

ST GEORGE'S
ASCOT 



THE DRAGON

2021/22

www.stgeorges-ascot.org.uk



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From the Head

We have had so many joyful moments in school again over this past year. Our start of year whole school BBQ and our more recent Platinum Jubilee lunch party were greatly enjoyed by girls and staff.

Trips abroad have started again; we have had the historians in Berlin, the Third Years in Normandy with the Modern Foreign Languages and History departments over the summer term, we have a senior netball tour to Dubai in February, and the Chapel Choir on their summer tour singing in Vienna and Salzburg.

Contrary to what you may expect following a period of inactivity, the Duke of Edinburgh's Award (DofE) has had the biggest uptake ever at St George's this year. We had our largest Silver DofE cohort of 27 Fourth Year girls which we hope will then translate into even more girls working towards the very highly respected DofE Gold award.

We squeezed in the fantastic whole school musical *Grease*

and the brilliantly entertaining First Year panto in the autumn term around covid waves and challenges. The Second Year girls put on a stunning performance of *The Lion, The Witch and the Wardrobe* and earlier this term we were treated to the Third and Fourth Year pupils' ambitious production of the play, *Every Brilliant Thing* in the Studio. In the last week of the summer term many of us were also wowed by the art, textiles and photography work that was on display around the school in our Summer Exhibition.

Open Mic Nights, concerts, house parties, the Jazz and Dance Show and our Christmas Carol Service have all returned. These have been as popular as ever, along with other new additions to the school



calendar that have been 'covid keepers' such as Carols in the Quad at Christmas, and the house performing arts competition.

It has been great to have fixtures once more across a range of sports and in the last week of term we enjoyed house athletics in the sunshine and The Sports Review of the Year with many individual and team successes celebrated. Sporting highlights include the unbeaten U12A netball team whom we will watch with interest as they progress through the school. The same cohort also managed to get through to the national handball finals which is a sport new to St George's this year. It was also wonderful to watch many summer sports fixtures for cricket, athletics and tennis for the first time in a few years, and seeing all the St George's teams play again at the National Lacrosse Tournament in March was really uplifting.

Among the individual achievements at representative level, we have a number of girls across the school playing in regional netball teams. Third Year Seesy Dhanda continues to smash national records in her weightlifting competitions and Lower Sixth first team lacrosse goalkeeper Eleanor MacPhee travelled to the USA competing with her U18 South England Royals team.

Many girls have been involved in academic enrichment too, including numerous trips, talks by a variety of speakers, an entrepreneurial challenge with the Young Enterprise programme, the creation of a new school newspaper, and Bar Mock Trial competitions. The Model United Nations (MUN)

delegation enjoyed the first in-person conference at the Bath International Schools MUN event in March. Tesni Smith impressed the whole assembly and was awarded Best Junior Delegate in the Security Council.

And it is not just the girls who have been achieving. As a wider school we were delighted to be a runner up for the Tatler Schools Eco Warrior award in September 2021, highlighting the ongoing work that we continue to do to make our school more sustainable and deliver a positive environmental impact. We have planted many trees this year around school, we now have a number of wild flower meadows to increase biodiversity, girls have been involved in our Gardening Club and litter picking in the Eco-Squad, and more solar panels are going up on top of the Sports Hall over the summer break.

We have also been recognised for our work in educational technology and learning innovation, something Miss Pierre, our Learning Innovation Lead, spoke about at Prize Giving in 2021. We continue to develop the technology we use in school and we were delighted to be Highly Commended for Muddy Stiletto's Most Innovative Technology Led Teaching Award and also to be selected as a finalist – one of only two independent schools – for the Best Use of Technology Award at the prestigious TES Awards.

So, you may be thinking, 'finalist but not yet a winner!' We hope that our luck will start to improve next academic year and for 2022 we have been shortlisted for three categories in the Independent School of the Year Awards (Independent School of the Year for Student Wellbeing, Innovation Award for an Outstanding New Initiative, and Independent Girls School of the Year) and hope to be able to share news of success in these important areas.

There is an area, however, where we have had impressive validation of our academic ambition. Initially applying, rather modestly, for the Historical Association Silver Kite Mark, Mrs Kratt and her team were ultimately awarded the very

prestigious Gold Kite Mark. This was something Mrs Kratt spoke about at Prize Giving in July 2021 as part of our ongoing work on diversity and inclusion. In giving us this award the association commented,

St George's Ascot's vibrant, committed history department demonstrated a strong desire to become a centre of excellence for the transformation of history education, and its ongoing radical curriculum overhaul, and engaging pedagogical approaches have built a strong foundation for that.

As you have read, there is a great deal of positive work going on at St George's and I remain delighted to have now completed six years as Head. The six years really have flown, perhaps more so as the 'pandemic two' I have mostly tried to forget! As we emerge from the challenges that covid has presented, we have a school where numbers are healthy and, indeed, rising. We have more pupils joining in September 2022 than in many years, and really importantly, the largest Sixth Form since I started at the school. Nearly every girl is staying after their GCSEs and a large cohort are choosing St George's for their Sixth Form, from local schools, other boarding schools and from a range of countries overseas.

The future looks very positive, and I certainly feel that I have found my niche here at St George's. One of the joys of working in a smaller school, for me, is to form deeper relationships and to have the opportunity to know every girl. It is a real delight to have now known all of the girls in the school since they were young

and it has been a privilege to watch them grow into the independent, confident and capable young women who we see leave us each year.

Now, as most of you know, St George's has a rich and varied history. It was initially founded in 1877 as a boys' prep school with 41 pupils in the building we now know as Markham. Probably the most famous former pupil was Winston Churchill who attended the school between 1882 and 1884 and Churchill House is named after him. The boys' prep closed in 1904, ending the first stage of the school's history. It reopened later that year as a finishing school with 45 girls. The school had five classrooms, a music room and four bedrooms. In 1923, Miss Anne Loveday (who has Loveday House named after her) bought the school and this marked the beginning of its development as an academically focused school with 60 girls. So began a new era preparing girls for further education for the first time and establishing the firm foundations of the school we see today.

In 2023, therefore, we will be celebrating 100 years of the modern St George's and we look forward to sharing news of events and celebrations with our current and past pupils and staff, connecting both the past and future of our school. With the future in mind, over the past year, I have been working on a future-facing strategic plan for St George's with the Governors and Senior Leadership Team. We commissioned research from a variety of stakeholders, current and potential feeder schools, and families engaged in the admissions process and this has been a hugely useful insight into areas of future development.

This is not a time for great change at St George's, we very much believe in our all-girls model, with the strong relationships and personal attention that leads to success, a broad co-curricular experience, and excellent opportunities for pupils as both day girls and within our flexible boarding option. It is, however, important that we avoid being





out of touch or too homogenous as a community. We need to be relevant to today and the future of which our girls will become a part. For the world they are shaping and that they will be making a positive contribution to is not yet designed for, or by, women. This involves creative thinking, an innovative approach and a diversity of culture and social-economic background within the school. We are certainly not standing still. We were pleased to share the strategic plan in September 2022, and it formed a key part of our INSET training with staff to ensure that the common direction and focus areas within the school are shared and filter down into every aspect of school life.

We have raised an impressive amount for our school charities this year, the most in recent years, and many of the girls have been actively engaged in philanthropic endeavours. We look forward to developing this culture of philanthropy and wider engagement in, and with the local community, as part of the strategic plan over the coming years. For example, we only had the swimming pool open for six months pre-pandemic but, since reopening, it has become a hub of local swimming, and a hive of activity not just for our own girls and our swim squad but Ascot Royals and Bracknell clubs, local primary and prep schools and swimming lessons for many local children.

Another key area for our new strategy is continuing to develop

our alumnae engagement in many areas of school life and we are very grateful for the opportunities they provide for our current pupils. We have such impressive, successful, engaging and inspiring women who are past Georgians, indeed four sit on our governing body and span different eras of the school, and are now working in the civil service, law, architecture, and the arts and marketing.

It was such a stark reminder of these alumnae links in the last week of term when we held our Summer Exhibition and Music for a Summer Evening concert, with a wonderful reception on the South Lawn. Every few minutes, more former pupils arrived from the past five years, many of whom had not had their own proper Music for a Summer Evening concert due to covid, and it was lovely to see them gather on the stage at the end with the Chapel Choir to sing the final piece of the evening. The Chapel Choir and the jazz band are great examples of how much the our girls value the co-curricular activities they are a part of and the importance of the strong bonds which develop between girls of different age groups.

With this in mind, it seems appropriate to have asked an alumna to give the address at Prize Giving and I was delighted to welcome back Mimo Sandford to speak after the presentation of the prizes. Mimo was one of two joint Head Girls in my first year here as Head, along with Steph Bankole who has also spoken to

the girls in recent years. Mimo's words were engaging, relevant and amusing and she shared both her experiences at Cambridge University as she continues to study for her Veterinary Medicine degree and the lessons she has learnt along the way.

She also gave advice to the girls about embracing opportunities, however unexpected they may seem, and – especially to the Upper Sixth leavers – about maintaining connections to friends and family. We are very proud of the Upper Sixth, and the Fifth Year pupils, and how they have managed another time of great uncertainty when it came to public examinations. They have taken it in their stride, looked out for each other and benefitted from the endless dedication of their teachers, tutors and boarding staff.

But, as I said to these girls, it is far too shallow to think of success purely in terms of academia. Yes, this can open doors in the future, but actually it is being kind, working hard, giving all your effort, being inclusive, learning from the inevitable ups and downs that befall all of us (and none more so than teenage girls!) that give us the skills we need for the future.

I hope you enjoy reading this bumper edition of all that has been happening at St George's over 2021-22, it is certainly an impressive tribute to all that the wonderful girls and staff have accomplished.

Liz Hewer | Head

New Staff at St George's

The following staff joined St George's in the academic year 2021–2022.



Youusra Amer
Artist in Resident



Sophie Ash
Director in Resident



Sharron Clinton
Finance Manager



Felicity Cooper
Director of Marketing and External Communications



Ana-Maria Craciun
Domestic Bursar



Drinna Ferrer
Teacher in Charge of Physics



Catherine Jones
Health Care Professional



Mara Kalsi
Teacher of Classics, Religious Studies and History



Jas Kundi
Teacher in Charge of ICT and Computer Science



Jenny Letley
Science Technician



Laura McConville
Director of Drama



Luke Mortimore
Speech and Drama Tutor



Jo Quinn
Operations Manager



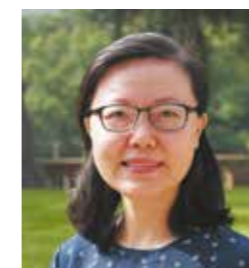
John Schofield
Teacher of History



Pippa Sheppard
Gardener



Ali Tan
Maintenance Operative



Bin Tang
Teacher of Mathematics



Will Turney
Theatre Technician and Designer



Sarah van de Weg
Librarian



Ling Young
Part-Time Accounts Assistant

I often say that one of the greatest gifts I think we give St George's girls is that they can be who they want to be. In our close-knit community where they are so well known by the staff, they are challenged and supported where needed and they are encouraged to be ambitious wherever their talents and interests lie. The list of achievements, excellent university offers and future plans was notably varied and impressive when shared at Prize Giving.

Farewell to leaving Staff

We thank you all for your time at St George's and wish you the best for the future.



Sophia Rutherford-Gibb
(Head of English)

When Sophia was interviewed for the role of Head of English, her enthusiasm, ideas and passion for her subject were striking from the start and we really felt that she would be the right person to grow the subject and take it to new heights. Since joining St George's in September 2019, she has more than lived up to our expectations! English A Level numbers are now consistently in double figures, a measure no

doubt of her enthusiastic and talented teaching of our younger years. Sophia is also greatly loved by her department. Her colleague and new Head of English, Lauren Baker shared that 'the things we will all miss most are her motivation and inspiration and the many many laughs we have shared. She has transformed the department over the last few years and the girls all adore her.'

Anyone who is lucky enough to know Sophia will recall that she loves to use the adjective

'wild' to describe the things she finds unusual, shocking or disconcerting. She finds Percy Shelley's behaviour, Mary Shelley's childhood and pretty much all of *The Handmaid's Tale* equally 'wild'. We look forward to hearing about the elements of her new life that, she feels, deserve a similar descriptive!

We will all miss her bright ideas, sunny disposition and colourful suits and wish her and her family the very best of luck as they move to the sunnier climes of Dubai.



Ann Haughton
(Head of History of Art)

Ann Haughton joined us from Warwick University in January 2020, travelling the significant distance from her home in Welshpool to teach for half the week at SGA. She barely had her journey taped, however, when lockdown sent us all home and, for much of the rest of her time at SGA, Ann has been teaching online.

In spite of the obvious frustrations of the online experience, Ann has been a super teacher to her A Level art historians, developing a strong relationship with all the girls she has taught. She has offered great support especially when they felt challenged by the rigours of their A Level studies and she spent significant time

restoring her pupils' perspective when stress levels were rising. She has a real passion for her subject which inevitably rubbed off on the girls and we are sure her infectious enthusiasm would have attracted significant interest in the subject amongst pupils lower down the school had she been able to be with us more, in Ascot.

We also want to thank Ann for all the help she has given in co-ordinating our EPQ provision here at SGA. We have been very lucky to have such an EPQ evangelist who has personally seen and experienced the value of the qualification during her time teaching at Warwick University.

We all wish Ann the very best as she undertakes her new role as Head of History of Art at the (considerably more proximate to Welshpool!) Moreton Hall School.



Roberto Somma
(Visiting Language Tutor)

Roberto has been a great colleague

and an outstanding tutor of Italian for Yeva, Lucia, Sylvie and Estella. The girls very much enjoyed his teaching style and his level of expertise in the subject matter.

When the chance has arisen to sit in on one of his lessons, his passion for Italian is very clear. He is a very engaging teacher and grammar suddenly seems easy to learn when taught in his relaxed and fun way. His pupils will be sad to see him leave but, along with his colleagues in the Modern Foreign Language Department, they wish him all the best in his new life in Oxford.



Laura Myers
(Housemistress)

Laura has been at St George's for five years in her roles as Housemistress and member of the PE Department, and, more recently, as a Head of Year for the Fourth and then the Fifth Year.

Laura is very well loved by the Knatchbull boarders, deftly dealing with them as the young adults that they are and creating an atmosphere that is as supportive as it is fun. During her time in Knatchbull, Laura worked hard to encourage day pupils to investigate and experience what boarding has to offer, and increased boarding numbers are, to a great extent, a measure of her influence.

In her time in the PE Department, Laura has taught most pupils and coached many teams but her favourite role has been teaching A-Level PE. She has supported and motivated a number of pupils to follow sports-based courses at university.

As a Head of Year, Laura has been an excellent and efficient tutor team lead and has built solid relationships with the pupils such that retention from Fifth Year to Sixth Form is very high at the school.

Laura is leaving us to take up a non-residential Head of House role at Durham School, an exciting opportunity to work in a new environment and buy her first home. This move will hopefully provide more time for her to grace the terraces at Anfield, or sit in front of Sky Sports watching her beloved Liverpool Football Club and, we assume, she will also continue to be excited by her Peloton bike and the pub!



Natalie Conde
(Assistant Housemistress)

Natalie joined SGA in September 2019 as the new

resident tutor. Having proven herself as a 'confident' and 'capable' member of this new Markham team, she was quickly promoted to Assistant Housemistress in January 2020.

The covid years were, of course, a frustrating time for the boarding community as restrictions hampered full boarding life but Natalie showed great resilience and adaptability through this challenging period, for which we are very grateful. It was in this, her final year at SGA, that Natalie found her feet and 'connected' whole-heartedly with the pupils and staff and it has been a delight to see her actually able to care for the boarders' well being as is her natural wont. We will miss her Wednesday evening 'show and tell' education sessions where we have learnt about an eclectic mix of new passions, from one-pot wonders, plants, cats and insects to resistance bands and fortune telling. She has made us laugh... a lot! One of the boarders likened her to our Director of Music, Mr Hillier, as

they share a love for nature and wildlife. Her knowledge of birds, butterflies and tadpoles could give David Attenborough a run for his money!

One of Natalie's other passions is as an advocate for women's rights. She has organised several successful clubs and events over the past three years, from 'Girl Up', a popular boarders' club, to a feminist club in the wider SGA community. She also promoted International Women's Day through a school-wide card design competition, helping to raise money for Berkshire Women's Refuge.

Natalie has also worked as the school's Outreach and Partnerships Coordinator, a role for which she was eminently suited. One of her legacies is a return to paired reading and numeracy support in local primary schools offered to the Lower Sixth, benefitting both our older girls and the younger pupils who receive their attention.

We wish Natalie the very best as she moves to Shropshire to run her own boarding house at Moreton Hall. We are sure the girls will undoubtedly thrive under her care.



Yousra Amer
(Artist in Residence)

Our Artist in Residence, Yousra, has been a lovely, calm and creative addition to

the St George's Art Department. She has been extremely helpful working with pupils of all ages, and offering advice to GCSE and A Level pupils as they worked to complete their portfolios. She has been very encouraging and positive with the girls and has a good sense of humour. Yousra has run two successful art clubs each week with the Second and Third Year pupils in which

they have explored different art techniques and experimented with various media.

Yousra has also been developing her own work in the art studio and many large and exciting lino and mono prints can be seen adorning the school's walls. In her free time Yousra has also completed a number of short online practical courses to develop her knowledge and skills.

Upon completion of her time here at St George's, Yousra plans to travel the world for a number of months before returning to London.



Liz Foster (Finance Manager)

In the early summer we bid a bittersweet farewell to Liz Foster, the

school's Finance Manager for the past seven years. Bitter because we are losing an outstanding finance manager and a thoroughly kind, considerate and loyal friend of the school. Sweet because she now moves into a new phase of her life – retirement!

This isn't the first time we have said goodbye to Liz as she previously worked at St George's to provide cover between permanent appointments, but sadly it will likely be the last one. She obviously enjoyed it enough to return and was at the front of the queue when the position became open. From the very start it was clear that Liz had found her vocation. Her knowledge of the school is encyclopaedic and her financial acumen is as striking

as is her passion for everything St George's; be it early morning staff swimming, socials or attending School concerts and plays, Liz was always a keen participant. Certainly her colleagues were richer for her presence and she leaves behind big shoes to fill.

Big shoes indeed; never is Liz happier than when out trekking with her husband Mark and their close friends. It is a group that is now growing (a dog has joined the family) and retirement will provide the freedom for her to pursue this and a wide range of other interests which include supporting her local church group. Many of our past and present parents will have fond memories of Liz as she was always there to untangle a tricky invoicing problem or simply provide clear, friendly advice. We all thank her for everything she did for the St George's community and wish her the very best in retirement. May it be long, rewarding and happy.



Russell Pearn (Theatre Technician)

Russell Pearn joined St George's as

the Theatre Technician in 2002 and has been a longstanding and fantastic asset to the school over his 20-year tenure. In truth, he is something of an institution and will be sorely missed by pupils and staff alike!

Russell joined St George's just after the opening of the Sue Cormack Hall and he has looked after this incredible space and attended to all the Drama Department's and the school's technical needs. To even begin to list Russell's contributions and his vast and diverse skill set would be a difficult task. Whether it's knocking up incredible sets, such as his full scale movable barricades for the school's memorable version of *Les Miserables*, turning the orchestra pit into a swimming pool, attending to the ambitious and creative design demands of theatre studies pupils or being the resident DJ at the leavers' ball, he can turn his hand to it all!

Russell has brought much industry experience to the role and equipped and ran the Cormack Hall like a professional stage, treating theatrical productions at St George's like they were West End shows. No request was too complex or creatively challenging for him, in fact he relished these tasks! The standard of performance work at St George's has been so high, to a large extent, because of Russell's endeavours. He is leaving St George's after such a lengthy period of service to enjoy a move to North Wales where he has bought himself a 'bit of a project' and is looking forward to fulfilling some of his other passions, most notably driving steam engines and gardening. We're sure he will have his hands full! Russell's gain of a quieter life is well deserved, but certainly also our loss. We have been lucky to have him.



Ali Kennedy (Librarian)

Ali Kennedy joined St George's

in 2015 excited to have the opportunity to launch, what was then, our brand new Library. In her time at SGA, alongside her role in the Library, she was EPQ coordinator, head of Darwin House, resident tutor, a Second Year tutor, contestant on *The Chase*, finalist in School Librarian of the Year and Irn Bru's ambassador to the south (she has a subscription!). Quite the list of accomplishments and a measure of the extent she has positively influenced the life of our school!

Ali is already greatly missed by us all. Many girls will be grateful to her for nurturing a love of reading. Many reluctant readers have picked up a book because of her recommendations and then gone back for more. Meeting with Ali in the Library would often be delayed as she finished her conversation with a pupil about an exciting new addition to the shelves.

Ali has led the EPQ programme since 2018 doing a great job in cementing it as a course which everyone in the Sixth Form now follows. She has also been an excellent resident tutor in Markham and the boarders hold her in great affection. She has probably taught nearly every girl in the house to knit, she has been a font of all knowledge on practically every subject under the sun and her wise words, whether comforting an upset girl or giving general 'life lesson' advice, were always appropriate and appreciated.

If things get too quiet in her new abode (TASIS are, in our view, very lucky to have landed Ali) she is always more than welcome to pop back for a sleepover!



Andy Carroll (Director of Drama and Head of Sixth Form)

Andy Carroll joined St George's

in September 2011 and, by the time of his departure at the end of the autumn term of 2021, there were few areas of the school in which he had not played an important and energetic role. The advertised position to which he was appointed was that of an experienced teacher of drama, and he was undoubtedly an outstanding practitioner in the classroom. His pupils enthusiastically tried new approaches with his encouragement, and their examination results were always extremely impressive. As Director of Drama he forged strong bonds with his colleagues in the department, but also created a hugely successful connection with Director of Music, Mr Hillier, collaborating together on a number of remarkable musicals which became a highlight of the academic year.

As well as being Head of Department, Andy was also a Head of Year and then Deputy Head of Sixth Form. Ultimately, he became the Head of Sixth

Form and oversaw a thriving, caring community which was ambitious and yet full of joy. For those pupils who found the A Level years difficult, he had patience and empathy in abundance, but he also had stronger words when encouragement of a different kind was required. However, even those who encountered the sterner side of this proud Yorkshireman could see his vested interest in their positive growth as well as his keen sense of fun. During his final years in Ascot he also joined the Academic Management Team and helped craft a number of useful developments in pedagogy at the school.

With such a range of experiences it was no surprise that Andy was offered the role of Head of Sixth Form at Halliford School, a position which also gave him a place on their senior leadership team. With his trademark enthusiasm, energy and distinctive fashion choices, he will, we are sure, enhance the lives of the pupils, and the professional experience of colleagues fortunate enough to work with him.



Liz Little (Marketing)

Having worked at St George's a few years previously, Liz obviously

decided that she couldn't stay away and rejoined the Marketing and Admissions team in November 2019. She immediately settled back into old friendships and quickly established herself as a vital cog within the M&A machine. A whizz on InDesign and Photoshop and an expert in social media, Liz always worked to the highest of standards and her mark remains evident in some beautiful design work around the school, on social media and throughout the splendid new website which she had worked so hard to deliver.

Anyone who worked with Liz would know that she was a gracious and generous individual, always looking to help where time allowed and ceaselessly supportive of her

colleagues. Her endless patience was certainly tried by more than a few members of staff as we all adjusted to greater use of social media during lockdown! She was diligent and hard working, often putting many hours in to make sure her design work was absolutely perfect, and her commitment to a job well done was evident to the end, with the most remarkably detailed and thorough set of handover notes ever seen! Liz also had the most wonderful sense of humour and her legendary birthday playlists were the cause of great joy in the department, lifting all our spirits in the midst of busy days. She is greatly missed within our department, but we are delighted to see her find a new niche working part-time from home. She does, however, follow our social media so is still keeping us on our toes, even if from afar! Maybe she will be back? St George's would be the richer were that to be the case.



Kathryn Stanley (Visiting Music Tutor)

At the end of the summer term, it was very sad to say

goodbye to Mrs Kathryn Stanley who has been an enthusiastic and supportive piano teacher to many Georgians over the years.

Kathryn is a well known local figure having studied at Royal Holloway and taught at the Licensed Victualers School and Eton End. She came to us here at St George's in 2000 and, in the intervening 22 years, has been a teacher whose patience,

gentle approach and amazing knowledge has endeared her to many able, but also to some of our more reluctant, players!

She has contributed to the musical life of the school in a very meaningful way and we are very grateful for all her hard work.

We wish Kathryn and her husband Matthew well as they move to North Yorkshire to be nearer other family members. Kathryn is an enthusiastic and skilled gardener and a devoted grandmother so we feel sure that busy, but satisfying, times lie ahead.



