



ST GEORGE'S SCHOOL

Parent Bulletin

7th May 2021

Information

Dear Parents

Well that was fun. Our apologies for having to shut down at such short notice this morning. Our site hosts 1600 people a day, and running it without secure drinking water and sanitation water (especially in a pandemic!) is not viable. At the time of writing (1230), supplies have been off and on all morning, and what supply we do have is marshalled to keep boarding houses open where we can. We hope the water companies can get the work done which they need to do. As I don't work in water supply and engineering, I am going to avoid saying "cant they just...". All of us know that what might seem simple decisions and solutions only seem that way because we are not "in the business."

On the positive side, how things have changed from 5 years ago. We have platforms which can push out texts and bulk emails reliably to tell parents what is going on; Whatsapp groups to enable senior staff to fire fight and plan; and online learning platforms which mean that we have the capacity to set work for students to do at home painlessly. Well, painlessly to us anyway!

Over the last 15 months (gulp!) we have written to you on a weekly basis, using this current format of newsletter. We hope that during that time we have provided you with the vital information you needed during that time, and hopefully some lighthearted amusement and entertainment along the way. As things return to "normal" and the demand for information to be imparted slows down we have chosen to unblock your inbox by moving to a more "when it's necessary" approach. That may mean that you receive more year group specific information (so keep an eye open for that) and occasionally a whole school parent bulletin. When the parent bulletin does pop into your inbox you will know that we have something to impart to the whole school community, and I would urge you to take the time to read it.

So this may be it for a while.....or until next week....who knows!

Have a lovely weekend....and let's hope that despite the forecast the sun will shine on all that we do.

Miss B

A reminder : Friday 28th May is a day of study leave for Year 12 (other than those in an art exam) and remote learning for Years 7-10. This is so that staff can have untrammelled time to complete the marking and moderation processes for teacher assessed grades.

Another reminder: Year 11's last day in school is Weds 26th May. Expect more details soon of tasking to be completed remotely which will prepare students progressing to 6th form for their studies in September.

Another reminder: Year 13's last day is Thursday 27th May. Plans are advancing for the "Head's address" which students will attend the following early evening in Grant Quad.



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Collection of running shirts from the cancelled "Great Curry Run"

As previously communicated, we are giving runners who ordered a shirt and would like to have it the chance to collect it. Collections can be done by students on their own behalf, or for family members. Students can collect daily from the school shop between 1.45pm and 2.10pm each day between now and half term. As previously explained, if you do not collect it, the Humanitas Charity run by Old Georgian Sarah Wade will be taking them for use in their orphanages and refugee provision around the world.

Congratulations to Old Georgians

To Maro Ito and Owen Farrell on their selection for the British Lions tour to South Africa. And more importantly to fellow England OG players George Ford and Jack Singleton, who might have been chosen, but were not. The big thing for us is not people who come out on top; but people who try every last breath, and then have to take not making it with dignity and with delight for those who did. Great job all of you.

A shout out for our LFT volunteers!

Whilst most of you are doing the now familiar twice weekly Lateral Flow Test at home, boarders continue to be doing theirs at school. We have been incredibly fortunate that a small yet elite team of volunteers have continued to lend their assistance to help to ensure that the process continues to happen safely, smoothly and efficiently. Our thanks goes out to these very kind and generous members of our school community.

Contacting the Head

Please be advised that the most appropriate way of contacting the Headmistress is via admin@stgeorges.herts.sch.uk. We can reassure you that this email account is only accessible by the Headmistress and her PA. hbarton@stgeorges.herts.sch.uk is only active as the Headmistress has been a member of the school community for so long. It is not looked at on a regular basis, and is only accessible to her on her mobile phone. Communication sent to hbarton@ is likely to be missed or not responded to as it is not the Headmistress's daily view for work.

Actions

DROPPING OFF ITEMS AT SCHOOL

Please can we remind parents that unless of an urgent nature, such as essential medication, forgotten items should not be dropped off at reception for students to collect.

Thoughts

A new series of "Cruising with Jayne Macdonald" starts Sunday at 9pm on 5. Which proves all over again that you can build a life around being smiley, cracking poor jokes, being friendly to those who serve you, drinking a bit too much and miming bad Whitney Houston covers. There is hope for us all.

Signposting (click on each to find out more)

New parent / carer survey

Partners from across the Hertfordshire mental health system (led by the Public Health team at Hertfordshire County Council) have worked together to develop a short survey for all parents / carers of children and young people living or being educated in Hertfordshire.

The survey is completely anonymous unless you choose to leave your email address at the end, and should take you around 10 minutes to complete.



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Covid-19 has been a difficult time for many of us and mental health and wellbeing information, services and support have often had to be delivered or accessed differently. We want to ensure that we are supporting families across the county as effectively as possible - your answers to these questions will help us to do this.

The survey can be accessed via [this link](#) and will close on Monday 17th May



Life is challenging for many of you right now and it has not been easy homeschooling, juggling commitments and job security for many has been a constant worry.

While the foodbank has been busy this last year, because of the generosity of communities we have had enough food. It is important to us that those of you who may never have asked for help before know that you can. Whoever you are, wherever you find yourself, **please do ask for help using the numbers and emails below:**

A good first step is to contact St Albans Citizens Advice: 01727 811118. They have the expertise to help and continue to work throughout lockdown. Please ring and if you do not get an answer leave a message. If you are unable to do that you can contact the St Albans and District foodbank on directly on: 01727 613019 option 1. Or email: manager@stalbandsdistrict.foodbank.org.uk.

We are currently running a project to increase our knowledge and contacts in your local communities.

