



# ST GEORGE'S SCHOOL

## Parent Bulletin

Friday 11<sup>th</sup> September 5pm

### Parent Bulletin

**Just to say the students have coped spectacularly well with all we have asked of them this week; and staff whether catering or support or boarding or teaching have impressed the hell out of me with their goodwill, flexibility, and skill. No doubt your workplace might be a bit different to pre-covid: but here every single aspect of school operations has changed, from school day timings, to rooming, to how attendance is done; to lunch and break time, to games practices, to tutoring, to mentoring, to how the house system works; to how work is marked to how parents evenings are done. Wow.**

#### **Arrangements for students who have to wait for the village bus on Fridays**

On Friday students who have to wait for one of the school bus services out to the villages will be able to access the LIBRARY from 1330 to 1500; but must stay socially distanced in their year away from other years. It will be cleaned before they go in. If they choose to use the library, they need to sign in and remain there: they can read, use their devices, and do written prep but not use the computers. If they pose a conduct problem, this privilege will be withdrawn and they will have to leave site, returning to catch their bus later. I am told that word of the global pandemic has finally reached Kimpton - I hope you are coping well with this sudden news. Apparently some sort of Moonshot is going to save us.....

#### **Next week is week one timetable and schedule**

#### **6th form lunch, Mondays - Thursdays**

We now have enough capacity for those 6th former who want to eat in the Dining Room to do so. Next week they can queue at the tuck queue / Aim Higher end around 1340.

#### **Year 12**

Parents of new Year 12 were due to be coming in next week for a briefing on this next phase: and it's an evening we really value, because as "Insiders", we know that to think that success at GCSE will = automatic success at A-level is nonsense. We are going to do the presentation next week to the students themselves in Friday 5; then we will send an annotated copy of the ppt slide set home to you for look at. This will save the environment (less 4x4 traffic on the roads coming to and from school) and make Greta Thunberg happy.

#### **Year 13 assessments next week**

Year 13 students will find a variety of timed assessments going on in their classes next week. While the year group did their exams in the summer at home, it's useful for staff to have one more data point to build up their picture of students capability, and this will feed in to some degree into the predictions students will get for UCAS. But we stress "to some degree". These are not high stakes assessments which will determine if your child becomes a lawyer (or more likely in this town, what sort of lawyer they become.)

#### **Year 13 Parents Evening**

We can confirm we intend this to run virtually from 5.30pm to 8.30pm on Tuesday 29<sup>th</sup> September

#### **Individual Student Photos next Weds**

Students in Years 7,9,11,12 and anyone new in any other year will have their individual student photo taken next Weds. Please be ready for a power outage on Tuesday night / Weds morning from vast numbers of hair straighteners being plugged in. Start practicing your instagram head tilt everyone.

#### **Year 9 PGL trip next June**

AS this year group missed out on their whole year group trip to Brittany, we aim to take them to a PGL outdoor pursuits base in Wiltshire for three days in next Activities week. Watch out for a separate letter about this via parentpay and edulink

### **PE Extra curricular voluntary contribution scheme**

This essential part of funding our extra curricular sports offer is launching again this week. Watch out for a separate letter via parentpay and edulink, which will include the excellent review the PE staff did of last season. NB NB if your child does extra curricular sport they must register - and preferably make the suggested donation, but a £1 "register only" option is also available.

### **School Calendar:**

The school calendar **in its on line only version is continuously updated, and now includes weekday and Saturday rugby and lacrosse practice timings. Go to:**

<https://www.stgeorges.herts.sch.uk/calendar/?calid=1,3,6,7,8,9&pid=3&viewid=1>

First select the drop down menu "Calendars" and tick which calendars you would like to sync: the main calendar, and/or the sub calendars for 6th form, Year 11, boarders, lacrosse or rugby.