Awards and Prize Giving

PREFECTS

Head Girl
Amelia Marriott

Deputy Head Girls
Alice Kyle
Daisy Rhead

House Captain – Alexander
Matilda Cayton

House Captain – Becket
Mannat Sahota

House Captain – Churchill
Thea Scaddan

House Captain – Darwin
Isabel Kardos-Stowe

Art Prefect
Naomi Yang

Charity Prefect
Madison Dunn

Drama Prefect
Megan O'Hare

Library Prefect
Summer Masood

Marketing and Admissions Prefects
Carmen Ng
Ariana Ribeiro

Sport Prefect
India Williams

UPPER SIXTH SUBJECT PRIZES

Prize for Art
Lucy Keddie

Prize for Biology
Carmen Ng

Prize for Business
Mannat Sahota

Prize for Chemistry
Ariana Ribeiro

Prize for Drama
Isabel Kardos-Stowe

Prize for Economics
Amelia Marriott

Prize for English
Isabel Kardos-Stowe

Prize for Extended Project Qualification
Amelia Marriott

Prize for French
Charlotte Perucca

Prize for Geography
Megan O'Hare

Prize for History
Lucy Keddie

Prize for History of Art
Thea Scaddan

Prize for Mathematics
Ka Wai Lam

Prize for Photography
Isabella Hustler Parker

Prize for Physical Education
Alice Kyle

Prize for Physics
Ka Wai Lam

Prize for Politics
Summer Masood

Prize for Psychology
Leyan Sun

Prize for Religious Studies
Isabel Kardos-Stowe

Prize for Spanish
Ariana Ribeiro

Prize for Textiles
Tsz Ying Yung

Dourontakis Cup for Academic Excellence
Amelia Marriott

Upper Sixth Progress
Isabella Langaard

Upper Sixth Effort
Alice Kyle

Upper Sixth Kindness & Community
Leyan Sun

Sixth Form Diplomas
Madison Dunn
Isadora Hedges
Hiu Ching Lam
Amelia Mitten
Abdulsamad Rabiou
India Williams
Yung Hsu Yang

UPPER SIXTH CO-CURRICULAR PRIZES

Senior Acting Cup
Matilda Cayton

The Miranda Leatham Singing Cup
Matilda Cayton

The Kafena Cup for Music
Isabel Kardos-Stowe

Senior Sports Cup
Alice Kyle

EAL Cup
Qiqi Wu

Services to Chapel Choir
Matilda Cayton
Isabel Kardos-Stowe
Amelia Marriott

Alexander Award
Matilda Cayton

Becket Award
Mannat Sahota

Churchill Award
Thea Scaddan

Darwin Award
Isabel Kardos-Stowe

Deputy Head Girls' Award
Alice Kyle
Daisy Rhead

Head Girls' Award
Amelia Marriott

FIRST YEAR COMMENDATIONS

Commendation for Art
Georgia Eaton

Commendation for ICT and Computing
Emerson Seabolt

Commendation for Drama
Emelie Simpson

Commendation for English
Lily Derrick

Commendation for French
Liv Dhanda

Commendation for Geography
Lily Derrick

Commendation for History
Poppy Simpson

Commendation for Latin
Hana Martin

Commendation for Mathematics
Emerson Seabolt

Commendation for Music
Cleo Corden

Commendation for Religious Studies
Cleo Corden

Commendation for Science
Liv Dhanda

Head's Award for Outstanding Academic Achievement in Drama, History and Religious Studies
Sally Davy

SECOND YEAR COMMENDATIONS

Commendation for Art
Sophia Kazaryan

Commendation for ICT and Computing
Jenna Law

Commendation for Drama
Emilia Petersen

Commendation for English
Sophia Hamid

Commendation for French
Luisa McAllister

Commendation for Geography
Sophia Hamid

Commendation for History
Manon Morgan-Cooper

Commendation for Classics
Clementine Ladsky

Commendation for Latin
Senna Choudree

Commendation for Mathematics
Jenna Law

Commendation for Music
Tabitha MacPhee

Commendation for Religious Studies
Manon Morgan-Cooper

Commendation for Science
Marta Shanahan

Commendation for Spanish
Senna Choudree

Head's Award for Outstanding Academic Achievement in French, History and Latin
Devon Jessop

THIRD YEAR PRIZES

Prize for Art
Sofya Novokshonova

Prize for Classics
Amber Bennett

Prize for ICT and Computing
India Knowles

Prize for Drama
Asees Dhanda

Prize for English
Amanda Elliott

Prize for French
Asees Dhanda

Prize for Geography
Erin Kozak

Prize for History
Scarlett Scaddan

Prize for Latin
Aanya Shukla

Prize for Mathematics
Yunqing Guan

Prize for Music
Lucy Kieran

Prize for Religious Studies
India Knowles

Prize for Science
Neha Hothi

Prize for Spanish
Aanya Shukla

Prize for Textiles
Lucy Kieran

Head's Award for Outstanding Academic Achievement in English, Latin, Science and Spanish
Dominique Nobrega

FOURTH YEAR COMMENDATIONS

Commendation for Art
Emily Arbuthnott

Commendation for Biology
Matilda Ward

Commendation for Chemistry
Tesni Smith

Commendation for Classics
Kimberley Harvey

Commendation for Computer Science
Rosemary Dangerfield

Commendation for Drama
Orla Smith

Commendation for English
Emily Arbuthnott

Commendation for French
Lucia El-Bacha

Commendation for Geography
Amelia Wells

Commendation for History
Rosemary Dangerfield

Commendation for Latin
Chloe Moston

Commendation for Mathematics
Ruiyi Li

Commendation for Music
Lucia El-Bacha

Commendation for Physical Education
Josephine Marriott

Commendation for Physics
Matilda Ward

Commendation for Religious Studies
Olivia Wells

Commendation for Science
Malibongwe Gumedede

Commendation for Spanish
Felicita Petersen



Commendation for Textiles
Tesni Smith

Head's Award for Outstanding Achievement in Biology, French, History, Mathematics, Physical Education, Physics and Religious Studies
Anya Hagen

FIFTH YEAR PRIZES

Prize for Art
Kexin Zhang

Prize for Biology
Milly Holdsworth

Prize for Chemistry
Charlotte Coates

Prize for Classics
Ellie Darke

Prize for Drama
Milly Holdsworth

Prize for English
Charlotte Himsworth

Prize for French
Gemma Dripps

Prize for Geography
Charlotte Coates

Prize for History
Judit Arvidsson

Prize for Latin
Isobel Thomas

Prize for Mathematics
Yeva Chemer

Prize for Music
Anna Dripps

Prize for Physical Education
Isobel Thomas

Prize for Physics
Judit Arvidsson

Prize for Religious Studies
Charlotte Himsworth

Prize for Science
Paige Clarke

Prize for Spanish
Anna Dripps

Prize for Textiles
Yeva Chemer

Head's Award for Outstanding Achievement in Drama, English and French
Oona Gibbons

Head's Award for Outstanding Achievement in Biology, Chemistry, History, Latin, Mathematics and Physics
Jessica Guest

LOWER SIXTH COMMENDATIONS

Commendation for Art
Emily Simon

Commendation for Biology
Alice Nicholson

Commendation for Business
Madeleine Kneen

Commendation for Chemistry
Oi Yee Zhang

Commendation for Economics
Ruby Woodward

Commendation for English
Amelia Lewis

Commendation for French
Kendra Jervis

Commendation for Geography
Ruby Woodward

Commendation for History
Hannah Beason

Commendation for Mathematics
Oi Yee Zhang

Commendation for Photography
Celine Freiha

Commendation for Physical Education
Amelia Hampshire

Commendation for Politics
Hannah Beason

Commendation for Psychology
Annabel Macpherson

Commendation for Religious Studies
Amelia Lewis

Commendation for Science
Marta Shanahan

Commendation for Spanish
Ella Jackson

Commendation for Textiles
Megan Cale

Head's Award for Outstanding Achievement in Drama, Music and Spanish
Amelia Taylor

PROGRESS PRIZES 2021-22

First Year
Cleo Corden

Second Year
Isabel Disley

Third Year
Jennifer Dewhirst

Fourth Year
Onaopemipo Olujimi

Fifth Year
Teniola Raji

Lower Sixth
Amelia Hampshire

EFFORT PRIZES 2021-22

First Year
Emelie Simpson

Second Year
Helen Johnstone

Third Year
Katie Guest

Fourth Year
Molly Blunt

Fifth Year
Kexin Zhang

Lower Sixth
Gabriella Brinn-Johnson

KINDNESS AND COMMUNITY PRIZES 2021-22

First Year
Yasmeen Conway

Second Year
Evie Ewens

Third Year
Lucy Kieran

Fourth Year
Rosemary Dangerfield

Fifth Year
Yeva Chemer

Lower Sixth
Annabel Macpherson

JUNIOR CO-CURRICULAR PRIZES 2021-22

Junior Acting Cup
Grace Davy

Junior Music Cup
Manon Morgan-Cooper

Junior Sports Cup
Asees Dhanda

13+ SCHOLARSHIPS 2022

Academic
Sophia Hamid

Academic
Marta Shanahan

Art
Evie Ewens

Drama
Devon Jessop

Performing Arts (Drama and Dance)
Emilia Petersen

Drama Exhibition
Ishpel Williams

SIXTH FORM SCHOLARSHIPS 2022-24

Pre-existing scholarship retained for Sixth Form:

Sports Scholarship
Charlotte Coates

New Sixth Form scholarships to:

All Round (Academic and Music)
Anna Dripps

All Round (Academic and Performing Arts)
Milly Holdsworth

Academic Scholarship
Jessica Guest

Art Scholarship
Kexin Zhang

Sports Scholarship
Sophie Elliot

Academic Exhibition
Kar Hang Yuen

Art Exhibition
Yeva Chemer

Art Exhibition
Lucia Hall

Sports Exhibition
Alexandra Rotheroe

Sports Exhibition
Christina Manduca

THE GOOD COMPANIONS CUP

Awarded to a pupil who has given exceptional service within the School community during the past year
Imogen Hillary

THE SPIRIT OF ST GEORGE AWARD

Awarded to a pupil who has shown true Georgian Spirit during the past year
Yeva Chemer

HOUSE WORK SHIELD FOR MERITS

Alexander

THE HOUSE CHAMPIONSHIP CUP

Churchill

AUTUMN TERM AWARDS

London College of Music Examinations

Music Theatre Grade 2
Emily Wabwire *Merit*

Music Theatre Grade 4
Isher Sahota *Merit*

Music Theatre Grade 5
Milly Holdsworth *Merit*

Music Theatre Grade 7
Alice Grant *Merit*

Music Theatre Grade 7
Amelia Taylor *Distinction*

Associated Board of the Royal Schools of Music Awards

Grade 4 Singing Performance
Olivia Hand *Merit*

Grade 5 Music Theory
Anna Dripps *Merit*

Grade 5 Music Theory
Lucia El-Bacha *Pass*

Grade 5 Singing Practical
Orla Smith *Pass*

Grade 5 Singing Practical
Gemma Dripps *Pass*

Grade 5 Singing Performance
Katie Hewer *Pass*

Grade 8 Piano Practical
Carmen Ng *Pass*

Trinity College London

Grade 3 Singing
Manon Morgan-Cooper *Merit*

Dance

Dance GCSE
Paige Clarke *Grade 5*

Dance GCSE
Nyah Millns *Grade 8*

Duke of Edinburgh's Award

Bronze Award
Ellie Darke
Georgia Kohring
Emily O'Neill
Orla Smith



Sports Awards

Junior Most Improved Sports Cup
Isobel MacLaurin

Senior Most Improved Sports Cup
Imogen Hillary

Junior Sports Achievement Cup
Asees Dhandra

Senior Sports Achievement Cup
Alice Kyle

Effort, Achievement, Progress, Kindness and Community Cups

First Year Effort Cup
Poppy Simpson

First Year Achievement Cup
Sally Davy

First Year Progress Cup
Amber Hay

First Year Kindness and Community Cup
Hana Martin

Second Year Effort Cup
Ishpel Williams

Second Year Achievement Cup
Senna Choudree

Second Year Progress Cup
Luisa McAllister

Second Year Kindness and Community Cup
Madalyn Cape

Third Year Effort Cup
Isobel MacLaurin

Third Year Achievement Cup
Dominique Nobrega

Third Year Progress Cup
Lucinda Dyson

Third Year Kindness and Community Cup
India Knowles

Fourth Year Effort Cup
Chloe Moston

Fourth Year Achievement Cup
Anya Hagen

Fourth Year Progress Cup
Emily Wabwire

Fourth Year Kindness and Community Cup
Estella Dhandra

Fifth Year Effort Cup
Anna Dripps

Fifth Year Achievement Cup
Jessica Guest

Fifth Year Progress Cup
Ava Kyle

Fifth Year Kindness and Community Cup
Amelia Holdsworth

Lower Sixth Effort Cup
Hannah Beason

Lower Sixth Achievement Cup
Lucy Grant

Lower Sixth Progress Cup
Daisy Booth

Lower Sixth Kindness and Community Cup
Annabel Shaw

Upper Sixth Effort Cup
Mannat Sahota

Upper Sixth Achievement Cup
Hiu Ching Lam

Upper Sixth Progress Cup
Charlotte Perucca

Upper Sixth Kindness and Community Cup
Thea Scaddan

SPRING TERM AWARDS

Trinity College London

Grade 3 Singing
Emilia Allan *Merit*

Grade 6 Singing
Milly Holdsworth *Merit*

Grade 6 Flute
Oi Yee Zhang *Merit*

LAMDA

Acting Grade 2 Solo
Munachimso Oguine *Merit*

Acting Grade 3 Solo
Maya Evdokimova *Distinction*

Acting Grade 4 Solo
Alice Grant *Merit*

Acting Grade 4 Solo
Lucy Kieran *Merit*

Acting Grade 4 Solo
Dominique Nobrega *Distinction*

Acting Grade 4 Solo
Felicita Petersen *Distinction*

Acting Grade 5 Solo
Portia Smith *Distinction*

Acting Grade 5 Solo
Jessica Smith *Distinction*

Acting Grade 6 Solo (Bronze)
Ava Marson-Day *Distinction*

Acting Grade 6 Solo (Bronze)
Constance Marriott *Distinction*

Duke of Edinburgh's Award

Bronze Award
Rosemary Dangerfield
Ellie Darke
Lucia El-Bacha
Anya Harper
Katie Hower
Georgia Kohring
Josephine Marriott
Erin Marshall
Emily O'Neill
Orla Smith
Ruby Woodward

Silver Certificate of Achievement
Erin Smith

Gold Certificate of Achievement
Mannat Sahota

Sports Awards

Junior Most Improved Sports Cup
Catherine Tan

Senior Most Improved Sports Cup
Jessica Guest

Junior Sports Achievement Cup
Grace Davy

Senior Sports Achievement Cup
Eleanor MacPhee

Effort, Achievement, Progress, Kindness and Community Cups

First Year Effort Cup
Emerson Seabolt

First Year Achievement Cup
Lily Derrick

First Year Progress Cup
Florence Hodgkinson

First Year Kindness and Community Cup
Charlotte Dewhirst

Second Year Effort Cup
Emilia Petersen

Second Year Achievement Cup
Devon Jessop

Second Year Progress Cup
Marta Shanahan

Second Year Kindness and Community Cup
Leonor Alvarez de Toledo

Third Year Effort Cup
Scarlett Scaddan

Third Year Achievement Cup
Aanya Shukla

Third Year Progress Cup
Jennifer Dewhirst

Third Year Kindness and Community Cup
Katie Guest

Fourth Year Effort Cup
Malibongwe Gumedde

Fourth Year Achievement Cup
Anya Hagen

Fourth Year Progress Cup
Hin Hang Chiu

Fourth Year Kindness and Community Cup
Molly Blunt

SUMMER TERM AWARDS

Associated Board of the Royal Schools of Music Awards

Grade 3 Singing Practical
Anna Poad *Pass*

Grade 3 Singing Practical
Ishpel Williams *Pass*

Grade 4 Singing Practical
Marina Thurner *Pass*

Grade 4 Singing Practical
Maya Evdokimova *Pass*

Grade 5 Singing Practical
Rosemary Dangerfield *Merit*

Grade 5 Singing Practical
Olivia Hand *Merit*

Grade 1 Piano Practical
Georgina Howitt *Pass*

Grade 2 Harp (Non-Pedal) Practical
Carmen Ng *Merit*

Grade 3 Violin Practical
Elise Celant *Pass*

Grade 4 Cello Practical
Isabel Kardos-Stowe *Pass*

LAMDA

Speaking in Public Grade 5
Georgia Kohring *Distinction*

New Era Academy of Drama and Music

Acting Grade 3 Foundation Medal
Georgia Eaton *Distinction*

Acting Grade 3 Foundation Medal
Elise Celant *Distinction*

Acting Grade 3 Foundation Medal
Sophia Sobhan *Distinction*

Acting Grade 3 Foundation Medal
Lily Thornton *Distinction*

Acting Grade 4 Foundation Medal
Manon Morgan-Cooper *Distinction*

Acting Grade 5
Thea Rhead *Distinction*

Acting Grade 5
Olivia Wells *Distinction*



Acting Grade 5
Emilia Petersen *Distinction*

Acting Duologue Grade 5
Anya Hagen *Distinction*

Acting Duologue Grade 5
Leila Mount *Distinction*

Mime Grade 5
Olivia Wells *Distinction*

Public Speaking Grade 5
Emilia Petersen *Distinction*

Shakespeare Grade 5
Anya Hagen *Distinction*

Acting Grade 6 Bronze Medal
Emily Arbuthnott *Merit*

Acting Grade 6 Bronze Medal
Orla Smith *Distinction*

**Public Speaking Grade 6
Bronze Medal**
Annabel Macpherson *Distinction*

Duke of Edinburgh's Award

Bronze Award
Daisy Mae Gratton
Anya Hagen
Georgina Howitt
Ava Marson-Day
Amelia Wells
Olivia Wells

Silver
Lauren Cole

**English Creative Writing
Competition**

Junior Competition Winner
Sally Davy

Senior Competition Winner
Emily Arbuthnott

Sports Awards

**Junior Most Improved
Sports Cup**
Charlotte Williams

**Senior Most Improved
Sports Cup**
Sylvie Wijeratna

Junior Sports Achievement Cup
Asees Dhanda

Senior Sports Achievement Cup
Munachimso Oguine

**Effort, Achievement, Progress,
Kindness and Community Cups**

First Year Effort Cup
Marina Thurner

First Year Achievement Cup
Liv Dhanda

First Year Progress Cup
Charlotte Dewhirst

**First Year Kindness and
Community Cup**
Emerson Seabolt

Second Year Effort Cup
Kourtney Mutamangira

Second Year Achievement Cup
Manon Morgan-Cooper

Second Year Progress Cup
Sophia Kazaryan

**Second Year Kindness and
Community Cup**
Beatrice Engelbretson

Third Year Effort Cup
Grace Davy

Third Year Achievement Cup
Asees Dhanda

Third Year Progress Cup
Estella Pardellas-Marra

**Third Year Kindness and
Community Cup**
Maya Evdokimova

Fourth Year Effort Cup
Anya McCall

Fourth Year Achievement Cup
Anya Hagen

Fourth Year Progress Cup
Malibongwe Gumede

**Fourth Year Kindness and
Community Cup**
Amelia Wells

Fifth Year Effort Cup
Lucia Hall

Fifth Year Achievement Cup
Judit Arvidsson

Fifth Year Progress Cup
Elodie Stacey

**Fifth Year Kindness and
Community Cup**
Jessica Guest

Lower Sixth Effort Cup
Madeleine Kneen

Lower Sixth Achievement Cup
Ruby Woodward

Lower Sixth Progress Cup
Amelia Lewis

**Lower Sixth Kindness and
Community Cup**
Imogen Hillary

Upper Sixth Effort Cup
Qiqi Wu

Upper Sixth Achievement Cup
Carmen Ng

Upper Sixth Progress Cup
India Williams

**Upper Sixth Kindness and
Community Cup**
Matilda Cayton



GEORGE'S

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Highlights of the Year

The Story of Innovative Learning at SGA

St George's use of technology in the classroom picked up pace in September 2021 when Head of Modern Foreign Languages, Elodie Pierre, was awarded Google Trainer status and was appointed to the new role of Learning Innovation Lead. Many families will remember Miss Pierre's speech at Prize Giving in the summer of 2021 outlining something of what the future might hold in terms of innovations in the school's approach to technology and learning. At the start of the academic year, she and the ICT Steering Committee committed to: train all teaching staff to Level 1 Google Educator status, to recruit pupils to work towards an SGA diploma and serve as peer mentors, to develop Lower Sixth IT ambassadors to help steer the St George's digital strategy, and to apply for the prestigious Google Reference School status.

Miss Pierre embarked on training staff during inset days and continues to run weekly drop-in sessions to help colleagues through the Google fundamental skills platform. A monthly newsletter has showcased individual teachers' use of a variety of Google tools through a screencast video or an article intended to inspire colleagues.

'I used to be really nervous about using my Chromebook and thought that if I had had a friend or a slightly older girl to ask I totally would have done that. That's what I want to be – that person to go to, to ask for help – for other girls at school'

Hemani, one of our Year 8 Googleys, explaining the impact of her training

Various subject departments have taken Google usage to a new level in the last year, delivering exponentially in response to their newfound capability and confidence. For example, the History Department has experimented with the use of Google Sites to encourage collaborative working on projects studying life in the First World War trenches and 1920s USA. 'Sites' has since been adopted by departments such as PE, Geography, Classics, Science and Modern Foreign Languages to aid pupil study, create interactive teaching and learning resources and encourage the sharing of best practice among teaching staff.

Google Jamboard was first introduced as an interactive whiteboard during lockdown teaching, but, with experience, teachers and pupils have broadened its use to that of an online card sort, an essay planning tool and a revision card creator. It has also been used in staff meetings to aid collaboration and make notes, for example, the teaching staff meeting in November used Jamboard as a tool to launch the Teacher Innovation Exploration Plans (TIEPs). In addition, the AGT

The Story of Innovative Learning at SGA

The Queen's Platinum Jubilee BBQ Lunch Party

New Gym Development

Historical Association Gold Quality Mark

Cultural Diversity Week

Berlin

Carols in the Quad

Chapel Choir Tour to Vienna and Salzburg

Public Examination Success



co-ordinator has regularly used Jamboard in her stretch meetings with pupils to generate discussions and keep a record of pupils' ideas.

Prior to Miss Pierre achieving Google Trainer accreditation, none of the staff had qualified as Level 1 Google Educators. By the end of the summer term 2022, more than 60% of staff had undertaken the training for, or passed, this level. Level 1 is now a requisite objective on teaching appraisals and all teaching staff will have completed this qualification by the end of 2022-23.

Staff capability has bred pupil confidence. Miss Pierre recounts walking in on a class she was covering in which a number of Google-confident pupils had taken the work set by their teacher on Google Classroom and were projecting a YouTube teaching video onto the whiteboard while the rest of the class collaborated on Google Docs to produce Jamboards to share with one another. Miss Pierre did not have to even utter a word!

'This is completely normal for St George's now. They (the pupils) are making informed decisions about how they use technology to aid their learning.'

Miss Pierre has set up the co-curricular ICT 'Googley' Club. Initially, seven Second and Third Year pupils completed Levels 1, 2 and 3 of the St George's Google Diploma in 2021, mastering the G-Suite through the completion of practical tasks. St George's has now rolled out a mentoring system using 'Googleys' to help First Years develop capability in their use of the G-Suite and the popularity of the club is growing.

Miss Pierre has recruited Lower Sixth IT ambassadors to give the ICT Steering Group vital pupil insight, for example on Google-based marking and feedback, and to help define strategies for pupils to manage screen time healthily. It is exciting to see pupils push the digital envelope

and collaborate with the school to prepare for the future.

The ICT Steering Committee submitted St George's application for Google Reference School status at the end of the summer term. They were thrilled to hear, early in the summer holidays, that St George's was successful in its application. Being a Google Reference School will broaden St George's influence and develop valuable connections with other schools who are also looking to expand their use of technology in the classroom. Pupil and staff feedback has promoted an increased investment in more capable machines, due at the start of the 2022-23 academic year, and the leadership team



are fully engaged in delivering a stronger learning experience for all.

In addition, the hard work of the entire community was recognised when St George's was chosen as a finalist for both the 2022 Times Education Supplement's (Tes) award for Innovative Learning and Talk Education's award for Best Use of Technology and given a Highly Commended by Muddy Stiletto's in the same category. Highly Commended by Muddy Stiletto's in the same category.



The Queen's Platinum Jubilee BBQ Lunch Party

St George's kicked off its Platinum Jubilee celebrations with a lunch party on the South Lawn on the Friday before the summer half term holiday.



Pupils dressed in patriotic red, white and blue and enjoyed a delicious BBQ in the company of friends from across the year groups and it was a pleasure to mark both the longevity of the Queen's reign and the end of such a productive half term in truly celebratory style.



“ The girls are the embodiment of the sort of young woman you want your daughter to be, and to become. ”

Parent



New Gym Development

The refurbishment of the current gym was completed over the summer holidays and fitted with new, state of the art equipment from Technogym ready for the new 2022-23 academic year.

The Senior Leadership Team continues to value feedback from the girls on how the school might develop its facilities to maximise access to opportunities whilst studying at St George's.

Helping girls to develop a positive attitude towards their physical wellbeing – through both the curriculum and in co-curricular activities – is also a priority. The development of the gym is a strong example of both these principles at work.



History Department Awarded the Historical Association Gold Quality Mark

During the Easter holidays, Head of History and Politics, Mrs Kratt, was delighted to learn that her department had been awarded the prestigious Historical Association's Gold Quality Mark. This is an award

that recognises the excellence of history provision in any school and Mrs Kratt and her staff and a number of pupils had taken part in a rigorous assessment process in the spring term to measure the standard of the SGA

provision. Clearly they made an excellent impression and, having applied, thinking that they might be awarded Silver, their own expectations were surpassed with the news that they were to be awarded the Gold Quality Mark.

'St. George's Ascot's vibrant committed history department demonstrates a strong desire to become a centre of excellence for the transformation of history education, and its ongoing radical curriculum overhaul and engaging pedagogical approaches have built a strong foundation for that.'

Dr Robin Whitburn
Historical Association



Cultural Diversity Week

St George's held its second Cultural Diversity Week in May when pupils celebrated and learnt more about the global SGA community and the different cultures represented within its pupil body.

whilst the First Year choir sang a number of international songs, pupils performed their own Haiku poems and everyone toured the stands prepared by international pupils on teenage life in their home countries. It was a fantastic #SGAconnected afternoon and a highlight of the week.

returned to St George's to speak to the different year groups. Having had a profound impact on the Sixth Form when she visited as part of their Enrichment Programme, Cultural Diversity week provided the ideal opportunity for her to speak to the younger pupils and help them to think about and potentially redress their perceptions of privilege and bias.

Ria Kalsi, the founder of online positivity platform, Matriarch,



Upper Sixth pupils, Carmen, from Macau, and Naomi, from Taiwan, shared their stories of arriving in the UK for the first time to attend SGA as First Year full boarders in the Monday morning assembly, the co-curricular Diversity Club launched its online SGA Connected Recipe Book, tutor groups read Floella Benjamin's Coming to England and all the school gathered for a celebratory Cultural Diversity Fete on Thursday afternoon in club time. Cream teas were enjoyed



Berlin

Trips and expeditions, particularly on foreign soil, were one of the sad losses of the covid era and so it was with great excitement that the Fourth Year and Lower Sixth historians set off on the first SGA international school trip since the pandemic, leaving very early on 29 April for a four day intensive tour of Berlin.

Having connected with Ian, the guide from Anglia Tours, and dropped off bags at the hotel, we were back on the U-bahn arriving at Berlin's Hauptbahnhof just after lunch. Our first stop was at the Reichstag, the historic building which houses the Bundestag, the lower house of Germany's parliament. The girls learnt about the creation of the German Empire in 1871, followed by the introduction of democracy after World War One and how the Nazis gained power after the Reichstag fire of 1933 just 25 years later. Our young historians were gripped by the guide's fascinating commentary on key events such as the book burning outside the Humboldt University in 1933 and sites such as the memorials to the Jewish, the Roma and the homosexual victims of the Holocaust.

The next day started with a visit to the Olympic Stadium (where the new *Pitch Perfect* movie was being filmed, much to the girls' excitement!) followed by the Platform 17 Memorial which records how many Jews were removed each day from Berlin and sent eastwards to the death camps. The tour then moved on to the Wannsee Villa where the Final Solution was cruelly and chillingly discussed and finalised.



Day three started with pancakes from a van just by the Brandenburg Gate which delighted many and then onto the Resistance Museum

to learn of those who challenged the Nazi regime in various different ways. It was then time to consider the Cold War era, with a visit to the communist Treptower Park and to Bernauer Strasse to understand the horrors associated with the Berlin Wall and the Stazi's close surveillance of the East German population.

The final day included a visit to the DDR Museum, but also just enough time for retail therapy at the Ampelmann shop and the Berlin Mall. An exhausted but very happy group returned to Heathrow at midnight, but were all in school the next day ready to share their experiences with their friends.

Mrs Kratt,
Head of History and Politics

'Berlin is full of fascinating history, but I did find many of the events a bit disturbing. The Holocaust Memorial was extremely sad but I feel like this is something everyone should see to help them understand this time in history and ensure that it never happens again.'

Maddy, Fourth Year pupil

Carols in the Quad

As many from the St George's community gathered for the Advent Service on the first Sunday in December and celebrated the coming of light into darkness, there was a particular poignancy to everyone gathering outside for

mulled wine and mince pies given the covid uncertainty that had coloured the end of the autumn term. Taking the traditional singing of Christmas carols outside into the Quad on the final Wednesday of term and sharing supper together in year groups showed the capacity of the SGA family to

adapt and create new traditions and also have fun and connect with one another whatever the circumstances. Looking back on the busy and varied schedule of events of those last few weeks of term, it was encouraging that life at SGA continued to be that light in the darkness.



