



ST GEORGE'S SCHOOL

Weekly Newsletter

2nd February 2024

Information

Dear Parents,

Appointment Announcement

Following the announcement by Paddy Storrie of his retirement at the end of this school year we are delighted to announce that after a rigorous interview process on Wednesday, Laura Howard has been appointed Deputy Head from 1st September 2024. The interview panel which consisted of a Governor, Director of HR, Headteacher-designate Andy Ford and Miss B were impressed that all candidates exhibited skills and experience which made them worthy applicants and were a credit to the schools they represented. We are sure that you will join us in congratulating Laura on her appointment.

Lacrosse this weekend and next week

We have a busy lacrosse weekend split across a few different venues. This weekend our home games are against Walthamstowe Hall .

Times / Pitch	Sports Hall	1st team pitch	Aim Higher
09:30 (Meet 8.45am)	15A	3rd	U13A
10:30 (Meet 9.45am)	14A	4 th	U12A

We also have teams playing away at the U19 South East finals and the U19 South East Festival at Haberdashers Aske this Saturday. On Sunday, our Senior thirds are playing Tudor Hall 1sts up in Banbury (meet AT SCHOOL at 0900)

We will be serving Teas and coffees as usual for our home games (No bacon rolls this week though...essential info!)

A reminder that County Lacrosse tournaments are taking place at Bedford Playing Fields, Couple MK44 3TT - next Monday 5th Feb for U14's and Wednesday 7th Feb for U13's.

Tournament games should start around 1.15pm and we will be aiming to be back at school around 6pm. Parents are very welcome to come and support!

Saturday 10th February – we have an away game - playing Bedford at the same address as above (Bedford Playing Fields, Couple MK44 3TT) – parent transport will be required to and from this venue. More details will be sent next week regarding the teams and timings.



ST GEORGE'S SCHOOL

Weekly Newsletter

GCSE Options for Students in Year 9

On Tuesday 30th, Year 9 students were invited to the hall for the GCSE subject fair. This is the final 'official' event before students are asked to state their preferences for GCSE study. Of course, subject teachers, Tutors and Heads of Houses remain available to offer guidance.

Here's a link to the [GCSE Options Form](#) which is now live. Please note that subject choices should be listed in preference order! There is no rush - it is absolutely not 'first come'. Thank you if you have already completed the form.

If your child is in Year 9, please complete the form by 16th February.

Maintaining our high standards

Next week's focus will be how we maintain our school environment and we will be encouraging students to think about how they look after their surroundings to preserve our site for the future. We are also seeing an increase in chewing gum in school, which causes a range of issues for our school site. Please support us by reminding your young person that chewing gum is not allowed in school and will be confiscated if seen.

Thank you.

Focus on... HOW WE LOOK AFTER OUR SCHOOL ENVIRONMENT

- Our school site is a lovely place to be, but it only stays that way if we look after it
- There are lots of bins around school - please use them! Do not leave litter on tables, benches or on the floor.
- Chewing gum is not allowed in school - it creates lots of problems. Expect to be asked to take it out if you are caught chewing
- Leave classrooms as you found them - tidy and free of mess



KINDNESS

Offer to put someone else's litter in the bin. If you pass by some, pick it up!

POSITIVITY

Offer to help collect litter with your tutor base - house offices have plenty of kit for this!

Extra help for Year 11

Many Year 11 students will have received an invitation to join an extra lunchtime revision session in recent days - it will have been sent to them and to you as parents if staff feel they could benefit. Note that registers are taken in these sessions to see who attends; there is no immediate consequence for not taking part, but students would be wise to let staff know if there is a compelling reason why they cannot go. It may be, for instance, that they have two sessions clashing, or a house drama rehearsal. NOTE HOWEVER: in August, on results day, where students might have narrowly



ST GEORGE'S SCHOOL

Weekly Newsletter

missed the grades for 6th form entry and parents and the student are asking us to take them in spite of this, we look at revision session attendance. It would be unlikely we would give leeway to a student who had not taken up the help on offer in February to May. Students have been informed this is a factor.

