



THE DRAGON

CENTENARY EDITION

2022-2023

www.stgeorges-ascot.org.uk



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From the Head

A very warm welcome to our Centenary edition of our Dragon magazine.

We have had so many joyful moments during the past year at St George's as we celebrate this important milestone in our School's history. As well as reflecting on the past, we look forward with confidence ensuring our girls receive an engaging, energised, broad and contemporary education with the skills that enable them to make their mark on the world beyond our School.

We have had our fair share of celebrations in 2022-23, with our first proper full Christmas party for a few years, popular SGA BBQs for all girls and staff, including a special one for the King's Coronation, trips locally, across the UK and overseas including the first sports tour for a number of years which saw our senior netballers enjoying some excellent competition in Dubai and Abu Dhabi in February.

Our performing and creative arts continue to go from strength to strength with a stunning performance of the musical *Godspell*, the hugely enjoyable Year 7 pantomime, *Rapunzel*, the Year 8s with a wonderful rendition of *A Midsummer Night's Dream*, the engaging Year 9 play *Bright Young Things* in the studio as well as House Performing Arts. We also have talented girls pursuing exciting opportunities on the stage and screen beyond St George's. We have enjoyed our regular Open Mic Nights, the Jazz and Dance Show, House Parties and numerous concerts including those for the youngest pupils who gain so much confidence performing and many of us were wowed by the art, textiles and photography work that was on

display around for our annual exhibition in July.

We welcomed our new Director of Sport, Miss Appleby, in May and thoroughly enjoyed listening to Gail Emms at our Centenary Sports Review of the Year. Sport continues to engage the girls in participation with an increasingly diverse range of competitive fixtures and football and cricket are very much on the rise. As well as some excellent netball team results, including at county level, we have a growing number of girls being selected for the Netball Superleague player pathway programme with Surrey Storm. We have some exciting talent in athletics at all levels with special mention going to Siana in Year 10 who has blown us away with her speed on the track and made the final, that is the top 8 in the country, in the 100m at the National Schools athletics competition.

Our dancers are certainly benefitting from our wonderful new dance studio which opened in April and we have some amazing talent within the school. Charlotte in the Lower Sixth, whose breathtaking performances have mesmerised the school during the year, competed at the World Cup Ballet Competition in Hong Kong and Florida, and Etta, Aaliyah and Ruby in Year 7 competed at the Dance World Cup in Portugal.

Many of the awards that we gave at Prize Giving marking the end of the academic year relate to the girls' academic achievements and progress and we continue to add an enormous amount to the girls in this area as they move through the School. We are very



proud of our value added, which is a measure of academic progress, which consistently puts us in the top 5% of schools nationally and, also at Prize Giving, we had the pleasure of hearing about the diverse and impressive post-18 plans for our Upper Sixth leavers.

Computer Science at A Level and Food Preparation & Nutrition at GCSE are popular new additions to our broad and relevant curriculum and we are putting AI to the test with both pupils and staff as we embrace learning innovation and we are making great strides as leaders in the sector in this field, notably sharing our expertise as a pioneering Google Reference School.

Girls of all ages have been involved in academic enrichment too, including numerous trips, listening to talks by a variety of inspiring speakers, entrepreneurial challenges, clubs and competitions which we celebrate each term in our Awards. Highlights have included code breaking at Bletchley Park, 21 pupils' poems published in the Young Writer's 'Power of Words' competition and the Young Enterprise Team ROMI winning the Judges Award at the regional finals in May. The Lower Sixth debating team beat strong area opposition and made the regional finals placing 6th out of 350 schools, Lower Sixth pupil Charlotte, represented St George's at the Historical Association's



Great Debate finals in January and Year 8 pupil Hana, came second in the Rutherford Appleton Laboratory in Oxford Schools Science Prize.

Of course on top of all of this impressive activity inside and outside the classroom, we were very pleased to celebrate our ISI inspection report from their visit in November 2022 where we received the top accolade of 'Excellent' across the board, testament to the hard work of the staff in their preparations but also, importantly, the girls, who are the voices the inspectors want to hear.

A feature of this important centenary year has been blending our innovative and forward-looking activities with an appreciation and celebration of our rich history. St George's was initially founded in 1877 as a boys' prep school with 41 boys in the building we now know as Markham House. The boys prep closed in 1904 which ended the first stage of the school's history. It reopened later that year as a finishing school with 45 girls; they had five classrooms, a music room and four bedrooms.

As vocal supporters of girls' education, the turning point for

the current St George's came in 1923, 100 years ago. Miss Anne Loveday bought the school and this marked the beginning of its development as an academically focused school with 60 girls and for the first time girls were prepared for further education. This established the firm foundations that we still see today in our School. Our research about Anne Loveday, from the St George's archives, presents a picture of a strong, wise and resourceful lady who really was breaking ground at a time, in the 1920s, when women's place in society was quite different to that of today,



but it was starting to change. She encouraged parents from the armed forces, foreign office and the professions, she took the girls on enrichment expeditions, including to the theatre in London, she encouraged the girls to knit for the forces during the Second World War as well as making dresses for children bombed out of their homes. She was known for minimising frivolous expenditure, teaching the girls to manage their own finances and one of my favourite anecdotes is that she used to keep a Jersey cow in the bottom field and when it calved the girls were treated to cream on their porridge for breakfast. I'm not sure the food was quite as good then as it is now!

