



ST GEORGE'S SCHOOL

Weekly Newsletter

8th December 2022

Information

A big thank you to the PSA who have had a fantastic month fundraising for the school. The Christmas Fayre raised £3,900 and the Christmas Ball raise £19,600. Thank you all for helping raise £23,500 for the school.

**THANK YOU
SO MUCH**
YOU ARE VERY MUCH APPRECIATED!

Debating news

It has been a successful and eventful couple of weeks for St George's debating. On Thursday 30th November, we took a juniors and inters squad to Roundwood Park School, where our teams performed superbly, highlights included Francesca C & Heather H (Year 8) winning best juniors pair and Sophie C & Cailin E (Year 10) getting the award for best inters pair.





ST GEORGE'S SCHOOL

Weekly Newsletter

This Tuesday, we entered the 'Youth Speaks' competition with the Rotary Club for the first time. Our inters team beat strong competition to win their section, our seniors team also picked up a trophy. Well done to all involved: Amelie S (Year 8), Bella B & Athena C (Year 9) & Malachi F-S, Poppy G, Olivia L & Ed W (Year 12). Thanks so much to all students involved and to Roundwood Park and Aldwickbury Golf Club for hosting the events. Both rotary teams will now go on to regional contests in the New Year!

We are proud of what we have achieved in a short space of time with debating and have to thank our Year 10 captains and core debaters for leading the way with this.

There are lots of exciting debate activities coming up in 2024 - watch this space for more details. Talking of watching, here are the highlights of our third annual 'St George's Question Time' event which we hosted on Friday 17th November, and featured an all star panel.

<https://youtu.be/kQAJbrlLgY0>

Enjoy!

Jamie Ellis (Deputy Director of Sixth Form Education) [Follow @stgeorgespolitics on Instagram](#)

Maintaining our high standards

Thank you for your support of our behaviour curriculum so far. A reminder that this intends to maintain our high standards at St George's and to support our students to 'aim higher' in all that they do.

Our aim continues to be 'obvious kindness, obvious positivity', the idea being that our students take the time to go above and beyond to demonstrate kindness and positivity to their peers and teachers wherever possible.

Next week's focus will be on behaviour in cover lessons– the below will be shared with students each day:

Focus on... **COVER LESSONS**

- Behaviour in cover lessons should be the same as any other lesson
- Sit in your usual seating plan
- Work in silence if instructed to do so
- Complete all work set to the best of your ability

KINDNESS
Have empathy. All your teachers are thinking, feeling people who deserve your kindness and respect.

POSITIVITY
Set a good example in your behaviour, offer to help with resources, and if appropriate support your peers.



ST GEORGE'S SCHOOL

Weekly Newsletter

Good conduct in a cover lesson is a courtesy and an essential. If a teacher is absent, it may be because they are doing essential training, or doing work like recruiting a new teacher: we have to be able to trust that normal work will continue. They may be taking students on a trip or sports fixture: we cannot run such opportunities unless we can be confident learning will continue. They may be off ill.... and how wrong would it be for an ill member of staff to feel they have to drag themselves in whatever, because their class cannot be trusted to work without them.

As a student it is not your job just to not be a pain: you need to support an adult who may be in an unfamiliar space dealing with unfamiliar work, and make their life straightforward.

Library Advent Calendar

The countdown has begun! 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. Athena (Year 8) started the ball rolling by revealing Sue Wallman's 'Every Word a Lie' (perfect for fans of thrillers), followed by Mr Williams who opened 'The Future of Geography', Roman (Year 7) and Jonny (Year 8). Mrs Holton-Gaus was very excited to unwrap a copy of 'Joyful Joyful' (stories celebrating black voices), as was Mrs Kelly with 'Astérix et les Goths'. Some great new books to add to the library. Lots more new books to be revealed next week!



Christmas Crafts

It's now looking very festive in the Library thanks to all the students who participated in our lunchtime Christmas craft sessions this week. Students had fun transforming old magazines into Christmas trees and decorating them with pom-poms! They look very effective





ST GEORGE'S SCHOOL

Weekly Newsletter

GCSE Food Preparation and Nutrition

St George's has been lucky enough to be one of 250 schools to receive some of the 2,000 KG of rope-grown mussels being donated by Offshore Shell, packed by River Teign Shellfish and delivered by DFDS.

Did you know that most children don't eat enough fish? Not here! Year 10 have been cooking Thai style mussels & conducting sensory analysis. Students showed off new skills in preparing and cooking the mussels in a Thai sauce. For many students it was their first experience of preparing and tasting mussels. This is not something we would not normally do and feedback from students has been incredibly positive and we hope, helped to diversify their palate!

