

St. George's School Newsletter

Friday 13th February 2026



From the Head

Thank you to everyone who has supported our first ever [Giving Day](#)! We are thrilled to announce that the total raised so far stands at an astounding **£45,000!!**

The generosity shown by our community has been simply extraordinary. Every gift has been an expression of belief in our purpose and values. Together, these contributions will have a tangible and lasting impact on the opportunities we are able to provide in the Assembly Hall, now and in the years ahead. We are also extremely grateful to the PSA for their energy and creativity in running the Golden Ticket Competition.



Your generous giving now means we can press on with the exciting plans for the Assembly Hall including replacing the chairs, redecorating, refurbishing the floor and much more besides.

If you have not yet had the opportunity to take part, the Giving Day remains open. Your support would still be very warmly received and will continue to make a meaningful difference. Full details, including how to donate, can be found on our crowdfunding page or via the school website. We will update you on the results next half-term.

Please visit our [Crowdfunding Page](#) or find full details on the school website. You can also contact the development office directly via development@stgeorges.herts.sch.uk

Talking about... Co-curricular Sport

Sport and games play a central role in life at St George's. Our co-curricular provision is intentionally broad, enabling pupils of all sporting abilities to participate and flourish. Through this programme we seek to develop confidence and character, teamwork and enjoyment, leadership skills, and a lasting appreciation of physical activity and healthy competition.

Last term alone, pupils took part in over 200 fixtures across badminton, basketball, cross-country, lacrosse, netball, rugby and table tennis, with more than 647 students representing the school in at least one sport.

As part of our five-year strategic plan, we are undertaking a review of co-curricular sport during this academic year. This process includes gathering the views of pupils and staff, drawing on the expertise of volunteer coaches, and inviting three external Directors of Sport from Hertfordshire schools to review our current provision. We are now keen to hear parental perspectives, both through a short survey and via in-person focus group discussions.

Building on an already exceptionally high level of student participation, our ambition is to ensure that our co-curricular sport offering remains inclusive, sustainable, and future-facing, while recognising the practical constraints of our estate and staffing.

We would value feedback from all parents, whether your child is currently involved in our sporting programme or not. Your views will help shape the next phase of co-curricular sport at St George's. Please share your thoughts [via our survey here](#).

St George's Culture Day Bursts into Colour and Celebration

Last Friday, our Sixth Form community came alive for our third St George's Culture Day, and it was truly an unforgettable celebration! The Assembly Hall was transformed into a breathtaking global marketplace, featuring stalls from over twenty different countries. It was wonderful to see so many students radiating pride while wearing their national costumes, sharing the rich traditions that make our community so unique.

From the incredible array of international flavours to the infectious energy of the dance performances, the atmosphere was wonderful. It was a joy to see Year 12 and Year 13 come together so enthusiastically to celebrate the diverse heritage that defines us.

A huge thank you goes to Phoebe and the entire Culture Day Committee for their visionary planning. We are also deeply grateful to our amazing catering and site teams—your "stellar" hard work behind the scenes made this ambitious event possible. We are already buzzing with excitement for our next celebration in 2027!





Brilliant Minds at Mathfest: St. George's Students Step Into the Spotlight

Last week, many of our Year 12 mathematicians attended 'Mathfest' at the Royal Institution. They listened to several prominent speakers including Matt Parker, Ben Sparks and James Grime. Our students were eager to participate in some of the talks, and Ed was chosen to demonstrate to the audience the most efficient way of solving the Tower of Hanoi. Many students submitted entries to the cross-number competition, and Oscar was one of the winners; he now is the proud owner of a t-shirt which he asked most of the speakers to sign!

Cailin reached the final of 'Maths slam' where she presented her 3-minute talk on 'How maths can restore democracy to general elections'. She now joins a long list of distinguished speakers at the Royal Institution!



Drama with a French Twist: C’est Magnifique!

