



ST GEORGE'S SCHOOL

Weekly Newsletter

Friday 9th February 2024

Information

*"I think the school does well at reminding us about how we should treat each other."
(Y10 student)*

Student Anti-bullying Focus Groups

Over the last couple of weeks, we have been running student focus groups in year 7 to 10 to gauge what they think about bullying and how well school is tackling bullying. On the whole, the feedback was very pleasing indeed. Here are some of the headlines:

95% said that they had not experienced any bullying at school this year.

86% said that they had not seen or heard any forms of bullying at school this year.

91% said that they think the school promotes anti-bullying well.

84% said that they would stick up for a friend if they were being bullied.

The students' ideas for improving school around bullying issues ranged from "More assemblies about bullying", "a year 7 only zone" and "designated anti-bullying prefects on duty". We have already introduced our new 'Just Talk' Prefects who are stationed at lunch times in Watts Playground with pink hi-viz jackets for students to report any concerns to and we have ensured that House offices are staffed at the second half of lunch. We are also introducing more staff Anti-racism champions in each house who have had specialist training.

If you have any concerns relating to bullying, then please contact your child's Head of House.

Road Works

It's been absolutely fabulous to see so many of our young people arriving at school on foot over the last few days. It would be great if we could consider maintaining some of these "ride and stride" activities.....it's a great way to start the morning.

Gas works Sun Lane and Carlton Road: We appreciate your response to the sudden closure of Carlton Road, adapting your school drop off and pick ups so quickly. We have been assured the works will finish on the 23rd February

However we have been advised by some of you that:

Ox Lane is being closed for two weeks for road surfacing, due to start on 12th February.

And

On 26th February Carlton Road will be closed from the top (Sun Lane end) to the corner of Stewart Road, 9am to 3.30pm for Lamp Column replacement works.

We are anticipating that both of these works will continue to have an impact on access to school, and congestion around Sun Lane and Carlton Road during these periods. If you can plan ahead for a drop off away from the school site that would be much appreciated.



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All Lacrosse fixtures at Bedford Cancelled tomorrow

Sometimes it's tempting to think that if we waited till Saturday maybe pitches would recover and all would be OK

Bedford pitches today...



GCSE Options for Students in Year 9

On Friday morning, just 28% of families had completed the [GCSE Options Form](#). Hopefully this is indicative of the careful thought that is going into choices but the deadline is looming

If your child is in Year 9, please complete the [GCSE Options Form](#) by 16th February.

News from the Rev

In **Weekday** chapel we continue our theme of Parables, looking at the 'Unmerciful Servant'

In **Sunday** Chapel we continue our character study on Joseph (King of Dreams) and how, in spite of his circumstances (sold into slavery, abandoned by his brothers) God is still working out his plan for Joseph's life. Next chapel Sunday 11th Feb 10am

In **Christian Union** we are looking at Philippians this term and the wonderful words about Christ in Philippians 2...

**And being found in appearance as a man,
he humbled himself
by becoming obedient to death—
even death on a cross!**



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We continue to meet Tue/Thurs morning for prayer (8-8.25am) in the chapel and all are welcome to join us.

Just an advance warning, 17th March our Confirmation service will take place at 6pm. This is always a very busy service with lots of family attending. Tickets for this event will be very limited!!

National Apprenticeship Week

The Hertfordshire Careers Hub is once again participating in the annual Apprenticeship Survey which has been running since 2019. They would really appreciate help from parents/carers in completing this short survey to share their thoughts generally about post-16 options for their child. The survey responses are really useful in helping them to identify how to improve careers education and knowledge of the different pathways available for all students. Survey responses also help build up an accurate picture across Hertfordshire – you can [read the outcomes of the 2023 survey here](#).

To complete the 2024 survey please follow this link. The survey will be open until 31st March.
<https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/st-georges-parents-24>

Calling all parents!

We need sponsors for our school magazine, and we would love your support! We are looking for organisations in good standing that are involved in areas that would be suitable sponsors for our magazine such as firms in areas of business, humanities, politics, technology, and law

By becoming a sponsor, your organisation will not only gain exposure to our school community but also contribute to the success of our magazine, the first edition being published in March. Your support will help us continue to provide valuable content and opportunities for our students.