We were honoured at our Prize Giving to be joined by Anne Loveday's Great Nephew, John Markham, a former longstanding governor and highly valued friend of the school. John shared some of his own recollections of this impressive and pioneering woman to whom St George's owes so much and he presented the inaugural Loveday Cup in memory of his Great Aunt.

We are now, in 2023, a school proud of its social and cultural diversity, with a contemporary and flexible boarding model where girls can be day girls, flexi, weekly or full boarders, or even board on the odd night. Sharing how much the school has changed, yet stayed the same, was a key topic of conversation as we welcomed over 400 visitors to our Centenary Alumnae and Former Staff Family Day at the end of the Summer term. The alumnae are an important and cherished part of our collective journey and our future, and as we mark our Centenary year, you can read news of our former pupils at the beginning of this edition. We value their support in so many ways, especially through careers events and opportunities, and indeed I have four alumnae of different ages and working in very different spheres, and who support me as governors.

In this, our centenary year we have been celebrating the importance we place here at St George's on relationships, philanthropy, volunteering and kindness; an awareness of others and our impact on others, as well as knowing ourselves. This year, the governors and I are leading a philanthropic initiative dedicated to raising funds to continue to provide even broader access to a St George's education in three areas.

Firstly, a focus on social responsibility, supporting bursaries and scholarships, including transformational bursaries, to give opportunities to capable girls regardless of financial background.

Secondly, to develop and improve our facilities and enhance the beautiful surroundings we are so blessed with here. This includes a new music technology classroom and recording studio which is called the 'Hillier' room, in honour of Ian Hillier's long standing service in this area of School life, and we look forward to celebrating the formal opening of this impressive facility. In addition, there is a new collection-point shelter in the bottom car park, a face-lift for the dining room and upgrades to the junior boarding facilities.

Thirdly, the focus is on pupil enrichment. This includes growing our existing collaboration with the local community, maintained schools and charities, to develop academic and pastoral learning practices for the benefit of respective pupils and teaching staff. Many girls this year have enjoyed the opportunity to go and read with young children at local primaries as well as lead drama workshops there, and the feedback from these schools has been amazing, it is so highly valued, and develops such important life skills in our girls too.

This also includes workshops and programmes such as the new Laurie-Walker Leadership Programme which is starting with the Lower Sixth in September 2023 and is part of a generous pledge of £35,000 over five years from former pupil and much loved former governor Anna Laurie-Walker as part of her legacy.

And, as part of this third element of our philanthropic drive, I am very proud of the way that the whole school community, and every girl, got behind our first centenary SGA big help out in July. Our idea, building on The Big Help out initiative of King Charles' Coronation weekend, was to encourage the girls to give of their time, to volunteer and make a difference to people in our local community. It was an enormous operation, and among too many to mention, we had groups of girls and staff going out to tidy up local churchyards, to help with riding for the disabled, support at a food bank and the Windsor Babybank, our artists created stunning paintings for a local care home, musicians entertained and had tea with a group of elderly from the Ascot Day Centre, we hosted toddlers for a Forest School and 150 Year 5s from our most local primary schools for a sports day and geocaching activity.

Finally, I talk to the girls a lot about being 'connected'. Connection is fundamental for humans and it is neurobiological to feel that connection with others. I strongly believe that this relates to our community; it is why we are here and it is what gives us purpose and meaning in our lives. As this publication demonstrates, this strong community of St George's has stood the test of time.

I hope you enjoy reading this special Centenary edition of *The Dragon*.

Liz Hewer | Head

New Staff at St George's



The following staff joined St George's in the academic year 2022–2023.



Sophie Appleby
Director of Sport



Lauren Berryman
Visiting Swimming
Coach



Carrie Burnie
School Videographer
and Photographer



Bev Dunnage
Teaching Housemistress



Ginette East
Marketing Graphic
Designer



Alex Hawthorn
Resident Teacher
of PE and Sport



Jane Jonsson
Teacher of English



Clara Marmo Freire
Director in Residence



Luke McCallum
Head Chef



Katie Morris
Artist in Residence



Iryna Prokopenko
Resident Tutor



Anthony Rai
Teacher of French
and Spanish



Jodie Storm
Examinations Officer
and Data Manager



Becs Swan
Director of Philanthropy



Liz Wiggett
Enterprises and
Trading Manager

Farewell to leaving Staff



Sophie Ash
Assistant Housemistress

Sophie Ash is one of these rare individuals who excels at all she turns her hand to. In her time at St George's she has undertaken many different roles and projects and did so with dedication and flair.

Sophie made the seamless transition from Director in Residence to Markham Assistant Housemistress in September

2023. While working across many other spheres of the school, she served as an outstanding and dedicated deputy in the junior boarding house, Markham. Ever bright, intuitive and self-effacing, Sophie displayed empathy in spades with a consistently positive can-do attitude, even during the most challenging of circumstances.

The Drama Department will be bereft without Sophie. Her particular passion is musical theatre and the girls gained enormously from her enthusiasm and talent. She is also a highly skilled classroom practitioner with an authentic, warm and creative teaching style that has nurtured many pupils at St George's. She has been incredibly generous with her time making her a wonderful colleague. Everyone will miss her enormously and remember how she brought her rays of sunshine to St George's and especially the Drama Department.



Felicity Cooper
Director of Marketing and External Communications

Felicity Cooper joined St George's in the new role of Director of Marketing and External Communications midway through the spring term 2022 adding an exciting new dimension to this strategically important area of our broader educational delivery. Having enjoyed a long career with the John Lewis Partnership followed by a season as Head of Marketing Operations at Reading University and running her own Management Consultancy business, Felicity brought invaluable commercial and educational experience to the marketing of the School.

