

St. George's School Newsletter

Friday 22nd November 2024



From the Head

As winter deepens and daylight fades, this time of year can challenge our energy and optimism: the days are short, the weather less pleasant, and the temperature cold. It's no surprise, then, that so many cultures focus on light and hope during this season. Whether it's Diwali in Hinduism, Hanukkah in Judaism, Bandi Chhor Divas in Sikhism, or Advent and Christmas in the Christian tradition, these festivals bring people together. They allow families to gather, encourage reflection on the future, and bring light and warmth into our lives. They also remind us of the importance of giving thanks.

Gratitude is a vital part of school life—not just the polite exchange of "please" and "thank you," but taking the time to genuinely acknowledge and respect the contributions of others. Over the past months at St. George's, I've been reflecting on whether we foster a strong culture of gratitude. I'm pleased to report that there is much to celebrate in this regard, with numerous examples of heartfelt thanks since September.

One particularly memorable moment took place on Thursday evening at the conclusion of the Senior Drama production of *Treasure Island*. From the stage, the cast took the time to thank the staff who supported them, presenting gifts as a token of their appreciation. Their gratitude was expressed naturally and authentically, making it a truly touching moment.

I hope this inspires you to take a moment with your child(ren) to reflect on what they are grateful for— both within school and in their wider lives. This season is a wonderful opportunity to say, "Thank you!"

Year 11 Berlin trip 2024

Six very lucky staff and 50 students spent four days in Berlin at the end of last week. The trip is an opportunity to see at first hand places which have shaped the 20th Century. With a focus on the topics relevant to the iGCSE course, there was a focus on the sights associated with the Weimar and Nazi era, and then the Cold War. Highlights included seeing some amazing architecture leftover from the 1930s – the enormous airport at Tempelhof, the former air-ministry, and the spectacular Olympic Stadium, where, ironically, Jesse Owens is remembered more than the men who built the arena. We followed this with a sobering visit to the concentration camp at Sachsenhausen. The remainder of our time was spent looking at the relics of the Cold War era – we spent time looking at the Berlin Wall as it is now and through the inspirational painting of the Wall as it was in its final months at the wonderful panorama painting by Checkpoint Charlie. Supplemented by a visit to the Reichstag and the incredible Fernsehturm (TV broadcasting tower), we were able to take in all the layers of the history, from its Prussian roots at the Brandenburg Gate and the Reichstag, to the 21st Century of the 2006 Central Station. Naturally there was plenty of opportunity to indulge in the traditional German cuisine of Bratwurst, fries, pretzels... and the occasional McDonald's!

As ever, the students were exemplary and a delight to accompany. Our thanks go to them for their engagement with the trip, and their enthusiasm, which made the experience so enjoyable for us all.



Celebrating National Non-Fiction November in the Library!

Recent research by the National Literacy Trust found that more children and young people who read non-fiction were motivated to read for educational purposes, to satisfy curiosities, to foster social connections and to support their mental wellbeing. Providing students with the opportunity to read and explore non-fiction plays a vital role in helping them to learn about their world, as well as fostering reading for pleasure.



In consultation with Directors of Learning and subject staff, the Library aims to provide students with access to a high quality, relevant and engaging non-fiction collection. This week our display has focused on an impressive selection of Business and Economics books, so we are taking the opportunity during National Non-Fiction November to share some of these new additions.

We always welcome new suggestions from students and staff, so if there is a book you would like to see in the Library, please let us know!

Plea from the Library

We have had a spate of books returned to the Library in a very poor condition over the last couple of weeks. Despite our best attempts to save these books, sadly some are unsalvageable. Please remind your young person that it is their responsibility to take good care of any books borrowed from the school library. If possible, please try and return them in the condition in which they were originally loaned. Thank you.

Relationships and Sex Education Parent Consultation and PSHE Lesson Taster

Are you interested in finding out more about the RSE policy and PSHE lessons? We would like to invite you into school on Monday 9th December at 9.00 to 10.30 a.m. for a Q and A session and a taster of both a year 7 lesson and a year 11 PSHE lesson. Parents and carers will get the chance to be a student again! There won't be a test at the end of the session but there may be a progress review.

If you are interested, please email Miss Hartley: ahartley@stgeorges.herts.sch.uk

News from the Art Department...

