St. George’s School Newsletter

Friday 3rd October 2025

From the Head

There has been a real buzz around school this week as we prepare for our Open Evening tonight. We are extremely proud of our pupils who always outdo themselves in welcoming visitors into our school. It is a wonderful opportunity for them to practise meeting people; responding to their questions, and telling them about St George’s.

Greeting visitors and interacting with them is an important soft skill to develop, so tonight gives us a great learning opportunity for our pupils. I especially enjoy watching our Year 7 pupils tour families around; it is remarkable to see how much they have grown, learnt, and developed in just one month of being here.

At tonight’s event, I will be announcing an important change to our mobile phone policy, which I would like to share with you, our parent and carer community. Rather than write at length here, an additional letter is appended.

Voting for Parent Governors now open!

I am thrilled with the response to our Parent Governor nominations and pleased to announce that we have ten candidates standing for Parent Governor. We have two vacancies and therefore you have two votes as a parent. Voting is now open! You have until 17th October, 3.00pm to vote. You can read the candidate profiles here and vote here.

Black History Month 2025

October marks the start of Black History month; an annual celebration of black culture and the individuals who have helped all parts of our society. It was first celebrated in Britain in 1987, despite being the brainchild of Carter G Woodson in the US back in 1926. In the UK, the first BHM was arranged by Akyaaba Addai-Sebo, a Ghanaian refugee who arrived in the UK in 1984.

This month is a time for us all to reflect on the contributions to society made by people of colour which are often, and historically, overlooked. It is a time for us to celebrate diversity and the immense value added to our society from people all over the world.

The theme for this year is ‘Standing Firm in Power and Proud’; this theme challenges us to recognise and appreciate the resilience, strength and determination of the black community and celebrate the individuals who have made such significant contributions to our lives, our communities and the world.

From the work of Mary Seacole (one of the English Department’s favourites) who tirelessly supported our troops in the Crimean despite it bankrupting her to Dr Peter Stevenson who kicked off the British Civil Rights movement in Bristol in 1964 when refusing to leave a pub which had banned people of colour, Black History Month is an exciting time to discover new stories and be inspired by people you haven’t heard of before.

This month, why not watch the film ‘Selma’ about the work of Martin Luther King or enjoy ‘Hidden Figures’ to discover the ingenuity of three female NASA engineers? Or you could read David Olusoga’s ‘Black and British’ (although it may take more than a month!) or the amazing memoir of actor David Harewood? Perhaps you could encourage your young person to pick up a novel by Malorie Blackman or read a poem by Benjamin Zephaniah? Happy Black History Month!

Golden Thread School

We are very proud to share that St George’s has been awarded “Golden Thread school” status by the Alban Teaching School Hub (TSH).

St George’s helps to train staff across the full spectrum of teacher development: from Initial Teacher Training, to the Early Career Teacher Programme, and then supporting staff to achieve National Professional Qualifications. The TSH plaque has been presented to mark this commitment, and underlines our dedication to ensuring that staff at every stage of their career receive the highest-quality support and training.

At St George’s, we recognise that investing in teachers means investing in pupils’ learning and success. If you would like to train to teach or are just interested in a career in teaching, please do contact aclark@stgeorges.herts.sch.uk or pick up an information postcard from our reception.

Year Seven Team Building Afternoon

Teamwork, Triumph, and a Whole Lot of Fun!

Last Friday, Year 7 dived into an action-packed afternoon of team building that brought energy, excitement, and collaboration to the forefront! Within their tutor groups, students faced a thrilling lineup of challenges—each designed to test their skill, strength, balance, and brainpower.

Guided by our dedicated prefect team, the students rose to the occasion, showing off impressive leadership, sharp problem-solving, and a spirit of cooperation that was nothing short of inspiring. From physical feats to mental puzzles, every task became a chance to shine—and shine they did!

It was a fantastic showcase of teamwork and determination, and a brilliant way to build bonds and boost confidence across the year group.

Autumn Term SEN Coffee Morning – A Heartwarming Catch-Up!

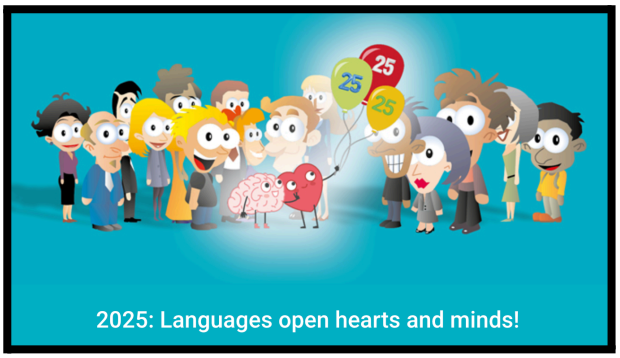
Our Autumn Term SEN Coffee Morning on 30th September was a wonderful opportunity to meet-up with some of our lovely parents—thank you to everyone who joined us! It was a pleasure to catch up over coffee and conversation.

