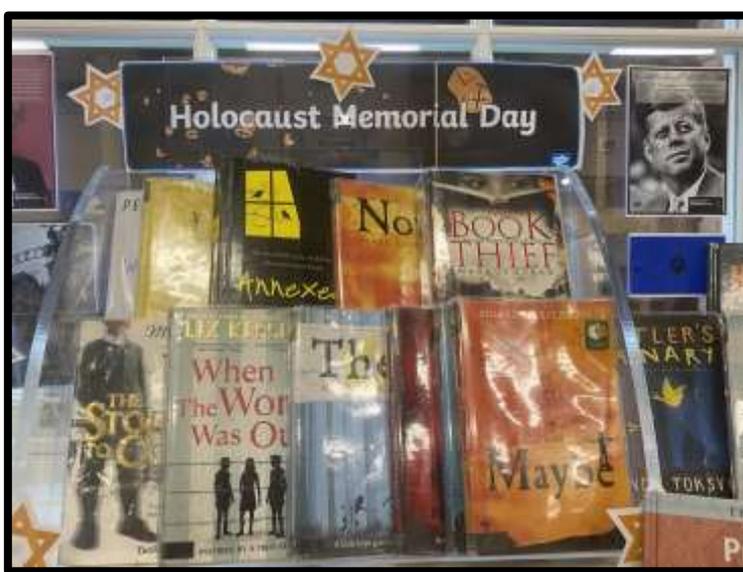
## Remembering the Holocaust

Marking Holocaust Memorial Day with a moving and poignant display of fiction and non-fiction books. What better way to learn than to read books.

The theme this year is 'Bridging Generations' - a reminder that the responsibility of remembering doesn't end with the survivors, it lives on through their children, their grandchildren and through all of us.

In last week's Tutor base sessions, Lower School tutor bases read *Once* written by Morris Gleitzman; Middle School read *The Second World War* written by Dominic Sandbrook and the Upper School had a session on challenging Antisemitism.

Chapel also focused on remembering the lives lost and the impact that the Holocaust had on so many.



# Inter-House Art Competition 2026

Students from all four houses recently had the opportunity to take part in the annual St. George's Inter-House Art Competition.

The competition began with a first round focused on producing a well-presented tonal drawing. From this stage, Art Captains selected students from each year group to represent their houses in the final round. This year's theme was **"80 Years of the United Nations – Humanity, Hope, and Challenges."** This year marks the 80th anniversary of the United Nations (UN), representatives from the Harpenden UN have also selected students who will be awarded with vouchers and certificates for their entries- more information to follow.

The final day of the competition took place on **Thursday 18th December**, with two students from each year group producing outstanding artworks using a wide range of media. The final judging took place in January by **Mr Browne, former Head of Art**, who commented: *"The standard of the competition was exceptionally high. Well done to all those involved."*

**Congratulations to Grant House, who are this year's winners.**

All students involved demonstrated exceptional creativity, dedication, and hard work. A selection of the impressive artworks produced can be seen here.



## From Every Corner of the World: St George's Bursts into Culture Day

This week also brings a vibrant celebration of our community as we celebrated Culture Day on Friday. Students from **over 20 countries** proudly showcased their heritage, wearing cultural outfits and sharing the traditions that make St George's such a rich and diverse place to learn. There was music, food, hand painting and much joy and laughter. What a great end to the week! Photos to follow next week!

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## National Storytelling Week

This week we have been celebrating National Storytelling Week, with tutor base and Friday 5 activities, plus activities in the Library and a school-wide story writing competition - 500 words in any writing form around the theme of the week, "Soundtrack your story".

In Friday 5 today, students enjoyed exploring short stories from many different cultures and transitions. Lower School students read different creation stories; Middle School delved into 'Soundtrack your story' with a whole group reading tasks and discussion questions themed around stories told through music; whilst Upper School focused on the problem of cultural narrative involving lots of lively discussions.

It has been wonderful to see so many students getting involved, particularly in the National Year of Reading. We know how powerful a story can be - and how many benefits there are to regular reading and creative writing - why not celebrate at home by sharing a story you love?

A big thanks to Mrs Farr for organising activities through the week for National Story Telling week.