Year 10 Art trip to Tate Britain 19th November 2024

Mrs Turner writes...

Our Year 10 trip to the Tate Britain and the JMW Turner exhibition was a seamless and inspiring experience. Last Tuesday 76 Georgians travelled to Tate Britain; the bus journey was smooth, filled with lively chatter and anticipation. Upon arriving at the gallery, we were struck by the grandeur of Turner's masterpieces. His use of light and colour to evoke mood was captivating, and insights into his techniques deepened the student's appreciation. Highlights included 'Norham Castle Sunrise' 1845 and his dramatic seascapes, which left us in awe of his ability to capture nature's power, sometimes in a semi-abstract way.

The students also had time and the opportunity to visit some of the other displays at Tate Britain. Cultural knowledge and appreciation is an important part of a well-rounded education and our gallery visits always become learning opportunities for other things such as politics, historical context, the exploration of human relationships and narrative. Artists often make Art as a reflection of the times or a particular experience and we had many interesting conversations with students. We looked at Artwork by Mona Hatoum, Damien Hirst, John Singer Sargent, Frank Bowling, Sandra Blow, Rene Matic Chris Offili, David Hockney and many more. All the work done becomes important research for GCSE coursework. Huge Thanks to Miss Murphy for planning this wonderful trip!





A number of brave staff at St George's are growing impressive moustaches this month to raise funds in support of Movember. Movember is the leading charity in changing the face of men's health. Please support our Mo Bros and donate to a cause that has helped millions. Thank you!

[Movember - Team](#)

News from the Music Department

On Monday evening, St George's welcomed the distinguished local pianist, Alison Farr to perform a piano recital in the Old Library. She played a varied programme that featured some of her favourite pieces from her expansive, impressive repertoire; from a lively set of variations by Mozart to Ravel's solemn 'Oiseaux Tristes'. The whole programme was flawlessly performed from memory. Alongside Alison, Sebastian Tekell-Mellor, a year 13 A-level music student, performed Reverie by Debussy (also from memory!). The skill and virtuosity shown throughout the programme was inspiring to the many students who attended and the whole audience was captivated by the amazing playing.



We look forward to the next recital on Monday 3rd February 2025, featuring woodwind soloists, Clare (OG) and Dom Childs. Watch out for details early in the New Year.

Freya B, Nicole M, Daniel G year 12

It's beginning to look a lot like Christmas!

In chapel services, we have been looking at the cast of the nativity and exploring their roles and meaning. Coming up, we have Christmas Jumper Day, A Christmas Toy Appeal, the PSA Christmas Fayre, Borders' Christmas Dinner and Entertainment and our whole school Christmas dinner on 18th December. The catering team does an amazing Christmas dinner; staff get dressed up to help serve and there is Christmas music playing. It really is a special event.

If you would like your young person to participate in this festive dining experience, please can you pay £5.00 via ParentPay. This will be the only lunch option on this day. Thanks.

Drop and Drive Off

Please can you help with the congestion around the school entrances and help to avoid any accidents, by dropping your young person further away from the school entrance - for example by using Lydekker Car Park. Walking in the morning has lots of health benefits! Thank you.



Christmas Fayre – Tomorrow!

We hope you can join us at the Fayre from 12.30 to 4.00 p.m. on Saturday.

We have over 30 local businesses running Christmas stalls and games for the kids and our best raffle prizes ever! Our sparkling Cafe Team and Mel are back with lunch from hotdogs to Mel's fabulous soup and new chicken and rice dish. Lots of tasty treats in our Cafe too and 'tis the time for mulled wine!

A huge thank you to everyone who has kindly signed up to help and to all that have generously donated. Donations can also be dropped to Goddard from 3.10 p.m. today and from 9.00 a.m. on Saturday morning.

Here's to getting in the festive spirit!



Lost Property

Please can you help your young person to keep tabs on their clothing and equipment by ensuring that all items are clearly named including their clothing, PE kit and equipment and remind them that lost items make their way back to the school shop so they should check there if they have lost something.

Please avoid sending your young person in with any expensive/designer coats, clothes, shoes, bags, watches etc. Keep them at home!

We are currently housing a HUGE amount of lost property at the school shop. Many of the items are not labelled which means we cannot easily reunite them with their owners.

More information can be found in the ['lost property'](#) section on the school website.