You are invited to the St.George's PSA Quiz night on Saturday 16th March

I would say "cordially invited" but we all know that I don't do cordial. In all seriousness, this is a big money maker for the school, even though we have cut the price from £18 last year to £15 this year, mindful of how tight family budgets are and of the imperative of getting parents back engaged with schools post covid. Tickets come with your choice of curry, and are live on shopkeepeasy now.

Any questions please contact jemmathomas@exploremediation.co.uk

ST GEORGE'S PSA PRESENTS

Quiz Night 2024

Book your table of up to 8 with one table lead
Single & couples tickets also available
Curry options - beef, chicken or veg

SATURDAY 16TH MARCH
7PM - 11PM
Only £15 including curry

[BOOK NOW](#)

Book your tickets online
shopkeepeasy.com/stgeorges



ST GEORGE'S SCHOOL

Weekly Newsletter

Year 11 Reports and Year 12 Progress Reviews

These were released this week and are now available to view via EduLink. Please do take a good look as these contain lots of important feedback about the progress of your young person.

James Marshall Foundation

We are delighted to carry on a page below the newsletter of the James Marshall Foundation, who provide invaluable support to families on low incomes to enable them to access the same opportunities as other children.

In the last year the foundation awarded **57 grants** totalling **£17k** to our students as set out in the table below:

Item/Activity	Grant numbers	Grant value
Computer	4	£2,040
Other	3	£415
DoE Award	5	£1,280
School trip	8	£3,930
Extra-curricular	13	£4,224
Uniform	24	£5,420
Total	57	£17,309

The foundation also provided 60 grants for school leavers from the various local secondary schools including StGs – the majority to financially assist those who have moved on to college or university.

Did you and your child benefit? If so, have they/you written to the foundation to thank them and to maybe share news of the trip or opportunity they had as a result. Grateful young people are happier young people!



ST GEORGE'S SCHOOL

Weekly Newsletter

Sixth Form Leadership Conference

On Thursday, the participants of the Year 12 Leadership Foundations Course joined with over 80 students from St Columbus, Loretto, Samuel Ryder and Nicholas Breakspear to attend a Leadership Conference organised by Step. We were privileged to take part in a range of workshops led by, amongst others, Jon and Andrea Taylor Cummings from *The Four Habits*, and Helena Croft MBE, Founder and CEO of *Streetlight UK*.



'Our day started with a smooth minibus drive (thanks Mrs Tweedale!) and took us straight to our first session. With everyone split into three groups, we all had to work with students from other schools which was an amazing opportunity. We had three sessions led by guest speakers which taught us more about our personalities, how we interact with others, and influencing those in positions above ours. Even in our breaks we chatted to other people, getting to know them as we filled out a bingo sheet of abilities - the aim was to complete all 25!

'What I enjoyed most about the day was hearing everyone's thoughts during discussions, as it allowed us to get to know each other and work a solution out together. The most challenging part was talking to so many people, as it was quite daunting until you realised most of them felt the exact same way! I got to hear the opinions and stories of so many people, and once the conversations got going it was definitely easier and a lot of fun! At the start of the day, I wasn't sure what I would take away from it, but I'm very glad I took part and stepped out of my comfort zone. I learned so much about myself, one thing being that I do have the confidence to start a conversation with someone new.' Marlena Lessig

Mrs Goatly



ST GEORGE'S SCHOOL

Weekly Newsletter



St George's School Sailing Club Awards 2023

On Saturday 27/01/24 we had our annual end-of-season event, the "Laying-Up Supper". It was an evening of fun and celebrations for the Sailing Club student members and their families. In a relaxed atmosphere over the traditional fish & chips supper, we presented the Sailing Club awards for 2023. Here's are the highlights.



Chris Hilton (Club Commodore) opened the evening in the Old Library, speaking to a friendly audience. 2023 was a good year, with 32 new sailors joining the club!