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## SEN Coffee Morning

**You're Invited!** Raising a child with additional needs can feel like a solo journey, but it doesn't have to be. Join us on **Wednesday, 11th February 9.00 to 10.00 a.m.** for a relaxed coffee morning. It's a chance to meet other parents, share experiences, and find support in a friendly, informal setting. Whether you want to chat or just listen, we'd love to see you there

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## Aim Higher Parking

Just a gentle reminder that parents and guardians are not allowed to use the Aim Higher entrance for drop offs and pick-ups. It is just too dangerous for our students. Please be nice to our staff on duty.

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## Exploring Democracy with Cambridge's Prof Paul Cartledge

On Tuesday, we were privileged to welcome Prof Paul Cartledge, Professor of Greek Culture Emeritus at Clare College, Cambridge, who delivered a fascinating talk on democracy to students in Years 11-13. His visit followed last month's inspiring session from three Old Georgians, who shared valuable advice on applying to Oxbridge. It was brilliant to see such strong attendance from Year 11 alongside our sixth formers.



Later this month, a group of Year 12 students will visit Balliol College, Oxford for a taster day, with more academic lectures planned throughout the year. Students will also have opportunities to join online and in-person sessions with several Russell Group universities.

This comes on the heels of fantastic news: eight of our Year 13 students have received Oxbridge offers — a tremendous achievement and a testament to their hard work.

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## Co-Curricular Update

With a much needed Half Term on the horizon, we have a few more fixtures before a week of rest!

This weekend the U14A's and the 3<sup>rd</sup> Senior team are playing away at Haileybury School in the afternoon. The meet time is 1.30 p.m. for a 2.00 p.m. game start. The Bedford LAX games have been cancelled due to pitch flooding.

We also have Lacrosse County tournaments next week. U14's will be heading off for the day back to Bedford on Monday 9<sup>th</sup> February and U13s will be heading there for a day on Wednesday 11<sup>th</sup> February. Team sheets will be up on SOCS. As we will be there all day, please ensure your daughter brings a warm coat, boots and trainers (No Crocs) along with a packed lunch. We will leave around 9.00 a.m. and aim to return by 4.15 p.m. Parents are welcome to come and watch.

With the House swimming event taking part today at Harpenden Leisure Centre, Interhouse debating and photography starting next week, there really is something for everyone to get involved in for their house!

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## Save the Date for Inter-House Drama 2026!

We are excited to announce that tickets for this year's House Drama competition will be available on ParentPay next week. The preview performance will be on Wednesday 4<sup>th</sup> March at 5.00 p.m. with the adjudicated performances on Thursday 5<sup>th</sup> March at 7.00 p.m.

Our students have been putting in an epic amount of work to create a short play for your entertainment, so please do come along to show your support. More information to follow in next week's newsletter.

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## Students! Unlock Your Creativity: Free Access to Canva, Affinity, and Adobe Express!

We are excited to announce that all students now have free access to a suite of professional design tools! Whether you're working on a class presentation, editing photos, or designing a digital portfolio, you can now use Canva, Adobe Express, and the professional-grade Affinity Suite (Photo, Designer, and Publisher) at no cost.

To get started, simply sign in to these platforms using your school email. You can create directly in your browser with Canva and Adobe Express, or download and install the Affinity apps to your device to begin creating like a pro!

Click here for more information: <https://stgeorges.herts.sch.uk/student-information/>

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## EduLink data update

Please can you check the details we have recorded for you on your **EduLink app**. It is important that the information is correct and up to date to allow you to access information, book Parents' evenings, select Year 10 options and attend other events.

How to check and amend in the Edulink app:

- Select the 'Update Information' icon
- Check your own details in the first instance (your name will be visible at the top of the screen) paying particular attention to the correct title being selected
- When complete save and switch to your child's profile, their name and picture appears at the top (click on arrows and select child)
- All the information required will be detailed below their picture starting with 'Basic'
- Please pay particular attention to the priority status of the family contacts, ensuring these are listed as you want to be contacted; Priority 1 being the 1<sup>st</sup> contact
- Then selecting an email or phone number as **Primary** ensures it is treated as the "preferred" contact method.

**Next week, we are taking part in Children's Mental Health Week!**

The theme is 'This is my place' and we will be running lots of activities and sessions about the importance of belonging and inclusion. Why not get involved!