If you know of any organisations that might be interested or if you have any connections, please let us know. We greatly appreciate your help in making our school magazine a success!

Thank you for your support,
Tolu Y12

Come and work at England's number 1 genuinely all-ability coeducational state school.

Yes - that's us. We have an amazing opportunity for a Chief Operating Officer to join our School Leadership Team.

For full details of the role, please visit the School Website at
<https://www.stgeorges.herts.sch.uk/vacancies>



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St.George's PSA Quiz night on Saturday 16th March nearly sold out!!

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



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Actions



Tuesday 6th was Safer Internet Day!

We raised awareness in school on Tuesday about how students should keep safe online, however we appreciate how challenging it is for educators and parents and carers to keep up to date on all of the new emerging threats. Below is some advice from 'UK Safer Internet' for parents and carers;

I'm not sure if the content my child is watching is a good influence on them, what can I do?

Children begin to be influenced by the content they watch as soon as they're old enough to go online. They develop strong preferences for their favourite characters, videos, and games from an early age and these preferences can also be influenced by the content that their friends like, and talk about, too.

Watch - The best way to understand the content that your children enjoy is to watch it yourself. It might not be to your own personal tastes, but this will allow you to see what is being said and how this may affect your child.

Talk - If you're worried about it in any way, it's important to talk to your children and let them know what it is that you're concerned about. E.g., if you think it's affecting their behaviour or mood.

Report- If you see anything inappropriate online that might go against the platform's community guidelines, then it's important to report it (and anyone who is sharing that content too), using the reporting, and blocking tools provided.

Do you know about Doxing? What every parent and carer should know

In short, doxing is a practice where individuals or groups expose and publicise private information about a person on the internet without their consent, often for the purposes of causing distress or creating malicious intent. Please click the link below to read an article written by SWGfL.



[What is Doxing? A Guide for Professionals, Parents and Carers | SWGfL](#)



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Thoughts

There have not been many good things which have come out of the Sun Lane bridge closure; frustration has abounded in some cases (yes I've been shouted at and gesticulated at by the general public); longer journeys have been needed; plans have had to have been adjusted and just when you thought you had found away from A-B in town you have run into another set of temporary traffic lights. My journey to Roundwood park for a meeting on Tuesday morning was definitely faster on foot!

But amongst all of the difficulties we have faced, for me, there has been a moment of pure joy every morning over this period as I have walked to work. At 7.15am in the morning there is not a great deal of traffic on Sun Lane, even during a period of normal activity, but during this last week, I've been lucky if I have experienced one car on the road. The peace and quiet has allowed other elements of our world shine through, and the stand out performer at that time in the morning is a blackbird. Everytime I close the front door his (I think he must be male) clear, precise and almost constant conversation rings out in the semi-darkness. I've stood still a number of times to enjoy his chat, and have peered into the semi gloom trying to spot him - but as yet I have been unsuccessful. I've marvelled at his vocal range and been amazed by his constantly changing song. In those moments as I trudge up the hill to start another day at the office he reminds me that the simple things can be beautiful, and that taking time to listen can quieten the soul and help prepare you for the day. If you stand still long enough and tune into those elements which are beyond the general noise of life I guarantee your life will be enriched, even if it is for a fleeting moment in your morning.

Whatever you are doing this weekend ...take time to pause and listen. You might be surprised by what you hear, and the impact that it has on how it makes you feel.

Miss B

Signposting (click on each to find out more)

PLAYING OUR PART TO SUPPORT OUR LOCAL COMMUNITY



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Harpenden Health
PCN

PARENT CARER MEETING FOR THOSE CARING FOR AUTISTIC CHILDREN



Tuesday 13th February
1:30pm - 3pm

Well Bean Cafe

The Harpenden Trust Halls, 130a Southdown Road

A great opportunity to learn more about the support available to you as a parent/carer of an autistic child and to meet others in a similar situation. We will have representatives from the PCN, including Care Coordinators, Carer Champions, Social Prescribers and a visitor from SPACE Hertfordshire.

NHS

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