



# ST GEORGE'S SCHOOL HARPENDEN

A non-denominational Christian day and boarding school



Our School is a unique and special place. Founded on a Christian ethos; dynamic and exciting to be part of; friendly, caring, and challenging in equal part, it is an excellent environment to receive what we consider to be an outstanding holistic education. Our students and staff are loyal, proud, and purposeful, our motto, "Aim Higher", challenging all of us to be the best we can be. We have history, tradition, and heritage, and a genuine determination to know and care for everyone, whether you are a day student or part of our diverse and inclusive boarding community. Our school is quirky, Ofsted saying its success lies in the "alchemy of the intangible". St George's is best seen and experienced, not outlined in prose. It's a special place to join – we hope we can show you why.

***Miss H. J. Barton, Headmistress***





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Regardless of religion, denomination, faith, race, nationality or background, Reverend Warner and the rest of the Chapel Team help bring our precious and remarkable Chapel to life.

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*My StG's by Catherine, Year 8*

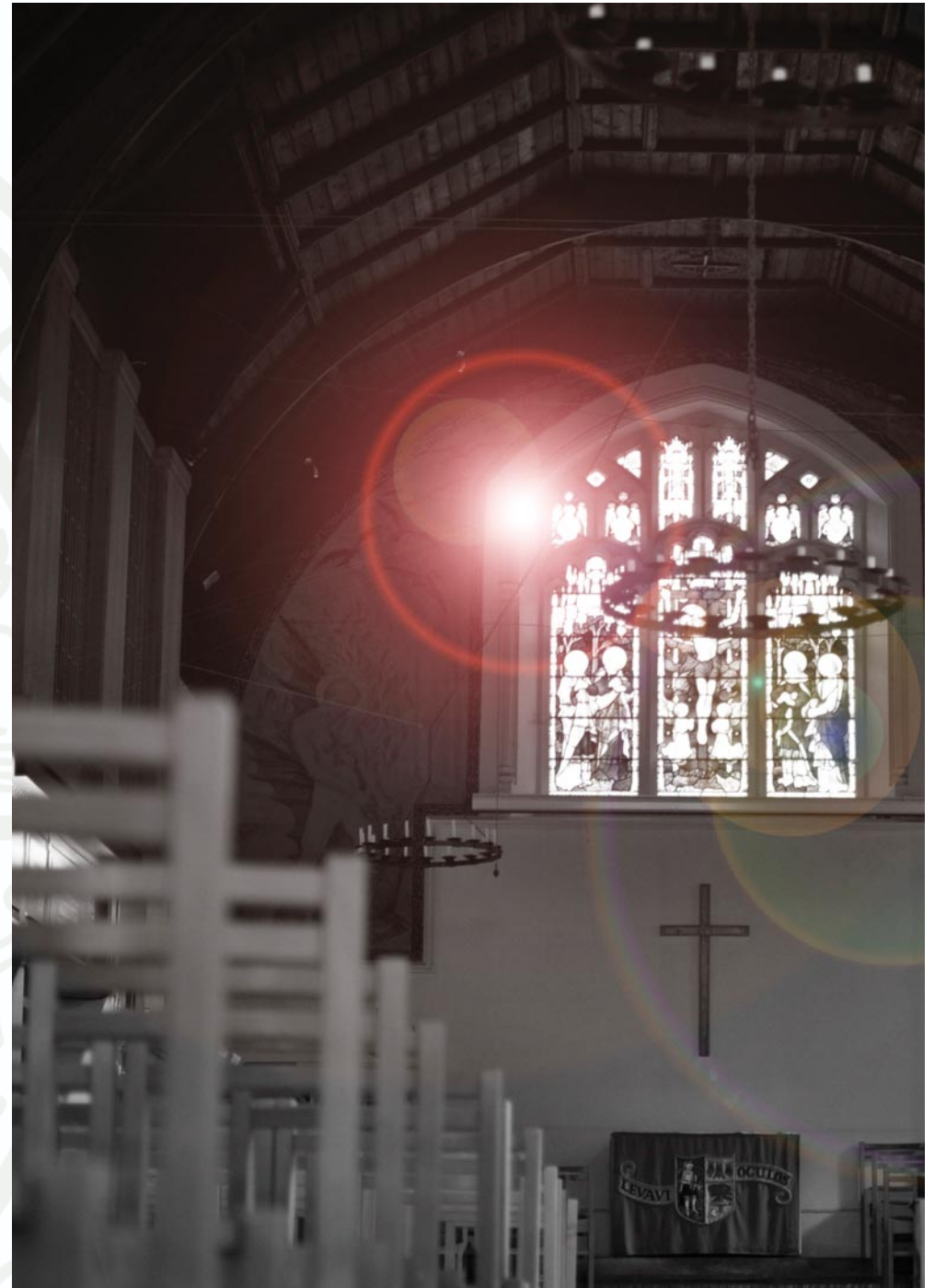




# student led worship bringing a **meaningful** religious dimension

St George's is a multi-denominational Christian foundation with a full time Christian school chaplain. Reverend Cecil Grant, the School's founder, wanted a school for children of all Christian denominations; therefore the student body represents a wide range of Christian beliefs and practices and the Chapel represents the beating heart of the School. The school holds an annual confirmation service and it is not at all unusual for staff members and ex students to marry in our chapel, which has also hosted christenings. It is a special space.

All students attend one chapel service as part of their weekly routine, and students in Years 7 to 11 attend Sunday chapels on three occasions every term. The services offer a range of worship styles to cater for students of all backgrounds, ranging from Catholic masses to informal evening worship. Parents are most welcome to attend Sunday services with their children. Many families choose to do this. We want to challenge our students to think about their beliefs and where worship sits within them. We are delighted that even junior students often feel they have something to say in leading worship, and that their peers are just as keen to listen.





“ When I joined in Year 7, I was a bit nervous of what to expect. However, after having had my first assembly with the rest of the House, I instantly felt at home. After that first assembly, the team spirit and the way that everyone in Watts is made to feel at home was what made me less nervous. When I first watched sports day I was amazed at how the people who watched and cheered were as much a part of the competition as those doing the sport.

*My StGs by Izzie , Watts House* ”





# sometimes referred to as a **School within a School**

To enhance its family atmosphere, the School is divided into four Day Houses. Students develop multiple loyalties over their time with us but loyalty to their House probably trumps all else. Sometimes referred to as a 'School within a School' the Houses are the backbone of our school and are woven into its DNA. This helps us to know each child better and to increase the family feeling within the School. We expect senior leaders to know all students; Heads of House to know them well; and every student to feel understood and valued as an individual. This includes the House looking after their learning needs and achievement, as well as being the first point of contact for