Wonderfully enthusiastic by nature, Felicity quickly developed a deep love for St George's and for its pupils and was dynamic in both her ideas for development and in the warm and collaborative way she worked alongside her team and the wider staff community. Nothing made her happier than chatting to a group of Year 5 pupils visiting St George's for a swimming gala, a netball tournament or a Google Festival and she had a natural affinity with prospective families that made her a great asset at the many recruiting events she supported and ran. It was a sad day when Felicity decided that, for health reasons, she needed to step back from her role and we all wished her both a swift recovery and very good fortune for the future.



Charlotte Barlow
Examinations Officer

Charlotte Barlow joined the support team at SGA as Examinations Officer in August 2019, but little did we know that she would not run an actual exam season until the summer of 2022!

Being an exams officer is not an easy job. There are so many things you have to juggle, particularly with access arrangements on the increase, and the demands of the job are not immediately obvious unless experienced first hand. Charlotte professionally and calmly negotiated the meticulous requirements of Centre Assessment Grades (CAG) and Teacher Assessed Grades (TAG), the demands of exam.net, plus the complexity of organising for pupils to take exams remotely. She was held in great affection by her growing team of invigilators who really enjoy working with her and we wish her the very best as she moves on to work in the administration department of the University of the Creative Arts in Farnham.



Liz Davies
Marketing Operations Officer

Always wonderfully cheerful, incredibly kind and totally amazing, the lovely Liz Davies joined the Marketing Department in January

2020, quickly establishing strong friendships within the team. From the off, Liz's warmth, intelligence and affection for the School has been reflected in her copywriting of The Dragon Magazine, eNews-letters, and social media posts. Her professional attitude and ability to build relationships with staff, pupils and visitors alike has been a great asset to the School, hosting many discerning school reviewers from publications such as Tatler Magazine, and supporting the Admissions Team at open mornings, talking to prospective families at feeder school events, and other key functions. The girls,

especially the Sixth Form, are never happier than when in Liz's company, whether it be for a fun insightful interview, directing a new school film or managing a professional photo shoot. Liz has always worked to the highest of standards and has the ability to make time elastic. She is diligent, ceaselessly supportive of her colleagues, putting in many hours over and above what is expected of her.

Liz leaves us to move to the beautiful city of Edinburgh with her family and she will be greatly missed... if only we could clone her!

Hilary Jones
Teacher of Cookery

In early 2016 the school had just committed to not one, but two groups of Lower Sixth pupils, undertaking a five term Leiths cookery option which could not be taught by anyone other than a trained and accredited specialist; could we get anyone to fulfil this role? Thankfully, we did not just get anyone, we got Hilary, with her unique brand of enthusiasm, fun and skill in cookery.

Hilary has been vital in the development of the subject at the school. Her discipline has only grown in prominence with the



building of our new facility which she has loved using. The pupils, whether undertaking cookery as part of the carousel for younger pupils, or in the Sixth Form as part of a Leiths qualification, have loved being in her classes. Hilary's commitment to her pupils has been seen in many ways and she is always willing to contribute to

a themed day or activity. This was best seen in the dark days of the pandemic, when Hilary led the 'Friday Feasts' cookery class online for staff and Upper Sixth girls who could cook with her, and each other, and then enjoy eating a delicious meal together. Hilary's love of food, talent as a cook and sense of fun brought all those on screen a little bit of time with friends, as well as a wonderful lunch!

Hilary will be working very close by next year having accepted a job at LVS. She leaves as St George's enters a new and exciting era with Food and Nutrition, and she has laid a firm foundation in the past seven years. We wish her well.



Jaz Khundi
Teacher of Computer Science

Jaz joined St George's to teach Computer Science in September 2021. He was interviewed online in those strange days towards end of lockdown but it was a

pleasure to find someone with such experience who expressed such passion for his subject. Jaz was tasked with the challenge of teaching our first GCSE Computer Science set and launching the subject at A Level with our first set starting in September. From the get go, our pupils loved him and he remained a very popular member of the staffroom throughout his time at the school. With society more widely calling

for a greater female presence in the world of STEM, it was fantastic to see so many pupils genuinely inspired by Jaz's teaching. He has the rare gift of being able to convert the languages of coding into a relevant challenge that the girls universally enjoyed. Our ISI inspectors enjoyed his masterclasses and raised the experience specifically with management. Jaz was greatly missed during his leave of absence from SGA and it has been a real pleasure to have him back to finish the term off. We wish him all the best for the future.



Philip Lewis Operations and Lettings Manager

Philip Lewis joined St George's in the autumn of 2017 after a very successful career in the City of London working in infrastructure support. With a broad portfolio of projects behind him, it made him the ideal candidate to take over a demanding role as the SGA Operations Manager. Philip (everyone knew not

to call him Phil!) covered this role for 4 years and oversaw a period of significant change at St George's which of course included the building of our new Swimming Pool. His talent, professionalism and loyalty shone through and he was the natural choice to take on the part time position of Lettings Manager, a role that he has excelled in for the past two years.

He left us in the summer and, while he promises he will relax in his retirement, there is little doubt that he will enjoy travelling with his wife Sarah, committing more time to gardening and getting back his cycling fitness!

Philip made a very significant contribution to life at St George's; generous to a fault he will be sorely missed. We wish him the happiest of retirements.



Nicola Stepp Geography teacher, Swimming and Head of Loveday House

Nicola Stepp had been at St George's for five busy years by the time of her departure, fitting in seasons as a Housemistress, a Geography teacher, Head of Swimming, Head of Alexander House and a tutor in the Senior School in that time.