We had 15 weeks in which 63 students from across all houses sailed. Each week we had in average 24 students sailing.



The first award was the Interhouse Regatta. The winning house was Watts, through William A., William I., Dominic B. (Zest Juniors), Emily C., Heather H. (Zest Seniors), and Luke H. (Senior Laser).



Next was the Commodore's Shield, awarded to the best club sailor at the Interhouse Regatta. The award went to Tim M. (Senior Laser).



The Race Series Champion, awarded to the best performing racer, went to Harry R., for his 3 out of 3 wins at the OctoberZest Regatta.



The Commodore's Pennant, a special award given by the Commodore to special people, went to Edward H. who is a role-model for other student sailors.



The Most Committed New Starter awards went to Amy A. and Zoe A., Harvey S., Thomas D., Jonny R. and Harry D.



The Topper Champion went jointly to Nathan B. (for sailing this boat), as well as to Jeremy B. (who brought said boat to the Summer Fair).



The Most Improved Sailor Awards were given to sailors who made real progress. They went to Christopher F., Sam G., Heather H. and Edan L.



The Most Committed Sailor Award went to Art M., who sailed almost all season.



The Body and Soul Award went to Dan H., who has literally thrown their body and soul into sailing this year.



The Jeremy Prowse Award which is given to the best new sailor (year 7-8) went to Daniel A. for his fast progress. Incidentally, Daniel also received the Nose Dive award 🤪



The Most Cheerful Sailor award went jointly to Raffy B. and Emily C., who are always smiley and happy, and great sailors too!



The Most Helpful Person Award went jointly to Heather H. and Tim M., for their selfless contributions and sharing of knowledge.



ST GEORGE'S SCHOOL

Weekly Newsletter

Actions

Love is patient, love is kind. It does not envy, it does not boast, it is not proud. **5** It does not dishonor others, it is not self-seeking, it is not easily angered, it keeps no record of wrongs. **6** Love does not delight in evil but rejoices with the truth. **7** It always protects, always trusts, always hopes, always perseveres.

This week I took the unusual action of going out on a school night..... I know, radical I hear you cry! I went to the Cinema to see "One Life" a film which portrays the life and actions of Nicolas Winston - The very humble man who organised the Kindertransport out of Czechoslovakia at the start of WW2. If ever there was a man who's attitude to life and actions within it embodied the idea of love then he is it. He saw a problem, and sought to solve it. He sought to protect those who found themselves in a situation where they could not protect themselves; he showed kindness and compassion to strangers in a land where he did not live; and in such an adverse situation he never lost hope and persevered to make the impossible happen. His actions brought hope to others, but perhaps a cost to himself in the process; self seeking he was not, and as his story lay untold for nearly 50 years he was definitely not a boastful man. Was he perfect, probably not; did he always get it right - I wouldn't think so. But at a time when it was desperately needed he, and those who worked with him providing assistance with transport, as well as those who welcomed those young people into their homes, made a significant difference. Love in action. This week Holocaust Memorial Day (Saturday 27th January) has been a day to remember and reflect and to hope that we should strive to work in a world where the actions of a Nicolas Winston of the future would not be necessary.

We can only hope and continue to pray that one day that may be a possibility; and if we cannot reach that point, that we, like Winston, are willing to stand up and take action where we can.

Have a lovely weekend
Miss B

Thoughts

Signposting (click on each to find out more)

PLAYING OUR PART TO SUPPORT OUR LOCAL COMMUNITY



ST GEORGE'S SCHOOL

Weekly Newsletter



SNOW ANGEL VOLUNTEERS NEEDED



FREE Snow Angel Kits available!

Harpenden Snow Angels are residents who volunteer to clear snow and ice from the pathways in their local area. As a Snow Angel, you can contribute to the safety of your community, especially in smaller, residential roads and pedestrian routes.

We'll arrange for the collection / delivery of your Snow Angel Kit, which includes: a bag of grit, a branded hi-visibility vest, protective gloves and a snow shovel.