If you represent an agency/charity/organization in your community please do get in touch with us: pcrosswell@stalbandsdistrict.foodbank.org.uk

ONLINE SAFETY NEWSLETTER FROM HERTS FOR LEARNING

Online Safety News
Summer 2021 | PARENT | CARER

Digital 5 a day - Digital safety wellbeing kit

Digital technology plays a huge role in helping children learn, play and stay connected with friends and family. The Digital 5 a day framework from the Children's Commissioner is useful to help children get the most from their time online and balance digital wellbeing with overall wellbeing. It is a tool that parents and carers can use to guide, support and maintain conversation about time spent online.

Find out more:
Children's Commissioner | 5 a day

The 5 elements of a good digital diet are:

- connect
- be active
- get creative
- give to others
- be mindful

A digital safety and wellbeing kit containing updated guidance around the digital 5 ways to wellbeing has been developed and it includes guidance on video-calling, browsers, user names, passwords, apps and how to balance your child's screen time and improve their wellbeing.

Children's Commissioner | Parents' digital safety wellbeing kit

Ollee - 'Your helpful digital friend'

Ollee is a new app developed by Parent Zone and Children in Need and it allows children think about their feelings, get advice, and most importantly, start talking to a trusted adult. It is designed to stop small worries growing and getting out of hand.

Children can choose a subject they want to talk about, this might be, school, friends, family, their body, the world and internet. They choose an emotion that matches how they feel and this leads to a page of helpful advice.

Children under 13 will need parent or carer approval if they wish to make an account to enable them to save advice. They may wish to use the app without an account.

Find out more or download the app: Ollee

What parents and carers need to know about WhatsApp (16+ age rating)

National Online Safety have produced a useful guide for parents/carers on the popular messaging service, WhatsApp. The guide lists ten on a number of potential risks when using the site such as: danger, fear, location sharing and disappearing messages.

Stop their advice
NOS | What Parents Need to Know About WhatsApp

Tips to keep children safe on Netflix

If you share your account with your child you may wish to set up parental controls to help stop children watching inappropriate or adult content.

CO and the NCFCC have put together a series of tips to keep children safe on Netflix.

Netflix | Tips to keep your child safe on Netflix

Herts for Learning
01438 544444
hertsforlearning.co.uk



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PARENT | CARER

Net Aware – helping to keep children safe online

A parental guide to the latest social networks, apps and games that young people are using has been produced by O2 and the NSPCC. The resources are designed to help parents have more regular conversations with their children about online safety – enabling more families to enjoy the digital world with confidence.

O2 and NSPCC | Online Safety



Childnet | Online safety activities you can do from home



The information in the newsletter is given to help promote the safety of children and young people online.

Every care has been taken to ensure the information and any recommendations in the newsletter are accurate at the time of publishing. Schools must make their own judgements when sharing our recommendations with parents and carers and, where appropriate, always risk assess with their pupils and adults school community in mind.

This newsletter is brought to you by the Herts for Learning Wellbeing team as part of their online safety support for schools and settings in Hertfordshire.

Herts for Learning

Herts for Learning (HfL) is a provider of products and services to schools and educational settings within and outside Hertfordshire. We believe that every young person, through access to a great education, should be able to realise their potential, regardless of where they live or their circumstances. We focus on supporting the schools and settings we work with to achieve successful long-term outcomes for their children.



Living with an Anxious Child

A workshop for parents and carers of children aged 5-19 who worry, and show signs or symptoms of anxiety.

We will cover :

- = What anxiety looks and feels like
- = When anxiety becomes a problem
- = How to respond to an anxious child

Friday 14th May

9.30 - 11.30

Via Zoom

email : dmarsden@saunceywood.herts.sch.uk

With your name, your children's School and their ages

*£20 fee if your child does not attend a HarpendenPlus Partnership school
List of partnership schools: Beach Hyde, Crabtree schools, Grove schools, Harpenden Academy, High Beches, Kimpton, Lea, Marland, Redbourn School, Roundwood Park, Roundwood Primary, Sauncey Wood, Sir John Lawes, St Dominic, St George's, St Helen's, St Hilary, St Nicholas, Wood End, Katherine Warrington School, St Luke's



Starting Secondary School?

A friendly workshop for parents and carers of Year 6 pupils, exploring both what you need to know, and what you can do to support your child through the change to secondary school education.

Friday 21st of May

10.15 - 12.15

Via Zoom

Fully funded by Harpenden Plus Partnership *

To register your interest

email : dmarsden@saunceywood.herts.sch.uk

You will be sent a booking form and your place will be secured upon receipt of your completed form and a small deposit.

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List of partnership schools: Beach Hyde, Crabtree schools, Grove schools, Harpenden Academy, High Beches, Kimpton, Lea, Marland, Redbourn School, Roundwood Park, Roundwood Primary, Sauncey Wood, Sir John Lawes, St Dominic, St George's, St Helen's, St Hilary, St Nicholas, Wood End, Katherine Warrington



A free* 4 week course for parents and carers of children aged 5 to 18 about recognising and trusting feelings, making safe choices, improving relationships and communication and raising personal confidence and self-esteem.

*£50 if your child does not attend a HarpendenPlus Partnership school
List of partnership schools: Beach Hyde, Crabtree schools, The Grove schools, Harpenden Academy, High Beches, Kimpton, The Lea, Marland, Redbourn School, Roundwood Park, Roundwood Primary, Sauncey Wood, Sir John Lawes, St Dominic, St George's, St Helen's, Katherine Warrington, St Hilary's St Nicholas, Wood End, St Luke's

4 My Family and Me

Fridays: 11th, 18th, 25th of June and 2nd of July

10.15 - 12.15

Via Zoom

You are able to register your interest on this course by emailing us on dmarsden@saunceywood.herts.sch.uk

Please provide us with the following information:
Your name, your child's age and which School they attend

All information is correct at the time of going to press, but may be subject to change