**Place2Be's CHILDREN'S MENTAL HEALTH WEEK 9-15 FEB 2026**

**"THIS IS MY PLACE"**

**FIVE WAYS TO WELLBEING**

**take notice**

- Pause and take some deep breaths
- Name 3 things you are grateful for

**connect**

- Arrange to meet people regularly
- Call a friend
- Speak to someone new in your class

**keep learning**

- Join a new club
- Read a book in the library
- Learn a new skill

**be active**

- Take a walk at break times
- Try a new activity such as yoga or running

**give**

- Try to do one small act of kindness a day
- Volunteer at a local charity

**TRYING THESE TIPS CAN REMIND US THAT WE BELONG**



## St George's School

### **Our Giving Day Goal: A Modern Hub for Every Student**

We are requesting your support in transforming the Assembly Hall into a modern multipurpose space. This new flexible hub will benefit all students, providing a bright, dedicated place for everything from drama performances and major exams to whole-school assemblies and community events.

As a school, we have already made significant improvements to many of our buildings. With the growth of St George's and the crucial importance of this central area, the Assembly Hall now requires our full attention.

To truly aim higher and provide our students with the best possible facilities, we invite you to partner with us on this specific goal. Your donation will directly support the transformation of this vital space.



**Watch Video**

**Date: 12<sup>th</sup> February 2026**

Watch the video here: [Giving Day Video 2](#)

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Coming on Thursday 12<sup>th</sup> February

Find the  
Golden

Ticket!

WIN PRIZES

2 x £40 vouchers!

10 x £20 vouchers!

8 x £15 vouchers!

Chocolate Bars\*

£2.50 each

Cash or Card

WATTS PLAYGROUND  
Break & Lunch

St. George's  
PSA

\*vegan option available

One Day  
Only!

## News from the PSA

### Quiz & Curry Night Book Now!

Tickets for the Quiz & Curry Night are available now. Join us on Saturday 7th March at 7:00 p.m. for a relaxed and sociable evening of good food and friendly competition.

Tickets are £18 per person and can be purchased either as part of a table of up to eight, or individually, in which case guests will be allocated a table on the night.

Tickets go on sale at 8:00pm on 6 February via the link <https://gvwhl.com/HBJ1E>

New for this year:

- A new chef with bigger, more generous portions
- Brownie dessert included
- Sweet and savoury snacks available to purchase at the bar

We look forward to welcoming parents and friends to an enjoyable evening.

### Find a Golden Ticket on Giving Day!

The PSA is adding a sweet twist with a Golden Ticket chocolate bar sale on 12th February. Hidden inside the chocolate bars are 20 Golden Tickets, each winning a voucher worth between £15 and £40.

Chocolate bars cost £2.50 each and will be sold at Watts Playground during break and lunchtime, while stocks last. Please remind children to bring cash or a card if they'd like to take part. Vegan options are also available. Good luck and happy hunting!

## Volunteers Needed

### Summer Fête

Despite recent appeals, we still need parents to help organise the PSA Summer Fête. Without volunteers to support the planning, this much-loved community event may not be able to go ahead this year. No prior experience is needed and full support will be provided by the PSA committee.

## **Second-Hand Uniform Sale**

Our next second-hand uniform sale will take place on **Super Saturday, 21st March**. We are looking for volunteers to help on the morning of the sale, with the first pick of uniforms offered to all helpers.

If you are able to help with either event, please contact [psa@stgeorges.herts.sch.uk](mailto:psa@stgeorges.herts.sch.uk). Your support really does make a difference.

## **Upcoming events**

- 7 March: Quiz & Curry Night
- 21 March: Super Saturday Uniform Sale
- 25 March: PSA meeting
- 28 June: Summer Fête

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## **A Charity appeal from Mrs Fox**

To those of you who don't know me, my name is Nina Fox and I have worked at St George's for 13 years. I unfortunately had to leave my role as Head of Languages just over two years ago to help look after my gorgeous Dad who has advanced Dementia and Alzheimer's. Many pupils in the older years will have been taught by me or received guidance from me in one of my roles during my time here. In the past couple of years since I stepped down, I have been helping out with cover lessons and coaching lacrosse, so pupils in the lower years may also know of me.

I have spoken to pupils in chapel previously about dementia and Alzheimer's and when I am in school, many pupils come up and ask me about my Dad or tell me about someone they know who is suffering and has received or is in the process of waiting for a diagnosis. Equally if any of you parents are currently going through challenges with a diagnosis or care for a loved one then I am happy for you to contact me for a chat via my work email [nfox@stgeorges.herts.sch.uk](mailto:nfox@stgeorges.herts.sch.uk)



Over the past few years, it has become abundantly clear to me that there is a huge lack of funding going towards Dementia and Alzheimer's, which leads to inadequate support, treatment and guidance being given to the patient and their families. Without me giving up my teaching career and spending a huge amount of time each week researching support, treatment and finding suitable care, my parents would not have had the support they needed to navigate Dad's dementia journey.