Let us know if you'd like to know more or get involved!

email: harpenden.town.council@harpenden.gov.uk or call: 01582 768278



**HARPENDEN
TOWN COUNCIL**
CLOSER TO THE COMMUNITY



ST GEORGE'S SCHOOL

Weekly Newsletter

Director of Public Health
Sarah Perman



Hertfordshire County Council
County Hall
Pegs Lane
Hertford SG13 8DE
HertsHPT.SPOC@hertfordshire.gov.uk

Date: 25 January 2024

Dear Parent / Guardian

Important: Measles cases are rising in the UK

Measles cases in the UK have been rising since November 2023. While Hertfordshire has seen few cases so far, we are close to London and the West Midlands where there has been a large rise in cases. The UK Health Security Agency has declared the increase in cases of measles a national incident (19 January 2024). There is the potential for cases and outbreaks in Hertfordshire as uptake of the Measles Vaccination (MMR) in the county is lower than recommended.

Measles is a highly infectious viral disease that can have serious and, in rare cases, fatal consequences. Measles spreads quickly from person to person, especially in schools. Spending more than 15 minutes in direct contact with someone infected with measles is sufficient to transmit the virus. A child with measles will infect almost all unprotected children they have contact with.

Measles is spread through coughing and sneezing, close personal contact or direct contact with infected nasal or throat secretions. For more information about measles and the symptoms, see [Measles - NHS \(www.nhs.uk\)](https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/measles/)

Important

If you think your child has measles, they should not come into school for at least 4 days from when the rash first appears. Measles can spread to others easily. If your child needs medical treatment, call your GP surgery or A&E Department before you go in. You can also call 111 or get help from 111 online.

If your child is identified as a close contact of a measles case and they are not fully vaccinated, they may be asked to self-isolate for up to 21 days. Children who are close contacts and are fully vaccinated do not need to be excluded from school or childcare. Vaccination can help keep your child in school.



ST GEORGE'S SCHOOL

Weekly Newsletter



Call to action

As there is no medical treatment for measles, vaccination is the best protection. The MMR vaccine is safe, effective and provides long-lasting protection against three serious illnesses - measles, mumps and rubella. The vaccine is available free on the NHS. It is given in two doses, with the first offered to children at the age of one, and the second before they start school.

You can have the MMR vaccination at any age, so if you or your child has missed out on a dose, **it's not too late to catch up** and get protected.

You can check if your child has had both doses of the MMR vaccination by looking in their red book or via the NHS app. If your child has missed their first or second dose of MMR vaccine, then get in touch with your GP practice as soon as possible to book an appointment.

Further advice can be found here:

[MEASLES - Protect yourself, protect others \(publishing.service.gov.uk\)](https://publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/115444/Measles_Protect_yourself_protect_others.pdf)

[Measles - NHS \(www.nhs.uk\)](https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/measles/)

[MMR \(measles, mumps and rubella\) vaccine - NHS \(www.nhs.uk\)](https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/mmr-vaccine/)

<https://educationhub.blog.gov.uk/2024/01/22/what-to-do-if-you-think-your-child-has-measles-and-when-to-keep-them-off-school/>

Yours sincerely

Sarah Perman
Director of Public Health



ST GEORGE'S SCHOOL

Weekly Newsletter



Supporting young people for education and career development opportunities

Newsletter Reflecting on 2023

Celebrating our 300th Anniversary in 2022 and broadening our reach to support young people living in an additional four neighbouring villages - Kimpton, Redbourn, Flamstead and Markyate - provided significant momentum for 2023.

Expanding our Reach

2023 has seen us further develop our work in the villages, building good working relationships with primary schools, community groups and parish teams to help build awareness of the support JMF can offer eligible families. We thank these organisations for their help in signposting families to us.

Building Our Team

We have also strengthened our Trustee Board and have welcomed new Trustees to join our existing experienced team, under the leadership of our Chair, Keith Andrews.