Chapel Choir Tour to Vienna and Salzburg

Travelling from Vienna to Salzburg, the Chapel Choir performed a demanding eight concerts over seven days to complete their first European tour since 2019. With the help of tour guide, Bettina and in the company of supportive parents and staff, the girls had a wonderful time exploring Austria, embracing the culture of breaded *schnitzel*, *Almdudler* and ice-cream blended *eiskaffee*.

The tour started in Vienna with an opening performance in the Votivkirche, a strikingly beautiful building with high ceilings and intricate stained-glass windows. The next morning, the girls were privileged to perform in the Stephansdom, the famous cathedral in the centre of Vienna, and were encouraged by tremendous applause from the audience when they had finished their repertoire. The performance in St. Peterskirche was also a highlight, as the choir stood alongside the organ one floor up, looking over the congregation below. The girls' voices and Mr Hillier's superb organ playing filled the church with a heavenly sound and the audience were able to immerse themselves in the beauty of songs from composers such as Felix Mendelssohn, John Ireland and Mr Hillier himself. Another of the Choir's favourite recital spaces was the Annakirche in Vienna. In this beautiful and slightly more intimate space, our soloists were given the chance to perform with Ava Marson-Day entertaining on the violin, Amelia Taylor on the clarinet and singing from Tilly Cayton.

Whilst in Vienna, the group also explored the Haus der Musik, an interactive discovery museum where the girls were able to try conducting a virtual orchestra, randomly generate sequences to compose their own piece and even speak to a virtual Mozart and read about his life in Vienna. They also visited the Schönbrunn Palace to learn more about the history of the city.

On the fourth day, the group travelled to Salzburg and, on arrival,



were treated to beautiful views of the surrounding mountains and the funicular up to the striking Hohensalzburg Fortress, sitting perched on the hillside above the city. On the first day in Salzburg, the girls enjoyed a hair-raising toboggan run, they visited the Faistenau Hofkäserei Farm, a family owned farm where they make their own bread, cheese, wurst and speck and finished the day with a concert in St. Nikolaus in Bad Ischl.

All the girls really enjoyed visiting the beautiful lakeside town of Mondsee, the setting for much of *The Sound Of Music*. They were thrilled to perform in the Basilika



St Michael, the church in which the wedding of Maria and the Captain was filmed. It was a privilege to take part in their evensong service, with the Choir providing the call and response in the service, led by the Head of the Chapel Choir, Tilly Cayton, and accompanied by Mr Hillier on the organ.

On the final day in Salzburg, the group took the funicular to the Hohensalzburg Fortress and enjoyed its marvellous panoramic views of the city. They then gave a superb lunchtime recital in the Salzburger Dom with the church full to the brim with people who had gathered to hear the girls sing. Despite having such a large space to fill, the Choir sang confidently and joyfully, allowing those present to soak in their beautiful sound. After walking round the Mirabell Gardens, the final concert of the tour took place in the Christuskirche. The Choir sang beautifully in three, and sometimes four, part harmony, finishing with *The Lord Bless You And Keep You* by John Rutter to mark the end of a very successful Chapel Choir tour.

Public Examination Success

St George's is very proud of its pupils who took GCSEs and A Levels this summer. The A-Level pupils were sitting public exams for the first time, and their achievements, in the face of educational uncertainty, are worthy of note.

The Upper Sixth cohort achieved excellent results and prepared with remarkable confidence under the circumstances, supported by dedicated teachers and pastoral staff. Continuing the positive upwards trajectory of academic results at St George's from the pre-pandemic years of public examinations, pupils achieved 100% A*-A in French, 57% A*-A in Maths and 100% A*-B in Geography, Chemistry, Politics,

Drama and Fine Art among other impressive outcomes. In addition, nearly all Sixth Form pupils at St George's undertook the EPQ, an independent research project highly regarded by universities, and this year's results were outstanding with 71% A*-A grades.

Our Upper Sixth leavers' choices for post-18 study included Oxford, UCL, Durham, Edinburgh, Newcastle and Brighton universities and a number of Arts colleges, to study a range of subjects across the sciences, humanities and creative arts. Among the top performers, Head Girl Milly secured her place at New College, Oxford to study PPE with excellent grades of A*AA. Deputy Head Girl Alice, also with A*AA, is studying Applied Sports Science at Edinburgh, and Performing Arts Scholar Isabel achieved

A*AB and is pursuing her studies in Musical Theatre. Everyone at St George's continues to wish the class of 2022 every happiness and success as they move into the next phase of their lives.

Our Fifth Year pupils approached both their studies and their preparation for exam season with great maturity. Their hard work was rewarded as they achieved grades above and beyond their baseline predictions, evidence of the value added for which St George's is placed in the top 5% nationally (2019). Their strong performance will provide them with a firm foundation for their continuing journey into the SGA Sixth Form and it is a measure of the thorough preparation they receive in advance of Sixth Form that 94% have chosen to stay on at St George's for their A Level studies.





CONFIDENT

St George's pupils thrive in an all-girls environment; they make the most of many opportunities, grow in confidence as ambitious individuals throughout their time at our School, thereby developing a strong sense of self.



Pupil Confidence and Well-being

Mental Health Awareness Week
 Children's Mental Health Week
 #onekindword
 Lower Sixth Twilight Walk
 The Importance of Sleep
 Managing Stress Talk

Reflections during Mental Health Awareness Week: five steps towards building a connected community at St George's

1. Encourage Friendships Across Year Groups

When new staff and pupils are asked their first impression of SGA, they will nearly always cite the warmth of the school community and the friendliness of those around them. Close friendships between girls in different year groups is normal business at St George's. Nurtured by a full calendar of house events across every area of school life and a remarkably broad programme of co-curricular clubs that span the year groups, the St George's community is rightly known for being akin to a family.

There are many 'public' strands of SGA life that help the girls to get to know one another and yet it is often behind the scenes that many pivotal connections are made.



Many of the Lower Sixth take the opportunity to train as Peer Point Counsellors and the positive impact they have on the wellbeing of the younger girls is significant. Upper Sixth pupil, Isabel, was paired with First Year, Anna early on in her time at St George's and the relationship has been invaluable.

Isabel reflects on her experience of St George's, 'Whenever I do tours for prospective families, I always

emphasise the strong relationships between girls across the school. It is not weird for Sixth Form pupils to sit with someone from a different year group at lunch or say hello in the corridor.' Anna agreed, 'Many of my First Year friends were intimidated by the older girls when we arrived, but they came up to us and were so friendly wanting to get to know us. A few house events in and no one even thinks twice about it now.'

'It's been really helpful to regularly chat through my experiences with someone who has been through something similar. She not only listened but also gave me great tips which have helped me to settle into my year group and the school more generally.'

Anna, First Year



2. Develop #SGAconfident Young People

Developing the confidence of pupils such that they are ambitious about having a positive impact on SGA life, is central to the ethos of the school. Whether as a pupil representative on one of the many school committees, on stage in a role within a cast, taking the lead in a pupil-led co-curricular club or committing to train with their peers on a sports team, when St George's girls engage in leadership and responsibility, they are actively building the connected community for which the school is renowned.

In the summer term, the Head Girl and Prefects for 2021-22 prepared to hand the baton on to a new, enthusiastic group of Lower Sixth pupils who would undoubtedly take great inspiration from their impressive predecessors. The Head Girl and Prefects for 2021-22 were superb role models in their can-do mentality, in their willingness to help and in the loyalty they showed towards the school they love. The progression so many pupils make from the First Year through to the Sixth Form is remarkable. As one of the Lower Sixth Head Girl candidates, Lucy, put it in her hustings speech,

'11 year old me would never have thought that I would have the confidence to be standing in front of you all today.'

Lucy, Lower Sixth pupil

The St George's Sixth Form leadership team is passionate about building that exact culture of friendship, acceptance and understanding that is needed both to combat the loneliness that the Mental Health Foundation pinpointed as their poignant theme for the year, but also to develop the community engagement that is its antithesis.

3. Provide a Strong Pastoral Network

'Whenever I am asked why our tutor system is so pastorally strong, I find myself returning to the same thought, namely that the teachers chosen are just really gentle with the girls. That may sound like a weak description, but I actually cannot think of a better word to sum up their empathy and compassion. They are understanding of the girls' changes in mood, they are

unbelievably generous with their time and such patient listeners.'

'At our weekly pastoral meetings, I am continually amazed at the breadth of issues they take in their stride and have a profound confidence in the care they offer the girls.'

Helen Simpson, Deputy Head Pastoral

The Senior Leadership Team and Heads of Year take great care in choosing tutors that are right for their cohort. The tutors, however, are just one part of a multifaceted team of pastoral care providers who understand and support the girls through their years at the school. Along with class teachers, Heads of Year, boarding house staff, an independent listener, a school counsellor and peer mentors, they work together as a team to ensure each pupil is fully known and her individual needs are recognised and met.



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4. Make Healthy Decisions in Life

Staff at SGA protect pupils' mental well-being by helping them to establish healthy habits and patterns for their future lives. The 32 acres of green space onsite provide plentiful opportunity for pupils to get outside with all the benefits that brings. The school's award winning catering team provides a daily smorgasbord of nutritious food to help the girls make healthy eating choices. A variety of physical activities, available within the curriculum and in the co-curricular programme, help the girls to exercise regularly. A strong performance culture allows the girls to enjoy the gifts of music, art and drama. Tatler for Schools recently described St George's as a 'small school with big school facilities' and the girls undoubtedly profit from the opportunities SGA's extensive facilities provide.

More than that, however, is the strong emphasis that is placed on balance at St George's. One of our recent alumna explained,

'When you go out into the real world, life isn't just about your work, your job. You do need to have that balance, you need to connect with people, see your family, and friends, do sport and make time for the things you love as well. That balance is something you learn from a young age at St George's.'

Grace, Alumna

Young people today need to develop both ambition and intellectual capability but also adaptability and resilience. St George's prepares pupils for the future by helping them to find that sense of balance that is vital for a positive mindset whatever the future may hold.

5. Allow for the Spiritual

'There is a spiritual dimension to loneliness which drains us and can leave us feeling broken. Christianity and other faiths hold that we are made for relationships - with each other, with the creation, with God. Chapel at St George's is a safe space for girls of any faith or none. In that space we find peace. We pray, we reflect, we listen. We slow down and engage our senses. We sing together and are reminded of the healing power of a community fully alive.

As #MentalHealthAwarenessWeek drew to a close SGA chaplain, the Revd Sami Watts cut to the heart of why developing a community that is authentically welcoming to both pupils and staff is central to life at St George's.

In the midst of busy school life, those few minutes at the start of the day can enable us to recalibrate and reconnect. Instead of being isolated individuals, cut off from one another, we see that we are part of something bigger, where each person is unique and valuable.

We are loved.

The Revd Sami Watts,
Chaplain of St George's

Children's Mental Health Week

Children's Mental Health Week 2022, in collaboration with Place2Be, was themed around 'growing together' and asked young people to consider how they themselves have grown and how they might help others to grow in their individual context. Whilst tutors held discussions around the topic in the classroom, the school's social media shone a light on the many ways in which pupils are supported in their own

individual growth at SGA and how they, in turn, support others.

It is a strength of St George's that there is such a variety of opportunities for pupils, as they progress up the school, to look after and care for younger girls by sharing wisdom from their own experience. Pupils involved as sports leaders, in the performing arts, in the boarding houses and in the classroom as 'Googley' mentors, reflected on their own growth and the many ways they are giving back. A particularly

inspiring story came from a group of Lower Sixth pupils who have asked to train as mentors to younger pupils. Having reflected on the support they themselves received in a variety of different areas of life, these self-aware girls realised how valuable it would be if they offered that support to those experiencing similar struggles.

#onekindword

In November, St George's marked national Anti-bullying Week with pupils spending time in their tutor groups thinking about how the campaign's theme, #onekindword, could make a difference to the community at St George's.

Throughout the week girls from the School Council took to Instagram Stories to share their thoughts on what kindness means to them and the week concluded with their 'Pupil Promise', a statement of intent that puts kindness at the heart of the St George's pupil experience.



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Lower Sixth Twilight Walk

Half way through the spring term, the Lower Sixth went to Richmond riverside to enjoy a twilight 'team building' walk. On a day that felt quite like summer, we headed to the station with girls from across the year that we didn't necessarily know so well. Having the chance to build relationships with one another in a neutral space was the theme of the day. As we reached Richmond, we were treated to an ice cream by Mrs Kratt which set us up for a long walk with beautiful scenes along the river bank. After what felt like about 20 miles (!), and having climbed one of the steepest hills ever, we enjoyed fish and chips (or halloumi). We had definitely built up an appetite and very little was left over! Mrs Kratt then invited us to visit her favourite chocolate shop called Venchi where she stocked up on supplies and a couple of us had a delicious milkshake. As a final treat we stopped off at McDonald's, where the rest of the year bought the more traditional milkshake. Having enjoyed a lot to eat and lots of exercise, there is no doubt that time out in such a relaxed setting drew our year closer together.

Written by Annabel, Lower Sixth

Well-being talk from Educational Speaker Emma Gleadhill on the Importance of Sleep

It was a pleasure to welcome educational speaker, coach and trainer, Emma Gleadhill to speak to the St George's community in October about the importance of developing healthy sleep patterns for teenagers.

Emma's online presentation was an informative but undoubtedly challenging listen. She outlined the dangers of stealing from the 'sleep budget' to physical and mental wellbeing, illustrating the effects of sleep deprivation as being akin to 'jetlag' for bodies and minds. She outlined a number of poor sleep hygiene habits that many people fall into, as both adults and children and, with extensive scientific research to illustrate the

Emma helped those present to better understand the chemistry of sleep and how the human body profits from healthy consistent patterns but she also laid out strategies to enrich the 'soil of sleep' and combat negative habits effectively.

detrimental effects of such loss, it was emphatically clear that 'sleep needs to be taken very seriously.'

It was hugely helpful, to hear Emma's invaluable advice on how to improve teenagers' sleep hygiene including making the bedroom a sanctuary for rest to restricting caffeine to the morning, reducing children's exposure to blue screens in the hour before bedtime, serotonin-producing dietary recommendations and tactics to help one's body get ready for sleep to strategies to process teenagers' anxiety and worry.



Parents Talk on Managing Stress from Mrs Jones

As the summer examination season approached, St George's invited parents to gather in the South Lawn Room for an excellent talk from the School's Healthcare Professional, Mrs Jones, on helping their daughters during times of stress. Mrs Jones dipped into both her professional knowledge but also her personal experience as a mother of five, giving helpful tips on recognising the signs of stress and providing practical strategies on how to help pupils manage negative emotions. She discussed exploring outcomes, active listening, celebrating success, breathing, physical contact, technology, and nutrition through how to avoid projecting adult anxiety on our children. It was a very helpful session and undoubtedly provided challenging food for thought for those present.



Managing stress talk with Mrs Jones

Co-curricular activities



- Activities Day
- Third Year trip to Bath and Devizes
- Duke of Edinburgh's Expeditions
- MUN
- St George's Feminism Club
- The Story of *The Georgian*
- MACE Debating
- Young Enterprise
- Independent School Mock Trial Competition
- Gardening and Eco-Squad Club

To finish the day we took to the river again in canoes. We learned how to paddle backwards, stand up on the canoe, and travel from one canoe to another. We also learned how to switch boats.

Written by Devon, Lola and Ailsa, Second Year

First Year visit to Marwell Zoo

As we passed through the gates of Marwell Zoo, the first animal we saw were the penguins. They swam flawlessly, diving around and it was funny to watch them waddle on dry land. After we saw the penguins, we climbed to a high viewing platform and saw elegant zebras all herded together and gazelles bounding across the field. The highlight of the day was spotting the red panda lurking around the bushes and climbing trees. Another animal that was a shock to find was a snow leopard! It was well hidden but we did see its tail dangling down, the pattern and the size of it was amazing. I really enjoyed Activities Day because it helped me to mix with girls that I hadn't spoken to much before and to build stronger friendships.

Written by Sally, First Year

Second Year trip to Operation Encounter

For our Activities Day, the Second Year went on a trip to Operation Encounter in Marlow. Our first activity was raft-building using plastic barrels, wood planks and lots of rope. We learnt how to tie different knots including a figure of 8 and half hitch knots. Once we were out on the water, we had to do different challenges on the raft such as standing up, switching seats and more.

I loved crate stacking because teamwork was essential. Working in pairs, we added crates one by one, slowly building a higher stack. Our friends had to pull the ropes so if we fell we would be ok! I really enjoyed the part where we got to push each other's high stacks of crates over when building time was up! Our highest scorers were Liza and Sophia with 19!



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Third Year trip to Oakwood

I really enjoyed our trip to Oakwood Youth Challenge. My favourite activity was the indoor rock climbing as we tried to work out which of the different paths worked best. I also really enjoyed the high ropes course; it was scary but also really exhilarating and challenging. Firstly, we completed the low ropes course, working together to avoid touching the ground. We simultaneously had to take care of Cedrick (a ball) that could not be put down. We also worked together as a team on crate stacking, working in groups of two to create the highest stack. Our teammates passed us the crates as we climbed whilst two others pulled the harness to make sure we were safe. I really enjoyed this day and thank you so much to the teachers who organised the trip.

Written by Katie, Third Year

Fourth Year trip to Runnymede

The Fourth Year embarked on a trip to visit the site of the signing of the Magna Carta in Runnymede. We started our walk with some

typical teen moaning, but after a while we grasped the historical significance of our surroundings. We visited the Magna Carta chamber where, Mrs Kratt told us, King John had signed the charter in June 1215. Magna Carta, which means 'The Great Charter', is one of the most important documents in history as it established the principle that everyone is subject to the law, even the king, and guarantees the rights of individuals, the right to justice and the right to a fair trial. It was moving to see the words reflected in the water and stand alongside many people who had travelled far and wide to visit this noteworthy constitutional monument.

After lunch, we returned to St George's and embarked on an incredibly competitive treasure hunt and quiz. This involved running as fast as we could in teams all the way up Ascot High Street to take a picture of the horse at the roundabout and creating a Spanish tour of the area as we did so. Despite our best efforts, unfortunately my team did not win because we took a photo of a car that was not, in fact, a Nissan Qashqai as the treasure hunt required, but a Toyota! Though we were not the ultimate winners it was still a great day and a fun way of bonding again as a year group.

Written by Leila, Fourth Year

Fifth Year at the Enigma Project

For our Activities Day we went to Milton Keynes and participated in Spy Games! These included pistol drawing, cracking safe codes and a blindfolded obstacle course through a minefield. Everyone had fun learning different shooting stances and working together to solve problems. One of the most exciting activities was rocket launching and trying to catch it in a bucket.

Our whole year had a great time, taking part in outdoor physical activities and indoor brain challenges. The day became



very competitive as, after each activity, each team (working in tutor groups) was awarded spy dollars to reflect how well they completed the task.

At the end of the day the winning tutor group was 5LB with \$12,200, taking home gold medals and a very happy Mrs Baker!

Written by Jess and Ava, Fifth Year



Third Year trip to Bath and Devizes

In November, the Third Year set off on their residential trip to Braeside Activity Centre in Devizes. Over their two day visit, the girls had the opportunity to make campfires, go rock climbing and canoeing, take forest walks (at night!) and fly through the air on a zip wire! A particular highlight was cooking bread and toasting marshmallows on campfires that the girls had created themselves. The group was very lucky with the weather and a potentially chilly canoeing trip along the Avon was accompanied by some delightful autumn sunshine. Pupils also benefited from Mr Wright's interesting historical mini-tour of the Caen Hill locks. The trip was completed with a visit to Bath on the final day. Mr Wright had clearly planned the sunshine and dry weather and the girls enjoyed a spot of Christmas shopping at Bath's mini Christmas market before they took to the ice at the fantastic open air skating rink.





DofE Bronze Expedition

During the cold and short days of January 2021, in the middle of the second period of remote schooling, 23 Third Year pupils signed up to complete the Bronze Duke of Edinburgh's (DofE) Award. The girls worked in the spring and summer terms of 2021 towards completing their volunteering, skills and physical

sections, and attended Bronze DofE Club to be trained in map reading, compass use and expedition planning. The second week of the new academic year 2021-22 was the time to put these skills to the test as the groups headed off on their qualifying expedition.

Having plotted their journey and completed route cards, the four

DofE Silver Expedition



The Fifth Year pupils working towards their Silver Duke of Edinburgh's Award set off for the Chiltern Hills in late September to undertake three days of walking and navigating to complete their qualifying expedition. Mr Moran, Mr Wilson and Mr Wright accompanied the two groups who had planned their routes in school during the preceding weeks. On the

first day the girls set off from Wallingford and enjoyed a successful circular walk that took in the beautiful countryside around the town and lunch for the groups in the lovely village of Ewelme. On the second day both teams enjoyed stunning autumn weather and walked a route that took the girls from Sonning, along the Thames Path to Henley before returning to the start. The

final day of the expedition saw the pupils take on challenging, hilly routes around the Chilterns near Stokenchurch. Plenty of metres were climbed and the girls did well to navigate their walks successfully. Both groups passed and the girls can look forward to receiving their Silver Awards on the completion of their volunteering, skills and physical sections.



groups: the Gangster Grannies, Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles, Lost Sheep and Tories headed confidently out from school with the ambition of reaching the Bear Rails Scout Camp in Old Windsor before sunset. The girls found their way to the entrance to the Great Park through North Ascot and arrived without a hitch in The Village for lunch under clear blue skies. The afternoon was similarly idyllic although one group, having reached the equestrian statue of George III and seeing clearly their route with a view down the Long Walk to Windsor Castle, decided

that this was not the right Long Walk, and there must be another castle to aim for further on! Once found, they were able to make it to their destination. At Bear Rails, the girls set up their tents and, having found one shower in the toilet block, one pupil asked: "Mr Wright, has the camp got towels?" Having been reminded that 'this was a scout camp and not a hotel', the girls prepared their dinner; the Pot Noodle share price must have leapt during the preceding week! With the moon shining and the skies darkening, the girls enjoyed toasting marshmallows before retiring for the night.

The second day began with mist hugging the grass and a herd of deer walking past the camp. Two of their number ventured in for a closer look, adding to the sense that the girls could be in the middle of the countryside rather than only a mile from the centre of Windsor.

Having risen and eaten a breakfast of porridge oats, the groups set off on their routes down the eastern boundary of the Great Park. Making great progress, they were able to walk

along the southern shore of Virginia Water and enjoy lunch near the Cascade. Keeping to the right path ensured few dramas in map reading until the girls had to navigate from the Blacknest Gate to the exit to the Great Park. This was duly achieved with all the groups making great progress which allowed them a particularly leisurely Friday afternoon walk past the racecourse and into school.

DofE Gold Expedition

The impact of the pandemic meant that the practice and qualifying expeditions for the Gold DofE group in 2021 both took place within a month of each other at the start of the 2021-22 academic year. The five girls involved in the Upper Sixth – Ariana, Charlotte, Mannat, Milly and Tilly – chose a hybrid expedition which included walking in the Brecon Beacons and canoeing down the Wye Valley. They set off on the train to Abergavenny from Ascot on 30 September ready for the challenge ahead but nervously checking their weather apps. The group were assisted and assessed by staff from our partners at School Camp during their five days in Wales. Sure enough, the weather was suitably Welsh and the challenges of the cold and rain were added to by overgrown footpaths that were difficult to



locate. One evening at the top of a Welsh mountain in the darkness, well after the scheduled end of the day, the girls fully experienced the 'character building' elements of DofE, but the group came through all that four days of walking and paddling could throw at them. Passing the qualifying expedition element is a fantastic achievement in any year, but this group should be commended for completing this task much later in the autumn term than normal and during a very busy time at the school. This will set them up very well to complete their Gold Award by the end of their time at St George's.

MUN

In late November, a group of pupils from SGA visited RGS Guildford for their annual Modern United Nations conference.



The hard-working group had been preparing since September in the co-curricular MUN club, and found the practice undertaken at school to be extremely beneficial on the day. In the St George's group there was a mix of beginners, who participated in the SOCHUM, the Social, Cultural and Humanitarian Committee, and those who were more advanced and took part in the DISEC, the Disarmament and International Security committee. Tesni was in the Security Council as she was the most experienced MUN attendee. On arrival, the group split into different committees, and further into subdivisions,



ensuring that people could be given the attention necessary to participate successfully. The first debate was whether social media should be censored, and each delegate presented interesting points of view from their respective countries. In the afternoon, participants returned to their group rooms and debated the topical issue of Aborigines in Oceania and reviewed North Korea's controversial resolution and voted not to pass it.

Later in the year, St George's returned, after a three year break, to the much-awaited Bath International Schools' Model United Nations Conference on the first weekend of March.

The committees were very well conducted and included political resolutions on the situation in Afghanistan and resolutions concerning global food waste in the Environment Committee. A lack of both lobbying in advance of the event, and also note passing due to covid concerns, led, perhaps, to more serious debate in the different committees, however, there was still time for a few less serious resolutions which added to the friendly atmosphere of the conference.

The two days culminated with a General Assembly, in which a resolution concerning Taiwan was debated. Following the debate, time was set aside to remember the war in Ukraine and their delegation put forward a resolution that the invasion of their country be condemned which was unanimously agreed upon. The whole conference stood and clapped when it was passed. A young Ukrainian pupil had asked to address the conference and in an emotional speech he thanked delegates for their care and help at this time. The whole assembly remained silent for two minutes in acknowledgement of the severity and sadness of the situation.

Finally, everyone gathered in the main hall for the General Assembly, where there was a presentation on a hypothetical invasion of Taiwan by China with the formation of an alliance between the UK and the US and a few other countries as a consequence, ultimately leading to a declaration of war on China.

St George's pupils were outstanding in the way they conducted themselves throughout the weekend, suggesting resolutions confidently and preparing thoroughly for every debate. Annabel addressed the whole assembly, Erin was commended for her work on the Environment Committee and Tesni was awarded Best Junior Delegate in the Security Council. A very proud moment for St George's and an invaluable experience for the girls involved.

Unfortunately, luck was not on the UK's side, as China's resolution to continue invading and punishing the UK had significant support and was passed by a majority.

Before leaving, awards were handed to the delegates, and congratulations went to our Lower Sixth pupil, Erin, who received the Highly Commended Delegate for SOCHUM.

The St George's Feminism Club

The spring term saw the launch of an exciting new co-curricular club at St George's, 'SGAFS', the St George's Ascot Feminist Society. The club was run by Natalie Conde, who was completing a PhD relating to gender and international politics alongside her role as Assistant Housemistress of Markham and had created SGAFS as a forum

for students to talk about what it means to be a female and a feminist in today's society.

The club provided an opportunity for members to discuss historic and current issues relating to gender – from domestic violence to period poverty – with the aim of raising awareness and helping women in the local community and beyond. By providing a space for open discussion, SGAFS empowered its members to have the confidence to speak out about what matters to them. Meetings were varied and included not only topics to learn about and discuss, but also fundraising sessions and hearing from visiting speakers. Due to the growing interest in the club, SGAFS introduced the opportunity for girls to be 'affiliated members', meaning that those who were unable to attend meetings due to other commitments were still able to be part of the club and help with fundraising.