A special shout-out to Mrs Sweeney, who led an insightful session on making the most of Google Classroom. For those who couldn't attend, we've attached a handy guide with key tips and tricks. If you have any questions, feel free to reach out to Mrs Sweeney directly at vsweeney@stgeorges.herts.sch.uk .

Save the Date!

Our next Coffee Morning will be brewing in the Spring Term—Tuesday 11th February 2025. Pop it in your diaries now—we can't wait to welcome you back for another warm and informative gathering!

European Day of Languages



Last week and this week in school, we celebrated the 25th European Day of Languages - a celebration of all the languages spoken across our diverse continent. The theme for this year's celebration was "Languages open hearts and minds!" and in house assemblies we have been exploring how learning and communicating different languages can promote connection, understanding and build bridges as well as opening our minds. Students were encouraged to think about the importance of languages outside the classroom and within the St George's community by discovering some of the languages other than English spoken here and exploring the idea that Nelson Mandela encapsulated when he said *If you talk to a man in a language he understands, that goes to his head. If you talk to him in his own language, that goes to his heart.*

Elsewhere around the school, the impressive range of books in languages other than English in the school library were on display and in tutor time, students enjoyed various quizzes identifying sights and sounds you might see and hear across Europe. Here you can try the Geocache quiz with your young person or use this link to listen and identify the language!

A Note on Recent Events in Harpenden

As many of you will have seen on social media or in the local press, last weekend the police issued a dispersal order in Harpenden town centre following reports of anti-social behaviour. Whilst we very much hope that no St George's students were involved, the incident serves as a timely reminder of the risks when young people are out late in town, especially if unsupervised.

Even the most well-mannered and kind teenager can make mistakes from time to time, and the risk is heightened when large groups gather and group mentalities take over. We would encourage parents to be aware of where their children are, who they are with, and ensure they are safely supervised - helping our young people to make good choices while supporting the safety and well-being of the wider community.

Expectations and Behaviour

This week our Behaviours for Aiming Higher focus on how our school **Uniform** (and the 6th Form Dress Code) supports us in being **Obviously Together**. By upholding these standards, students not only represent themselves but also each other and the wider St George's community.

OBVIOUSLY TOGETHER…

Uniform

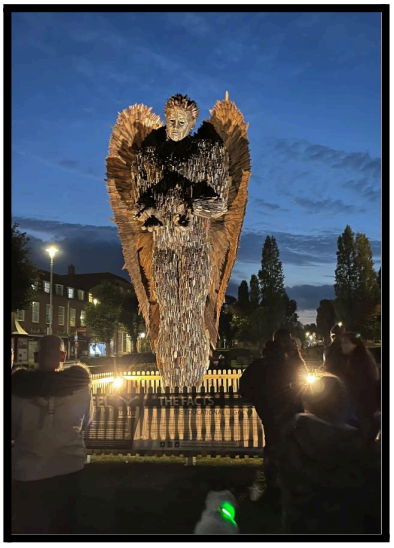
- **Be smart** – shirts tucked in, skirts an appropriate length.
- **Be neat** – Ties long enough, with your top button fastened.
- **Be correct** – Jumpers are optional, blazers are not.
- **Be respectful** – Smile and comply if asked to adjust your uniform.
- **Be proud** – We wear our uniform well because we represent each other.

Aim *Even* Higher – Set the tone for your House and your year group by being a role model for impeccable uniform.

We are Georgians and we Aim Higher by being…

Obviously **KIND**	Obviously **POSITIVE**	Obviously **RESPONSIBLE**	Obviously **TOGETHER**
We go above and beyond to support and respect others.	*We strive to be optimistic, resilient, and embrace challenges.*	*We do the right thing — even when no one is watching.*	*We include others, build each other up, and act as one team.*

Knife Angel and Police Survey



The Knife Angel, a striking 27-foot national monument created from over 100,000 knives and blades confiscated by police, is now on display in Welwyn Garden City. The sculpture stands as a powerful reminder of the devastating impact of knife crime and violence, and aims to spark conversations about peace, safety, and the need for lasting social change.

You can read more about the Knife Angel's visit here: Hertfordshire to welcome the Knife Angel.

In connection with this, the Hertfordshire Police and Crime Commissioner is inviting young people aged 14–25 to share their views and experiences through a short survey. The responses will help shape future work to keep young people safe. The survey can be found here: Knife Crime Survey.

Please encourage your young person to complete it.

Sports News

Thank you to those parents who have already contributed to our Extra Curricular Sports contributions via Parent Pay. If you haven't already contributed, the link to pay is available on Parent Pay under "Pay for other items".

This weekend our 3rd & 4th Senior Lacrosse teams have been invited to a tournament at Abbots Hill which we are delighted to attend. Let's hope the weather is kind!