We welcome the new skills, knowledge and enthusiasm they have brought to the Foundation.



Impacting Our Community

We are delighted to share some of the feedback we have recently received.

"Incredible achievements. Congratulations!"

"I mentioned the name of the charity to one of my colleagues with school-aged children who is very familiar with the Foundation and highly complementary of its work. It sounds like you do fantastic work and I wish you all the best as you continue to grow!"

"James Marshall's memorial stone is now a feature of our history timeline/wall and we talk to the children about his bequest."

"Thank you for all your support – our parents really appreciate the lifeline you provide!"

"Thanks again for your support and the work the Foundation do in the community."



ST GEORGE'S SCHOOL

Weekly Newsletter

2023

This year we are delighted to have awarded nearly **900** grants, amounting to more than **£250K** of contributions towards positive educational and career development opportunities for our local young people.



Extra-curricular activities

Whether it is sport, music, DofE, Scout camps, dance or drama, we have helped **171** young people to follow their passions.

"Thanks to your team for supporting all local young people to have positive opportunities that help them grow and develop as people."

"We are so grateful that some of our students can access music lessons. I hear all the time from families how much they value your support."

Further education and work

55 grants were provided towards helping young people access further education or develop their career in the form of support for equipment, training and accommodation costs.

"Just to let you know that our son passed his tractor training last week."

"Thank you for all your help throughout my time at university. I really appreciate the funding I received. I graduated with first-class honours!"



School and college trips

204 young people were supported to attend residential trips both in the UK and further afield to enrich their learning.

"Thank you so much for making it possible for my son to go to his residential school trip! He is thrilled and very excited."

Laptops

With the continuing importance of online learning, we helped supply **140** laptops and school-approved digital devices to young people, so they had the technology to support their learning.

"Thank you so much for the laptop for our grandson, it was such a pleasure to see him doing his homework last night and enjoying something for the first time in a very, very long time!"



Uniform/clothing

314 young people were assisted with purchases of school uniform or with specific clothing required for their course or work.

"Thank you for all you do and for the voucher for uniform, this will be so helpful and give her the same opportunities as others. I cannot thank you enough."

Thank You!

The Trustees and staff would like to thank all the schools, colleges, local organisations and others we work with who refer applicants to JMF and help us deliver our funding effectively.

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January 2024



ST GEORGE'S SCHOOL

Weekly Newsletter

2024 GCSE MATHEMATICS REMOTE REVISION WORKSHOPS FOR STUDENTS.



Following the success of last year's programme, our secondary Maths advisers will be leading 24 topic-based online workshops during February and March: 12 for Foundation Tier and 12 for Higher Tier.

The Foundation Tier workshops will be aimed at those students aiming to gain Grades 4 and 5. The Higher Tier workshops will be for those aiming for Grades 6 and 7, although students aiming for higher grades may find them useful to consolidate earlier learning.

Designed to motivate and challenge students in an engaging and active learning environment, our remote workshops will provide students with the opportunity to take part in a number of focused revision activities, and to complete exam-style questions.

Each workshop will be 50 minutes long. Students may wish to attend two or three consecutively, with a short break in between each.

The popularity of these workshops in the past few years means we are able to offer each workshop at £6 (including VAT). We believe this represents excellent value for money.

Access to recordings of sessions

A time-limited recording of each session will also be made available in the week following the session. If your child/student is unable to attend the session(s) in person, please book using the links below to have access to the recording and resources used in the session.



To find out more and to book places, scan or click on the QR code.

Once places have been booked, students will need their school e-mail address to access the sessions.

£6
per student
(including VAT)

HFL Education

01438 544 464
Visit our website





ST GEORGE'S SCHOOL

Weekly Newsletter

2024 'A'-LEVEL MATHEMATICS REMOTE REVISION WORKSHOPS FOR STUDENTS.

£6
per student
(including VAT)



Following the success of last year's programme, our secondary Maths adviser will be leading 16 topic-based 'A'-level Maths online workshops during the Easter holidays.