The girls brainstormed about fundraising early in the spring term and came up with their first big project, St George's first ever International Women's Day Card Competition. All pupils were invited to design a card inspired by International Women's Day, and the winning design by Fourth Year, Felicitas, was printed onto cards and sold at school to raise funds for Berkshire Women's Aid, a local charity that provides support for victims of domestic abuse. Pupils and staff alike were encouraged to write a card to an inspiring female in their life to show their appreciation and deliver them on International Women's Day on 8 March.

The Story of The Georgian

At the start of the autumn term, Lower Sixth pupil Annabel started her own co-curricular, pupil-led Newspaper Club and, joined by her A Level English compatriot Amelia, inspired pupils throughout the school to contribute their written work for publication. By term end, these determined girls had gathered a body of work, completed the editorial process and created the first edition of our online SGA newspaper, *The Georgian*.

Like the newspaper the girls have produced, their story is worthy of publication. When Annabel entered the Lower Sixth she found herself wanting to give something back to St George's to somehow solidify her own personal journey through the school, 'I wanted a legacy, something that would show I had made a mark' and so the Newspaper Club was born. The co-curricular timetable at St George's is the perfect context in which such entrepreneurial, visionary leadership can take root and grow. Annabel's experience is one shared by a number of girls who have had an idea, the capacity for leadership and been given the space, time and support to flourish.

The girls pitched their Newspaper Club to a number of pupils just after the autumn half term. Their

new endeavour soon gained traction with 20 plus pupils from across the year groups joining the girls in Monday club time. Pupils met to discuss potential topics, they held writing workshops in which everyone took to their Google Chromebooks to work on their individual pieces and then shared best writing practice and critiqued each other's stories.



When it came to putting the work into physical form, Head of History and Politics, Mrs Kratt, provided a vital Google Suite tip, suggesting the girls use Google Sites to put the newspaper together. After a few late finishes and inevitable last minute hitches, *The Georgian* was published for the school community to enjoy just before the Christmas holidays. With articles as broad in scope as 'How to Make the Perfect Bagel' (Annabel's personal favourite) through to Lower Sixth pupil Hannah's 'Simplified: The Israeli-Palestine Crisis', this piece of work is undoubtedly individual in a fascinating way and has allowed pupils the freedom to talk and, more vitally, write freely about what interests them.

When asked to reflect on this first cycle of the printing press, the girls were clear on lessons learned. 'Don't leave it to the last minute to write your article,' Annabel reflected with a wry smile. 'Always encourage people and never be surprised by

someone's capability,' reflecting her realisation that the quietest of pupils were the ones who wrote with the loudest voice.

Finally, 'You are enough,' a wonderful, simple reinforcement, from the pupil lead of this super co-curricular club, of a principle at the heart of the St George's ethos and education, that if you have a vision, be confident in yourself and don't let anything stop you from reaching your goal.

MACE Debating

Debating has always been encouraged at St George's and pupils develop significant confidence through the public articulation of their views, whether in vociferous arguments over matters of principle in the classroom or in the annual House Debating competition in the autumn term. It is no surprise then, to find debating slap bang in the middle of the co-curricular programme.



ENGLISH-SPEAKING UNION
discovering voices

With only a couple of months of practise under their belts, the St George's debating team entered the annual English-Speaking Union Mace Competition towards the end of the autumn term. The team was drawn against Holyport College whose members proposed the motion: this house would require fathers to take paternity leave. Annabel M, as first opposition, ably opposed the motion taking online points of information in her stride. Annabel S gave strong rebuttal to the opposition and



developed Annabel M's argument. Erin, the winner of the best SGA House Debater, succinctly summarised the whole debate, assessing points of difference and ensuring that the judge was left in no doubt that St George's had won the argument. Though the SGA team did not make it through to the next round, the girls performed impressively and the experience undoubtedly developed their debating skills ready for the next opportunity.

Young Enterprise

Young Enterprise (YE) is a simulation programme for school pupils that helps them gain valuable experience of business structures and processes. The YE year begins in October with Lower Sixth pupils organising themselves into companies and deciding on a company name and logo. Each company is then assigned a successful entrepreneur from the local area as a business adviser, who volunteers to spend the year mentoring the school's

companies. Once company roles have been assigned, the next task is to raise funds to purchase the company's main product. This is usually done through the sale of company shares, raffles and sales of confectionery at events such as the school musical. When adequate funding has been acquired, the companies undertake market research on their product ideas. Once confirmed, the pupils proceed to order their final product. This is sold in school, to family and friends and at a variety of trade fair events organised by Young Enterprise.

In March, the three remaining Young Enterprise teams for 2021-22, Neon, Stack'd and Oval,



travelled to Windsor to take part in the Young Enterprise Annual Trade Fair. Tasked with resourcing their product, tables, decorations and a float, the girls set up shop in Windsor and Eton Central train station and spent the day wheeling and dealing with the crowds to sell their wares. Success was had walking the streets canvassing the event to increase footfall and the girls were delighted to nearly sell out of the products they had in stock.

The YE process ended in May when schools from across the Slough, Windsor and Maidenhead area came together at O2's head office in Slough for the area final of the



competition. Pupil companies were required to set up a trade stand and then deliver a presentation to a panel of judges. Each of the St George's companies impressed the judges with their unique product offering and their focus on sustainability and one SGA company, Stack'd, was awarded the coveted 'Best Marketing' award.

Independent School Mock Trial Competition

Having started preparations for the Independent School Mock Trial Competition back in October, it was a relief for the St George's team to finally reach the online courtrooms to argue their cases at the end of June.

Both teams were up first thing, arguing their different cases, one as the prosecution and one as the defence. The defence comprised Hannah and Kendra as barristers, Milly and Ruby as witnesses and Jess as court usher. Victory was theirs as the jury delivered the verdict of 'not guilty.' The prosecution comprised Annabel S and Jess as barristers, Amelia and Annie as witnesses and Oona as court clerk. The judge presiding over the case was particularly impressed by Annabel's opening arguments and again the jury delivered a verdict which saw victory go to SGA. The SGA jury, who were involved in three cases, pitched camp in the Library and gave verdicts on the different cases presented to them. The jury included, at various times, Annabel M, Lucy, Dara, Amelia, Jess, Annie and Milly.

It was a very valuable experience and all the pupils who participated did exceptionally well, following proceedings as per an actual court in process and presenting opening and closing speeches as well as cross examining witnesses. All the girls worked hard to prepare in advance and, to a person, concluded that the ultimate experience was worth all the time they had invested in preparation.



Gardening and Eco-Squad Club

Two co-curricular clubs which have been very popular since their launch in the summer term have been the Gardening Club and the Eco-Squad. Under the tutelage of the school's gardener, Pippa Shepherd, the Gardening Club has undertaken a number of activities to build an understanding of horticulture as well as help improve the aesthetic appearance of the St George's site. Tending to new cuttings being grown in the greenhouse, renovating an underused bed near Cormack and growing their own sunflowers has been

educational but also a great deal of fun. Similarly important in the ecology sphere has been the work of the Eco-Squad. This group of Fourth Year girls have headed out into the school grounds and the area local to school to pick up litter with the encouragement of Mrs Kratt. Good natured rivalry has been fostered with prizes awarded for the most litter added to bin bags and taken back to SGA for disposal, with the High Street and the famous Ascot Racecourse benefitting from the energetic commitment of the pupils involved.



Art

Textiles Workshops with Janet Edmonds

Early in October, the Fourth Year GCSE Textiles pupils were privileged to attend one of two full-day workshops with textile artist and author, Janet Edmonds. Known for her three-dimensional work based on natural forms and landscapes, Janet brought a number of pieces with her to showcase the creative process and explained different techniques that she has used to produce various effects. She showed the girls the stages she went through to achieve her cocoon-like, wool-wrapped sculptures, alongside her textured and varied samples. The girls discussed ways of creating work like hers, passed around her tactile pieces, asked questions and then had the opportunity to try such techniques themselves. Under Janet's (and Ms Gilbert's) supervision, the group got to



grips with how to use a sewing machine and attempted one of the techniques discussed by Janet called 'tucking', the process of folding and sewing a fabric very close to the edge to give it raised detail.

Attending workshops with talented artists such as Janet, are very positive experiences for pupils and help them to tackle their examination coursework with greater understanding and nuance.

Written by Rosie, Fourth Year

- Textiles Workshops
- Sculpture Workshop
- Christmas Card Competition
- The Summer Exhibition



Textiles Workshop with Louise Howells

Just after the autumn half term, the A Level Textiles pupils enjoyed an inspirational workshop with visiting artist, Louise Howells. To start the workshop, Louise showed the girls some of her own work and demonstrated some exciting new techniques using inks. The girls practised using water and ink dispersal on watercolour paper, applying the soft touch of ink from brushes in combination with controlled lines using the dip pens and they also had the opportunity to introduce metallic and pearlescent ink to their work. They then completed an exercise with charcoal to create a three dimensional form. After break, the girls worked on a more sustained observational individual study related to their projects. All of these learnt techniques could be incorporated in the girls' future observations and they were grateful for Louise's expert advice and tuition.



Sculpture Workshop with ChickenWired

Early in January, a group of Art scholars and GCSE Art pupils from Second to Fourth Year enjoyed a most absorbing and unusual sculpture workshop delivered by William Ashley-Norman from Chicken Wired. William provided the girls

with a sheet of chicken wire and the instructions to create a wonderfully diverse range of items including lizards, frogs, birds and even a Spitfire aeroplane! The girls worked hard to master the art of clipping and wiring and produced both beautiful individual work and also three striking dragons in their year groups. The girls really

enjoyed their day and Ms Antolik plans to welcome William back to St George's in the future so that other pupils can enjoy this creative process.



The Summer Exhibition

The Summer Exhibition was held on the final Tuesday of the summer term and staff, pupils and their families were invited to attend to celebrate the abundant creative talent of the school. In the Luker Building, GCSE Art and Textiles work was displayed with many beautiful canvas paintings and fashion pieces on show. The Fine Art, Textiles and Photography A Level work was displayed in the South Lawn Room with an eclectic, but stimulating mix of very large scale paintings, paper cuttings, clay sculpture, installations, animation, wall hangings, fashion outfits, and 3D photographic work.

Art scholars and exhibitionists had been asked to enter two pieces of their artwork into the exhibition and produced drawings, paintings and textiles on a theme of their choice. This year's Artist in Residence, Yousra Amer showcased her printmaking from this last year and displayed her large lino prints in frames.



Christmas Card Competition

The entries for the 2021-22 Christmas Card competition were of an extremely high standard and reflected the real variety of media with which our pupils like to work. The competition was

ultimately won by Lower Sixth pupil, Emily, with her winning reindeer-themed Christmas scene with its delightful nod to the St George's logo, wrapped in the animals' antlers.



The creations of a number of pupils, who had entered the local school art competition run by Ascot Racecourse to celebrate the Queen's Platinum Jubilee, were also on display. This included the work of First Year Hana who was Highly Commended in the age 11 category, and Third Year pupil Sophia's piece for which she was the Runner Up in the age 13-14 category.



Some impressive A Level Fine Art paintings and Textiles pieces from the 2019-20 and 2020-21 leavers featured in this year's exhibition including recent alumna, June's very detailed portrait paintings. First Year silk cushions, Second Year felt and painted landscapes, Third Year sculptures and paper fashion outfits and some of the excellent drawings completed this year, were on display to show the breadth of skills taught on the Art carousel for junior pupils.

It is undoubtedly the case that art in all its forms is best appreciated in person, so having this opportunity to showcase the girls' work, after a number of years of viewing online, was an absolute pleasure for staff, pupils and their families alike.



Drama

- Grease
- Robin Hood
- The Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe
- Performance in Practice Showcase
- Every Brilliant Thing
- Drama Workshop with Frantic Assembly



Grease

'Grease is the word' that was on everyone's lips in the week before the autumn half term. The school musical for 2021-22, Grease, was a vibrant celebration of live theatre with pupils from the Second Year through to Upper Sixth performing in three evening shows in October to delighted audiences in the Sue Cormack Theatre.



CONFIDENT



Robin Hood

The traditional SGA First Year Christmas pantomime was a joy-filled production of *Robin Hood* and the youngest year group surpassed themselves to produce a truly delightful show filled with lots of laughter, the required pantomime banter and some requisite Christmas songs. The benefits of this timely annual production for the First Year cohort are significant: developing confidence, drawing the year group together as a 'team' and accelerating the formation of friendships which help the girls to quickly feel part of the St George's family.



The Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe

In the spring term, the whole of the Second Year showcased their performance skills in a magical production of *The Lion, The Witch and The Wardrobe*. CS Lewis' story is a difficult piece for any company to perform as the cast play magical creatures, such as tree nymphs and fauns, yet the pupils made it look easy with their creativity and commitment. Three of the girls even learnt how to control the large puppet of the lion, Aslan, and many of the cast had to learn some stage combat as well.



Performance in Practice Showcase

Just before the Easter holidays, St George's held its first Performance in Practice Showcase in which speech and drama pupils were given the opportunity to showcase the work they had been preparing for examination to their peers.

Performances included Shakespeare and Restoration comedy, hard hitting realism and even a thoroughly persuasive demonstration of public speaking relating to the complexities of freedom of speech! The Drama department hope that many pupils will be inspired to get involved in the dramatic life of the school and go on to take part in future showcases themselves.



Every Brilliant Thing

In mid-June, ten pupils from the Third and Fourth Years entertained pupils and families with their outstanding performance of the play *Every Brilliant Thing* by Duncan Macmillan.



Drama Workshop with Frantic Assembly

Early in December, the First to Third Year Drama and Performing Arts Scholars and AGT pupils enjoyed a drama workshop exploring new theatrical

techniques with Frantic Assembly. The skills learnt in a workshop such as this are invaluable for those who were looking to take Drama at GCSE.



Music

- Open Mic Nights
- Music Concerts
- Jazz and Dance Show
- Chapel Choir perform at Coworth Park



Open Mic Nights

The popularity of the Open Mic Nights throughout the academic year has been an ongoing reminder of the strength of the performing arts at St George's and encouraging evidence of the girls' consistent appetite for live performance. The summer term's Open Mic Night was a particularly poignant one for those Upper Sixth pupils who were taking to the stage for the final time. Many have been outstanding role models for younger pupils over the years, embodying, on stage, the confidence that is central to the St George's ethos and they will be sorely missed. It has been encouraging, however, to witness the singing and playing of younger pupils that promises so much for the future.



Music Concerts

Music concerts, for both senior and junior pupils, are held each term at St George's and provide invaluable opportunity for the girls to develop an appetite for, and pleasure in, live performance. They showcase the breadth of both

vocal and instrumental talent at the school and give a strong sense of the confidence that is evident in St George's pupils from the First Year through to the Upper Sixth.

It was a pleasure to welcome back a number of St George's

alumnae for drinks on the South Lawn followed by the Music for a Summer Evening concert. When given the chance, the alumnae enthusiastically joined Mr Hillier, the Director of Music, on stage to perform alongside the current Chapel Choir for the final number of the evening.



Jazz and Dance Show

It was such a pleasure to see the return of the annual Jazz and Dance Show to the Sue Cormack Hall in early May and celebrate the school's ongoing successful collaboration with the award winning Natalie Vinson School of Dance and Drama. This special evening is a dazzling showcase of the school's capable pupils' talents and a perfect example of the confidence that develops through the strong culture of performance at St George's.



Chapel Choir perform at Coworth Park

Early in December, the Chapel Choir donned their robes for one of their first visits of the year, travelling to Coworth Park Hotel in Ascot to perform a medley of seasonal pieces and

traditional carols for gathered guests. Ian Hillier, Director of Music, provided wonderfully droll accompaniment, giving some fascinating insights into the carols he knows so well

whilst also jollyng those present into song. It was a delightful introduction to the festive season and the girls sang beautifully, their red cloaks the perfect nod to Advent's start.





CAPABLE

St George's girls experience a broad range of opportunities and excel in a range of academic, sporting, musical, dramatic, artistic and creative disciplines, with the ability to tailor their interests and aspirations, and nurture their talents.



Learning



Fifth Year Geography field trip to Juniper Hall, Dorking

The Fifth Year geographers were excited to be back where they belong at the start of the autumn term: carrying out fieldwork! A few weeks into term, the girls set out for rural Surrey for a day of investigating how the characteristics of the River Tillingbourne changes as one moves downstream. They were enthusiastic about donning wellies and carrying out the measurements required, and soon became experts in the use of a hydropro. The next day, they continued their data collection with an urban study in Leatherhead, looking at the success of the regeneration scheme there. All the geographers committed themselves fully to both trips, working maturely as a team, and the tutor commented that she had never taught such a conscientious and interested group.

International Languages Week

In the last week of September, the Modern Foreign Languages department (MFL) celebrated International Languages Week



in support of the European Day of Languages. The week kicked off with a celebration of all things hispanic. The talented SGA catering department provided a culinary feast of typically Spanish foods like patatas bravas and paella! Qué delicioso! Pupils had lunch with a Spanish musical accompaniment from Miss Tomsett on the piano. On Tuesday, everyone travelled to Italy with pasta and tiramisù and some wonderful Italian opera and on Wednesday, a Hungarian feast was served for everyone to enjoy. That morning, all the different tutor groups took part in a quiz in which they had to guess 24

- Geography field trip to Dorking
- International Languages Week
- Art trip to Kew Gardens
- Politics trips to Eton College
- Art trip to Tate Britain and Tate Modern
- Medical Skills Fair at the Science Museum
- Pals Battalion workshop
- Latin and Classics trip to the Rose Theatre
- Drama trip to *The Woman in Black*
- Drama trip to *The Ocean at the End of the Lane*
- Psychology visit to the Imperial War Museum
- Religious Studies trip to Winchester Cathedral
- Latin and Classics trip to Butser Farm
- Theatre trip to *The Prince of Egypt*
- GCSE Music trip to *Wicked*
- Royal Society of Chemistry's Olympiad
- British Science Week
- Biology trip to BayLab
- History trip to Runnymede
- Classics trip to St Albans
- Geography field trip to Nettlecombe
- History and Modern Foreign Languages trip to Normandy
- SGA Stretch Week
- Scholars and Exhibitioners Programme

different languages spoken by both girls and staff; who knew so many languages were spoken in the SGA community? Thursday transported the school community to France with coq au vin and traditional French crêpes while some fantastic drumming was played by the hugely talented Music Department. Ooh la la! On Friday there was a real buzz about the school as the International Cake Decorating Competition took place with edible prizes up for grabs for first, second and third places. It was a truly wonderful week celebrating linguistic diversity within the St George's community.



Fourth Year Art trip to Kew Gardens

On Monday, 20 September, a group of Fourth Year and Lower Sixth fine artists visited Kew Gardens with Miss Antolik and the new Artist in Residence, Miss Amer. After a smooth journey, we arrived at Kew Gardens and walked down the Broad Walk, taking photographs of the many flowers and natural surroundings. We then went to the Shirley Sherwood Gallery of Botanical Art and looked at the amazingly detailed watercolour paintings. We visited the Temperate House where we did some observational drawings of the many plants.

Some pupils enjoyed the treetop walkway to get a very high vantage point before we ate our lunch by the lake. After lunch, we crossed the bridge to the humid palm house and completed some more observational drawings of the tropical plants found within. Later on we went to the Water Lily House and looked around at the huge lily pads. We also drew roses outside that linked to the Fourth Year project on decay. It had been a very productive day and we returned to school inspired by what we had seen and armed with a number of observational drawings for our portfolios.

Written by Alex, Fourth Year

Politics trips to Eton College

The Politics Society of Eton College kindly invited the St George's Politics students to two of its meetings on successive weeks in October. On their first visit, the SGA politicians listened

to Lord Peter Hain (a former Labour MP under Tony Blair, and now peer in the House of Lords) speak about his upbringing in South Africa and his life in politics, particularly his time as Secretary for Wales and Northern Ireland. After his talk, Lord Hain was asked challenging questions which ranged from why he had voted for the war against Iraq to why he felt able to take up a position in the House of Lords given his fight for equality in the past. It was very clear from his answers that he was a politician who has learnt the art of evasion in his response to questioning!

This visit was closely followed by an opportunity to hear the ambassador of Afghanistan, Dr Zalmay Rassoul, give a short history of his country. He also explained the challenges of the current situation in Afghanistan both to the West and to those who do not support the Taliban in the country. It was a fascinating talk which understandably inspired significant discussion and helped the SGA politics



pupils to understand the current situation in far greater depth.

Later in November, the St George's A Level politicians returned to Eton to hear from and question their Politics Society's guest speaker, CEO of Cambridge Analytica, Alexander Nix.

The Great Hack had been watched in the days prior to the talk and the Georgian politicians were ready! Mr Nix was very articulate and slick in his presentation, explaining the concept and creation of Cambridge Analytica in the early 2000s, through all the campaigns they had been involved in to the scandal which broke in 2018. He was certainly convincing in his argument that the organisation had used big data effectively to affect election campaigns culminating in the success of President Donald Trump.

However, it had not escaped the perceptive minds of the St George's Sixth Form that there seemed to be a distinct absence of a moral compass! Erin and Annabel were swift to question him on the ethics of his campaigns in which he influenced the voters using big data in, what he described as, 'free and fair elections'. Although Mr Nix answered well, pointing out that this type of campaigning was open to other firms and that Cambridge Analytica had been a force for good in the counter terrorism campaign, there was no way that Annabel was satisfied



with his answer and went on to question him and, in essence, his conscience, further. It was a fascinating, if shocking, lecture which gave rise to much debate on the journey home.

Visit to Tate Britain and Tate Modern for Fifth Year and Upper Sixth Artists

In October, the Fifth Year GCSE artists and Upper Sixth Fine Art pupils set out with Miss Antolik and Ms Townsend on a mission to see as much art at the Tate Britain and the Tate Modern as possible! At that time, the Tate Britain was welcoming its visitors with an extraordinary installation by Heather Phillipson full of colour, sounds and motion; a true feast for the eyes and imagination. The Paula Rego Exhibition did not disappoint and the girls appreciated how Rego explores many different materials and styles as well as powerful themes in her works. Some of her imaginative and abstract paintings, inspired by the books she had read, were among the girls' favourites. The group continued to explore Tate Britain looking at Henry Moore sculptures and Rothko's large colourful paintings and then headed for Tate Modern.

At Tate Modern the group visited the Auguste Rodin exhibition and

marvelled at some of his detailed plaster cast masks of actors as well as the famous sculpture, *The Thinker*. Pupils sat and enjoyed sketching many of Rodin's sculptures and everyone gained much inspiration from all that they had seen for their own projects back at school.

Fourth Year trip to the Medical Skills Fair at the Science Museum

In November, a number of pupils from the Fourth Year went on a trip to the Medical Skills Fair at the Science Museum in London. The first event was a Q&A session with three professionals working in the world of medicine: a cyclist paramedic, a donor surgeon and a microscopist. It was fascinating to learn about what their jobs involve, but also hear their personal take on their choice of profession. This session inspired us to think about potential further education and career choices in STEM after we leave St George's.

After this, we met with an engineer who had recently designed a prosthetic leg for a ballet dancer. He gave us the parts to build the leg, some instructions, and then in small groups we were able to actually build a working prosthetic limb! After our lunch, we went to the medical skills fair, where there were lots of activities we could take

part in. These included hands-on surgery training, suture practice and CPR coaching. It was a really fun and educational day for us all and certainly provided food for thought for the future.

Written by Olivia, Fourth Year

Pals Battalion workshop with the Third Year

In November, the Third Year historians joined the National Archives for a thrilling virtual talk as though from a WW1 soldier serving in the trenches.

The soldier shared in depth about the horrors of World War One and the hardships and threats he had to face. His vivid descriptions of what was going on around him allowed us to step into his boots and feel for ourselves the harsh reality of the war. He explained to us about the food they received



Medical Skills Fair at the Science Museum

in the trenches which typically included tinned rations, corned beef (bully beef), stale bread, jam, pea soup with lumps of horsemeat and hard biscuits which, if you didn't dunk them in your tea, could break your teeth!

He told us all about censorship and how soldiers' letters were examined and checked before being sent away to their families. The members of the Triple Entente used censorship to stop information like troop movements from falling into enemy hands. We also heard about the dreaded rats! With plenty of food, water and shelter, and no proper disposal system, trenches provided the perfect environment for rats to thrive. Meeting a WW1 soldier, even as a reenactment, allowed us all, even if momentarily, to feel what it must have been like to serve on the front line. We all decided the soldiers were very brave men indeed!

Written by India, Third Year

Latin and Classics trip to the Rose Theatre

In November, a group of Fourth and Fifth Year classicists visited the Rose Theatre in Kingston to watch a production of *The Seven Pomegranate Seeds* by Colin Teevan.

The play consisted of seven contemporary stories based on the Greek and Roman legends about Persephone, Hypsipyle, Medea, Alcestis, Phaedra, Creusa and Demeter. The production explored a variety of timeless issues such as domestic abuse, parent and child relationships, alcoholism and non-consensual adoption, with the theme of severed familial bonds connecting each one. The stage was set with threads hanging from the ceiling attached to rocks and, at the end of each story, a thread was cut, and another rock fell. We surmised that this represented the role of the fate, Atropos, who cut a thread to end someone's life in Greek mythology. There were some interesting special effects,



a cameo appearance from 'James Bond' and a controversial choice of accompanying music that

seemed designed to jar with the action on stage. We all enjoyed the production and agreed that it was an intriguing contemporary interpretation of the Greek myths we had studied in the classroom.

Written by Chloe, Fourth Year

Fourth and Fifth Year Drama trip to The Woman in Black

In November, the Fourth and Fifth Year GCSE Drama pupils attended The Fortune Theatre in London to watch *The Woman in Black*. Fifth Year Milly and Fourth Year Anya gave their feedback on the performance:

The Woman in Black is based around a recently widowed lawyer, Arthur Kipps, who is sent to sort the affairs of a dead eccentric lady. The lady is later revealed to be the 'woman in black' and she goes on to haunt him throughout his stay at the terrifying Eel Marsh House. On entering the theatre, we were

immediately drawn in by the eerie yet simplistic set on stage that was authentic to the time period. At the back of the stage hung a huge piece of gauze material that became transparent when a specific light was shone through it revealing there was more to the set than we originally thought. The mood throughout was dark and intense with dim and gloomy lighting and, even though there were only three actors in the play, they held our attention throughout and kept us on the edge of our seats.

Written by Anya, Fourth Year

This production of *The Woman in Black* was successful in scaring even the bravest of audience members! During the funeral scene, the ghostly figure of the 'woman in black' walked down the aisle past all of us in the audience, and proceeded to stand behind Mr Kipps. When Mr Kipps turned and screamed, everyone in the audience screamed too! Doors opened eerily on their own and a rocking chair in a children's nursery moved without a trace of anyone being in the room. The 'woman in black' then appeared in the chair, rocking back and forth at a disturbingly high speed; it was enough to put the whole audience on the edge of their seats. The cliffhanger at the end



certainly left an impression on us, and we all agreed that it was one of the scariest things we had ever seen!

Having studied the play ourselves, and on hearing that there were only three actors in the cast, we were definitely interested to see how the show would work. However, we felt it worked seamlessly and provided us all with a fascinating and chilling performance.