French students in years 9 to 11 were lucky enough to spend Thursday period 5 watching a French play performed by the Onatti Theatre Company. The play, entitled ‘RSVP’, followed the story of Leah and Théo as they planned a “Together Forever” party to celebrate their relationship. The only problem was, they had very different tastes and ideas about what sort of party they should have, with Leah wanting a traditional Parisian gathering and Théo craving a cool Marvel party. The two bickered constantly about what to do, eventually reaching a compromise.

The whole play, although entirely in French, was surprisingly comprehensible and everyone was laughing both at the funny plot and the volunteers who were chosen from the audience to portray silly roles; parents, a landlord and even a cook!

Overall, a great way to spend a Thursday afternoon. *C’était fantastique!*



Behaviours For Aiming Higher

As we reach the end of another fantastically busy half term, this week we have been reflecting on the term’s behaviour curriculum and looking ahead. Here are the key highlights from this half term:

<p>Being obviously KIND</p> <p>Speaking respectfully and choosing our words carefully. Remembering that jokes that exclude or belittle are not “banter”. Communicating politely and professionally with staff in person and via email.</p>	<p>Being obviously RESPONSIBLE</p> <p>Taking ownership of learning and behaviour. Staying organised and completing homework and prep on time. Following expectations consistently, even when no one is watching.</p>
<p>Being obviously POSITIVE</p> <p>Showing a willingness to learn and improve. Using feedback to develop work and making small, positive choices that support learning.</p>	<p>Being obviously TOGETHER</p> <p>Looking after our school environment, considering those who use facilities after us, and helping create a calm, courteous space for everyone.</p>

It has been great to see students putting these principles into practice, and we encourage families to talk with their children about what went well this half term and what they’d like to focus on next.

Children's Mental Health Week

This week, we marked Children's Mental Health Week through a series of talks, assemblies and Friday 5 activities. This year's theme is 'This is My Place', and the aim is to support the systems around children and young people to help them feel they belong. From jigsaw making to chair exercising - there was a lot to get involved with.



We are lucky to have a large team at school who are mental health trained and who can support our young people's well-being and mental health. If you are at all worried about how your child is doing, then please get in contact with Mrs Grainger, our Mental Health Lead who can offer support and advice hgrainger@stgeorges.herts.sch.uk

Chinese New Year

We are very proud of the diversity and rich cultural heritage of our students and we enjoy celebrating and raising awareness of different cultural events throughout the year. Did you know that 288 of our students have English as an additional language and a staggering 53 different languages are spoken!

This week, we have been celebrating Chinese New Year. The special day falls on Tuesday 17th and marks the start of the Year of the Horse (specifically the energetic fire horse) so if you were born in 1966, 1978, 1990, 2002 or 2014, according to Chinese belief, this is going to be a very lucky year for you.

The school has celebrated through visual displays; crafts and decorations and a splendid Chinese feast on Friday thanks to our talented Catering Team.

A huge thank you to all those students who helped decorate the school library which was a hive of activity, with students creating some fabulous paper lanterns, chains and horse decorations, as well as producing some popular New Year greetings and blessings. It all looks amazing and so vibrant!

Our entrance display features a fantastic selection of books on Chinese history and culture, as well as information about the zodiac and traditions of the festival.



Year 7 Boarders Shine in New Boarding Skills Adventure



Since September, a new buzz has filled our boarding houses - not the sound of late-night toast or the usual “Has anyone seen my school bag,” but the energy of Year 7 pupils taking part in our new Boarding Skills programme. Launched by Mr Blair and co-developed with Mrs Templeman, the programme is designed to help our newest boarders not just settle, but truly flourish. Its aim is simple: build independence, confidence and the practical know-how that makes boarding life enjoyable.

Boarders from both Keswick and Crosthwaite have joined together for a series of sessions exploring the realities of shared living. From hygiene and cleanliness (yes, twice-daily tooth-brushing really is non-negotiable) to understanding what it means to live in a community, pupils have been learning how to take responsibility for themselves while being considerate of others.

Homesickness has been approached with honesty and reassurance. Pupils have discussed resilience, connection and the small routines that make boarding feel like home. It has been heartening to see them support one another so naturally - often discovering that a chat, a shared snack or simply knowing someone understands can make all the difference.