Nicola joined as a Geography teacher from St George's School in Dubai, and swiftly joined the boarding community a year later as a resident teacher and ultimately as Housemistress of the Upper Sixth Boarding House, Loveday. Throughout her time in boarding, Nicola created a warm yet straight-talking culture working really hard to encourage the girls to be independent and take those first step into the world beyond SGA.

In her time in the Geography department, Nicola inspired many pupils to take their Geography further and the girls still miss her fun and energy as well as her engaging teaching. Nicola was also instrumental in setting up the swimming programme and, with the opening of the new Swimming Pool in 2019, she encouraged participation and improved the quality of performance.

Nicola left SGA to take up a non-residential role as Geography teacher at Devonport High School in Plymouth. This was an exciting opportunity for her to work in a new school and settle full time into her home that she has been 'doing up' over the last couple of years. We wish Nic and her sidekick, Panda the dog all the very best.



Rachel Smith Data Manager

roster she would find the SGA timetable a breeze! Rachel did a superb job, coping admirably with everything that was thrown at her and then some! She calmly managed numerous timetable changes during lockdown, the introduction of online Parents Evenings, analysing the Pupil Voice, completing vast data analysis as part of our CAG and TAGs and adding a number of modernisations and modifications to improve the process along the way.

She was remarkable at taking even the most complex of conundrums in her stylish stride, viewing every tricky problem as a challenge to be solved.

Rachel moved on from St George's to join the NHS and, in our view, they are very lucky to have her.

Rachel Smith joined St George's as Data Manager in August 2019 and took on the management of Schoolbase, the running of reports and parents evening, our CEM testing, the annual school census and of course the complexities of organising the timetable to name but a few!

Rachel had not worked in a school before she joined SGA but, looking at her previous experience, it was clear to all that if she had helped put together British Airways's



Kezia Thomsett
Assistant Housemistress

Kezia Thomsett has turned her hand to many roles through her time at St Georges's. From starting out as a Resident Tutor we say goodbye to her having completed a year as Knatchbull Assistant Housemistress. Her enthusiasm for pastoral care and entertainment has allowed Kezia to flourish in these roles. Her

particular love of board games has brought no end of entertainment across all of the boarding houses, with particular highlights being SGA's version of 'The Cube' and Knatchbull's Chess club! Kezia's ability to create music has inspired many day and boarding pupils, and her enthusiasm has allowed her to be a firm member of the Music department. We wish her the best of luck as she moves into her dream career as a freelance musician.

Kate Wooldridge
Director of Sport

Kate Wooldridge joined St George's from Kingston Grammar School in September 2020 and immediately brought a sense of positivity and energy to the school, along with a number of new ideas for the development of sport here at SGA. One of these was the adoption of a "Head, Heart, Hands" assessment and tracking programme for the girls.

Kate engaged the pupils' minds as well as their muscles in all her PE classes. "Head", therefore, evoked her ability to make pupils think about their involvement on the pitch or court. Many schools struggle with the academic side of PE, but St George's under Kate's leadership and teaching has seen significant success in public examinations.

It is difficult to know where to start with "Heart" as Kate had many loves which she is quick to share with those around her. Her love of sport is obvious and infectious, with her enthusiasm for football and hockey being very evident. And in the latter, she has achieved remarkable success, representing England over 35s in international competition last summer.

Although her love of Manchester United was a disappointing surprise to learn about when she



started, their complete lack of achievement in her time at the school has meant this has been easier to live with. However, her interest in football will certainly be a legacy at St George's with many more matches scheduled for the coming months. This will be a firm foundation for the future growth of the game at the school and in the Ascot schools more broadly.

As for "Hands" this can be obviously linked to Handball, a sport totally new to SGA but one which the U13s took as far as the national finals last year.

However, one is also reminded of her role as a tutor, and she has handled her Year 11 tutees with great care and concern. Handing on the baton as Director of Sport has been made necessary by her relocation nearer home and family, but her work in Ascot will deliver handsome dividends in years to come. We wish her well.

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



Girls in the Quad, 1970s



Alumnae

A warm welcome from Laurie Glimmerveen

It is with great pleasure and pride that I welcome you to the extended Alumnae section of *The Dragon* magazine, as we celebrate this historic milestone in the life of St George's. Here, we will take a trip down memory lane, exploring the school's evolution, via Headmistresses, uniforms, buildings and the enduring traditions that have defined us as a school, and as Georgians.

In June we welcomed back over 400 of our Alumnae community from all corners of the world, to one of the highlights of our centenary celebrations, the Alumnae and Former Staff Family Day. This was the largest Alumnae event held at school to date, with generations of St George's alumnae reconnecting, sharing stories, and reliving the memories that have shaped their lives. This event not only reaffirmed the strong bonds that tie us together but also showcased the enduring spirit of our school community.

As we reflect on a century of excellence in education, it is



essential to recognise the tremendous contributions and efforts of those who came before us. Our past, in many ways, defines our present and shapes our future. We are committed to preserving the traditions that make St George's unique, while embracing the innovative approaches that will ensure our continued success for generations to come.

I would like to extend my heartfelt gratitude to all the alumnae who have reached out, shared their stories, and rekindled their

Welcome

Buildings – the evolution of St George's

Headmistresses since 1923

Memories and Photos by decade

Memories of Mark Howlett

100 Years of Ian Hillier

Your News

Obituaries

connection with the school. Your passion and dedication are truly inspiring. I encourage each of you to help us further strengthen our alumnae network by inviting other former pupils you know who may have lost contact with the school, to do the same.