emotional and mental health and social and medical needs. Tutor groups are organised into Lower School (Year 7 and 8), Middle School (Years 9,10 and 11) and Upper School (Years 12 and 13). Thus a child will stay within one House and might have only three tutors in seven years, and children can integrate well with older and younger students. Each House has a group of prefects and these senior pupils play a major part in the organisation of the many Inter-House activities and competitions that form the Chapman Cup. They also play an important part in settling-in new pupils. Our pupils are our greatest asset and we do our best to look after them.

“ Leaving my primary school and coming to secondary school was a huge step up for me. Being the oldest of three I was the first to experience the atmosphere of a senior school and have to take responsibilities into my own hands for once. I was very fortunate, as were many other students, in joining St George's. This was because of the warm hearted glow the students and staff in this school gave to me. Although coming from a local school where the majority of us came to St George's, I very quickly became friends with students from other schools and even in some cases other countries!

*My StG's by Mary,  
Monk House*

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Students enjoy an exciting and stimulating curriculum.  
A diverse range of additional activities helps them to develop their spiritual,  
moral, social and cultural understanding extremely well.

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*OFSTED*



# lessons that are lively and enjoyable

St George's has no entrance examination. Our students are of all abilities, but their motivation and attitude allied to support from the School leads to exceptional outcomes. We genuinely want our students to learn, understand, feel confident, and excel, not collect pointless extra qualifications. While we offer options like triple GCSE Sciences and A-level Further Maths for those who specialise, our offer is also wide-ranging and diverse. At A-Level, twenty plus subjects are offered in our Sixth Form including a small number of Level 3 BTECs which can be studied through our local consortium.

Those who choose to can take the combination of GCSE subjects

leading to the "English Baccalaureate"; those Sixth Formers who wish to can take the Extended Project Qualification, in topics as diverse as transonic aerodynamics, bipolar disorder, and use of solar power in sub-Saharan Africa. The driver of our curriculum is what is in the interests of the child, not what makes the School's results look good.

Most students move onto further study after Year 13. While many study traditional degrees such as Medicine, History, Law, or Engineering, other courses indicate the way students have found their niche in their time with us: Computer Science and Cyber Security, Prosthetics and Orthotics, Yacht Design and Production, and Midwifery are examples.





# the challenge of both leadership and demanding study

Our Sixth Form students are treated as young adults and leaders. It is axiomatic that if required, our senior prefects are capable of running the School. Our own students have learned through the school a doctrine of selfless leadership, and are respected by staff and other students alike for their attitude, presence and approach to the responsibilities they accept. We find new joiners to our Sixth Form rapidly fit into the same mould, bringing a wealth of their own experiences and making a great Sixth Form community. This is a place for those who want to contribute, not those who want to consume education as a commodity.