Most recently, our Year 7 boarders tackled first aid. Passers-by may have witnessed dramatic collapses, enthusiastic bandaging and some very committed “casualties.” One pupil insisted on fainting repeatedly “for accuracy,” while friends practised the recovery position with admirable focus—despite the challenge of keeping a giggling patient still.

What has stood out most is the engagement. Pupils have been enthusiastic, curious and eager to learn skills that genuinely empower them. The natural mixing of girls’ and boys’ houses has brought laughter, collaboration and a real sense of togetherness. Boarding Skills is already proving far more than a checklist. It is helping pupils grow in confidence, build friendships and develop life skills that will stay with them long after Year 7.

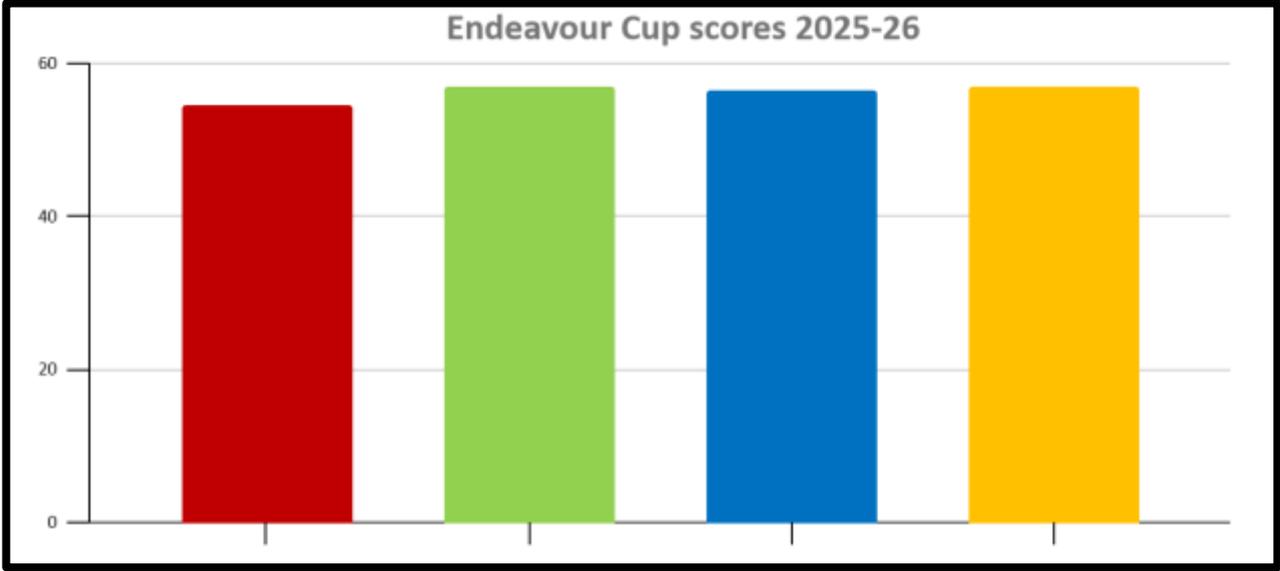
Love is in the air!

There has been a lot of excitement in the library this week with students trying to guess what is inside our fantastic display of 20 beautifully wrapped mystery books. With a few carefully chosen clues written on the front of each book, the idea is to encourage students to open their eyes to different authors and genres, whilst chatting about books with each other. As readers, it is all too easy to get into the habit of reading the same author, series, or genre – sometimes it’s good to try something completely different. It has been lovely to see so many students animatedly discussing the mystery books at break and lunchtimes this week. The incredible collaboration, consideration and kindness shown to other students has been truly impressive this week.



End of half-term Scores on the doors!

Could it get any more exciting than this! In a stunning turn of events, Monk has absolutely electrified the competition. After dominating on the Badminton courts and tearing up the lanes in the pool, they have pulled off the ultimate underdog story. Rising from the depths of last place, Monk has swum their way back into serious contention—and they are now breathing down the necks of the leaders! Watts and Grant are tied in first place with **57 points**; Monk an extremely strong second place on **56.5 points** and Goddard very close behind on **54.5 points**. Look out for next half-term's competitions!