This Centenary edition of *The Dragon* is a testament to the enduring legacy of St George's. It is a celebration of our past, a reflection on our present, and a vision for our future. I hope you find this to be a fitting tribute to the incredible journey that has brought us all to this moment.

Thank you for being a part of the St George's family, and here's to the next hundred years of excellence, growth, and achievement!

Laurie Glimmerveen
Alumnae Co-ordinator



South view of St George's in the 1920s

Buildings through the years



'Domestic Science House' Queens Hill Lodge

When St George's first opened as a boy's prep school in 1877, it had just three classrooms, located in the building we now call Markham. In one of these rooms, Winston Churchill was apparently set the task of learning the declension of Mensa on his first day; a practice fortunately long since abandoned! This building had originally been built as a home for a couple after their marriage. According to the recollections of Miss Horne (Headmistress 1966-74), the girl died before the wedding and the house was never lived in and so began its life as a school.

After a change of ownership in 1904 and almost 20 years as a finishing school with around 50 pupils, in 1923 Miss Anne Loveday bought St George's and this marked the beginning of its development as a more academic school. The school became recognised by the Department of Education and pupil numbers increased to 150. Queen's Hill (a house for boarders until 1987)

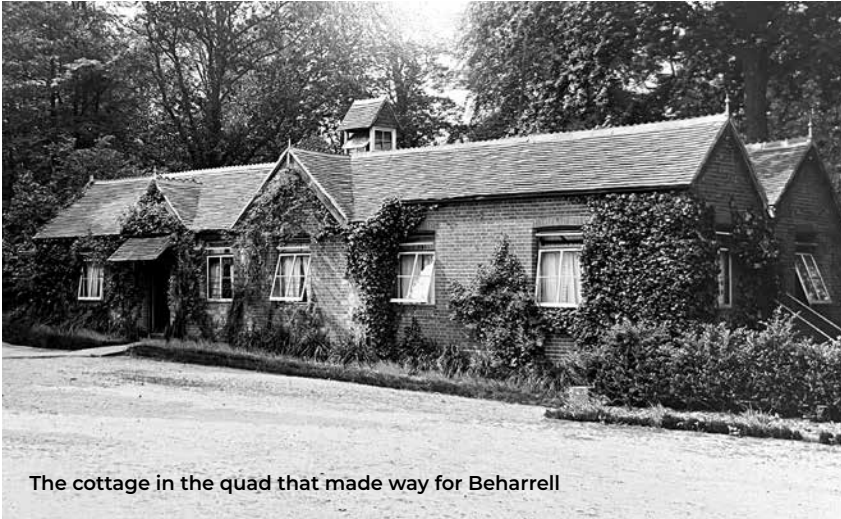
was purchased for the huge sum of £8,000. With this change in status and size, St George's started to expand its facilities, and in 1932 the outdoor swimming pool so many of us will remember was built. In 1934, the sports facilities were extended further with the addition of tennis courts and a games field down at the bottom of the hill.

St George's functioned throughout World War II and air raid shelters were made to give protection during Air Raids. Pupils from Wycombe Abbey, who were evacuated, were based at St George's.

On 24 September 1972, Bishop Loveday led the dedication service of the new school chapel, after which



The original chapel, 1927



The cottage in the quad that made way for Beharrell

the school continued to expand, and in 1980 a new addition – the ‘Science Block’ – was opened, which included languages, History, Geography rooms, as well as four laboratories.

Mrs Judith Goodland became Headmistress in 1983 and in 1985 the new Music Block and Sixth

Form House, named Loveday House, were opened by Lady Soames, Winston Churchill’s daughter. Prior to the music school being built, music was accommodated in four small ‘cells’ in Markham, each just big enough for a piano and one pupil. Instrumental lessons were taught in four small rooms in



Above, the construction and below, the completion of Knatchbull



Above, the music school almost complete, 1985 and below, Old Loveday boarding house, 1985



Queen’s Hill. Each of these rooms had a nice view, but also bars on the windows – “to keep people out or in, nobody quite knew!” remembers one former pupil. Class music lessons took place in the Chapel with a blackboard as the main teaching aid. Following fundraising and the leadership of Miss Janet Harvey, Director of

Music at the time, 1985 saw the opening of the new music school with additions to it in 1988 when it was joined to the Chapel and Knatchbull house. The building now comprises teaching rooms, smaller rooms for instrumental lessons and practice, and most recently in summer 2023, a state of the art music recording studio was added.

The late 1980s saw a period of significant development at the school, and in 1988 the new Chapel, Library, Art room and bedrooms were completed and Knatchbull-Hugessen House came into being, all made possible thanks to the sale of Queen’s Hill and its land.

In 1989, the bungalow in the quad was knocked down, and Beharrell – a teaching block – replaced it, named after Michael Beharrell, one-time Chairman of Governors. Beharrell was opened officially by Countess Mountbatten of Burma in May 1990, enhancing the Art and Technology Departments in the school.



The finished Sports Hall, 1992

The new 2023 Fitness Suite

In October 1990, Main School was designated as 'Markham' to acknowledge the generosity of the family to the school.

The Gordon Eggleston Sports Hall was completed in 1992 (named after the Bursar at the time), and was opened by The Duke and Duchess of Gloucester. During Mrs Griggs' tenure, the Sixth Form Common Room in Studio Wing was transformed into a state-of-the-art IT room and the school gained its very first internet connection. The old house traditionally inhabited by the headmistress – The Lodge – was demolished and a further Sixth Form block (New Loveday) was put up in its place.