Each workshop will summarise the main learning points and show how they can be applied to examination-style questions. Students will be encouraged to participate by answering questions via polls or online chat, engaging actively with the examples used, and taking part in other short revision activities.

The workshops are aimed at those students targeting grades up to and including Grade B. Students aiming for A* and A grades will be welcome to attend, and may appreciate the chance to consolidate their skills; however, the content of the workshops will not specifically be aimed at these students.

Each workshop will be 60 minutes long. Students may wish to attend two or three consecutively, with a short break between each.



The popularity of these workshops in the past few years means we are able to offer each workshop at £6 (including VAT). We believe this represents excellent value for money.

To find out more and to book places on sessions, please click on or scan the QR code or contact our Events Team with any queries at training@hfleducation.org or call 01438 544477.



Book now



01438 544 464
hfleducation.org





ST GEORGE'S SCHOOL

Weekly Newsletter

2024 AQA GCSE ENGLISH LITERATURE REMOTE REVISION MASTERCLASSES.



SUPPORT YOUR CHILD'S REVISION WITH OUR SUBJECT EXPERTS

Designed to motivate and challenge students in an engaging and focused learning environment, our remote revision masterclasses will help boost students' skills and confidence.

These popular remote Saturday revision sessions return for the third year.

Our online masterclasses are led by highly experienced subject specialists and will focus on:

- supporting your child to feel 'exam ready'
- providing students with tried and tested exam strategies and revision techniques
- sharing high quality responses and model answers to support their learning
- directly responding to any text/exam related questions that students may have.

Each session lasts two hours and students will be able to interact with the subject teachers delivering the session. A time-limited recording of each session will also be made available in the week following

the session. If your child/student is unable to attend the session(s) in person, please book using the links below to have access to the recording and resources used in the session.

To find out more and to book places on sessions, please click on the courses below or visit the [HFL Education Hub](#) for more information. Places may be booked directly by parents/carers or by schools on their students' behalf.

Once places have been booked, students will need their school e-mail address to access the sessions.

£20
per student
(including VAT)
Price remains the same as 2022

REVISION TEXT	2024 SATURDAY SESSION DATES/TIMES		BOOK NOW
Macbeth	10th February	9.30-11.30am	Click or scan this QR code to book. 
Romeo and Juliet	10th February	1.30-3.30pm	
A Christmas Carol	17th February	9.30-11.30am	
An Inspector Calls	2nd March	9.30-11.30am	
Power and Conflict Poetry	9th March	9.30-11.30am	
Love and Relationships Poetry	9th March	1.30-3.30pm	
Unseen Poetry	16th March	9.30-11.30am	

For more information regarding these masterclasses, please contact: training@hfleducation.org or call 01438 544477.



01438 544 464
Visit our website





ST GEORGE'S SCHOOL

Weekly Newsletter

AQA GCSE FOUNDATION TIER SCIENCE REMOTE REVISION SESSIONS – EASTER 2024.



These remote Foundation Tier sessions will be delivered by our experienced science advisers and are designed to motivate and challenge students in an engaging and active environment. The sessions are designed to support Foundation Tier students aiming to gain Grade 4/5.

The sessions will focus on:

- supporting your child to feel 'exam ready'
- providing students with tried and tested exam strategies and revision techniques
- sharing high quality responses and model answers to support their own learning
- reviewing associated Maths and Required Practical skills within relevant science content
- giving your child the opportunity to complete a range of revision activities during the session, addressing the skills needed

Each session will be 60 minutes in length and the students will be able to interact with the science advisers delivering the session. Students may wish to attend 2-3 sessions consecutively with a short break in between each one.



Access to recordings of sessions

If your child/student is unable to attend the session(s) in person, please book using the links below to have access to the recording and resources used in the session.



To book

To find out more and to book places, click on or scan the QR code. Or contact our Events Team with any queries at training@hfleducation.org or call 01438 544477.

£10
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ST GEORGE'S SCHOOL

Weekly Newsletter