Written by Milly, Fifth Year

A Level Drama trip to see *The Ocean at the End of the Lane*

In November, the Sixth Form Drama pupils went to see *The Ocean at the End of the Lane*. The play is about a man who returns to where he grew up for a funeral and begins revisiting some disturbing memories from his childhood. Neil Gaiman's play not only emphasises the strength and potency of one's childhood memories but

also imbues the man's past with a sense of mystery and danger that is palpable from the very beginning.

The set was incredible, with an alleyway of tree branches tangling together to create an arch shape towards the back of the stage. This gave the production a strong sense of mystery and magic before the story even began to unfold. Lighting was also used very effectively, for example, a bright red light shone on the 'monster' when we were first introduced to it, giving the audience a sense of impending danger.

'It was a pleasure to be back at the theatre and all of us found it fascinating to watch and it is certainly deserving of its rave reviews.'

Written by Megan, Upper Sixth



Sixth Form Psychology visit to the Imperial War Museum

In December, the Sixth Form psychologists took a trip to the Imperial War Museum to witness the newly opened Holocaust Exhibition. This exhibition contained understandably challenging content which the girls all approached with a mature and curious attitude. The group impressed staff with their ability to analyse the psychological reasons for the prejudice of minority groups and how the Nazi Party were able to influence the cognitions and behaviour of the German people. It was an impactful and enriching day for all.

First Year Religious Studies trip to Winchester Cathedral

The Christmas tree was being installed in the nave when the First Year pupils arrived at Winchester Cathedral for their Religious Studies trip. The Cathedral's education centre had arranged for the First Year to have a fantastic, interactive tour of the site, during which they learnt about St Swithun and the history of the diver and, in traditional pilgrim fashion, they climbed the stairs to the quire on their knees. The excellent tour was followed by a workshop on the cathedral's stained glass windows, during which the pupils had an opportunity to create their own stained glass masterpieces. The girls marvelled particularly at Anthony Gormley's Sound statue in the crypt, which looks particularly mesmerising when the crypt floods. The setting of the cathedral provided a beautiful location for the festive Christmas market, which the girls enjoyed exploring with great enthusiasm.



Latin and Classics trip to Butser Farm

The weather gods were not smiling on the day of the GCSE Latin and Classics trip to Butser Farm! Battered by wintery cold wind and icy rain, it was a relief to get into the Celtic hut where there was an open fire and some shelter from the elements. The enthusiastic guide, Helen, gave a talk about the Romans' three invasions of Britain under Julius Caesar in 55 and 54 BC and then Claudius in 43 AD.

A busy day followed in which the girls constructed a Roman wall with local flint, fashioned some rings out of copper wire according to Roman designs then played a game of Cluedo with Roman artefacts and some wool carding. Despite the challenges presented by the weather, the girls entered into the spirit of the day and immersed themselves wholeheartedly in the experience.

Second Year theatre trip to *The Prince of Egypt*



The Second Year trip to The Dominion Theatre to see *The Prince of Egypt*, at the end of the autumn term, was a resounding success. *'The Prince of Egypt* was the best musical I have ever seen. I enjoyed it so much I want to go back and watch it again,' said one pupil and her sentiment was shared by all. This was a superb musical production with catchy songs and impressive choreography and incredible sets, lighting and the tactical use of illusion to tell the well known story of Moses leading God's people from captivity in Egypt. The girls relished the spectacle, but also appreciated that the production had helped them to consolidate their learning about Moses in a fun and exciting way.

GCSE Music trip to *Wicked*

At the end of January, the Fourth and Fifth Year Music GCSE pupils went to see *Wicked* at the Apollo Theatre in London. The show was just fantastic and exceeded all of our expectations! The music was incredible and so was the acting and dancing. Gemma, from the Fifth Year, said that the show was 'incredible', and Ava, in the Fourth Year, said that the show was 'inspiring'. All in all, we had a wonderful time and hope to go on another Music trip soon. We are all also looking forward to studying the song *Defying Gravity* from the musical as one of our set pieces next term in class.

Written by
Charlotte,
Fifth Year



British Science Week

SGA celebrated British Science Week with a variety of activities for pupils across the year groups, giving a superb snapshot of the breadth of the STEM provision at the school. The Second Year enjoyed a trip to 3M in Bracknell to hear about how science is applied in the invention of new products, the Third Year started their sustainable battery designs for the Royal Society of Chemistry's



competition, the Fourth Year compared the habitats of different extremophiles and the A Level physicists attended a webinar with asteroid experts from the University of Glasgow as part of Mars Week! To finish the week, pupils from all years enjoyed meeting the unusual visitors from ZooLab and looked at the issue of sustainability through the lens of the extraordinary creatures in their hands.

Pupils from the First to Third Years worked hard on their submissions for the British Science Week senior school poster competition. The organisers felt that the theme of 'Growth' was ideal after what has been a turbulent time for all and also would link to multiple areas across science, technology, engineering and maths.



Lower Sixth Biology trip to BayLab

The Lower Sixth biologists went to the Bayer laboratory – Baylab – in Reading in March to better understand what a career in the science industry might look like. When we arrived we had an introduction to the company from a student who was working there in her industry year. She told us about some of the products that Bayer produces, such as Berocca, and the areas that the company works in specifically consumer health, pharmaceuticals and crop science.

After this, we were taken into the lab and were presented with a problem to solve. A shark was found with human remains in its stomach and we had to match the DNA in the human remains to one of four samples to identify the victim. To tackle this, we discussed what we knew about the human genome and what we had learned so far in Biology A Level. Then we were taught specifically about non coding



repeating sequences in the DNA which enable scientists to distinguish between individuals. We learned how to use a variety of professional equipment and how to carry out tests that we had never done before which was fascinating.

We had lunch with the Head of Communications who gave us an insight to what it is like to work in a pharmaceutical company. We discussed that working in

pharmaceuticals is not primarily lab work, you also have the opportunity to get involved in other areas such as marketing, sales and accountancy. After lunch I went back to the lab and did further testing on our samples. We were taught to carry out a gel electrophoresis which involved putting gel in moulds which will solidify to form a block with eight 'wells'. Using micropipettes we put each of the four samples and that taken from the crime scene in the wells. We then used electricity and UV light to visualise each of the suspects' genotypes and compared it to that found at the crime scene.

We all really enjoyed this trip and seeing first hand how the principles of science we learn at school are applied in the workplace.

Written by Alice, Lower Sixth

First Year History trip to Runnymede

After the spring half term, all of the First Year went to Runnymede to film a reenactment of the signing of the Magna Carta. We saw a JFK memorial and a Magna Carta memorial, but sadly, because of the rain, it was very muddy so we couldn't make it as far as the final memorial. After lunch, we all performed and filmed our reenactments using our pre-written scripts and lots of props we had brought with us. We then rewarded ourselves with ice cream as it was a super sunny day. All of us had a very enjoyable time and thanked Mrs Kratt and Mr Schofield for organising such a fun trip.

Written by Poppy S, First Year



First Year Classics Trip to St Albans

Early in the summer term, the First Year enjoyed a Classics trip to St Albans, starting their day with a guided tour of the Roman theatre. Built in 140 AD, this is thought to be the oldest theatre in the country and plays are still performed there today. The girls walked through the cemetery on their way to Verulamium Park and the guide pointed out how the Anglo Saxons had recycled Roman building materials to build their church a few hundred years later. In the park, everyone



First Years on their Classics trip to St Albans

admired the beautifully preserved mosaic from a Roman dining-room, notable for the mistake in the pattern included deliberately to avoid angering the gods. In the afternoon, the group visited the Verulamium Museum and learned more about life in the city almost two thousand years ago. The day ended with a workshop, based on the Roman artefacts which had been found by local archaeologists. These provided further insight into daily life in Roman Britain and the resourceful nature of the Romans.

Lower Sixth A Level Geography field trip to Nettlecombe

The Lower Sixth geographers travelled down to Somerset in May to garner new fieldwork skills and collect data to be used in their non-examination assessment (NEA) for their Geography A Level. The six girls came well prepared with several large bags of snacks for the trip, and everything they might need for the variable British weather.



A Level Geography trip to Nettlecombe

West Somerset, looking at regeneration and rebranding in Watchet, and factors affecting the coastal landscape in Porlock Bay. On the Thursday, the girls successfully collected data for their own investigation questions, using the new techniques they had been taught. That evening, everyone was ready to relax after a long week, and the girls took time to teach Mrs Johnson and Miss Stepp some lacrosse skills. Needless to say, they were both naturals!

The girls worked extremely hard throughout the week to ensure they got the most out of the experience and are in a great position to start their NEAs later in the summer term.

Third Year History and Modern Foreign Languages trip to Normandy

On the Monday of the week before the summer half term, an excited group of Third Year girls hopped on a ferry and crossed the channel to start their History and Modern Foreign languages trip to Normandy. Once in France, all the pupils were given their 'guide de voyage' which they were encouraged to fill in throughout the week. The first stop was at a supermarket where the girls embraced their first French challenge to complete while buying lunch, namely to search for the famous 'Petit Ecoliers' biscuits, for French saucisson, grapefruit juice and Carambar sweets in the supermarket and take pictures of the items. When items were hard to locate, some pupils confidently asked the supermarket staff in French where they could find them. Before arriving at the hotel, the group enjoyed their first history tour at Pegasus Bridge learning about how the Allies



Third Years in Normandy

used gliders to land troops in France to begin the Normandy landings in June 1944.

After breakfast on the Tuesday morning, everyone set off for a French market where pictures were taken of fruit and veg with their prices. Miss Pierre then asked everyone, "Combien coûtent les fraises?" and everyone answered her – or tried to – in French. The visit continued via a number of historical places connected with the D-Day landings. The guide, who was a specialist historian, then took everyone to Merville Battery and explained how the 9th Battalion, Parachute Regiment put the guns out of action ensuring there were no casualties on Gold Beach. This was followed by a visit to Gold and Juno beaches to show how the troops would have landed and been very disoriented, but still had to avoid being shot by the Germans!

On Wednesday, the group visited several sites including the American Cemetery of Colleville-sur-Mer and a German cemetery at La Combe. The girls went to a circular cinema at Arromanches to learn about the stages of the D-Day landings.

On Thursday, there was some free time in the town of Bayeux. Some went to see the famous Bayeux Tapestry and were challenged to ask for directions in French for example "Où est l'église?". Some

visited the new British Memorial at Ver Sur Mer which Harry Billinge had raised money for and had only been finished the year before. Following this, the group visited the cemetery at Tilly where Tabby's great grandfather was buried. Tabby laid a wreath on the grave and all the girls stood silently and remembered the sacrifice of the Allied soldiers.

On the final day, the group visited Honfleur and the mediaeval wooden church. I really enjoyed the trip to Normandy and the whole year would like to thank Mrs Kratt, Miss Pierre and Mr Schofield for taking us.

Written by Lulu, Third Year

SGA Stretch Week

The #SGAStretch programme at St George's develops the breadth and vision of the education offered to pupils seeking to excel in a number of aspects of their senior school experience and is a vital part of the academic life of the school.

The annual SGA Stretch Week took place in the final week before the spring half term and provided the usual eclectic, fascinating timetable of opportunities for the girls to take their learning beyond the curriculum. From exploring the world of logarithms in mathematics to dissecting



hearts in the science labs, from debating whether euthanasia should be legalised in the UK in RS to completing escape rooms in Spanish and French, the timetable was littered with challenging and stimulating activities to develop pupils' thinking and the application of their intelligence.

Pupils enjoyed lunch in the SLR whilst thinking about Greek mythology in English literature and the Sixth Form Politics Society led a mock election. With parties named by kitchen utensil, it

was fascinating to see the girls engage with politics based on policy not on personality or preconceived notions. The #SGAconfident Fourth Year presented on the independent projects they had prepared and faced some rigorous questioning from their peers whilst pupils had the opportunity to think about what a career in the arts might look like.

A superb week of engagement, rich mental challenge and practical fun was had by all!



Scholars & Exhibitioners Programme at St George's

Our academic, sports, music, art and drama scholars and exhibitioners are invited a number of times throughout the year to join members of the Senior Leadership Team and subject specific teachers for lunch in the South Lawn Room. The content of their conversations over lunch will vary but often includes talking about progress in their specialty area, hearing from the Sixth Form about their A Level experiences and plans for further education, and literally 'stretching' their knowledge as contemporary topics outside the curriculum are put on the table for debate. The girls have expressed how much they value these lunches, recognising them as a privileged part of their academic education. They appreciate meeting like minded girls from different year groups, and developing informal relationships with strong role models which often results in raised academic aspirations.



Deputy Head Academic, Mr Hoar, expressed succinctly why our scholar and exhibition lunches are so successful in developing pupils' appetite for learning,

'They combine three things which St George's always does so well: good food, good conversation and individual academic stretch'.

Jeremy Hoar, Deputy Head (Academic)

Sport

Netball

Netball has continued to go from strength to strength this year with an extremely impressive number of girls attending netball clubs during the week and representing the school in their age group teams, a trend our PE teachers hope will continue in 2022-23.

U12

The U12s have had a fantastic first year of netball to start their sporting journey at St George's. Many of the year group have regularly participated in matches and they have collectively enjoyed impressive successes during their season. The A team won both their South East Berkshire tournament and their Ascot Schools Tournament whilst the B team came runner up in the plate competition of their Ascot Schools Tournament. These strong results show great depth throughout the year group and augur well for the future.

Coaches' player was awarded to Poppy S, most improved player to Cleo, the sportsmanship award to Yasmeen and the players' player award, voted for by the girls themselves, was awarded to Poppy J.



U13

The U13s greatly improved their basic skills through the year and started to have a deeper understanding and application of tactics in their match play. They worked well as a team and were thoroughly supportive of each other throughout the season. The teams played a variety of schools and worked hard to progress, a notable victory coming against Heathfield just before Christmas, arguably the result of the first term's excellent hard work. Another of the highlights of the season was convincing wins for both the A and B teams against LVS in February. This was followed up by an impressive performance by the A team in the Ascot Schools Tournament where they came third in the plate competition.

The coaches' player was awarded to Senna, most improved player to Emelia, the sportsmanship



- Netball
- Lacrosse
- Swimming
- Handball
- Athletics
- Tennis
- Cricket
- Sports Review of the Year

award to Manon and the players' player award was awarded to Nephele.

U14

There were strong performances from the U14s throughout the season and new girls joining the year group brought huge depth to both teams and greater potential for rotation of players for their large number of matches. As the season progressed, it was a pleasure to see the girls work together more cohesively and their flow of play down the court improved immensely. In the South East Berkshire Tournament the girls won three out of their five matches which was an excellent showing against some tough opposition. The highlight of the season was the Ascot Schools Tournament where the A team were runners up in the Cup and the B team were runners up in the Plate.

The coaches' player was awarded to Grace, most improved player to Issy, the sportsmanship award

to India and the players' player award was awarded to Dominique.

U15

The U15s benefitted from the arrival of a number of new girls back in September who provided more options in a variety of positions and increased the competition for places. This led to some very impressive performances across the two teams and strong development both for individual players and as team units. The A team played well in the South East Berks Tournament, coming third in their group and then beating Ranelagh in the play off. The highlight of the season for both teams was the Ascot Schools Tournament where the As were runners up in the Cup and the Bs came third in the Plate.



in the U16 Ascot Schools Netball Tournament.

The coaches' player was awarded to Charlotte, most improved player to Luka, the sportsmanship award to Jess and the players' player award was awarded to Sophie.

Seniors

The senior netball teams should be particularly proud of their performances this season. Great team cohesion between the Lower Sixth and Upper Sixth girls was evident, impacting positively on, and raising the level of, play significantly. A particular highlight of the season was the first team coming second in the U18 Ascot Schools Netball Tournament.

Senior girls' colours are awarded to pupils for consistent training attendance, high performance, having a positive attitude, being adaptable and showing good self organisation.

Senior colours were awarded to:

Alice K, Gabriella, Alice N, Millie and Ruby.

The coaches' player was awarded to Alice K, most improved player to Gabriella, the sportsmanship award to Ella and the players' player award was awarded to Millie.

Condover Hall

Early in the autumn term, a small group of Third Year pupils left for Condover Hall in Shropshire for a weekend of fun activities and competitive netball in the annual GSA tournament for girls' schools across the country. The weekend started with an adrenalin-fuelled trapeze activity, testing the strength, flexibility and, indeed, the courage of all the girls. One Third Year commented, 'Everyone was so brave and had a go. We all caught it and Seesy even did two pull ups!' That evening all the participants had the opportunity to hear from England netballer Natalie Panagarry who spoke about her experience of the sport and the work and commitment that was required to reach such a high standard.



On Saturday morning, the girls went straight into matches, winning three out of the six they played, against Heathfield B, Tormead and Francis Holland. A morning on the court was followed by a fantastic afternoon on the gladiator wall, abseiling, rock climbing and low ropes.

On Sunday, the girls discovered that, excitingly, they were through to the Cup Competition, but some challenging matches lay ahead. The first two, against Lady Eleanor Hollis and Notting Hill and Ealing, were destined to be the most difficult and, though the girls fought valiantly, they unfortunately lost both. Encouragement came in the third with a victory against Tormead but a further loss came in the fourth against City of London. The afternoon, however, was a different story with two victories against Streatham and Clapham High School and Heathfield A. After such tremendous fun, the girls achieved a superb fourth place in the Cup, an all time best for St George's.

Masterclass with England and Superleague Netball star Sophia Candappa

On a Saturday in December, England and Superleague netball star Sophia Candappa visited St George's to lead a masterclass for keen netball players and was just the inspiration everyone had anticipated. The Surrey Storm centre / wing attack led the juniors with ball handling development, movement and small sided games. Then, with the seniors, Sophia developed more advanced movement, encouraging the players to find an intensity in their play to increase the pressure they place on their opponents. It was a significant morning of learning for all and undoubtedly an inspiration for the rest of the season.

Lacrosse

The commitment, positive attitude and dedication shown by all players to their lacrosse during this year's season has been impressive. Whether attending wall ball lunch practices, before-school fitness, or demonstrating tenacity on the pitch, this season has been remarkable for the wonderfully positive attitudes all the girls have brought to every game. Highlights have included the seniors making it to the semi-finals of their division at the National Schools Competition, two girls attending Berkshire County lacrosse trials and 21 players becoming qualified umpires.

U12

The U12s were nothing short of fantastic throughout the season! They worked hard to learn a huge range of new skills in their lacrosse practices and, with many completely new to the sport, it was a pleasure to see the

progression of each member of the team as time went on. As with their netball, it will be exciting to watch them grow as a team in the years ahead.

The coaches' player was awarded to Sally D, most improved to Amber, sportsmanship award to Liv and players' player was awarded to Yasmeen.

U13

The U13s improved greatly as a team over the year due, in no small part, to the significant number who have made use of the sports hall at lunchtime to practise their skills. Their confidence on the pitch increased, and a highlight was their trip to the South West Rally where they worked extremely hard for a number of wins.

The coaches' player was awarded to Fran, most improved to Katie, the sportsmanship award to Evie and players' player was awarded to Senna.





U14

The U14s' relentless determination and team spirit never faltered despite facing some tough opponents and all the players remained focused on the aim: to get the team playing as much as possible and improve confidence on the pitch. By the second half of the season, the girls really started to flourish as a team and they enjoyed some brilliant performances.

The coaches' player was awarded to Seesy, most improved to Maclairin, sportsmanship to Katie and players' player was awarded to Issy.

U15

The U15 team faced some challenging games over the season and, although the results did not always go their way, the team remained positive and a number of individuals enjoyed some stand-out moments. The pace of the game really picks up at this age and the girls developed their resilience and their capacity to rise to the challenge. As the season progressed, the cohesion of the squad developed, reaching its peak just in time for the National Schools Tournament.

The coaches' player was awarded

to Tirnan, most improved to JoJo, sportsmanship to Estella and players' player was awarded to Katie.

Seniors

The senior lacrosse team was nothing short of outstanding throughout their season. Their impressive commitment to training and their strong team cohesion contributed to the team successfully reaching the semi-finals of their division, and thus the last 16, at the National Schools Lacrosse Competition. It was absolutely clear that every single one would give their all for the team!

Senior colours were awarded to: Millie, Alice K, Eleanor, Daisy, Ruby, Lily, Ella, Tilly and Immy.

The coaches' player was awarded to Alice K, most improved to Immy, sportsmanship to Daisy and players' player was awarded to Ruby.

National Lacrosse Championships

The National Lacrosse Championship, held at the Aldershot Garrison Sports Centre in March, was bathed in sunshine for all four days of play and the SGA

teams could not have performed with greater grit nor enjoyed themselves more, immaterial of the results at the end of the day. There was some superb play from every age group showing the significant development the sides had made in their teamwork, stick skills and game awareness leading up to this, the final tournament of their season.

On Saturday 18 and Sunday 19 March the seniors battled with great determination against some mighty opponents from significantly larger schools and every player from straight defence to goalie significantly contributed to the team's performance. Two wins, against Loretto and Abbots Hill, and four losses placed them fifth and put them through to Division 2. On the second day, the seniors achieved a tremendous 2-2 draw in a tough game against North London Collegiate, followed by a tense game against Heathfield which they won 4-2. They lost the next two, ultimately placing them in the final 16 against Birkenhead. They were sadly knocked out at this point but this impressive team gave their best performances of the entire season and they should be proud of reaching this stage in the competition.

On day 3, the U15 team showed similar determination on the field and finished their day with a much-deserved 6-3 win against The King's School, Canterbury. On the final day it was the U14 team's turn to face the toughest games of their season and they gave 100% in every one of their matches. Goal of the day went to Issy for a beautiful swish shot straight past the goalkeeper and a special shout out to Fran who was put through her paces in goal and made many saves to keep the scoreline tight.

Tournaments such as these, which offer the opportunity to play such talented opponents, provide incredible inspiration and the SGA lacrosse teams are undoubtedly the richer for the experience. All the players were superb ambassadors for St George's: positive, collaborative, determined and ever-gracious and the tournaments were a superb sporting close to the season and the spring term.



Swimming

It has been such a joy to finally make the very most of the stunning St George's pool after a frustrating few years of restrictions since its opening in 2019. A wide range of galas gave the SGA swimmers the chance to showcase their talents and forged links with both feeder prep schools and senior schools from the local area. A particular highlight was organising and hosting the English Schools Swimming Association gala during the autumn term at which St George's welcomed 14 other schools from the Berkshire area to compete.

The St George's swimming team has shown great commitment and dedication to the sport throughout the year, with particularly impressive energy on show at their early Friday morning training sessions! The U12 team went from strength to strength and won their respective age group competitions in every gala they attended this year.

The coaches' awards were given to Lily D, Jenna and Erin.

Handball

Handball was successfully introduced to St George's in 2020-21 and was included in the First Year curriculum from September 2021. The First Year team worked hard to develop and hone their skills both in lesson and club time and their journey to the England national finals has set an impressive precedent for future players to follow.

The journey started early in March when the First Year handballers competed in the U13 South East England handball tournament at the Stoke Mandeville Stadium. The girls won three and drew one against a number of schools from across the South East, finishing the tournament in first place and going through to the next round.

Early in May, they travelled to the LeAF studio in Bournemouth to take part in the South Central Regional round of the competition. The girls fought hard against opponents from Colfox, Toynbee, Gryphon, Gillingham and The Grange schools and with one draw, one loss and three wins, they



came out victorious and went through to the national finals in Nottingham in June.

On finals day, the girls were outstanding in their approach, bringing a fantastic level of commitment and hard work to the process. The day itself was a huge learning curve and the opposition was inevitably tough, but the experience gave the girls the motivation to work hard towards preparing for next year's competition.

Coaches' player was awarded to Lily D, most improved to Lily T, the sportsmanship award to Sally D and player's player to Liv.



Athletics

After missing two summers of athletics competition it was a great relief to get back out on the track and compete against other schools. The SGA athletes took part in a variety of competitions, aiming to improve their own personal bests and also to gain points and positions for the school. It was particularly encouraging to see individuals step forward and take part in events that they would not naturally have chosen to help contribute to team scores.



Finally, Lily D was the top SGA scorer at the junior Track and Field Cup, competing in the 1500m and high jump.

Throughout the summer term, athletes registered their scores in events during lessons, practices and competitions. The pupils gaining the highest number of points during the 2021-22 season:

First Year
3rd – Lily D
2nd – Poppy S
1st – Liv

Second Year
3rd – Tabby
2nd – Manon
1st – Nephele

Third Year
3rd – Charlotte
2nd – Polly
1st – Seesy

Fourth Year
3rd – Muna
2nd – Tirnan
1st – Estella



There were many individual highlights: Charlotte showed great speed and endurance throughout the season recording fantastic times in the 300m and 800m and finishing fifth at the County Schools Championships. Polly proved to be a strong all rounder and also performed admirably to finish fifth in the hurdles at the County Schools. Katie worked hard to perfect her hurdles stride pattern and was rewarded with district selection and Muna was undefeated in the sprint events, also gaining district selection. Seesy registered a number of high scores across a wide range of events and finished the season with some excellent javelin throws.



Tennis

Tennis has continued to develop at St George's with devoted practice time in class and with the input of Mr Ingham, the private coach. SGA players have had the opportunity to put their skills to the test playing in a number of local fixtures both at home and away during the summer term. Alongside girls' cricket, tennis is one of the summer sports the Ascot schools are looking to promote and it is hoped that this will result in increased competition in future seasons.

The winner of Mr Ingham's tennis award was Lower Sixth pupil, Daisy.



Cricket

In the past couple of years, girls' cricket across the Ascot schools has increased significantly as talented female international players have driven the game forward in order to make it equally accessible both to boys and girls. In 2021-22, cricket at the Ascot schools has been based on the pairs' system with a view to moving towards hard ball cricket in the next few years. The future

of cricket at St George's is looking bright as the school looks to take the lead in introducing the Ascot Schools League next season, and it has been exciting to see pupils embrace the game and work hard to master the many skills required to function as a team.

Cricket coaches' awards were given to Liv, Sophie, Isobel and Sylvie.



Sports Review of the Year

It was fantastic for the sporting community of St George's to gather in person for the annual Sports Review of the Year on 4 July to celebrate the sporting efforts, ability and achievements of all pupils throughout 2021-22. It was a delight to welcome guest speaker, Martin Tye, who won gold for indoor rowing



and powerlifting in the 2018 Invictus Games. He also won the World's Strongest Disabled Man competition in the same year. It was evident, as Martin shared his life story, that his success as an athlete is testament to the power of a positive outlook, an attitude which is similarly encouraged within the SGA community.

The team of the year for 2021-22 was awarded to the U12 Netball A team. Lauded as a team that was a pleasure to coach, teach and watch throughout the autumn and spring terms, they dominated their matches all while bringing an infectious love of the sport and an obvious joy to their play in every club session and PE lesson.

The Outstanding Contribution to Sport award was won by Sports Prefect India. Her commitment since her first days at St George's has been superb, representing the school in nearly every sport since day one! She was an excellent Sports Prefect for 2021-22 and a powerful ambassador for sport at the school.



The Senior Valedictorian Award for 2021-22 was awarded to Alice K. Alice has worked hard at her training, committed wholeheartedly to every match played and supported younger athletes with

great enthusiasm. She was a superb captain to both the netball and lacrosse senior teams in 2021-22 and a role model of true Georgian confidence and capability for pupils in the younger years.