The Sue Cormack Hall today



The modern-day Library

The Sue Cormack Hall was built and opened in 2002. The creation of this impressive, multi-purpose theatre space was only made possible by a very generous legacy donation kindly made by the Cormack family, in memory of a St George's parent, Sue Cormack. Apart from the large hall which is used for music and drama performances as well as public examinations, the building also houses a suite of drama studios and an IT suite.

Opened in 2016, the modern and well-resourced Library at St George's is a vibrant hub of activity. Located in the Luker building, named after governor Edward Luker, it is

enjoyed by girls both academically and recreationally.

After many years of planning and anticipation, the new £5.6 million Swimming Pool complex was unveiled on Friday, September 13 2019, by sports presenter and alumna Kirsty Gallacher. The impressive indoor six-lane, 25 metre pool adjoins the existing school sports hall and caters for more sporting activities and events.

A new Cookery Room was added in 2022, enabling pupils to develop a core level of competency in the kitchen and fuelling their creativity and enthusiasm for a key life skill,



A new Cookery Room was added in 2022

and since September 2023 Food Preparation and Nutrition has been available at GCSE.

This centenary year has seen much improvement and development take place, and in addition to the Music Technology Room and Recording Studio, the school has also added a dedicated Dance Studio, and undertaken a full refit of the Gym creating a modern and technologically advanced space for girls and staff. In addition, the dining room has received a make-over as well as



St George's impressive Swimming Pool, opened in 2019

ongoing refurbishment of rooms throughout the School including the Old Library and boarding areas.

The School has plans to continue onwards and upwards, further enhancing the facilities for girls. With this comes a focus on the environment, with sustainability at its heart, and over 300 solar

panels have been installed on the roofs of the Swimming Pool and Sue Cormack Hall. In addition, many trees have been planted across the site, and ground set aside for wild flower meadows. The aim is to create a legacy for Georgians past, present and future, and ensure the school continues to go from strength to strength in its offering.



From the sky in 2022, showing the new buildings

Uniform through the years

St George's School uniform has changed throughout the years, as you can see from these photographs, but the one thing that has remained the same is the blazer, and girls wear the same design as those attending the school in the far and distant past. See if you can spot the changes!



Uniform in the 1920s



Summer Term uniform 1947



Tennis attire 1947

1920s

In the early days of St George's, the uniform reflected the fashions of the era, seeing girls wearing slip dresses with wide white collars and cuffs, and thick stockings.

1930s

By the 1930s the St George's blazer had become part of the uniform, with the same shield we see on our blazers today. The blazer has remained largely unchanged since

this time, although a red trim was added after this time. A tie was also worn, as were the slip dresses that had evolved slightly since the 1920s.

1940s

By the 1940s, red stockings and cloaks entered the scene, worn with navy tunics with pleats at the sides and a V-neck. After sport, girls changed into grey stockings and a navy two piece with a navy and white scarf.



By 1930 a tie was part of the uniform

1950s

Uniform was a navy tunic, white viyella blouse, red tie and long grey socks. A pupil from the time recalls "In the summer we had white cotton shirts at first before moving to red check dresses and red check gingham sleeveless dresses for games. We also had navy shorts for gym with thick navy knickers underneath. In the winter we had navy dresses with blue collars for Sundays, commonly known as 'Sunday sacks', and in the summer quite pretty pale blue spotty dresses. We were allowed to wear our own clothes in the evenings and could have either two skirts and tops and one dress, or two dresses and one skirt and top. We had thick grey coats for wearing outside the school with a grey felt hat with hatband and the St. George's brooch on it and in the summer straw boaters".

1960s

By the 1960s, the uniform list was reportedly 'enormous', with a double page list first at Gorrings then at Harrods. The list was endless to allow for laundry i.e. 24 white handkerchiefs, a gaberdine



Uniform in the 1960s

raincoat, a Harris Tweed long coat, and wool blazer. Uniform was a navy serge tunic dress with cream Clydella blouses and a scarlet tie. This was worn with a red V-neck sweater and long grey socks and several pairs of indoor and outdoor shoes in brown. Sunday uniform was a blue braemar twinsets and grey skirt. Summer uniform was a red gingham dress and a blue stripe one on Sundays. The list even included laundry bags for washing, sheets, towels, and an eiderdown for your bed. It filled a large trunk with your name on it, and was inspected by matron at the beginning and the end of term.

1970s

By this time the list had expanded further, to include many pieces of uniform, all to be worn depending on the time



Fifth Formers in the 1970s

of year, day of week, and type of activity. The cold weather, weekday uniform consisted of a heavy, white, cotton, long sleeved collared shirt, a navy blue indestructible tunic hemmed about 2-3 inches above the knee, a red tie that girls had to learn how to tie in a particular way, grey knee-length socks and brown shoes which they had to polish themselves at a designated shoe-polishing time.

Promotions

From the 1960s to late 1990s, a 'promotion' system was in place. Girls were awarded a coloured sash in return for good behavior which in turn entitled the wearer to certain privileges.

First Years earned a red sash called the 'Commoners'. One former pupil recalls that after that, "If we were good, we were awarded a 'Half Blue' which was a light blue cotton belt that we



In the late 1980s with Miss Lloyd Jones

1980s

By this time, the red summer dresses had become blue, and in winter the red jumpers with red check shirts, navy skirts, and long blue socks had been introduced.