### **Free School Meals and how to apply:**

Please don't miss out on the available help that you can receive for your child. To check if you are eligible and how to apply, please go to:

<https://www.gov.uk/apply-free-school-meals>

### **Water Fountains**

Pupils must not drink directly from water fountains and must only use them for filling up their water bottle. Please could pupils bring a water bottle and ensure that they follow this instruction.

### **Chapel**

Please remember that Sunday chapel is limited to specific Houses and specific year groups. This week we have Goddard and Grant, Year 7 and year 8 only for a 10am start and then Monks and Watts, Year 7 and 8 only starting at 10.50am. These services form part of our celebration of Harvest. **As with previous years we are asking students to make a donation of a non perishable food item or perhaps even some toiletries. These are then forwarded to a local food bank. I am sure that you will recognise that during this difficult time, any donations that we receive will be gratefully received by those who may be in greater need than ourselves.**

### **Duke of Edinburgh award update**

#### Bronze Year 11

We had hoped to be able to run the reconfigured assessed expeditions over the next few weekends in September and October. However, we are unable to set up the expeditions in a way that would allow all groups to be assessed properly due to staffing, training and the numbers of groups we can have out at the same time. We will be planning to run the expeditions in March 2021. We aim to run them from school, on a Friday afternoon into Saturday with routes planned in the local area. We will be in touch shortly in regards to refunds for those parents who have opted for either the DofE Bronze certificate (completion of three sections) or who have opted to complete the full award with the expedition. We will be speaking with Year 11s during a weekday Assembly lunch session to explain this.

#### Bronze Year 10

We are launching the Bronze DofE award to current Year 10s at the start of October. The plan is to have students complete their sections between October and June and we will be running the expeditions during July. Paperwork will be sent out via parent pay.

### **Outdoors life:**

Life at StG's is having to be increasingly outdoors! It's been great this week while the weather has been fine and sunny, but we know that this will not last forever. Your child will need to line up outside **in all weathers**. They will need to be outside during a proportion of lunch time **in all weathers**, and we will need you to encourage them to continue to walk to and from school.....**in all weathers**. Please can I ask that you furnish them with some appropriate outer wear even if this is a light packable jacket, or a small umbrella.

### **Action needed**

**Year 9 Parent - watch out for and sign up to the PGL trip**

**Parent of children doing extra curricular sport - watch out for communication and sign up to register/ donate**

**Everyone - "Stay safe - Keep alert- Control the Virus". yadda yadda**

**Thoughts:**

It has been great to welcome back our boarding community. For some it has meant a difficult journey, periods of quarantine and so much more....but they have made it! Life in the boarding house has also changed significantly, but behaviour has been exemplary from our students and staff are working hard to “ make it happen” .....So I think a big shout out for our Boarding Community is needed this week. Top effort from all involved.

Our start of term boarders Chapel this week focused on Colosians 1 vs 9 ‘For this reason, since the day we heard about you, we have not stopped praying for you.’ We talked about the fact that being remembered and acknowledged is a powerful thing; that someone else recognising the good that you bring into other people's lives is encouraging and uplifting; and that it is good to be recognised and thanked, and that sometimes we don't do that enough. As part of the service we put what we had heard preached into practice by writing a postcard of thanks or encouragement to another person within the boarding community, someone who had perhaps been kind to us, done a great job etc etc, and at the end of week two at school, I would ask our wider school community to do the same. Perhaps you have a new friend to walk to school with; perhaps someone has been kind to you in one of your new teaching groups; perhaps you have been encouraged by the actions of a member of staff; perhaps another parent has been helpful and encouraging, particularly if you are new to the school. There can be a myriad of small things that we can be thankful for, so go on, write a text/Whatsapp message/email/card/postcard small note....in fact anything! Knowing that another member of our community had thought of you; recognised what you had done; and taken the time to write is powerful stuff.

Have a lovely weekend.....hopefully the sun will shine, and we can enjoy the fresh air.....I'm off to be educated at the National Gallery....adding to my “cultural capital” bank! Whatever you are doing, enjoy!

Miss B

Remember : HANDS.....FACE.....SPACE

**Signposting**