Year 11 and 13 Leavers' Hoodies: Don't miss the deadline!

This is a reminder that the [link](#) to buy leavers' hoodies for our Y11 and Y13 students is now open! It can be found on the main Tylers website under the School Webshops tab. The price per hoodie this year is £24.00, with 23 colours to choose from. This includes the embroidered logo on the left chest; a printed 26 on the back and the option to have a nickname on the back (extra £5.00) – all in white, and delivery to school in mid-April.



Year 12 Running the Country

Last Thursday, 25 of our Year 12 Politics students took part in a 'Government For A Day workshop' run by <https://pefs.co.uk/>

In what was an interactive and lively session, students were split into three cabinets. After selecting a Prime Minister, they then had to work through a series of real political issues: testing their team work, logical and mathematical skills (budget!)

Our students were engaged and engaging throughout, and the session brought Politics to life, and put them in the shoes of 'government for a day'.



Opening Doors to Dentistry: Inspiring Careers Talk for Science Students

This week, pupils attended a Careers in Science talk on dentistry, gaining insight into the wide range of roles within the field. Guest speaker Ester Hathorn shared her journey from dental nurse to hygienist and eventually

practice owner, emphasising that there are many pathways into dentistry depending on interests, qualifications and experience.

She outlined the subjects she studied, including Biology and Human Biology at A Level, and how Psychology later supported her work with patients. A key message was that dentistry is centred on helping people and understanding their needs.

Students were fascinated by the use of digital technology in modern dentistry, such as designing crowns, bridges and realistic replacement teeth. Ester also highlighted specialist areas—oral surgery, orthodontics, implants and more—as well as roles beyond being a dentist, including dental technicians, orthodontic therapists, practice managers and even social media coordinators.

Science and Maths A Levels were recommended, though some routes offer on-the-job training, such as gaining clinical hours while working as a dental nurse. Ester also stressed the importance of teamwork and how rewarding it is to collaborate with the whole dental team.

The talk gave pupils an encouraging and realistic picture of dentistry as a career with many opportunities, clear progression routes and the chance to make a real difference.

If you work in a STEM field and would like to share your career journey with students, please contact Mrs Sandhu at msandhu@stgeorges.herts.sch.uk , who coordinates our Careers in Science talks.



Safer Internet Day: Tuesday

As part of Safer Internet Day, we've been encouraging students to think carefully about how they use technology and how to stay safe online. This year's theme is how to use AI safely and to help young people to be able to think critically online. Our aim is to help young people build confident, positive digital habits, and we encourage families to continue these important conversations at home. Some resources for parents:

[Top Tips for parents and carers - UK Safer Internet Centre](#)

This new DfE website [Online content](#) offers parents the following support:

- tips for parents' conversations with their children
- actions to support each stage of their child's life
- parental controls information
- signposting to trusted resources
- Parental support by speaking to an expert.

Co-Curricular Update

It's been an action packed few weeks for our Sports Department!

Our cross-country runners recently represented the school in the HSAA Cross Country Championships. Runners did an excellent job in tough conditions, 3 of our runners placed in the top 12 finishers and are awaiting to hear if they have made the county squad. Successful runners will represent Herts in the National Finals in Liverpool in March. Well done to all runners!



Last week, the year 7s took part in the Indoor Athletics at Herts Uni. The team competed against 11 other schools in the district. There were some exceptional individual and team performances on the day. With events ranging from an obstacle relay to an 8 lap parlauf to standing triple jump and shot put. The boys' team finished 6th; the girls' team put in an excellent effort finishing in 2nd place just one point behind the winners. St George's were 2nd in the overall combined event. Well done to all athletes. Outdoor athletics training begins in the summer term. The dates for the fixtures are in the school calendar.