Academically, Sixth Form students have a great deal of freedom and are expected to

work independently, read widely to prepare for lessons and manage their time effectively to deliver their work to stringent deadlines. Facilities for study are excellent. A strict dress code adds to the aim of providing them with greater awareness that they are on the cusp of entering the adult world. This prepares them for life beyond school, making them able to adapt to a work, training or a Higher Educational environment effectively.

St George's Sixth Form combines strict discipline, clear expectations and high standards. Students who join our Sixth Form know this which ensures they have the correct focus for learning, contributing to our environment and utilising the support needed to thrive in the Sixth Form.



“ Having come from a small private girls' school, it was really exciting to experience such a different school environment. So far it is the many differences and quirks of St George's that have really made me love it. You never feel out of place for contributing in class or getting involved. The School has a strong sense of history and set of values which you actually see in place during the school day. You definitely get as much out of Sixth Form that you put in and the type of students who are in the Sixth Form know that. ”

*My StG's by Millie,  
"Newbie"*



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At St George's, it's the small things that matter, such as your identity to one of the four houses – always driving a sense of belonging and comfort in your surroundings. People helping each other to overcome minute obstacles; from homework tasks to finding the way around the school. St George's is more than a place, it's a community where there is always someone young or old to support you through what may seem like the toughest of times.

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*My StG's by Alex,  
Grant House*





# close-knit and family orientated community

At St George's we are passionate about providing a positive, nurturing and caring environment for our boarding community. St George's has three boarding houses with capacity for around 130 boarders. Each House is unique in terms of fabric and character and each has its own team of dedicated house staff. Whether travelling to the School from within the UK or from abroad, the School is excellently positioned. Our

location makes us an ideal choice of boarding school for the traditional 'full' boarder travelling from overseas but equally good for more local families who may be after a slightly more flexible style of boarding perhaps collecting their son or daughter on a Friday afternoon or after sport on a Saturday morning. Whatever the case our boarding provision represents outstanding value for money.

“ For people that haven't experienced it, boarding school can sound daunting, but it is very much the opposite at St George's. Here, we have a truly welcoming environment, full of supportive staff and students, helping you 'Aim Higher' in all aspects of life...most enjoyable of all has been sharing my St George's years with the kindest, most interesting and amazing people, whom I shall keep in contact with for years to come. ”

*My StG's by Timoni,  
Boarding Head Girl*









# physical activities which allow students to build **belonging and resilience**

St George's is a great place to be a sports player. Our focus is to teach and develop decision-making, problem solving, resilience, determination, communication, creativity and awareness, not just sports skill. We have provided a sporting springboard for international players in rugby and lacrosse and for county players in netball and athletics. If keen and able, we nurture excellence. Rugby and lacrosse players have toured South Africa, the USA, and Canada in recent seasons.

But St George's is also a great place if keen and not so able...or even not keen at all.

Because of our approach the great majority of Lower School students choose to attend practice and try out to play versus other schools; and our most senior coach is as likely to look after the C team as the A team. On a Saturday morning last October 350 children were out playing competitively for the School. This our "normal".

Not into rugby and lacrosse? Join St George's and you will get the bug. And if you don't we have basketball, rounders, cricket, tennis, athletics, badminton. If you fence we have classes. If you run long distance we can coach you.



“ It's so weird to think that in just September I couldn't even hold the ball; in November I would sometimes hesitate or not be bothered to go to practice. Now I couldn't imagine missing one. I never thought I would end up playing in the county lacrosse final.

*My StG's by Poppy,  
Lacrosse player*

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“ The sporting environment that the PE department creates is motivating and friendly, which allows for pupils of all sporting abilities to improve and everyone is encouraged to join in. I have created bonds with other pupils through helping with sports, and made some great friends through rugby. ”

*My StG's by George, 1st XV Rugby*





## something for **everyone**

St George's has something for everyone. There are few other state schools which can boast a ski team, sailing team, and riding team, all of which compete both amongst themselves and against other schools. We have a massive and thriving chess club, coding and programming club, gardening club, drama club, sound and light crew, art club, Gay/Straight Alliance Group, Christian More to Life Club and its polar opposite the Agnostic/Atheist Club. Students get to take part in the National Maths Challenge, Chemistry and Biology Olympiad, debating, Carol Singing, Faraday and Arkwright Challenge, STEM club, DofE (Bronze and Gold awards) Chemistry club, and inter-school Geography and History quizzes. Our view would be that if you cannot find something to do you are not looking hard enough!