Individual Sporting Success

Pupils who, in 2021-22, competed at County level or above:

Eleanor MacPhee	Lacrosse / Hockey	County Hockey, South England Lacrosse Team and Regional Academy Lacrosse
Georgia Eaton	Swimming	County
Fran Dawborne Baber	Hockey	County
Amelia Wells	Badminton	County
Grace Davy	Netball	County and South Region League
Lily Derrick	Swimming	County and Regional Level
Poppy Simpson	Netball	Berkshire County Talent Pathway (U13 satellite academy 1)
Sally Davy	Netball / Hockey	Berkshire County Surrey Development Centre 2022
Fong Pinatha	Football	Berkshire County and AFC Reading Liberty Belles
Charlotte Williams	Cross Country and Athletics – Track and Field	County
Seesy Dhanda	Weightlifting	GB





CONNECTED

St George's girls have an enriching and carefully curated programme of local, national and global experiences, shaping their perspective and impact on the world. They are encouraged to look upwards and outwards, and know what it is to be truly connected to oneself and to those around them.



The Connected SGA Community



2020 Leavers' drinks

It was a pleasure to finally welcome back the Sixth Form leavers from 2019-20 for a belated farewell drinks party on the South Lawn in early September to formally mark their departure from St George's and celebrate their significant contribution to school life. Alumnae and teachers were delighted to see each other once again, share a year's worth of news from different



courses and universities around the country and hear positive news of their endeavours since leaving the school.

#SGAconnected Lunch

As the autumn term started, St George's marked, it was hoped, the end of a challenging period for both the nation and the school and celebrated the return to something like 'normal'. The aptly named #SGAconnected lunch took place early in September and brought pupils from across the year groups together again and sent out a strong message of unity - between staff and pupils across the year groups - for the year ahead.



- 2020 Leavers' drinks
- #SGAconnected Lunch
- Christmas Carol Service
- Freshers' BBQ
- Sixth Form Taster Day and Tea
- Upper Sixth Leavers' Ball



Christmas Carol Service at Windsor Parish Church

It was a great relief to be able to go ahead with our end of term Carol Service at Windsor Parish Church on the final Thursday of the autumn term. The Carol Service is one of those events within the annual calendar that pupils often refer back to as a highlight of their time at the school and it was a pleasure, then, that this year's plans were not thwarted. All the readers spoke with appropriate gravitas and the Chapel Choir enjoyed leading the congregation in singing carols as well as entertaining them with a selection of more unusual pieces.

The First Year Choir also provided some youthful charm with *Pink Zebra's Winter Lullaby* and the jolly *Everyone can Sing at Christmas Time* by Mark Burrows.

Fresher's BBQ

It was a pleasure to host many of the new First, Second and Third Year pupils with their families for the annual Freshers' BBQ at the start of June prior to the girls joining the school in September 2022

The Freshers' event is always a significant moment for new pupils as, in many ways, it marks the starting point of their St George's journey. Laughter and animated conversation (for both pupils and parents!) echoed around the site as groups of new Georgians gathered with their First, Second and Third Year hosts on the South Lawn, enjoying a delicious BBQ and Plum Honeychurch's excellent ice cream. It was a great example of the #SGAconnected community at work as new members of the SGA family had their first taste of the strong relationships the girls forge during their time at the school.



Sixth Form Taster Day for Fourth Year Pupils and New Sixth Form Tea

Preparing for the future is an important part of the 'connected' ethos at SGA and helping pupils to make informed choices, based both on experience and knowledge, is a vital part of that process.



Late in June, the current Fourth Year pupils transformed into Sixth Form students for the day to have a taste of what life is like for girls at the top of the school. They shed their uniform and

wore Sixth Form dress and hung out in 'The View', the Sixth Form common room. The Fourth Year also experienced lessons in a range of subjects, with particular focus on those only offered at A Level, for example Photography, Politics, Psychology, History of Art, Economics and Business. They looked at the opportunities Sixth Form pupils are able to access at SGA in terms of positions of leadership within the school. They also talked about how Sixth Form pupils engage outside of the school for example as part of the Young Enterprise initiative or working alongside pupils to help develop literacy in local primary schools. They finished the day with a myth-busting Q&A session with the Lower Sixth, debating the value of an all-girls education and finding out what makes the Sixth Form at St George's such a positive phase in SGA pupils' educational experience.



It was also a pleasure to welcome a number of the new Lower Sixth who would be joining SGA in September 2022 for a BBQ at the end of June. The Fifth Year and Lower Sixth were consummate hosts and all the future Georgians quickly settled in, chatting animatedly with their new friends on the South Lawn in the afternoon sunshine.



Upper Sixth Leavers' Ball

The Leavers' Ball was, as always, a bittersweet evening as farewells were said to the departing Upper Sixth for 2021-22. This cohort of young women had been a particularly wonderful group who showed resilience and cheerfulness throughout their time at St George's. They had certainly faced the challenge of uncertainty well, and thoroughly deserved such a celebration to recognise their achievements across the full life of the school.

Known for their kindness and consideration of others, Milly (Head Girl), Daisy and Alice (Deputy Head Girls) had arranged a wonderful evening for those fortunate to attend. The catering staff looked after everyone wonderfully, not only in providing a fabulous meal, but also in decorating the dining room beautifully.

St George's looks forward to hearing of their successes, be that at university, in their gap years, in the arts or in the world of work. As is true of so many Georgian alumnae, this group will undoubtedly go on to be incredibly successful in whatever they put their minds to.



The House Life of SGA



House Debating

Late in September, the annual house debating competition kicked off with the first semi final bringing teams from Alexander and Darwin to the debating floor to engage in verbal battle over whether contentious historical monuments should remain in place or be removed. With some disruptive points of information from both sides, the timely strike of chair Lucy's gavel and the non-binding vote of a captivated audience, this was a superb first outing from both houses to start the year's house competitions and a good day for Darwin as they secured a place in the final.

The second semi-final took place a week later when Becket proposed the motion that mobile phones should be banned in school with Churchill opposing. A highly charged debate from both sides concluded with particularly strong final summaries from Lower Sixth pupils Hannah and Erin, but the difference on the day was the excellent contribution of Fourth Year pupil

Rosie for Churchill who advanced her house to the final against Darwin.

The house debating final took place in late November with all the teams raising their game to deliver two exciting and entertaining debates under the watchful eye of chair Amelia and timekeeper Lucy. After a first debate in which Becket secured third place against Alexander, the finalists from Churchill and Darwin took to the floor, with the former proposing that social media comments should be protected by free speech and the latter opposing the motion. Significant barracking throughout the opening arguments set the pace for what was to be a fiercely fought debate. Strong arguments followed from seconders Rosie and Honey, as they dug into the plaguing issue of whether unbiased judgement of social media content is even possible. Isabel and Hannah confidently answered some excellent questions from the floor and from the year groups online,

- House Debating
- House Sports
- House Art
- House Music
- House Performing Arts
- House Parties
- Celebrations of St George's Day

and concluded the debate with thoughtful and emotive summaries. Both teams debated with an excellent understanding of the legislation surrounding freedom of speech and with a fervour indicative of their strongly held views on this relevant issue.

Churchill House was ultimately victorious and judged winners of the house debating competition for 2021-22 and Lower Sixth Erin was awarded the prize for the best debater.

House Netball

The courts were a hive of activity in the final week of the autumn term as all four houses gathered with their face paint on for a typically competitive evening of house netball. Staff and pupils gathered to support their teams and were entertained with some excellent and close games. Alexander House was crowned winner of both the junior and senior competitions with Darwin coming in second, Churchill third and Becket fourth.





House Swimming

House swimming, in the final week of the autumn term, was a heated affair with hard fought races for the First, Second and Third Year swimmers combining with the frenzied, vocal support of the different year group spectators and the tropical temperatures of the SGA swimming pool building. That being said, there was a wonderful sense of fun as everyone poolside and in the stands joined Miss Alford in a dance warm up and swimmers enjoyed their reindeer noodle and swimboy balancing challenges alongside the traditional 25m stroke races.

Churchill House were announced the winners followed by Darwin then Becket and Alexander.

House Lacrosse



It was a beautiful sunny afternoon at St George's for the annual house lacrosse competition in March and all the girls, whether supporting or playing, engaged enthusiastically with the afternoon's matches. With each house sporting a junior and a senior team, it was a pleasure to see girls of varied experience and ability working together in support of one another. Girls collapsed into giggles as they squeezed into goalkeeping kit for the first time and the sports pitches resounded with cheers of support as the girls lauded each other's efforts. Alexander came out on top in both the junior and senior competitions, however, in many ways, the afternoon was a greater celebration of the friendship, loyalty and teamwork which the house system develops.

House Art Competition

The first week of the annual house art competition got underway in January with pupils from Alexander and Becket taking to the studios to start planning and creating their 'Imaginative Portrait using Mixed Media' with Churchill and Darwin following a week later.

The teams, led by a Sixth Former and spanning the year groups, had been encouraged to use collage (patterned paper, old books, newspaper, magazines), drawing with any materials, paint (watercolour/ acrylic), ink, oils, pastels, chalks, photography and textiles/ thread in their work. The completed pieces were then judged by previous St George's Director of Art, Chris Fidler and Churchill were announced as

the winners for 2021-22 with their portrait of the ex-Georgian 20th century prime minister after whom their house is named.



House Music

Just before the second exeat weekend of the spring term, the whole St George's community gathered for the annual house music competition. They were joined by harpist and music teacher Mrs Elizabeth Law who kindly agreed to adjudicate what proved to be a superb afternoon of high class entertainment.

The judging took some time with the final scores ultimately proving to be extremely close. Isabel from Darwin won best musician, and the overall house winners were Becket.

House Performing Arts



On the final day of June, pupils from across the year groups went head to head in the annual house performing arts competition.

Each house had to enter six items into the competition: a monologue, a duologue, a group scene, a junior solo dance, a senior solo dance and a group dance. The performances ranged from Shakespearian comedy to contemporary dance and it was clear how much work the performers, House Captains and Heads of Houses had put in to pull together such varied entries.

Mr Mortimer, a speech and drama teacher at St. George's,



and Miss Marmo, the new Theatre Director in Residence for 2022-23, teamed up to judge the competition and both were incredibly impressed by the quality of talent on stage and expressed at the end of the competition how difficult it was to pick out their favourites. Nevertheless, they were required to choose a Best Actress, which was awarded to Isabel from the Upper Sixth and a Best Dancer, which was awarded to Amelia from the Lower Sixth.

After this, all that was left to do was for the judges to add up their scores and it was announced that Churchill were the winners for 2021-22.

House Athletics

Despite some flash showers, both the morning and the afternoon of the first Friday in July held fine, allowing the house athletics competition to go ahead unhindered. Field events took place in age groups throughout the morning and then all the school gathered with spectating parents for an afternoon of track events. All the competitors showed tremendous enthusiasm and effort, particularly those who were competing in events that were relatively new to them. There were some excellent track races with standout performances from First Year, Lily D, Third Year, Charlotte, and Fourth Year, Estella who broke the school record in their respective 800m races.





House Tennis

In the final week of June, the First to Third Year pupils took to the courts for their junior house tennis competition. It was a beautiful sunny afternoon full of hilarity amongst friends, a healthy dose of arguments over line calls, some competitive rallies and excellent support from those not playing. Congratulations to Churchill for coming out on top of the junior leaderboard.

A week later, it was the senior girls' turn and, in a week inspired by British tennis successes at Wimbledon, the St George's players definitely shone. Some superb matches were enjoyed in the



afternoon sunshine with the pairs from Darwin coming out on top, scooping victory, not only in the senior tournament, but also the overall house tennis competition with an 11 point lead over second placed Churchill.

Becket House Party

In the first week of December, the girls from Becket and their families gathered for a Rio-themed annual house party.



Becket House Party

The Dining Room was vibrantly decorated ready for a fiesta and thanks went to Millie, Mannat, Mimi and Madison for putting so much effort into transporting everyone to Rio! Sporting an array of brightly coloured costumes, both parents and pupils clearly enjoyed the opportunity to meet and spend time together in person. After dinner, everyone adjourned to the Sue Cormack Hall and enjoyed a medley of songs from Ed Sheeran through to *Les Miserables* performed by Manon, Feli, Maya,

Ishpel, Emilia and Milly. The evening finished with a rousing house rendition of Katrina and the Waves' *I'm Walking on Sunshine*, an appropriate choice for such a joyous evening.

Churchill House Party

In the first week of February, a number of families from Churchill House enjoyed a super evening of musical entertainment from the girls and a delicious dinner prepared by the wonderful SGA catering staff. The dining room took on a colourful 70s disco vibe with CDs and rainbow tinsel curtains suspended from the doorways, and there were some great fashion statements from pupils, parents and teachers alike, all of which set the tone for a vibrant, positive evening enjoyed by everyone.



Churchill House Party



Darwin House Party

Alexander and Darwin House Parties

During the first couple of weeks of March, the superb catering team was kept incredibly busy as pupils and families from Alexander and Darwin gathered to celebrate their annual house parties. Alexander enjoyed a Wild West-themed evening with delicious southern chicken and Mississippi mud pie served in the Dining Room decorated with wanted posters for some well known SGA culprits, followed by a vibrant evening of entertainment. Darwin, by contrast, took to the red carpet with a Hollywood-themed evening of glitz and glamour, enjoying dinner followed by a wonderful programme of entertainment concluding with a theme-appropriate house rendition of *Come Alive* from *The Greatest Showman*.



Alexander House Party

It was wonderful to kick off

Celebrations of St George's Day

the annual St George's Day celebrations with the first Georgian Gallop in three years on 21 April. Teams of girls in year groups took to the sports field on a beautiful sunny afternoon and, dressed in their house's colours, completed the obstacle course in relay, cheered on by their supporters.

When all the times were totted up, Churchill was announced as the winners with the First Year team from Alexander declared the fastest team to complete the course.

The celebrations continued the next day with the whole school gathering for chapel in the morning followed by a delicious St George's-themed feast at lunchtime. Traditional roast beef and an array of St George's iced cakes were served in the Dining Room, decorated with St George's flag bunting and decorations.

It was a pleasure to conclude the weekend by gathering for the traditional service of music and readings for St George's Day and Easter on the evening of Sunday 24 April. Parents, Mr Marriott and Mr Hillary, joined Mrs Hewer and a selection of pupils in readings including the A Carol of St George's alongside work from Cummings, Keats, Muir, Shakespeare and Spenser and a bible passage from Ephesians 6. The Chapel Choir also performed a repertoire of pieces including The Collect of St George by William Harris.



Enrichment Programme and Outside Speakers

Harriet Brown on Sustainability

Inviting speakers who work in the sustainability space is a central strand of St George's pupils' environmental education and it was a pleasure to welcome back SGA alumna Harriet Brown to the school at the beginning of the autumn term.



She spoke to the SGA community about her vital work in controlling food waste. Her visit coincided with St George's having been chosen as a finalist in the 'Green Award' category of the Independent School of the Year Awards for 2022, recognising SGA's strong position on the environment.

Assembly with Paul Taylor from Reading University

Just before the autumn half term, Paul Taylor, Reading University's Sustainability Officer, came to SGA to speak to the gathered school community as the termly visiting speaker in chapel.

Continuing the school's drive to increase environmental education and awareness, Mr Taylor's talk was focused on the Christian imperative for looking after the Earth. The girls and staff were shown the images taken from the Apollo 8 mission giving a strong sense of the planet's fragility and were told that the astronauts chose to read the book of Genesis throughout their mission adding a spiritual dimension to their other-worldly view.

Mr Taylor then took listeners to the story of the Good Samaritan in



which Jesus taught that anyone in need is truly one's neighbour. Extreme weather events, resultant from the climate emergency, have a greater impact on the global poor and have, inevitably, become a matter of social justice, a modern day example of this bible story at work. Before answering questions from the Sixth Form and staff in the chapel, Mr Taylor concluded that sustainability is a moral imperative, that our consumption does have an impact globally and that Christians should take the lead in caring for their environmentally-impacted 'neighbour.'

Jack Lundie from WWF

Early in February, the school gathered to listen to visiting chapel speaker for the term, Jack Lundie, the Director of Campaigns and Engagement at the World Wildlife Fund. Jack talked to the Fourth Year girls in chapel, and the rest of the pupils in their tutor groups online, about the importance of sustainability and biodiversity for the future of the planet and humanity. Since it is the Chinese Year of the Tiger, Mr Lundie commented on the sad reality that this amazing animal had seen



its numbers decline in the wild owing to human activity, but also highlighted how the survival of smaller animals, such as plankton, were also threatened by climate change. He explained that solutions to the problems facing ecosystems were critical, but that it was important that those societies who have co-existed with nature for centuries must not be disadvantaged by the actions taken. In the time remaining after the talk, Mr Lundie answered questions from the different year groups which included a request to find out his own favourite animal which he informed us was the puffin. This gave him the opportunity to highlight the reality that native species such as puffins and bumblebees are in decline, so sustainability efforts are required in UK habitats as much as elsewhere around the world.

As WWF was one of the school's chosen charities for 2021-22, Mr Lundie's talk was a welcome reminder of some of the key messages of the organisation and complemented the work ongoing at St George's concerning sustainability and the environment.

UN Youth Action in Climate Change Talk by Xan Northcott

Just before the summer half term, St George's welcomed Xan Northcott to speak about the dangers of climate change and the work of YOUNGO, the official children and youth constituency of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change. Xan began his presentation by emphasising the unprecedented nature of the climate data of the past few decades and the impact this has already had on biodiversity and the frequency of

- Harriet Brown on Sustainability
- Paul Taylor from Reading University
- Jack Lundie from WWF
- Xan Northcott on UN Youth Action in Climate Change
- Alumnae Careers Day
- Sarah Chapman on STEM Career
- Alumnae Julie Emma El-Bacha on her Fashion Company
- Dr Ashok Khare from Reading Hindu Centre
- Ria Kalsi founder of Matriarch



extreme weather events. He was, however, at pains to emphasise the practical actions that can be taken to limit one's environmental impact in school and beyond.

Part of his message was to encourage involvement in YOUNGO and how we all can make a difference. At the end of the session, Xan led a small group discussion for Lower Sixth pupils to develop their understanding.

Alumnae Careers Day

In November, St George's welcomed back a number of alumnae to speak at the biannual Alumnae Careers Day. Given the disruption to so many areas of life during the pandemic, it was great to be able to host this valuable event without interruption. Six alumnae came to Ascot and a further three former pupils contributed online with the speakers ranging from a St George's leaver from 1965 to another who went to university in 2016.



Pupils from the Fourth and Fifth Year and the Sixth Form attended sessions in their cohort groups and were able to choose to hear about three professions and careers. These ranged from the experience of an army officer, to a recruitment executive, as well as lawyers, a retailer, a financial software designer, a social media leader and a doctor. After the initial three sessions, the alumnae divided into two groups and formed a panel for the Fourth and Fifth Year in the Sue Cormack Hall and another in the chapel for the Sixth Form. In this session the alumnae took questions from pupils and staff concerning the realities of contemporary work in a broader sense. These discussions included issues such as the importance of mentoring, dealing with sexism in the workplace, female leadership and, importantly, the advice the speakers would have given to their younger St George's self.

Sarah Chapman on her STEM career at 3M

Late in November, a group of Fifth Years and Sixth Formers



hosted Sarah Chapman from the innovation and tech firm 3M, for a careers lunch. Sarah discussed her career in STEM and explained how she had addressed the suspicions of many of those around her concerning women in science. She discussed her management of teams at 3M, working at the cutting edge of industries such as high speed railways and mobile phone technology. It was remarkable to hear how an item as seemingly simple as sandpaper can require engineering on a microscopic level for use in aviation. The girls were richer for the experience and knowledge Sarah shared and now have a much better idea about the requirements of STEM career choices.

Alumna, Julie Emma El-Bacha on her fashion company

St George's welcomed back alumna Julie El-Bacha in January to speak about her journey



towards starting her own fashion label.

Julie left St George's in 2013 and founded the slow fashion label *Poésie by Julie*. 22 pupils and six members of staff, including all of the Art Department, came to hear Julie speak about her business. She explained that her emphasis is on bespoke, women's clothing which allows her to react to changes in demand and significantly reduce the waste produced by many brands churning out clothes without knowing the potential market. Natural fibres that are sourced fairly from suppliers is also a crucial part of her vision. The audience was impressed with the commitment required to make clothes from a first idea, through to design, making and marketing. The balance of creative and business demands was obvious, with would-be entrepreneurs listening attentively to advice on marketing through an effective website, Instagram and other platforms.

Above all, Julie wanted to pass onto the girls her advice to follow their interests in their A Level studies and later careers.

Chair of Reading Hindu Centre, Dr Ashok Khare

Every term St George's welcomes one or two guest speakers into scheduled chapel services and often they represent a world faith other than Christianity. In May, SGA welcomed the chair of the Reading Hindu Centre (he is also Head of Chemistry at Shiplake College), Dr Ashok Khare.

Dr Khare managed to combine his insights about Hinduism with his knowledge of Chemistry in a warm and engaging way. He explained his understanding of the nature of God and also spoke about choosing the right path for one's mental health.

It was very positive to hear from a scientist who also has a strong religious faith, demonstrating that the two do not have to be incompatible. Dr Ashok's talk was also, coincidentally, useful revision for the Fourth Year pupils who had Chemistry assessments later that same day!



Ria Kalsi, founder of Matriarch, for Cultural Diversity Week

Ria Kalsi, founder of Matriarch - an organisation specifically established to design and facilitate inclusion workshops for schools - had made such an impression on Sixth Form pupils during one of their enrichment sessions earlier in the year that she was invited back to speak to the whole school during Cultural Diversity Week in the summer term.

Ria started by highlighting some of the key themes she would be covering including racism, privilege, slavery and colonialism. Using the possession of a passport as a simple demonstration of privilege (versus non ownership as an example of lack of privilege), she helped the girls to think about the wide range of life dimensions that could be considered either as a privilege or as a lack of privilege. She effectively articulated the architecture of the world, going back through civilisation, to highlight the emergence of white people as a dominant race and shared examples of slavery and colonialism which helped explain how hierarchies had become established, and how tensions between ethnic groups and gender types had come to be. Ria spoke openly about some of her own experiences of racism when growing up and those of her family as immigrants from India in the

1960s, carefully outlining how racism, as one example of a lack of acceptance of diversity, can, quite subtly, be endemic.

Ria turned to exploring unconscious bias, as well as unpacking what privilege in the context of ED&I actually means. She used several smart breakout sessions, asking the girls to pair up and consider some of their own preconceptions and/or prejudices. She also challenged them to consider how they would react if they had competed against a boys' school in a debating competition and had won, and one of the boys had told them how well they had done, 'considering they were girls.' The girls were very clear this was not a comment they would freely let pass!

To draw the workshops to a close, and help the girls to consider how their understanding had perhaps changed and what action they might take, Ria challenged them to speak to someone they would not normally socialise with, and ask them about their 'privileges'.

The key takeaway message for all pupils and staff was to consciously develop a greater understanding and appreciation of one another's differences.

Charity Connections

2021-22 was a great year for fundraising at St George's and it was particularly pleasing to leave Charity Council Zoom meetings behind and freely run some of the traditional SGA charity events which have not been possible in recent covid times.

September saw the annual vote on which three charities the school community would support through the year. Staff and pupils were encouraged to make suggestions in three categories: the environment, health charities supporting medical research or support and poverty relief and justice. A fascinating assembly was held in which advocates argued for their choices and, when votes were compiled, the World Wildlife Fund, The Brain Tumour Charity and Action for Children were chosen as the St George's charities for the year.

Outside of our traditional support of the Poppy Appeal for the British Legion and our fundraising for Jeans for Genes and the Save the Children Christmas Appeal, the school community raised a superb £3990.69 for the three chosen charities and the total for the whole year, including these other charities, was a mighty £6,041.39.

In addition, around 1000 books were donated to The Children's Book Project and Donate to Educate, produce was delivered to the Wokingham Foodbank, several filled shoe boxes were sent to Link to Hope, and a minibus full of clothes was taken to the Association of Ukrainians in Great Britain in London. It was also so encouraging to see individual pupils take the lead and organise events to raise funds or collect for causes close to their lives.

Thank you so much for all your hard work and generosity. It really does change lives.

The Rev Sami Watts
Chaplain of St George's

Harvest Services of Thanksgiving

The charity year started positively at St George's with a tremendous response to the Harvest Appeal launched early in the autumn term. Reverend Watts celebrated the incredible generosity of the St George's community at a Harvest Service of Thanksgiving with pupils on 8 October and also with parents on Sunday 10 October. Then began the process of packing up all the contributions and delivering them to the Wokingham Foodbank for wider distribution. A group of Sixth Form pupils were fortunate to visit the foodbank to see how

- Harvest Services of Thanksgiving
- Marking Remembrance
- Christmas Jumper Day
- Meme-themed Non Uniform Day
- Charity Bake Sales
- Collection for Ukrainian Refugees
- First Year Charity Fete
- Teacher for the Day

this vital community service works as well as help sort the St George's goods into the appropriate places. It was tremendous to hear that St George's had contributed 249kg of produce - nearly a quarter of a tonne - to the foodbank's stock.



Marking Remembrance at SGA

On 11 November, the whole school community gathered, either in the chapel or online in tutor groups, to mark the anniversary of Armistice Day. During the week leading to Remembrance Day, pupils chose which design of poppy to wear to mark the occasion, with proceeds going to the Royal British Legion. The service on that morning was a time to give thanks for the sacrifice made by so many to deliver a more secure and peaceful world. The Reverend Watts spoke of the challenge of living in true peace with one's neighbours, a holistic peace which includes justice and right living, not just an absence of conflict. The Chapel Choir sang beautifully and the whole school participated in an act of remembrance and the two minutes silence.



On Sunday 14 November, the Chapel Choir led a service of music and readings, with some notable pieces, including Director of Music Ian Hillier's own glorious setting of *O God Our Help in Ages Past* and the haunting *Pie Jesu* from Durufle's *Requiem*. Parents, staff and girls contributed with poetic readings ranging from Rupert Brooke to Siegfried Sasson, the service finishing with the *Last Post* by Carol Anne Duffy. It was a moving and fitting tribute to those who died in war, and a reminder, once again, to pray for the peace of the world.

Christmas Jumper Non-uniform Day at SGA for Save the Children

On the penultimate day of the autumn term, St George's celebrated Christmas in style with pupils and staff donning their Christmas outfits in aid of Save the Children. 3D snowmen, reindeer deely boppers and battery lit Christmas lights on jumpers abounded, helping everyone to get into the holiday spirit whilst raising funds for a great cause.

Meme-themed Non-Uniform Day

It was a pleasure to start the spring half term with a meme-themed non-uniform day at St George's and the girls clearly enjoyed (and



invested some serious energy into!) recreating the observational humour of their generation and spending the school day in more relaxed garb. When creating the calendar of charity events, SGA Chaplain The Reverend Watts is led by the girls on the Charity Committee and their enthusiasm for events such as the meme-themed day contributes significantly to raising funds for the three charities of the year.

Bake Sale in aid of the Red Cross DEC Ukraine Humanitarian Appeal

Early in March, the Charity Committee hosted a bake sale in aid of the Red Cross DEC Ukraine



Humanitarian Appeal, a cause which was clearly forefront in the press at the time. The tables were loaded with cupcakes, brownies, cookies, doughnuts and other treats, many of which were homemade and beautifully decorated, some in yellow and blue to reflect the Ukrainian flag and the charity being supported. Not surprisingly, a vast number of cakes were sold and the total raised was an amazing £842.50 which the DEC agreed to match.