Please note our next Lacrosse games (11th October) against Habs have now changed from being at home to **AWAY**. Parent transport will be required please. All info is on SOCS.

Next week is a busy week with Senior Lacrosse counties, U15 Lacrosse Counties and various Rugby V Watford Grammar matches. All info is on SOCS if you would like more details.

Our Friday Night lights session for rugby will be held next Friday 10th October at Harpenden Rugby Club. Our U13s will be playing at 2.00 p.m. and our senior team will be playing from 3.00 p.m. Please come along and support the teams; it would be great to see as many of you as possible!

Senior Maths Challenge – Ready to Flex Those Brain Muscles!

Get your calculators ready —the Senior Maths Challenge is coming up next week on Thursday 9th October, from 11:10 a.m. to 12:40 p.m. in the Assembly Hall.

Students should gather in Watts Playground at 11:05 a.m., lining up alphabetically by class before heading in. Precision starts with punctuality!

This 90-minute multiple-choice paper is no ordinary test—it's designed to push the boundaries of mathematical thinking and sharpen those problem-solving skills. For the top performers, it's also a golden ticket to the British Mathematical Olympiad, one of the UK's most prestigious maths competitions

Best of luck to all our brilliant mathematicians—go crunch those numbers and show us what you've got!

Consultation on Sixth Form Admission Arrangements for 2027/28

St George's School is consulting on its 2027-28 Admissions Entrance Arrangements. For more information, click here.

News from the PSA

We're on Instagram!
Follow us at @psastgeorges 🎉 Catch event updates, photos and a peek behind the scenes.👀✨
(And don't worry — our Friday newsletter will still pop into your inbox as usual.)

Old Gym Gets a Fresh Look
On Saturday, parent volunteers gave the Old Gym changing rooms a fresh green makeover. Huge thanks to everyone who helped — the result looks fantastic!

New Parents Welcome and Social Evening – Thank You
Thank you to all the new parents and carers who joined us last Thursday. It was a wonderful chance to meet families, share refreshments and connect with the school community. Special thanks to the volunteers who ran the refreshment table!

Services for Young People

The Services for Young People St Albans Team is making a real difference with an exciting mix of groupwork projects designed to support and inspire young people. From buzzing youth centres to dynamic street-based initiatives across the district, there's something for everyone.

Whether your child is exploring future careers at the Careers Hub, seeking support for mental health and well-being, or accessing tailored services for young people with SEND, the team is here to help them to thrive.

It's all about connection, confidence, and creating opportunities—right where young people need them most.

Youth projects in your area

Parents and Carers talk about self-harm and recovery

Please join us at an information session to learn more about self-harm and get practical ideas and strategies to help your child towards recovery

Our guest speaker will be a clinician who works at *HPFT CAMHS

Where: **Online over Zoom.**

When: **Tuesday 7th October, 7pm to 9pm**

*Hertfordshire Partnership University NHS Foundation Trust
Child and Adolescent Mental Health Services

For more information or to book your place:

Call: 01992 58 69 69

Email: contact@carersinherts.org.uk

Go online: www.carersinherts.org.uk/events

Carers in Hertfordshire

charity registration number 1085491

Welcome to Justin Craig Education

Justin Craig is delighted to be holding their GCSE & A Level revision courses at St George's School, during the Easter holidays. Our courses at St George's span a variety of subjects at both GCSE & A Level, including Maths, Sciences and English.

Our Courses help students

- Consolidate knowledge
- Improve exam technique
- Build confidence
- Maximise grades

An average class size of 6 means courses are tailor-made to individuals' needs, building upon their existing knowledge and closing gaps – which can make a huge difference to final grades.

Our tutors are all qualified teachers and are skilled at establishing what your child knows and needs during the course. Sessions include coping with overload and anxiety, as well as revision timetables, flow charts and Q&A techniques.

In an environment away from the usual distractions – social media, mobile phones – our courses provide structured tuition and thorough exam preparation during key holiday periods.

Students learn how approaching exams methodically, interpreting questions correctly, identifying command words and formulating appropriate responses can result in extra marks.

With over 40 years' experience, we know our courses keep students focused and calm whilst giving them the confidence and knowledge they need to tackle any exam scenario.

Centre Information

Justin Craig students can attend courses at St George's School as a day student or on a residential basis.

For residential students, accommodation is provided in comfortable bedrooms and staff remain on site 24hrs per day to ensure student well-being and safety. In addition to a bright and spacious common room for socialising and relaxing, St George's offers beautiful grounds for students to enjoy.

As places fill quickly, particularly for our Easter Courses, it is advisable to plan and book as early in the school year as possible to ensure the widest choice of subjects.

Discount

We are delighted to offer parents of students at St George's School £100 off the first 2 or 3 day Justin Craig Course.*

To find out more, please call our Course Advisors on **01727 744340.** They will be able to provide more information about our Courses, how they work and the options that will work best for you.