1990s to present day

The uniform has remained essentially the same from this time to the present day, but the cardigans and short sleeved shirts once reserved for summer wear can now be worn all year round, depending on the pupil's preference. In 2022, trousers were added to the list of options available to girls for everyday wear.



First Years and their housemistress, Mrs Harrison-Sims, 1995



would tie around our waist. This was given out at assembly in front of the whole school. It afforded the wearer certain privileges such as being allowed to stay up longer at night. If you were very good, you would be awarded a 'Blue Belt' which was a darker shade of blue and brought with it even more privileges. These belts were also taken away in front of the school if you were bad, and I remember the students divided into two groups at assembly depending on whether or not they had a belt. If you won or lost one, you had to get up and move over to the other side in front of everyone. It was a great incentive to get us to behave and earn our belts and privileges”.

The final promotion was the 'Double Blue', which was a pin badge earned in the Sixth Form, amongst other things, this entitled the wearer to use the red stairs in the Front Hall. Not many of these were given out!



Girls wearing cloaks in the 1980s

Cloaks

The distinctive cloaks have been part of the uniform since the 1950s, but dwindled from being an item that was worn every week, to

something just used once a year at the Carol Service. Due to such an expensive item seeing so little wear, it has now been removed from the uniform list.

A Century of Headmistresses



Anne (Nancy) Loveday

One constant of the last 100 years of St George's has been a focus on excellence in girls education. While the specifics of this goal have changed over the generations, the target has always been to encourage girls to do their very best, whether academically, in sports, or in other areas, and key in shaping this vision is the headmistress. Here we take a look back at the women who have led the way through the years.

St George's has only ever had one headmaster, and this was during its founding years, when in 1877 the Reverend Sneyd-Kynnersley established a Boys' Prep School with 41 pupils. In 1893 the school was sold to Mr Blair who went bankrupt in 1904, ending the first stage of the school's history. Following this, St George's became a girls' school when Miss

Pakenham-Walsh opened and briefly ran a Finishing School.

In 1923 Miss Anne Loveday bought St George's and this marked the beginning of its development as a more academic school, more in line with our current ethos. The 1920s, following on from World War 1, were a time of enormous change for girls and women in terms of their status in society, their accessibility to education and work, and the perceived value they brought to the world. St George's was later recognised by the Department for Education, in 1927, and thus began the educational journey that we continue to this day.

Miss Loveday set out to develop strong academic provision for girls underpinned by a broad co-curricular programme with an extensive suite of facilities and was the start of the modern, progressive educational establishment for girls that we know today. The School opened its doors to 60 girls who were to be prepared for further academic study for the first time.

Miss Loveday (nicknamed 'The Lovebird' - or just 'Bird', as opposed to her secretary, 'The Jaybird') encouraged parents from the armed forces, foreign office and professions, rather than society, and remained in sole charge from 1923 until 1946 when she appointed a joint Headmistress - Miss Joyce Baker, promoted from the Junior School and Miss Anne Fisher. Miss Loveday did however remain ultimately responsible for the school after this time, in the role of Principal.

She had a keen focus on making the most of resources, and



Miss Baker

minimising frivolous expenditure. She evidently had excellent eyesight and in the dining room staff sat on a raised podium which meant that Miss Loveday could see if girls hadn't eaten their vegetables. One story recalls Miss Loveday telling the girls they should have eaten all the gristle on the meat as people in Europe were starving. The pupil's comment to her neighbours was, "let them have it!". Miss Loveday kept a Jersey cow in the bottom field and when it calved the girls were treated to cream on their porridge for breakfast. Before joining the school, one pupil was told by Miss Loveday "If you come to my school, the only face powder you can use is Fuller's Earth".

She encouraged the girls to learn to manage their own finances, and ran a 'bank' for them. Pocket money was handed to Miss Loveday for safekeeping, and so that they didn't have too much to carry around burning a hole in their pocket, encouraging responsible spending. The girls each had their own 'cheque book' for the school bank.

Many describe Miss Loveday as a fierce, dominating woman, but one whose wisdom the girls grew to respect as they got older. For all her gruffness at times, she was good to the girls, and would take them on 'enrichment' expeditions, including driving to Cambridge to visit Arthur Rackham (one of the leading figures during the Golden

Age of British book illustration) and his wife, and trips to various theatres in London.

In 1947 Miss Anne Loveday retired as Headmistress but she, and her family, retained their interest in the School. Her brother, Bishop Loveday, became Chairman of the Governors in 1957, and later, so did her great nephew, John Markham, who returned to the school this summer for the inauguration of the Loveday Cup at Prize Giving. This prize is awarded to a pupil who has shown generosity of time, demonstrating commitment to others in the wider community outside St George's and promoting the School's evolving philanthropic culture over the past academic year.

Miss Fisher remained in situ until July 1950 and then left to go to Kenya. Upon her return, she became Headmistress at Wycombe Abbey. Miss Baker remained as the sole headmistress until December 1956 when she left to get married.

Miss Margaret Wickham became the next head. She believed in independent women and encouraged girls to follow careers at a time when many girls often left school, went to finishing school and then made a suitable marriage. She left in 1965 to qualify as a teacher for the Teacher Training College.