In an aim to raise much-needed funds for further research and identification of treatments, I have signed up to run the Paris Marathon on 12th April for Dementia UK. This is a huge challenge for me as someone who doesn't particularly enjoy running and has a body that tends to enjoy picking up plenty of minor injuries!

So if my story resonates with you in any way, or if I have ever helped your child at St George's and you would like to support the cause, I have attached my donation link and my family and I would be hugely appreciative.

[https://www.justgiving.com/page/nina-fox-7?utm\\_medium=FR&utm\\_source=CL](https://www.justgiving.com/page/nina-fox-7?utm_medium=FR&utm_source=CL)



**FEBRUARY 2026 ACTIVITIES**

| Date          | Sessions                               | Time        | Venue                    |
|---------------|--|-------------|--------------------------|
| 2nd,9th, 23rd | <b>Dungeons &amp; Dragons (Full)</b>   | 12.30-3.30  | The Zone@The Galleria    |
| 3rd           | <b>Connect Primary age</b>             | 4.30-6.00   | The Zone@The Galleria    |
| 5th,12th 26th | <b>Bushcraft/Stem Home Ed Age 4+</b>   | 10.30-12.00 | The Zone @ The Galleria  |
| 5th           | <b>Teens Group@The Hub</b>             | 5.00-6.30   | The Hub@The Galleria     |
| 6th,13th 27th | <b>Parent /Carer Wellbeing</b>         | 12.30-2.00  | The Zone@The Galleria    |
| 7th           | <b>Basketball/Archery</b>              | 4.00-5.00   | Birchwood Leisure Centre |
| 11th,25th     | <b>Early Years Stay &amp; Play</b>     | 12.30-2.00  | The Zone@The Galleria    |
| 12th,26th     | <b>Trampolining Age 5+</b>             | 5.30-6.30   | Gosling Sports Centre    |
| 13th          | <b>Youth Group 16 Plus</b>             | 6.30-8.00   | The Hub@The Galleria     |
| 14th,21st     | <b>Family Football</b>                 | 4.00-5.00   | Birchwood Leisure Centre |
| 17th          | <b>Roller Skating</b>                  | 6.00-7.30   | Roller City WCC          |
| 18th          | <b>Connect under12s</b>                | 10.30-12.30 | The Zone@The Galleria    |
| 18th          | <b>Connect 12 Plus</b>                 | 1.00-3.00   | The Zone@The Galleria    |
| 19th          | <b>Soft Play</b>                       | 6.30-9.00   | Birchwood Leisure Centre |
| TBC           | <b>Skateboarding Age 9+</b>            | 5.30-6.30   | Pioneer Club St Albans   |
| 28th          | <b>Potential Tracks Train Club 10+</b> | 12.00-2.00  | The Hub@The Galleria     |

To book visit : [potentialkids.org.uk/events](https://potentialkids.org.uk/events)



**Co-parenting with Care programme for parents with children with SEN.**

This 6-week online programme funded by Hertfordshire County Council, offers a structured approach to help you navigate your unique challenges, improve your relationship, and create a more supportive environment for your SEN child/ren .

The programme covers themes including:

- Understanding SEN and its impact on children and family dynamics
- Effective Communication Skills
- Managing Emotions & Stress
- Collaborative Problem Solving
- Building a Supportive Network
- Creating a Unified Parenting Approach

These 2 courses will be delivered via MS Teams, over 6 sessions on the following dates/times:

**Date:** Wednesday 11, 25 February & 4, 11, 18, 25 March 2026  
**Time:** 9.30am to 11.30am

**Date:** Thursday 12, 26 February & 5, 12, 19, 26 March 2026  
**Time:** 7.00pm to 9.00pm

For more information or to make a referral, scan the QR code, email [services@familylives.org.uk](mailto:services@familylives.org.uk) or call 0204 522 8700 or 0204 522 8699



**We build better family lives together**

[www.familylives.org.uk](https://www.familylives.org.uk)

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# Dads Together

Sign up to our 6-week online group

**Are you a dad and feel like 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 skills.

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

**Wednesday 11th February to 25th March 2026**

**7.00pm to 9.00pm**

Online via MS Teams

Scan Me!

**We build better family lives together**

[www.familylives.org.uk](https://www.familylives.org.uk)

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