A massive congratulations to Lilly M, Hannah C, Isla C and Zara J for their outstanding performance in the recent badminton championships. The girls dominated the district round at Sir John Lawes before carrying that momentum into the County round at the University of Hertfordshire, where their teamwork and tactical play earned them the title of County Champions. Their double victory means they now qualify for the Regional Finals at Cambridge University on 2nd March. A fantastic achievement and a testament to their hard work.

On Monday, our U14A and B lacrosse teams competed in the County tournament at Bedford. The B team secured a brilliant 3rd place, showing great spirit and perseverance. The A team then battled through a tough final against Berko, winning 6–5 to become U14 County Champions 2026.

On Wednesday, our U13s returned to Bedford for their County Tournament, with 56 students playing across A, B and C teams. In dry, sunny conditions, all teams enjoyed a fantastic day of competitive play, demonstrating determination and impressive skill.

Thank you to all the parents who came to support—your encouragement makes a huge difference. Next stop: Lacrosse Nationals!

- Aldershot Garrison, Hampshire
- 6–8th March: U19 1st & 2nd Teams
- 9th March: U19 3rd Team & U15
- 10th March: U14 & U13
- Teams will travel by coach, and parents are warmly welcome to attend.

News from the PSA

Quiz & Curry Night – Book Now!

Our popular Quiz & Curry Night returns on Saturday 7th March at 7:00 p.m. for a relaxed, adults-only evening of good food, friendly rivalry and plenty of laughs.

This year, we're excited to welcome a new chef, serving bigger, more generous portions, with a brownie dessert included. Sweet and savoury snacks will also be available to purchase from the bar throughout the evening.

Tickets are £18 per person and can be booked as a table of up to eight, or individually — solo bookers will be allocated a table on the night, so everyone is welcome.

👉 Tickets are available here: <https://gvwhl.com/HBJ1E>

Want First Pick of Second-Hand Uniform?

Thank you to everyone who has already offered to help with the Second-Hand Uniform Sale on 21st March. We're nearly there, but could still use a few more pairs of hands in the morning to help set up and keep things running smoothly.

All helpers get the first pick of uniforms. If you're available and haven't yet signed up, we'd love to hear from you. Please contact psa@stgeorges.herts.sch.uk

🏠 Summer Fête: Supporting Role Needed

We're still looking for a parent to step into a supporting role, working alongside the existing Event Lead to help move the planning forward. This is an opportunity to help shape and organise one of the school's biggest community events, with full support from the PSA committee. If you're able to help or would like to find out more, please get in touch at psa@stgeorges.herts.sch.uk

Upcoming events

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



CAN'T FIND A GCSE TUTOR?.

HFL

OUR GCSE REVISION WORKSHOPS HAVE JUST STARTED AND PLACES ARE STILL AVAILABLE FOR:

- AQA ENGLISH LITERATURE
- AQA ENGLISH LANGUAGE WRITING
- MATHS
- AQA SCIENCE



<https://hfl.mobi/2026GCSEs>

Starting at
£10
per student
per session
(including VAT)



Science – Grade 6/7 sessions start 3rd February 2026, cost £10 per session, duration 50 minutes.

Science – Grade 4/5 sessions start 30th March 2026, cost £10 per session, duration 50 minutes.

English AQA Literature – sessions start 7th February 2026, cost £20 per session, duration 2 hours.

English AQA Language Writing – sessions on 31st March and 2nd April 2026, cost £15 per session, duration 90 minutes

Maths – GCSE sessions start 28th February 2026, cost £10 per session, duration 50 minutes.

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- Bouncy Castle's
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- Party hosts
- Ball games
- Music
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- Dining area
- Free parking



Optional Extras:

- Nerf guns
- Party food

More info



ST GEORGE'S GYM

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OUR PRICES

Monthly Membership: £26.25

Joint Membership: £39.00

Pay As You Go: £6.00

Discounts for St George's Students & U18

OPENING TIMES

Monday-Friday 5pm-10pm

Saturday 9am-5:30pm

Sunday 9am-10pm

@ sportshall@stgeorges.herts.sch.uk

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Online event 12.3.26 6.30pm