Charity Bake Sale for Mind

Lower Sixth pupil Immy was an inspirational role model for younger pupils as she undertook the organisation and running of a charity bake sale. In aid of the mental health charity Mind,



the bake sale kicked off Mental Health Awareness Week on 9 May. All the donated goodies flew off the table and Immy raised £240 for a fantastic charity that provides invaluable advice and support to empower those experiencing mental health problems and campaigns to improve services, raise awareness and promote understanding.

Collection for Ukrainian Refugees

Early in the summer term, two senior pupils, Yeva and Dara, expressed a strong desire for St George's to respond further to the Ukrainian refugee crisis and initiated a collection of items for the two weeks prior to half term, in support of the Association of Ukrainians in Great Britain



(AUGB). The school community responded enthusiastically and on the Friday before half term, a minibus was loaded full with nappies, toiletries, toys, children's books and, overwhelmingly, clothes and driven to the AUGB's base in Fulham, London.

Staffed by volunteers, the AUGB centre was working with refugees arriving in London, helping them to stock up on what they needed and also transporting items out to the refugee camps in Poland.

First Year Charity Fete

For the first time since 2019, the First Year pupils were able to organise and host their traditional Charity Summer Fete in late June and what a great job they did! The stalls were creatively imagined and beautifully laid out and ranged

from milkshakes to cheese rolling, shoot the hoop to face painting and the ever-popular 'sponge a teacher.' Through their hard work

and creativity, and the generosity of everyone who came along, a total of £597 was raised for the three school charities.



Teacher for the Day

In late June, a group of Second Year pupils took over the classroom for their charity fundraiser 'Teacher for a Day' experience. Many dressed for the part and took on a remarkably confident air of authority as

they led their peers in maths challenges, English games, chemistry experiments and Kahoot quizzes. Pupils donated £5 to raise funds for our three chosen charities for the year, raising £175 for the WWF, The Brain Tumour Charity and Action for Children.

As 'Teachers for the Day', Kourtney, Devon and I took a History lesson all about Charles II as he is a monarch we have not learnt about yet. We watched a video to help prepare our 'pupils' for a Kahoot quiz. We picked videos from the *Horrible Histories* TV show, because we knew they were comical but educational at the same time. I really enjoyed the experience of being a teacher for the lesson and it made us realise how teachers have to keep a class under control and how hard it can be!

Lola, Second Year pupil

Community Connections

The Princes Trust Fund

At the start of the academic year, SGA Head Liz Hewer was appointed alongside Vice-Provost of Eton, Peter McKee, and local entrepreneur and businessman Andrew Try, to join the Board of Trustees for The Prince Philip Trust Fund.



The Prince Philip Trust Fund
for the Royal Borough of Windsor and Maidenhead



Taking an active role within the local community and nurturing meaningful relationships with organisations such as The Prince Philip Trust Fund is central to the ethos of St George's. SGA pupils are given many opportunities throughout their time at the school to engage with the world beyond St George's and thus widen their education, challenge their thinking and encourage a service-minded attitude. Mrs Hewer has been working closely with The Prince Philip Trust Fund and hopes to develop opportunities for pupils' involvement in the future.

Prep Schools Netball Tournament

It was a pleasure to welcome teams from eight prep schools to St George's on a Saturday at the end of January for the annual Prep Schools U10 Netball Tournament. All the



teams performed very strongly and when all the results were counted and the goals totted up, it was the team from Bute House in London that came out on top. Parents and spectators were sustained by the SGA catering team through a brisk sunny morning with coffees, teas and pastries and the girls devoured sausage baps at the end before the medal presentation by Mrs Hewer.

U11 and U13 IAPS Netball

An incredible 35 schools convened at St George's on two successive days early in February for the U11 and U13 IAPS netball tournaments. Events such as these provide a vital connection with families from feeder schools and are also a superb opportunity for St George's to showcase its superb facilities and increase visibility within the local community of schools and more widely.

Prep Schools Invitational Swimming Gala

A busy couple of weeks hosting guests at St George's early in February concluded with an U9 and U10 Invitational Swimming Gala. Teams from six local prep schools gathered with their coaches for some competitive



- The Princes Trust Fund
- Netball Tournaments
- Swimming Gala
- Summer Splash
- Royal Ascot Art Competition
- Queen's Green Canopy Celebration
- Second Year welcome the Royal Party to Royal Ascot



CONNECTED



racing, finishing the afternoon off with hot chocolate and a gift of a mini St George's jute bag with water bottle to take home as a memento of their visit. The girls were obviously incredibly excited to swim in a gala and a number were competing for the first time. Congratulations went to the Lambrook U9 team and the St Piran's U10 team who were victorious in their age groups.

Summer Splash

It was a beautiful sunny day for the annual Summer Splash Gala for prep schools on Wednesday, 18 May and St George's welcomed teams from Bute House, Glendower Prep School, Orchard House School, Thomas's Battersea and Pembridge Hall to the pool. The girls all swam superbly with Bute House the overall winners of the competition.



Royal Ascot Local Schools Art Competition

The Royal Ascot Local Schools Art Competition is an annual favourite for First to Third Year art-loving pupils at St George's and girls have enjoyed great success over the years with winning entries decorating the Ascot Racecourse Heath Tunnel for guests to view and enjoy. Many congratulations this year went to Second Year, Sophia who was runner up in the age 13-14 category and First Year, Hana who received a Highly Commended in the age 11 category.



SGA joins Ascot Racecourse's Queen's Green Canopy Celebration

In advance of the Platinum Jubilee celebrations in May, Ascot Racecourse and the Crown Estate invited St George's to be a part of their Queen's Green Canopy 'Plant a Tree' ceremony. First Year Hana joined children from many local schools to honour this historic occasion and celebrate the planting of 70 oak trees to mark the Queen's Jubilee.



Second Year welcome the Royal Party to Royal Ascot

It was a beautiful week for Royal Ascot 2022 and the Second Year pupils had a wonderful time lining Cheapside Street and Watersplash Lane on Ladies' Day to welcome the Royal Party – including The Princess Royal and her family – to town.

Royal Ascot week is a major calendar event at Ascot Racecourse. It was founded in 1711 by Queen Anne and is normally attended every year by Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth and members of the royal family. It is as famous for its dress code and Ladies' Day as it is for the racing itself, but aficionados of the sport enjoy some famous races including the Gold Cup, the Coronation Stakes and the Diamond Jubilee Stakes.



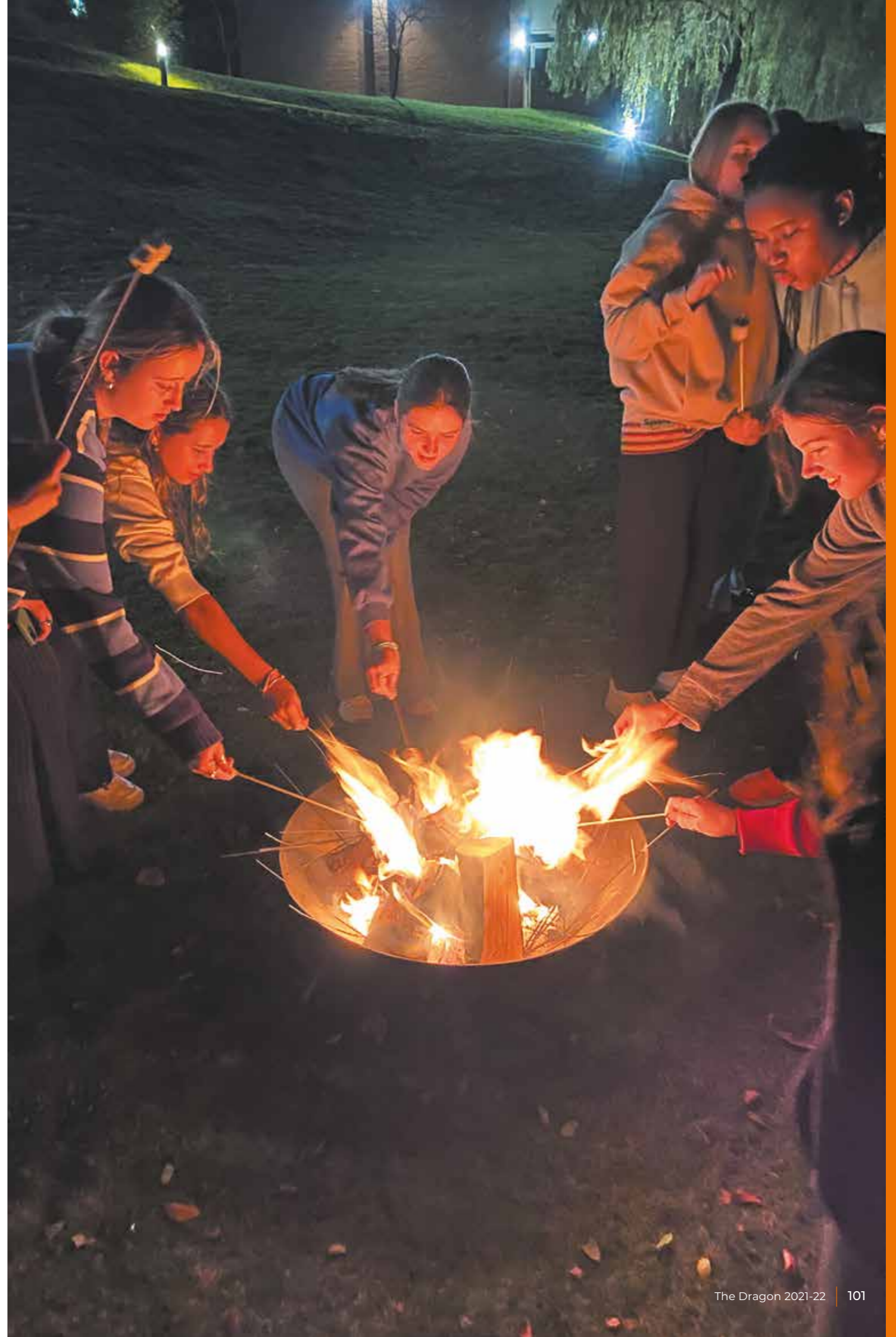
“ Going outside of school and into the community gives you the opportunity to relate to people you haven't met before, it takes you out of the school bubble. ”

Sixth Form pupil



Boarding Life in pictures





Alumnae

A warm welcome from Laurie Glimmerveen

Welcome one and all to the alumnae pages of this year's magazine. This edition features alumna profiles, which take a closer look at former pupils' reflections on their time at St George's and how this has led them to their current situation; one of these ladies left St George's in 1919!

We also have another mystery that I am very much hoping you can solve, this time involving a trophy. There are also details of a historic find discovered during renovations which turned out to be surprisingly current.

As ever, we have news from the alumnae community; not as many as previously, but with life on hold for the past couple of years it is



inevitable that people have less news to share. I am expecting the 2023 edition to be a bumper one as news of celebrations and travels resumed make their way in. Don't forget to send yours!

- Welcome
- Alumnae Profiles
- Alumnae News
- Obituaries
- Hidden Papers
- Appeal – The Good Companion Cup
- Carol Services through the years
- Then and Now in Pictures

We are also very much enjoying the return of in-person events, with Music for a Summer Evening already welcoming many alumnae in July 2022, and the Reunion Lunch in September 2022. Please join us for alumnae drinks after the Carol Service – you will find full details in the photo feature looking back at past Carol Services.

I do hope you enjoy this section,

With best wishes

Laurie Glimmerveen | Alumnae Co-ordinator



Antonia Felix (née Phillipps) 1999 cohort

How did you come to be a St George's pupil?

I had two older sisters who were at the school so we knew all about it already and they were incredibly happy. I had spent years dropping them off and already felt part of the St. George's family!

What is your favourite memory of your time as a pupil here?

The friendships and sense of community (and having hot chocolate on the weekend in the First Year!).

If I am allowed a few more – the sound of music from the music block echoing around the car park as you moved between lessons and the beautiful view from the top of the hill (especially at sunset).

What did you do straight after leaving St George's and how did you make that decision

I had a gap year during which I did a secretarial course. I worked and then went travelling with one of my best friends from St George's, Karen Goddard to Australia, New Zealand and Fiji. I then went to Bristol University and read economic and social history before heading to BPP Law School. At the time I wasn't 100% sure on what I wanted to do beyond school (even after hours in the careers room in

Knatchbull!) so I chose to study history as it was my favourite subject and I knew it would be a good foundation if I went on to study law.

What is your current job/role?

I am a partner at Mishcon De Reya LLP.

What does a regular day look like?

I get up early, try to do some exercise or walk our miniature dachshund before taking my two daughters to school. I usually then race for a train into central London ready to start work! I am in the office for three-to-four days a week with one day working at home. I usually have a number of meetings or Teams/Zoom calls and also internal appointments.

Are there any special or standout days?

There are so many from my time at St George's!

The many trips we went on during the weekends to Windsor and Bracknell.

The quiet of the chapel.

Late nights chatting in our dorms (lots of singing too!)

Finishing exams!

The many fire alarms from burnt toast!

The annual carol service in Windsor.

Please provide a brief summary of how you got to where you are today.

After my history degree, I did two years at BPP Law school in Holborn. I did not obtain a training contract first time around so I started work at Mishcon de Reya as a paralegal whilst also making an application to train there. I was successful and went on to train and 17 years later I remain at the firm!

How has your St George's education contributed to your success?

I got much of my grit and determination from school and the confidence to believe that I could be a lawyer. I was also inspired by Mrs Dyer, our History teacher, to love History and to study it at university (she said study something you feel passionate about – which was great advice). In those days we also had etiquette lessons!

What advice would you give to your past self when you were a pupil?

Don't worry so much! Also, play to your own strengths, nobody's else's. Lastly, how important gratitude is.

What advice do you have for current pupils?

You won't have the answer to everything and it is ok to change your mind and go with your gut. Try not to worry about pleasing others, and focus on yourself and what is right for you. It is also important not to worry about what others may say or do, stay in your own lane and move forward. Try to find someone you trust and who believes in you, who you can ask for advice but importantly, someone who nurtures you and your talents.

Describe St George's in three words.

Calm, happy and thriving.

What is your lasting impression of St George's?

It is an incredibly happy place for many reasons where strong friendships are formed and a solid foundation is built for every individual before they head off into adulthood.

Alumnae profiles



Jackie Siu

2001 cohort

How did you come to be a St George's pupil?

My family moved to the UK and settled in Ascot, so I became a day pupil at St George's.

What is your favourite memory of your time as a pupil at the school?

Sharing some great laughs with friends I made whilst studying at St George's, some of whom I've still kept in touch with now.

What did you do straight after leaving St George's and how did you make that decision?

I went straight to university, and gained my BA in Geography at University College London.

What is your current job/role?

I'm a professional dressage trainer and rider [Jackie is a Grand Prix dressage rider who has successfully competed internationally from pony, junior, young rider through to senior level. Representing her birthplace Hong Kong, Jackie has competed at four consecutive Asian Games in 2006, 2010, 2014 where she placed fourth individually, and in 2018 when she partnered Jockey Club Fuerst on Tour to win the Individual Gold medal. Jackie is also the first and only Asian rider ever to have qualified and competed at the World Championships for Young Dressage Horses].

What does a regular day look like?

A normal day starts at the crack of dawn, the days are full with riding, training and all other aspects of managing top competition horses. Then there is also the gym, plus the usual admin work that usually gets done once the stables are finished for the day.

Evenings are a chance to relax, I enjoy cooking and spending time with family, friends and the dog of course!

Are there any special or standout days?

Obviously when a big competition has gone well that makes the hard work worthwhile. However, more and more I'm appreciating the little things!

Please provide a brief summary of how you got to where you are today

I think the main thing has been the level of hard work and dedication I've put in to try and achieve my dreams. You might not be able to control all the variables but you can for sure give it 100%.

How has your St George's education contributed to your success?

I think I learnt a lot at St George's about time management, responsibilities etc. but also I learnt a lot about who I was as a person and my values.

What advice would you give to your past self when you were a pupil?

Try not to let setbacks or things you find difficult frustrate you, ultimately these situations will teach you a lot for the future.

What advice do you have for current pupils?

Work hard, don't be scared to aim high, stay true to yourself.

Describe St George's in three words

Friends, Teachers, B House!

What is your lasting impression of St George's?

Looking up the hill towards the school buildings on my last day being a student.

Fiona Hewitson

2001 cohort

How did you come to be a St George's pupil?

My parents had friends whose daughter had been a pupil there and she seemed very happy with the school.

What is your favourite memory of your time as a pupil here?

There are many, but the best involve the lifelong friends that I made at school.

What did you do straight after leaving St George's and how did you make that decision?

I took a gap year as I wasn't sure what I wanted to do at uni and being unsure of what my grades were going to be like, I wanted to take time to plan my next steps.

What is your current job/role?

I am executive assistant to the Team Principal (Christian Horner) and Senior Technical Director (Adrian Newey) at Oracle Red Bull Racing.

What does a regular day look like?

Depending on whether there is a race at the weekend or not determines how my week looks. If it's a race week, we will be in The Factory in Milton Keynes on Monday and then away from Thursday through to Sunday night and then repeat. I am mainly arranging internal meetings during that time in The Factory, the schedule for the race weekend and organising the upcoming travel as well as liaising with the drivers on things that might be needed. At the circuit, I will be scheduling appearances/interviews/meetings and I am the main point of contact for any VIP guests.

Are there any special or standout days?

Race Day is always a special day but I think Max Verstappen becoming World Champion last year has to be the highlight.

Please provide a brief summary of how you got to where you are today

I have always loved motor racing and my godfather started taking me to some IndyCar races in the US in 2006. I then realised this is where I wanted to be and was able to get a PR intern job for one of the teams in 2007. I spent

seven years with them and then an IndyCar driver asked me to be his PA, so I worked for him until end of 2019 before getting a job in F1 in 2020.

How has your St George's education contributed to your success?

The most important things I learned at St George's weren't necessarily academic. My time at school equipped me with the confidence to try new things, which has definitely led me to where I am now. It also helped me with my interpersonal and organisational skills; I definitely wouldn't be doing this job without these!

What advice would you give to your past self when you were a pupil?

That you need to believe in yourself, more because you can achieve anything if you just put your mind to it.

What advice do you have for current pupils?

Do what makes you happy and don't worry about what other people say or do.

Describe St George's in three words

Friendly, Memorable, Safe.

What is your lasting impression of St George's?

I would recommend St George's to anyone who asked. I loved being in a smaller school, which was friendly, inclusive and safe. Sport was definitely my passion and whenever there was a free period you would find me on the lacrosse pitch or in the sports hall helping the younger years. I think my teachers definitely had the patience of a saint!



Vivienne de Wattewille 1918 cohort

This profile takes a different approach to the others in this section, as we take a step further back in time to one of our former Georgians who joined the school in 1912. Vivienne was a progressive character, taking leadership roles in a typically male-dominated era, showing true Georgian spirit in the face of adversity.

Vivienne Florence Beatrice de Wattewille (1900–1957) was a British travel writer and adventurer and author of two books based on her experiences in East Africa in the 1920s, *Out in the Blue* (1927) and *Speak to the Earth* (1935). One of her greatest challenges was taking charge of and continuing an expedition in the Congo and Uganda at the age of 24, when her father was killed by a lion.

Vivienne was the only child of the Swiss-French naturalist and artist Bernard Perceval de Wattewille and his English wife Florence Emily Beddoes. Her father had been a pupil of the painter Hubert von Herkomer before becoming a naturalist. Her mother died of cancer when she was nine, after which she joined St George's as a boarder. During the holidays, she and her father would go on adventures to remote parts of Norway and the Alps. Vivienne had plans to go to Oxford University and then earn her own living after St George's, but her father had other ideas.

In 1923, Vivienne and her father set off on an 18-month safari through Kenya, Uganda and the Belgian Congo. It was primarily a hunt for big game, collecting specimens for the Natural History Museum of Bern, Switzerland, without the help of professional hunters. Vivienne describes this trip in her first book, *Out in the Blue*. Lions caused problems throughout much of the trip, attacking the group's mules in camp, and Vivienne's father had to shoot several. One of the big cats, in desperation for food, stormed their camp and took a canvas bathtub which it tried to eat. Sometime later they found nails and torn bits of canvas in its droppings. Worse than this, they



Vivienne in Zambia

then found the remains of their missing Airedale terrier inside a leopard!

Vivienne was responsible for taxidermy on the trip, working to preserve whatever her father shot for the museum. She was also camp nurse, relying heavily on Epsom salts and quinine powder as cure-all remedies. In this role, she had some serious conditions to deal with, as she describes in *Out in the Blue*:

“My father went down with jaundice and I was crippled by veld sores [*cutaneous diphtheria*]. How I dreaded the wet branches that sprang back like a whiplash against my festering shins. We all of us had septic throats, and the porters and cook went down with fever.”

On 30 September 1924, on the Congolese shore of Lake Edward, shortly after being refused permission by the Belgian authorities to hunt the rare okapi, Vivienne's father shot and wounded a lion. Under the belief that a wounded animal should not be abandoned, he followed the

lion on foot into a reed bed where it lunged at him and knocked him to the ground. Two hours later, bleeding profusely, Bernard staggered into camp where he collapsed in his daughter's tent. Vivienne did her best to save her father, treating his infected wounds with raw crystals of permanganate, but the bleeding could not be stopped. Bernard died later that night and was buried the day after.

Though suffering from spirillum fever and shock, Vivienne took charge of the safari and completed the mission. She shot for both the cooking pot (she had a team of 60 native trackers, skinnners and porters to feed) and for the collection, despite never having killed anything bigger than dik-dik and guinea fowl prior to her father's death.

Vivienne returned to Europe in 1925 to write *Out in the Blue*. Despite the killing, which in today's world is impossible to justify, the book is notable for its sensitive description of animals and landscape and for its note of regret. “To have been granted even

one [bongo] cow was a great concession, for they are strictly preserved; to have slain two seemed to us nothing less than calamity”.

In 1928–29 Vivienne returned to Kenya for seven months, officially to photograph and film elephants, but, on a personal level to fulfil a dream of going into the wilds unarmed and “in some unforeseen way to win the friendship of the beasts.” “Now I was going back in my own way,” she noted pointedly, as she travelled without the influence of her father.



After her second African trip (which she describes in her second book, *Speak to the Earth*), Vivienne arrived in Port-Cros, a French island in the Mediterranean island group known as the Îles d'Hyères, with her Swiss grandmother. She rented one of the most isolated houses in Europe, which provided the wilderness and solitude she sought at this time.



Vivienne at her house in Port-Cros, with Josef, the Neapolitan handyman

There she employed a Neapolitan handyman called Josef. He desired her keenly, though Vivienne was too much of a lady for him to express his feelings openly; instead he took a more unorthodox approach to courtship. Vivienne recorded in her third book, *Seeds that the Wind May Bring* (published posthumously in 1965), that on one occasion, “he suddenly swung round, caught hold of my ankle, swooped and bit it.”

It was, however, a visitor with a more traditional approach that ultimately won Vivienne's heart however. Captain George Gerard Goschen, a soldier and diplomat who she first met at an Albert Hall concert, came to stay in Port Cros. He shared Vivienne's love of solitude, beauty, music and games and saved her from the unhappy Josef, becoming her fiancé.

In July 1930, they married and moved to Hopesay, Shropshire, then King's Farm, Binsted, Hampshire. They had two children, David Bernard (born 1931), and Tana (born 1932), named after the river in Kenya. “Nothing short of bearing and rearing children myself,” Vivienne wrote, “coming down with humility into the struggling world, could have taught me the greatness of women.”

After her marriage, Vivienne gave talks on BBC radio and published articles. When the success of *Speak to the Earth* called for a new edition of *Out in the Blue* in 1937, she considered, as she notes in the preface, rewriting her first book to play down the hunting scenes. Attitudes to big-game hunting were changing in the 1930s, and she felt the pressure to bring the book into line with her own more mature outlook. However, she resisted the temptation in the interests of historical truth.

Vivienne died in hospital on 27 June 1957, of cancer. When told that she had no more than a fortnight to live, her friend J. Alan White wrote, “she received the news with relief, and even a kind of exaltation, that the pain and uncertainty from which she had

suffered for a number of years were about to end. She saw no reason for deep grief; she was 56 and had had a satisfying life. The few pain-free hours in the last two weeks of her life were devoted to the clearing up of her affairs.” She left her eyes to the Eye Bank, and the manuscript of her third book to a friend, asking him to oversee its publication.

As The Daily Telegraph notes in an article about Vivienne's time in Port-Cros, she really was ‘the greatest female British adventurer you've never heard of’ and a shining example of a Georgian; confident, capable, connected.

Alumnae News

Diana Smyly (née Purser)

1952 cohort

My great-grandson was born on 5 August 2021, and was named Solomon! I have met him online. Lots of videos and photographs and he appears to be smiling all the time. They cannot travel from The Cape because of covid, but will try to fly here next year. The



second piece of news is that Tristan (now 18) is about to write matric and is coming to England for his gap year. He will work as an under house master at a school in Somerset. It is a boarding establishment where everything is supplied for him, plus pocket money! It is a huge decision for him as he has never been away from home, but I think it will be an amazing opportunity to come to England. He leaves here on 5 September 2022 if he can get all the necessary documents etc.



Jillian Roberts (née Fripp)

1951 cohort

The last two years have been difficult with my husband being diagnosed with pancreatic cancer in November 2020. We were lucky in that he was operated on in early January and he has made as good a recovery as possible but it has been a long hard slog with the hazards of covid along the way. With the help of our family, we have managed to get away to France several times but otherwise lead a quiet life.

I am still in touch with Anna Denchfield (née Holloway) who will be 90 later this year. It would be fun to visit the school after all these years but I doubt it can be managed.

Josephine Gardner (née Harding-Newman)

1963 cohort

Memories of St George's: Just thinking of school and arriving at the beginning of term. Up the rather dark drive with overhanging trees, through an open gate into the gravel drive, lots of other girls turning up, trunks taken out. Then looking to see what dorm one was in; The Ice Box, Monkey Warren, Nursery, White Room, Double Door, Cathedral or when in a higher form, like the Fifth Year, possibly being in The Lodge. Going to the dorm and trying to bag the best bed. All had thin horsehair mattresses, some with tremendous dips in so they almost wrapped around you. Then all the girls checked in and supper, perhaps a bit of time to chat and then bed. I think all trunks and cases were taken into the gym to be unpacked the next morning. A prefect or teacher would then check your clothes list and make sure everything was there and name taped!

We had pink/white overalls to wear for science and I remember when they came back from laundry you had to really tug them apart to

get into them because they were so starched and stuck together and you were lucky if the buttons hadn't all been pressed off.

Gym, well, I was hopeless at that and couldn't actually get my feet into the right position to be able to climb the ropes that hung down from the ceiling. I think there were four of them with knots at the bottom. A wooden horse and a large leather horse with two handles on top. I never could get over them and was envious of the girls who found it so easy. Lacrosse, nightmare, the ball always fell out of the side because I couldn't cradle properly. Anyhow, I was very pleased I had a twin sister with me at school so we could help each other out.