Many thanks go to Offshore Shell, River Teign Shellfish, DFDS and the Food Teachers Centre for this superb opportunity.

To follow on from mussels, we've secured a delivery of individually quick-frozen hake donated by Fastnet, as part of the Fish Heroes project giving students the opportunity to prepare and cook with fish. A big thank you to our local chippy **Godfrey's Harpenden** who helped coordinate the delivery. More details and pictures to follow shortly.

Mrs L Bailey and Miss N Baxter





ST GEORGE'S SCHOOL

Weekly Newsletter

Actions

It's beginning to look a lot like Christmas!



Come and join us for a really special Christmas Carol Service!

This Sunday it is our Junior Carol Service at 5.00 pm (Goddard and Monk) and 7.00 pm (Watts and Grant).

On December 17th, it's the Senior Carol Service 'Nine Lessons' at 5.00 pm (Goddard and Monk) and 7.00 pm (Watts and Grant).

We are so lucky to have the chapel as a place to worship and to come together as a community.

Thoughts

Being a Geographer at heart, I am of course fascinated by any tectonic activity taking place in the world, and boy doesn't the earth's crust seem to be a restless place at the moment. A new island is being created off the coast of Japan just south of Tokyo; Mount Marapi in Indonesia has spewed a 3km ash cloud into the sky last Sunday killing 13, and closer to home Mt Etna has burst through its snow covered peak to erupt once again.

But at the moment I am most avidly watching events in Iceland. There is nothing more real than the town where you enjoyed your first meal of the recent school Iceland trip being in the news. Grindavik is a relatively small community that was probably not on many people's radar, but has suddenly sprung to the world's attention. Three weeks ago we were riveted by those first tectonic movements - the swarms of earthquakes indicated a plume of magma was rising; the tearing apart of the earth's surface and other deformation of the earth's crust seemed to imply that an eruption was close; and heat from magma that had risen from deep within the earth's crust to lie just 500m below the surface was evident from the steam that seemed to escape from every crack that was produced. People have been displaced; business has suspended trading (including the Blue



ST GEORGE'S SCHOOL

Weekly Newsletter

Lagoon - Shock horror) and the fishing business that the town relied on is struggling as the dock side has dropped by 20-30cm (which implies that the seafloor has done that as well!). The early warning signs are all in place.....but still we wait (I'm writing this on Tuesday - so if an eruption takes place between now a Friday, you will have to excuse the inaccuracy of this report!)

In this world where everything is instant, the waiting can seem frustrating, abnormal and foreign. So imagine what it would have been like if you were part of the Jewish faith who has been promised a Messiah, but then had to wait.....and wait....and wait. Frustrated they have been; perhaps they felt abandoned as the promises never seemed to come to fruition; and perhaps over time they became hopeless rather than hopeful. In losing sight of their promise; they then risked missing the fulfilment of that promise as when it did arrive, it seemed to be an insignificant baby.

I wonder how we feel about waiting? Do we expect things to take place in our timeframe or are we willing to be patient? Perhaps we need to remember what God has promised usbut accept that his time frame is not ours; but it will be perfect timing.

Whatever you are waiting for this weekend; I hope it arrives in good time, and is all that you were promised; and if not I hope you can be patient.

Miss B

Signposting (click on each to find out more)

PLAYING OUR PART TO SUPPORT OUR LOCAL COMMUNITY



ST GEORGE'S SCHOOL

Weekly Newsletter

Supporting Families with Protective Behaviours

**Online courses
starting
January 2024**



**Daytime
Mondays
9.30am -11.30am
22 Jan—18 March
For mums, dads &
carers
Course code L5/am**

**Evening
Tuesdays
7.00pm—9.00pm
23 Jan—19 March
For mums, dads &
carers
Course code L5/eve**

**Evening
Thursdays
7.00pm—9.00pm
25 Jan—21 March
For dads & male carers
Course code L4/eve**

Are you looking for strategies and new ideas to help improve family life?

This 8-week term time course can help you to:

Understand what may be influencing your child's behaviour

Understand how Feelings, Thoughts and Behaviour link together

Respond to a range of feelings e.g. anger, frustration, anxiety, stress and worry

Improve communication to build better relationships

Build on your own and your child's strengths

Learn strategies to help you and your family feel safe

For eligibility and to book your fully funded place please contact:

enquiries@familiesfeelingsafe.co.uk

Tel: 07850 518216

Please quote the course code and a mobile number



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