## develop greater **cultural** **experience**

St George's offers pupils the opportunity to take part in a tremendous range of trips and experiences, including residential and non-residential visits both at home and overseas. Students might broaden their experiences locally through visits to mosques or gurdwaras, or presentations from the student "One World" group or from our multi-national boarders. Equally, Georgians can be found on exchange in Hamburg, trekking in the bush in Botswana, representing their country in Shanghai, learning to keep a kayak upright in Spain, or holding their nose and tasting oysters in Brittany.



# someone who likes the limelight

We have a thriving classroom and extra curricular programme of Drama here at St George's, so whether you are someone who likes the limelight and treading the boards, or you prefer the backstage elements of design, sound and lighting, then there is certainly

something for you to get involved in. We don't envy the judge of House Drama each Spring, who might typically have to decide a winner between a pun-filled Victorian melodrama, high concept theatre, or a slapstick comedy with a cast of hundreds.



“ In Year 7 I had very little control over my emotions. I was worried that I would be known as “that kid who got angry and overreacted” and I would remain “that kid” forever. By Year 8, I felt confident enough to audition for the school talent show. I decided to perform a comedy routine. To my great surprise and relief people genuinely enjoyed it, for the first time in my life they were laughing with me, not at me. Afterwards, my Head of House asked me if I'd perform the routine again in house assembly. I accepted and so began a long tradition of me performing stand-up comedy at end of term. Now that's something you definitely won't find on the curriculum, but St George's found a way to help me flourish, by doing what I was good at. This in turn helped make me more confident and allowed me to discover my own passions; comedy and performing. Of course, people say that school days are the best days of your life, which is a little worrying because I'm wondering if that means that at 17, it's all downhill from here...

*My StG's by Alex,  
Stand-up comedian*

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“ Art has always been my favourite thing to do; I feel I can be so expressive. Ever since I joined St George's the Art Department has enhanced my passion for art, exploring not only the painting and drawing side, but experimenting with all sorts of media, tone, shade and texture... the teachers at St George's couldn't be more helpful. The support and encouragement they give has allowed me to branch out, look at the bigger picture and look at the opportunities that there will be on offer outside of school. The teachers are excited by art and how we can incorporate the wider world into our work. Art is what I love, and St George's has helped me to discover that, encouraging me all the way.

*My StG's by Sapphire,  
Artist*

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“ I had an amazing experience and I would undoubtedly do it again if I had the opportunity... I would strongly encourage anyone looking for an adventure, and an attractive qualification, to consider undertaking the Duke of Edinburgh Award. ”

*My StG's by Emily,  
Duke of Edinburgh Gold Award*

## finding your limits

St Georges has offered the Bronze and Gold Duke of Edinburgh Awards since 2011. Our +95% success rate for pupils completing their Bronze Award is quite an achievement. In the last 5 years over 600 students have participated making St George's the biggest school in the South East for the Bronze Award. Our records don't end with the students; 18 St George's teaching staff are now D of E leaders and we

have around 30 students attempting their Gold Award each year. Last year alone the Bronze cohort completed the equivalent to over 100 days worth of volunteering in the local area. Bronze expeditions take place in the Chiltern Hills. Gold expeditions are normally in the Lake District Kentmere Valley if walking however every year we have teams that have opted to sail or canoe too!





“ Progressing through the school, I have specifically noticed the impact of student responsibility in nurturing pupils into becoming young adults; allowing us to gain confidence in leadership and organisation is what sets St George's aside. ”

*My StGs by Maddie, Monk House*





## an integral part of creative life

Our outstanding Music Department prepares students for GCSE and A-level Music, the great majority of many Sixth Form classes going on to further Music study. We have wind bands, orchestras, jazz bands, ensembles, and are incredibly lucky to have on site Harpenden Musicale music school,

which can meet even the more specialist needs. As well as school performances, our students have performed recently in joint concerts with the band of the Blues and Royals, the Royal Artillery Band, the Band of the Para Regiment and in touring concerts around the UK and abroad.



“ Prior to moving to St George's for Sixth Form, I wouldn't have dreamt of being a part of the choir. However, when the opportunity to join in and compete for House Music was given, I leapt at the chance. It has aided with my confidence and allowed me to meet people who share the same interests as me and have fun at the same time.

*My StG's by Aditi, Singer*

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So far in my time at St George's what has stayed with me and always will is the overwhelming sense of community developed from the strong house system, mixed year tutor bases and support throughout the School. The house events give you the opportunity to get involved in something, whether its art, drama, sport or any of the wide range of competitions. I think St George's encourages a good balance between academic success and developing other talents and skills; helping us become competitive and all rounded social individuals.

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*My StG's by Christie,  
Watts House*