At break time or during freetime, we sometimes played jacks, cats cradle, hopscotch or marbles. The grassy bank was where we sat on Sundays with the group of our best friends at the time, no doubt telling scandalous stories. There was a dance once held for the Sixth Form and boys from Radley College were invited. It was a bit of an experiment, well chaperoned, we couldn't get away with anything. Some girls did and were found to be somewhere in the grounds

with boyfriends. Tut, Tut! Anyhow that was the end of that and I can't remember it happening again.

Bunsen burners. I remember being introduced to them in the first science lesson with Miss Horne. Smelly old things, a bit frightening at first with their loud hissing noise when they were lit and the smell of the science lab! But I did enjoy science. Miss Wickham used to practise on her recorder and woe betide you if you were in a dormitory above her study, it was a bit monotonous!

Living in Child Okeford, Dorset, now for 26 years and love it. Gardening, painting and photography are what I love doing and I am keen on wildlife, reading. Travel not really happening at the moment, can't bear the thought of flying with all its problems, staff shortages, suitcases going missing, etc, so staying at home or going down to Cornwall to our favourite hotel. Rodney and I are very happy staying at home.

Any old girls from my form are welcome to visit if you are this way. Would love to hear from anyone who would like to contact me. My email is: biggles2321@gmail.com

Troth Wells-Cole (née Wells)

1966 cohort

I'm still living in Oxford and have family in both London and Brighton, including five grandchildren aged from 12 to 3 whom I see as often as I can. Mostly it was Zoom during the pandemic when I tried to help with home-schooling! I still enjoy riding and try and go twice a week, just gentle hacks with my friend. I went to South Africa in February to join my husband who was there for three months; it took me a while to get used to the idea of flying after covid, and of course with added misgivings about climate change too.

I came across these old photos of my friends and classmates at St G's – Tessa Sandwith, Sybil Clare and Caroline Shott. We were all day-girls, although I later became a boarder. I



remember day-girls were generally not popular, but could be useful for posting letters. In 4th Form (I think it was) we did a play and had 'adverts' between the scenes - adverts on TV were still quite novel then. Summer County margarine ('Summer County, buy some today...'), 'Put a Tiger in Your Tank' (Esso petrol) and Colgate 'Ring of Confidence.'

A high point of the year was the Halloween party, when the uniform red cloaks were especially handy. The Sixth Form organised a 'ghost train' experience where juniors crept through the Sixth Form sitting room and along corridors draped with wet flannels and thread-like cobwebs while being terrified by spooky noises/faces. Very effective! And then we recovered with roasted sweet chestnuts.

It all seems so long ago, and yet the memories are very fresh at the same time.



Priscilla Draper (née Matthews)

1972 cohort

I'm writing this in early July 2022. That makes 50 years since our form left after A levels although I believe they were a small group. (I left in July 1971).



We have recently moved to the centre of Ghent in Belgium and love being in the midst of the city again. I can walk to most places, cinema, swimming pool, shops, restaurants, bars etc. I love this city and I have considered Ghent to be my home for many years even when we lived outside the city. Now that travelling has opened up, I have been to the UK on a number of occasions to see my family. Our son, Mario, proposed to his girlfriend and we now have a wedding to look forward to in November next year.

I'm still in touch with Bishy, Champ, Clubie, Mary-Lou, Sandra via a weekly Zoom call and now and again another familiar face pops on to say hello. Let us know if you're interested in joining us now and again. I can be contacted at priscilladraper@yahoo.co.uk

The photo was taken at my retirement party in Nov 2019. I have the same hairstyle but it is now naturally grey!

Anne Clube

1972 cohort

Friendships made at school can be long lasting. This photograph was taken in June 2022 where we were on a trip to Ireland, enjoying an evening in County Kerry.



L-R, Anne Clube, Patricia Feltham (Dafforn), Lyn Charnock, Susie Popplestone (Winter)

Sarah Evans (née Oglesby)

1986 cohort

My oldest son Edward is now 23 and settled in his residential care placement. Abbie is 20 and has just finished her second year of archaeology at York. She has been very busy with dramatic performances, stage management etc, alongside academic work so we have had numerous trips to see her perform. Anya Rowson very kindly hosted her at short notice last year when she had work as an extra in London – good to keep in touch with old Georgians vicariously! Phil is now 16, passionate about metal music, proficient at electric guitar and drums, and has just completed

GCSEs. He didn't wear himself out with revision, but hopefully has done enough!! A-levels in Maths, Further Maths, Physics and Chemistry planned for the autumn. Chip off the old block.

I left my teaching job in 2021, having become frustrated with all the tasks that are not actually teaching, and the lack of clear career progression. I'm now halfway through an MSc in Diagnostic Radiography at the University of Derby with a training placement in Nottingham. I am loving it – loads to learn with the prospect of lots of varied and interesting work when I graduate. Owen continues to support this band of students working diligently from his home office doing complicated railway vehicle dynamic modelling.

Joanna Read

1987 cohort

After 18 years living in California, Graham and I have moved to Portland. We are excited to be starting a dream project building an oceanside retirement home. Our son Ben has just qualified as a California State Parks ranger and Jessie is in her senior year at the University of Portland.

Let me know if you are visiting Portland.

Amelia Milne (née Marling-Roberts)

1997 cohort

Hello! I'm living in Battersea, London, with my husband James and our two daughters.

Excitingly I set up a belt company with my sister Clemmie in lockdown. Each belt is made from three recycled plastic bottles and we have designed fun colours with £1 from each sale going to a beach clean up charity. Visit www.Pellegrine.co.uk or Instagram: Pellegrinekids for more information.

I'm still in touch with lots of the St.George's girls and we had a big reunion for our year-group a few years ago and still meet up for fun suppers in London.

Obituaries

Rosanna Muirsmith (née Everett)

1955 cohort

Margaret Brain (nee Rhys) 1950 cohort, writes: "I have sadly attended the funeral of my cousin Rosanna Muirsmith (Everett). She had been ill for a short while and went peacefully.

She had a cheerful 'wake' with all her family. I met Anne Fenwick (nee Cochran Smith) and Marge Would".

Helen Waters (née Vaughan Payne)

1956 cohort

Mr Robin Waters informed us with great sadness that his wife Helen passed away on 20 March 2022. Her memorial service was attended by a number of Georgian friends.

Network, an NGO dedicated to establishing free-market institutions around the world.

Fisher would have a seminal influence on the development of Conservative policy under Margaret Thatcher. The former Tory MP Sir Oliver Letwin once observed, with pardonable hyperbole: "Without Fisher, no IEA; without the IEA and its clones, no Thatcher and quite possibly no Reagan; without Reagan, no Star Wars; without Star Wars, no economic collapse of the Soviet Union. Quite a chain of consequences for a chicken farmer!"

In 1959 the 17-year-old Linda joined her father at a meeting in Oxford of the Mont Pelerin Society (MPS) an international organisation founded by (among others) Milton Friedman and Friedrich Hayek, and was inspired by their insistence that liberty is won through ideas, not politics.

After her father's death in 1988, she took over the running of Atlas Economic Research Foundation UK (later Network for a Free Society) and subsequently served as chairman of the Atlas Network. She was a member of the IEA's board of trustees and latterly served as a board member and President of the MPS.

Linda Whetstone summarised her aim in life as "removing obstacles from people's paths", and her most notable contributions were her initiatives to spread liberal ideas and free-market solutions to reduce poverty in developing countries.

In 2016, with Nouh El Harmouzi, she co-edited *Islamic Foundations of a Free Society*, a book published by the IEA in Dari, Indonesian, Arabic, French and Farsi.

She also developed a CD with key extracts from the work of thinkers such as Hayek and Friedman to provide university students with access to key texts that were otherwise inaccessible in many countries. More than 150,000 copies were distributed in more than 60 countries, inspiring young leaders to establish think tanks of their own.

Carolyn Self (née Pakuls)

2007 cohort

2022 really has been our year!

After cancelling our wedding in August 2020, due to covid restrictions, we finally tied the knot at Highcliffe Castle on 23 July 2022, but not before giving birth to our gorgeous son, Albert, on 27 January 2022. We were so happy to have a few old Georgians join us at the wedding: Georgie Colville (née Shuker) and Hannah van den Berg, and my older sister, Jennifer Pakuls, who was one of my beautiful bridesmaids. We now

look forward to honeymooning in Paris, Champagne and Monaco in September!



Linda Whetstone (née Fisher)

1959 cohort

We were saddened to hear of Linda's unexpected death on 15 December 2021 whilst at a free market economics conference in Miami. Linda was hugely influential in all aspects of her life, something her husband Francis says "would come as a considerable surprise to her contemporaries at school as by her own account she was not a model pupil".

Several obituaries were published at the time of her death, featuring in *The Institute of Economic Affairs* (IEA), *Horse and Hound Magazine*, *British Dressage Magazine*, *Atlas Network*, and *The Daily Telegraph*, which you can read below (published 20 December 2021):

Linda Whetstone, evangelist for the free market who also helped to raise standards in British dressage

She was inspired by her father, Antony Fisher, a broiler-chicken

pioneer who set up the Institute of Economic Affairs and other think tanks.

Linda Whetstone, who has died aged 79, achieved eminence in two contrasting spheres, becoming a leading libertarian and free-market campaigner as well as a well-known figure in the world of dressage.

Tall, slim and formidably energetic, Linda Whetstone was a past chairman and president of the Conservative Association in Wealden, one of the safest Conservative seats in the country. However, her trenchant views on such matters as farming subsidies, planning and international aid, and impatience with small 'c' conservative interest groups such as the National Farmers' Union and the Countryside Alliance, put her at odds with the party's paternalist wing.

She was inspired in her free-market principles by her father, Antony (later Sir Antony) Fisher, a Battle of Britain pilot and broiler-chicken farming pioneer who set up the Institute of Economic Affairs (IEA) and other think tanks including what became the Atlas

While she inherited her father's indifference to public recognition, she had none of his occasional social awkwardness, and her personal charm combined with the logic of her arguments to make her formidably persuasive.



She was never afraid to flutter the doves, however. In 1989 she shocked a 400-strong audience of farmers, planners and surveyors in Scotland with an outspoken attack on subsidised agriculture and the rural planning system.

Rural areas, she maintained, should be protected from decline by a policy of income support, not "through a huge protection programme", while rural planning controls were "largely a mechanism of the middle and upper classes for the maintenance of their status quo".

On the countryside, most Conservatives, she observed in 2001, "have ideas that are frankly bananas – that nimbyish 'not one more brick!' I say to them, 'but nurses can't live in your village. The only people who can are the rich who work in London!'"

Like her father, Linda Whetstone was often described as right-wing, but she was no hanger or flogger, once saying that if Ann Widdecombe were ever to become leader of the Conservative Party, "I would be off like a shot."

True to her Hayekian principles, she had no time for claims that all that is needed is a more charismatic leader or "better presentation". When Tony Blair was re-elected in 2001, trouncing William Hague's Conservatives with another landslide victory, she was not surprised: "We deserved everything we got... We hadn't got any policies," she told *The Independent* briskly.

The second of four children, Linda Fisher was born on November 17 1942 in Binfield, Berkshire, to Antony Fisher and his first wife Eve, née Naylor, and brought up at Newplace, a large house in Framfield, Sussex, with 440 acres of farmland, that her father bought after the war and where he founded Buxted Chickens, now part of Allied Foods.

Linda and her siblings enjoyed a carefree outdoor upbringing

on the farm. One of the few rules their father enforced was that they should attend the parish church at Framfield with their mother, and the Church of Christ Scientist at Haywards Heath with him on alternate Sundays.

As a result Linda had a fairly cursory formal education, with brief attendance at St George's, Ascot and St Clare's, Oxford. She was presented at court as a debutante in 1962 after a year in the US where she did short courses in economics and governance.

She would later take A-levels at a London "crammer", but her father was her main educator: "He never disciplined us or made a conscious effort to teach or train or guide us. If he did it was by example because we all wanted to please him."

Antony Fisher's informal lessons in political economy had a profound effect on his children, though not on his wife, a Conservative in a more traditional mould. Her son Mark recalled that when his mother chaired political meetings in the village hall, he, his father and siblings would sit in the audience "shouting, 'Boo!'"

Linda's parents' marriage would break down in the late 1960s, after which they both remarried.

Linda's first job was as a researcher in the Economist Intelligence Unit and in 1963 she married Francis Whetstone, a Lloyds underwriter. While bringing up their three daughters, she took a degree in economics by correspondence at the University of London.

In 1969 the Whetstones bought a dairy farm in East Sussex which Linda managed, milking all the cows herself once a fortnight. She later changed to rearing heifers, then in the 1990s converted the farm

buildings into small workshops.

She and her husband often accompanied her father to MPS meetings and, beginning with a paper on milk marketing in 1970, Linda began writing reports on agricultural policy for the IEA and the Adam Smith Institute which would eventually prove instrumental in dismantling market controls in agriculture.

In 1991 she co-authored an Adam Smith Institute paper which argued that European farm-price subsidies should be phased out within 10 years, a policy she reckoned would benefit the average family by about £1,000 a year – and benefit the environment, as marginal land could be allowed to return to the wild or revert to grazing for sheep.

Linda Whetstone always had a love of horses, though it was not until her early 30s that she began riding seriously. She became particularly involved with dressage, competing to advanced level, working to improve the training of British judges and trainers, and serving as chairman of British Dressage.

She was instrumental in the development of the National Championships at Stoneleigh Park and area festivals and is credited with playing a vital role in the improvement of standards which saw the British dressage team win an unprecedented number of medals at the London and Rio Olympic Games.

In the early 2000s she also served as chairman of the British Equestrian Federation council.

Her opposition to the nanny state was accompanied by a belief in human dignity and a deep well of sympathy for individuals fallen on hard times. She and her husband took in and supported a Rwandan refugee who became a member of their extended family, and two years ago, when the local church called to say there was a homeless person in the porch, the Whetstones took him in and he lived with them for two months.

Linda Whetstone, born 17 November 1942, died 15 December 2021, while attending a Liberty Forum in Miami. She is survived by her husband and three daughters.

Hidden Papers

As part of the school's ongoing maintenance and renovation, some work was recently completed on the fireplace outside the bursar's office. As the fire surround was removed, some rolled up pieces of newspaper became visible, tucked next to the brickwork. After some very careful unfolding and flattening by Julie Burns, our deputy domestic bursar, it became evident that this newspaper was 93 years old, hailing from *The Daily Express* published on March 7 1929, and as you can see from the photographs, in remarkably good condition. This is thanks to it being a non-functioning fireplace, unlike the larger fireplace in the front hall that is lit every day from October through to Easter each year, using wood from trees damaged or felled in the school grounds over previous years.

What stood out about these articles, despite almost a century having passed, was how closely they relate to the news of today.

One article entitled *After Influenza Exercises* is particularly

apt, given recent events. The influenza epidemic of 1928-29 was significant, with only annual deaths due to COVID-19 in recent years higher than those due to flu and pneumonia in any year since 1929. As with now, focus was on how to get back to full health after illness. Written by A. Wallace Jones, 'England's pioneer in the cause of physical fitness by natural means', the article suggests the following exercise as a means of recovery:



Fireplace in transition

1. Stand upright, feet apart, both arms pressed close to the body, palms of the hands turned to the front, wrist bent and fingers extended backwards as far as possible.

2. Bend the elbows, keeping the wrist bent and fingers back in the same position, until you almost touch shoulders with the wrists. Inhaling through the nose at the same time and expanding the chest as much as possible.

Unfortunately, the next steps of this exercise on the lower half of the paper didn't survive, but judging by the photograph in the article, the next stage is to raise the arms above the head. It might just be worth giving it a go, as it seems similar to certain pilates exercises.



Thoughts for Today

Two quotes feature in the *Thoughts for Today* section, one from Thomas à Kempis (14380-1471), best known for compiling a manual of spiritual advice known as *The Imitation of Christ*, and the second an extract from *Vanity Fair*, by William Makepeace Thackeray (1781–1815). Both relate to how we can best interact with others, something that is a foundation stone of the strong St George's community.

It is great wisdom to esteem ourselves nothing, and well and highly of others. – Thomas à Kempis.

The world is a looking-glass, and gives back to every man the reflection of his own face. Frown at it, and it will in turn look sourly upon you; laugh at it and with it, and it is a jolly kind companion. – William Makepeace Thackeray.



As the newspaper delves into the topic of politics, it is again surprisingly modern in its approach, as it considers how women can be taken more seriously in the field as parliamentary candidates. In addition, the topic of how to better engage the female voter appears, something that was particularly important given that it was only one year earlier in 1928 that the government passed the Representation of the People (Equal Franchise) Act, opening the vote to everyone over the age of 21, regardless of gender.

'Grand Old Woman of Politics'

'What is to be done with silly women parliamentary candidates was the vexed question which members of the National Union of Societies for Equal Citizenship discussed at their annual council

meeting in London yesterday. This painful subject arose out of the proposal that the NUSEC should resolve to do all in its power to stimulate the interest of women voters in their responsibilities at the forthcoming general election and encourage them to support women candidates for Parliament. Mrs Stocks, a member of the executive committee, who proposed the constitution said, "We do not want silly women to become candidates. Know that silly women can enter parliament just as silly men are able."

Then she painted a picture of what the ideal woman candidate would look like – 'Serious minded and stable. All the tenets of a good feminist.'

The articles then take a lighter turn, with a 'hard hitting' news piece involving a hosepipe, bags of flour and a missing medical student:

The Watery Way to Wembley; the Hectic Drive of the Medical Students and the 'Smith' Mystery

What happened to Smith? Smith was one of a party of boy and girl medical students from the Middlesex Hospital who went to Wembley yesterday to see the Hospitals Cup Football there. They hired two omnibuses and equipped them each with a tank of water and bags of flour. Their youthful laughter and high spirits caused many a passer-by to turn and look at them. But not twice. Cascades of flour and water are so discouraging.

There was some little delay on the retribution, when two men in an open top motor-car, after receiving the contents of a hose and a few flour bags, appealed to a policeman for help. The policeman stopped the omnibuses and had a few words. The students drove on afterwards.



It was then that the bright young students noticed that Smith was missing. Smith was the man who had listened most attentively to the policeman's words. The omnibuses stopped and the students trooped back to the scene of the encounter. They returned with him. They were strangely reticent to call back the policeman.

This was their only mishap in an otherwise successful day.

One of the back pages features a quiz, entitled *How much do you know?* Sadly, the page with the answers was missing, and my response to "How much do you know?" turned out to be "Not enough!" Luckily, Google could help fill the gaps and you will find the answers to the quiz opposite and on our alumnae Facebook page.

How many can you answer? Extra points will be awarded for the answer to question 2, which currently remains without an answer:

How Much Do You Know?

1. Name the second wealthiest nation at the present time
2. What peer has recently joined a famous publishing firm in London
3. Who was the first woman barrister to defend in a murder trial at the Old Bailey?
4. What is the meaning of wayz-goose?
5. Who wrote "What really prevaieth over everything is wisdom. Knowledge is power. I have taken all knowledge for my province."
6. Who is the Norwegian Ambassador in London?
7. What was the real name of Veronese, the painter?
8. Who was the architect of the Eiffel Tower? Where is a monument shortly to be erected to his memory?

9. Name the first football team to win the F.A. Cup.
10. Who is to take over the duties of the Governor of Jersey next May?
11. What is Ohm's Law?
12. Who is the sculptor of the statue just completed to immortalise the colonel Lindbergh's Transatlantic flight?

ANSWERS

1. China (based on GDP)
2. ?
3. Dame Rose Heilbron DBE (19 August 1914 – 8 December 2005)
4. An annual summer dinner or outing held by a printing house for its employees
5. Sir Francis Bacon, The Advancement of Learning (1605)
6. Paul Benjamin Vogt (16 May 1863 – 1 January 1947), a Norwegian politician of the Conservative Party
7. Paolo Callari (1528 – 19 April 1588)
8. Auguste-Gustave Eiffel (1832-1923). The memorial legs of the Eiffel Tower is underneath one of the
9. Wanderers Football Club, an English association football club, on 16 March 1872
10. Maj-Gen. Edward Henry Willis, CB, CMC
11. Ohm's Law is a formula used to calculate the relationship between voltage, current and resistance in an electrical circuit
12. Michel Gustave Frédéric. The statue is in Le Bourget, France and pays tribute to the airman François Coli, Charles Nungesser and Charles Lindbergh

Appeal – The Good Companion Cup

While reminiscing about some of St George's special traditions, we planned a closer look at one of our most cherished trophies, The Good Companion's Cup. But where is it now?

The trophy was donated to the school in 1982 by the parents of former Headgirl Catie Watson (née Goodwright, 1982 cohort) as a legacy of Catie's time here. As she explained to me, the family "understood the importance and value of education and academic study, but felt that it was equally important for children to learn to be kind, caring and to be a 'good companion' along life's road."

They appreciated that there were many brainy people at school who always shone when it came to prize giving and exam time and that perhaps there were some people that didn't necessarily shine academically but should be rewarded or noticed for being kind and loving of their neighbour and so that is how the cup came to be.

The award has traditionally been voted for by pupils and staff alike and, as a result, is one of the most coveted awards and receives the loudest cheers on the day.

However, during the mid 2010s, the original cup was not returned to the school office immediately after Prize Giving. Despite an extensive search, it was never found, forcing the school to acquire a replacement. While the replacement is lovely, it is incomparable with the



The replacement Good Companion Cup

original and so I am launching an appeal; that people might have a look at home, at their parent's or guardian's home, or in boxes in the loft, to see if the cup might have accidentally made its way there. Catie and everyone at St George's would be incredibly grateful to see its safe return, especially as the donors of the cup, Catie's parents, are no longer with us.

If, by an amazing miracle, the cup is found, please send it to St George's (without fear of retribution, and anonymously if preferred!) to:

Laurie Glimmerveen, St George's School, Wells Lane, Ascot, Berkshire, SL5 7DZ

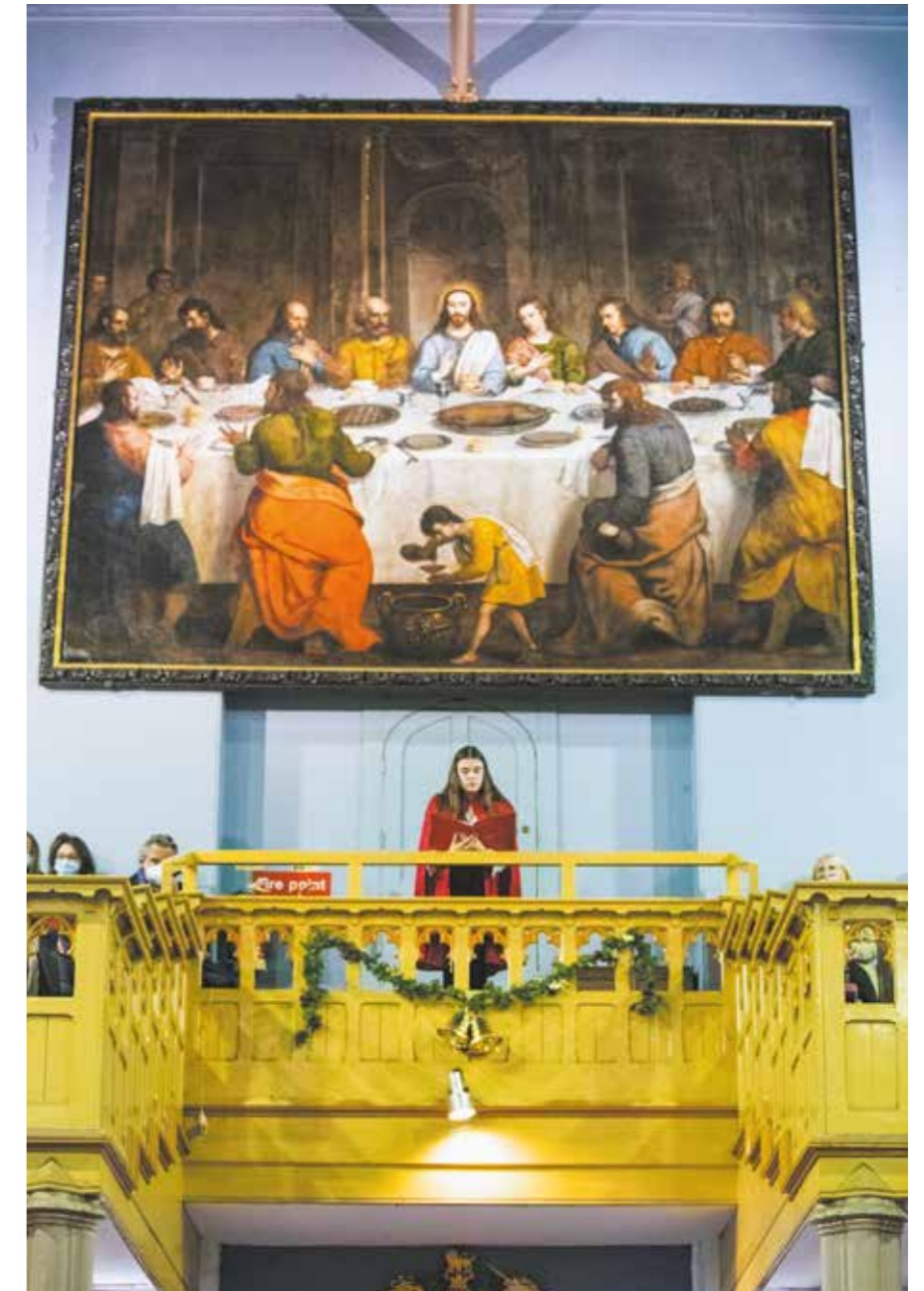
Catie will be returning to school to present the prize in summer 2023, and it would be wonderful if this could be with the original cup in hand.

Carol Services through the years

The St George's Carol Service at Windsor Parish Church is an annual event that all Georgians are privileged to experience and one which many consider a highlight of their time at the school. While the red cloaks that many of our alumna will remember have been replaced by school blazers (which are entirely less useful for smuggling contraband Christmas chocolates

and sweets within!), these photographs show that some things stay just the same. Listening to – or, indeed, performing – the classic solo in the first verse of *Once in Royal David's City*, or singing in the First Year choir, remain in the memory of Georgians throughout the decades, and are traditions that, under Mr Hillier's watchful eye, will hopefully carry on for many years to come.

We would like to warmly invite you to join us for the Carol Service this year at 11.30am on Thursday, 15 December 2022 at Windsor Parish Church of St John the Baptist, High Street, Windsor SL4 1LT. Please join us after the service at 1pm for a drinks reception at the MacDonald Hotel Windsor opposite the church. RSVP to: alumnae@stgeorges-ascot.org.uk



Then and Now in pictures



Above: The Shool Play in 1978 and left, the School Play in 2021, Mary Poppins.



Top right: The Front Hall in 1963 and the Front Hall today.

Right: Summer Hill 1974 – (L-R) Jane Pardoe, Amanda Giles and Wendy Baker. Inset Summer Hill now.



Left: A classroom, in 1930 and below, a classroom today.



St. George's Ascot A Class Room.



Top: Girls painting in the Orchard in 1980.



Above: View of the sports pitches today.



Right: Mrs Hosgood (Matron), off duty with Dandy the school goat on the hill in spring 1974.



CONFIDENT

CAPABLE

CONNECTED