



ST GEORGE'S SCHOOL

Parent and Student Bulletin

Friday 9th October 2020

Information

Dear Parents

The media have been talking about lack of clarity in the public domain about how to stay on the right side of current restrictions. We have no position on whether you should get Indian takeaway or go sit down to eat this weekend; nor whether you should hoik your nineteen-year-old back from some Northern University lock down where they are being fed cake bars and crisps for £14 a day.

We DO have an emphatic position on keeping potential Covid carriers out of school. The NHS website states that amongst other categories, you must self-isolate if:

- **you live with someone who has symptoms or tested positive**
- **someone in your support bubble has symptoms or tested positive**

So DO NOT SEND IN TO SCHOOL ANY CHILD WHO HAS BEEN IN CLOSE CONTACT WITH SOMEONE WHO HAS COVID SYMPTOMS.

Sorry to shout.

Year 7 Parents - supporting us in managing student phone use

Your child may have shared with you details of my efforts at playground magic this week: putting an iPhone 5S in a sealed envelope, and then hitting it multiple times with a crowbar, then opening the envelope to reveal...a completely smashed iPhone 5S.

This failure was, in fact, a demonstration to them of how far the school's powers go if students misuse phones in aggravated ways, such as harassing or bullying others, or possessing offensive or indecent imagery: school discipline policy and educational law allow SEIZURE of devices and their destruction. This is another level beyond a short confiscation for misuse.

Of course, we do not imagine having cause to seize Year 7 students' devices. BUT they need to respect the rules. No phones out of pockets between 0830 and 3.30pm: no tik tokking in the loos, not taking selfies on the field. And we are impressing on students the need to avoid using phones in a way that sets you up to offend or cause problems. Every year, we seem to have students, or parents, setting up vast Whatsapp groups, covering dozens of students: who then waste their time keeping track of multiple alerts - and should they make an unwittingly hurtful comment, it ends up being read by half the year group. Are you the admin for such a group? Is your child in such a large group chat? **We need this closed down, and for it to stay closed down please. Group chats should be limited to single figures of participants please.** Because I have only ten months to seize a new phone for next year's failed magic trick, and I am on the lookout....

Christmas Shopping and Supporting our PSA

I am sure that as we ramp up to Christmas that a number of you will be doing some online ordering over the next few months. One easy way to support our PSA and ultimately our school is to make sure that your order goes through a donation site. The St George's PSA has charitable status, and is registered for giving on Give as You Live, and through Smile Amazon. I ordered through Give as You Live on Sunday, and managed to donate 40p.....all from the comfort of my sofe and with a glass of wine in hand. Not much effort needed on my part..... and all of our 40p's could add up to something big!

Remember the new schedule, v13, is different between week one and two on the days when houses have their house half assembly:

	Goddard	Watts	Monk	Grant
Monday	<p>Week 1: Years 8,9,10,12 House Assembly in Chapel Years 7,11,13 with tutors</p> <p>Week 2: Years 7,11,13 House Assembly in Chapel Year 8,9,12 with tutor Year 10 home</p>	<p>Year 8, 11, 12 with Tutors</p> <p>Year 7,9,10,13 home</p>	<p>Year 7, 10, with tutor</p> <p>Year 8,9,11,12,13 Home</p>	<p>Year 7 meet Y12</p> <p>Year 8, 9, 13 with tutor</p> <p>Year 10 and 11 Home</p>
Tuesday	<p>Year 7 meet Y12</p> <p>Year 8, 9, 13 with tutor</p> <p>Year 10 and 11 Home</p>	<p>Week 1: Years 8,9,10,12 House Assembly in Chapel Years 7,11,13 with tutors</p> <p>Week 2: Years 7,11,13 House Assembly in Chapel Year 8,9,12 with tutor Year 10 home</p>	<p>Year 8, 11, 12 with Tutors</p> <p>Year 7,9,10,13 home</p>	<p>Year 7, 10, with tutor</p> <p>Year 8,9,11,12,13 Home</p>
Wednesday	<p>Year 7, 10, with tutor</p> <p>Year 8,9,11,12,13 Home</p>	<p>Year 7 meet Y12</p> <p>Year 8, 9, 13 with tutor</p> <p>Year 10 and 11 Home</p>	<p>Week 1: Years 8,9,10,12 House Assembly in Chapel Years 7,11,13 with tutors</p> <p>Week 2: Years 7,11,13 House Assembly in Chapel Year 8,9,12 with tutor Year 10 home</p>	<p>Year 8, 11, 12 with Tutors</p> <p>Year 7,9,10,13 home</p>
Thursday	<p>Year 8, 11, 12 with Tutors</p> <p>Year 7,9,10,13 home</p>	<p>Year 7, 10, with tutor</p> <p>Year 8,9,11,12,13 Home</p>	<p>Year 7 meet Y12</p> <p>Year 8, 9, 13 with tutor</p> <p>Year 10 and 11 Home</p>	<p>Week 1: Years 8,9,10,12 House Assembly in Chapel Years 7,11,13 with tutors</p> <p>Week 2: Years 7,11,13 House Assembly in Chapel Year 8,9,12 with tutor Year 10 home</p>

Sunday Chapel

10.00am Junior Chapel, Years 7 and 8 Goddard and Grant

10.50 Junior Chapel, Years 7 and 8, Monk and Watts.

Please only come if you're in these year groups and Houses. **Please bring a pen!**

Actions

Child Protection at St. George's

Do you know who the DSPs are in the school? Do you know how to contact them if you had a safeguarding concern about a student?