Request for lidded containers

The Food Preparation and Nutrition Department would be very grateful for any lidded containers, e.g. tins/tubs from sweets or biscuit boxes. Please can they be passed onto the department directly via your student. Thank you in advance.



Harpenden Christmas Carnival



SUNDAY 24 NOVEMBER 2024
12 noon till 6pm

FARMERS' MARKET
12 NOON – 6.00PM

CHARITY STALLS
12 NOON – 6.00PM

YOUNG ENTERPRISE STALLS
12 NOON – 6.00PM

SANTA'S GROTTO
12 NOON – 5.30PM

**FREE CAR PARKING AT
STATION CAR PARKS**

MAIN STAGE ENTERTAINMENT
FROM 1.00PM

MINI STAGE ENTERTAINMENT
12 NOON – 5.00PM

PROCESSION
3.00PM

LIGHTS SWITCH ON
5.00PM

Sponsored by

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 **HARPENDEN
TOWN COUNCIL**
CLOSER TO THE COMMUNITY

www.harpenden.gov.uk

HARPENDEN JOINS THE ORANGE THE WORLD CAMPAIGN TO END VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN

LET'S ALL #CALL IT OUT

You are invited to a special 1 hour event on Thursday 28 November at 2:30 pm at Park Hall, Leyton Road, Harpenden to join "Orange the World", a 16 day global campaign to raise awareness of and prevent violence against women and girls. This is a [Soroptimist International St Albans and District](#) (SISStA) initiative with thanks to Harpenden Town Council for their support.

Orange the World is an annual United Nations campaign from 25 November, the International Day for the Elimination of Violence against Women, to 10 December, Human Rights Day. It is a time to raise awareness of the many forms of violence against women and girls and a call for action to prevent and eliminate this violence. The colour **orange** is used to symbolise a brighter future, free from violence against women and girls.

[Soroptimist International](#) is a global women's organisation working to transform the lives of women and girls through education, empowerment, and advocacy. Soroptimists are committed to creating a world where every woman and girl lives free from violence and discrimination. SISStA is the local Club whose members come from St Albans, Welwyn, Hemel and, of course, Harpenden. For the past 4 years, we have brought the campaign to Hertfordshire, with many organisations and businesses putting up orange lights, dressing themselves or their buildings in **orange** and more. For further information see our website sigbi.org/st-albans-and-district//orange24/. and our #CallItOut page sigbi.org/st-albans-and-district/2024/callitout/

Last year, we introduced **Orange the World** to Harpenden. This year we want to be bigger, better and brighter. With the support of the Mayor and Harpenden Town Council we are looking forward to a spectacular display. This year we are focussing our message on 'Call It Our' aiming to make Harpenden a town where domestic abuse is not tolerated, and where everyone commits to not standing by and letting it happen.

At this event you can hear about our aims and how you might get involved. We hope to hear briefly from agencies that can support victims (and perpetrators that want to improve their behaviour). There will be an opportunity to chat with other supporters to discuss ideas about what **Oranging** you can do. We will be serving refreshments to fuel the thought processes.

Please confirm your attendance to sistalbans@hotmail.com. You are welcome to share this invitation with colleagues and friends, but we do need to know the numbers attending for the catering.

We very much look forward to seeing you there.

Soroptimist International St Albans and District and Harpenden Town Council

[Soroptimist International St Albans & District](#)

Email: sistalbans@hotmail.com Web: sigbi.org/st-albans Facebook: [@sistalbans](#) X: [@sistalbans](#) Instagram: [@sistalbans](#)

Everyone's Welcome!

Free Community Carol Singing



Christmas Eve 6pm – 7pm

Harpenden Common, beside the Harpenden Arms



CAROLS ON THE COMMON


Harpenden
TRUST
Supporting Our Community

www.theharpentrust.org.uk



Carols on the Common is a new Harpenden community event for residents of all ages to come and sing carols and Christmas songs together on Christmas Eve. It will be free, short and sweet and take place early in the evening so that everyone can join in.

Carol singing will be led by talented local musician Tim Sutton and his band, and you can expect to sing Christmas favourites from 'Hark the Herald Angels Sing' to 'White Christmas'.

Carols on the Common is supported by the Harpenden Trust, and there will be an opportunity to donate to the Harpenden Trust Christmas Appeal.