The role of the Designated Safeguarding Person was specified in the Children Act 2004 and ensures that every organisation had a named person for safeguarding children and young people. At St George's, the DSP is Mrs Robertson and the two deputy DSPs are Mr Timmins and Mrs McCarney-Redford. They can be contacted at: safeguarding@stgeorges.herts.sch.uk

Alternatively, any member of the public can call the Children's Social Care Team at the council on 030 0123 4043 if they have concerns about the safety or neglect of a child; or for any advice, phone the NSPCC Helpline on 0800 800 5000. If you are worried -report it. Don't assume that someone else will.

World Mental Health Day! Saturday 10th October

We would like to challenge all parents and students to get involved in this year's World Mental Health Day. The theme is: try something new! Click on the links below for more information:

- Try painting by numbers; it's remarkably therapeutic! [Painting by numbers](#)
- Trying a new sport, maybe a bike ride, a golf lesson or the NHS couch to 5K [Try a new exercise](#)
- Bake a Rainbow bagel or some soda bread; see this week's 'Bake Off' for inspiration.
- Read a self-help book or start writing your own
- Listen to a podcast while defrosting the freezer
- Volunteer for a charity or upcycle an unloved piece of furniture.
- Arrange a 10K walk with a few friends and visit a new location.
- Learn a new language [New Languages](#)
- Try meditation or yoga, or download a calming app.
- Upskill yourself with mental course for young people [Place2BeTraining](#)

Show us what you did!

Email your child's Head of House information about the something new that you tried (either individually or as a family) and if you are feeling brave, send a picture! **For more ideas:** <https://www.mind.org.uk/get-involved/world-mental-health-day-2020/>

Good luck and enjoy. We look forward to hearing all about it!

Thoughts

It's been a great week at StG's. There is nothing like that feeling of ticking stuff off your list, seeing things work, and work well, and enjoying some sunshine along the way. Monday's inset day was a lovely opportunity to 'see' colleagues again, 'reset' the school; plan for whatever eventuality may come our way, and think creatively about online learning.

Wednesday was our most active day, and thank heavens the sun shone! At 9.15am we had a practice fire drill during which our pupils behaved in an exemplary manner. It took only 5 minutes and 12 seconds (thanks Mr Cullis for the VERY accurate information), to vacate the building and assemble the whole school on the MUGA. All very impressive. In the afternoon we enjoyed our alternative "inter-house Cross-country" event. Several laps round the field later, with Year 7 and year 12 cheering on from the sides, Watts House came out the overall winners. Big thanks to Mr Ede who masterminded the event, and to all staff who kept things energetic but under control. It was great to be able to see our ethos of friendly rivalry and competition back in physical action. Well done if you took part, it sometimes takes some guts to sign up for this one, but if you did, in doing so you put points on the board for your House. Top effort.

This week we've also made some fab appointments into new positions within school. Mrs Laura Howard will join the Leadership Team as an Assistant Head in January, and Mrs Laura Holten-Gaus will be our first Anti-Racism lead. We are passionate about understanding more the issues facing people of color within our community, and for making lasting improvements. We know from our work on anti-homophobic bullying over 13 years, that deep rooted change takes time, patience and persistence. I love the quote from Maya Angelou "*Do the best you can until you know better. Then when you do know better, do better*". We are grateful to two Old Georgians who are helping us gain that understanding. I am hoping that as a parental body you will be able to support us, and play your part in our community journey.

Can I thank you for playing your part in keeping our school community safe. Pupils are now getting used to the new regime, and we have made slight 'tweaks' to our plan to ensure that school life remains smooth and focussed. The Hands, Face, Space message remains important, and if you can reinforce to your lovely young person that staff do need a little more space, than they need to show to their peers, that would be great.

If you are out and about this weekend, enjoy the autumn colours.


Miss B

Signposting

Why not sign up for a free 4-week course for parents and carers of children aged 12 to 18 attending St George's.

The course will give you the opportunity to learn about:

- Being the parent of a teenager - the role of the parent and how to respond to difficult feelings
- Understanding your teenager - development, parenting styles, praise and criticism
- Communicating with your teenager - talking and listening, handling difficult situations
- Managing conflict with your teenager - rules and boundaries, problem solving



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Family Links

My Teen Brain

A Free* 4-week course for parents and carers of children aged 12 to 18
The course will give you the opportunity to learn about:

- Being the parent of a teenager - the role of the parent and how to respond to difficult feelings
- Understanding your teenager - development, parenting styles, praise and criticism
- Communicating with your teenager - talking and listening, handling difficult situations
- Managing conflict with your teenager - rules and boundaries, problem solving

Fridays 10.15 - 12.15
6th, 13th, 20th and 27th November
Via Zoom

All information is correct at the time of going to press, but may be subject to change.
*Free if your child does not attend a Harpenden Plus Partnership school

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To register your interest please email dmarsden@saunceywood.herts.sch.uk

It's running on Fridays at 10.15 - 12.15 on 6th, 13th, 20th and 27th November. Via Zoom. To register your interest email: dmarsden@saunceywood.herts.sch.uk