Miss Loveday died shortly after appointing Miss Wickham's successor. That appointment was



Miss Wickham in 2009



Miss Horne

short-lived, and so Miss Horne took over in January 1966 as a stop-gap, but stayed for 11 years in the role. She had originally joined the school in 1949 as a science teacher and had become Senior Mistress in September 1950; a position that was created when Miss Fisher left. Miss Horne was apparently a formidable figure, with long hair plaited and twisted into a bun, and eagle sharp eyes that didn't miss a trick. Despite this, one former pupil recalls that on the one occasion she did cry from home-sickness, Miss Horne was the first to come to her dormitory and comfort her.

In 1974 Dr Irene Riding succeeded Miss Horne as Headmistress. 'Doc', as she was known to many – caused a stir when she burst on the scene at St George's. A stark contrast to her predecessor, she swept into the school drive in her red Lotus sports car with its personalised number-plate. Girls recall her 'bumble-bee striped' platform soles, her highly plucked eyebrows, and beloved one-eyed miniature poodle, Zsa Zsa.

Dr Riding was determined to bring the school into the modern age in all ways. She restructured the school management, creating proper academic departments, and she introduced monthly salaries for the staff who until then had been paid termly, in arrears. But most importantly, she believed in women's education and wanted girls to be empowered. Girls at St George's were expected to set their sights high. Many write that, without her encouragement, they

would never have aspired to go to university – and certainly wouldn't have been successful in getting there.

Not all keen academics can transmit their enthusiasm to others, but even those who did not always appreciate Dr Riding's management style agreed that she was an 'inspirational' teacher. Other epithets include: 'a formidable force', 'highly intelligent', 'dynamic'. One of her former pupils writes: "To be in her lessons was a joy, a laugh, and you



Dr Irene Riding (blue dress, in centre)

learned and saw her great passion for the subject. We all wanted to be involved." She also broadened the educational experience in other ways: boarders were allowed to keep pets; fencing, judo and karate were introduced; there were visits to the theatre, the cinema and art galleries.

On the pastoral side, younger pupils 'loved her and were terrified of her in equal measure'. She expected high standards of dress and behaviour. Despite her 'mercurial' temperament, Dr Riding could show remarkable sensitivity and often succeeded in bringing the most under-confident out of their shells. Her aim, according to one alumna, was to "turn out modern, free-thinking women who could stand on their own two feet".

Mrs Judith Goodland became Headmistress in 1983, and focussed on improving the facilities within the school; the

new Chapel, Library, Art Room and bedrooms were completed and Knatchbull House came into use. The sale of Queen's Hill and its land made this possible. In December 1988, the end of her time at St George's, she was presented with a gold badge engraved with the St George's cross and fire-breathing dragon by all the girls, having been specially commissioned from the godfather of the Head Girl at the time. Many years later, when Rachel Owens became Head, Mrs Goodland felt that it would be appropriate for the Headmistress of the day to be able to wear it and presented it to the school. The badge was then engraved on the back so that future generations will know its history.

Mrs Anthea Griggs became Headmistress in 1989. With an excellent memory, Mrs Griggs led with a firm but fair approach, supported by a strong leadership team, including Mrs Catherine Dyer who will hold a special place in many people's hearts. Mrs Griggs pre-empted our current three pillars of 'Confident, Capable, Connected', with her own three Cs: 'Confident, Competent and Compassionate'.

Mrs Griggs retired in December 1998, and was succeeded by Mrs Joanna Grant Peterkin who remained in post until July 2005. During her time at St George's, Mrs Grant Peterkin brought



Former Heads: L-R Rachel Owens, Caroline Jordan, Joanna Grant-Peterkin, Anthea Griggs, Judith Goodland in 2016

the school into the modern IT age, and the school was fully networked, including wireless network access in the school library – which at that time was almost unheard of.

Mrs Caroline Jordan took over as Headmistress in 2005; she became Headmistress of Headington School, Oxford, in 2011 and was succeeded by Mrs Rachel Owens. In 2016, all of these former Heads came back to St George's and joined together for a unique reunion (pictured above).

The School's current Head, Liz Hewer has been in post since September 2016. She attended the all-girls King's High School in Warwick, going on to Jesus College, Cambridge to study Geography and later complete her PGCE. At Cambridge, she was Captain of the Cambridge University Women's Hockey Club, gained three full Blues for hockey and played for the British Universities. She also gained two Half Blues for cricket.

She has taught Geography, coached hockey, netball and tennis, sung in choirs and led outdoor activities at Bedford School, Marlborough College and the Royal Grammar School in Guildford. Prior to joining St George's, Ascot, Mrs Hewer spent 10 years at nearby St Mary's Ascot where she was a Geography teacher, Housemistress, Director of Studies and latterly Pastoral Deputy Head for 7 years. Outside St George's, Mrs Hewer is Chair of the Girls Schools Association Boarding Committee and an experienced School Governor and ISI Inspector.

Under Mrs Hewer's leadership the teaching, learning, innovation, facilities, and broader enrichment programme have evolved to provide an ambitious, enriching and personalised education for a diverse pupil body of day girls, flexi, weekly and full boarders. Each girl is encouraged to make a positive impact in a dynamic world that they are shaping, but which is not yet designed for women and by instilling a sense of social responsibility and educating them on how to make significant, lasting change, the School aims to inspire the next generation of female philanthropists. Alongside a strong reputation for entry into the most academically competitive and demanding university courses and specialist creative arts, drama and music colleges, the School is equally proud of those pupils who choose to pursue exciting and versatile apprenticeships and employment opportunities aiming to ensure that Georgians leave 'world-ready', to excel in their chosen area of talent, interest and specialism.



Whatever the future has in store for St George's, one thing can be sure; it will continue to be a place for girls to excel in whatever they are best suited to, and to be prepared to enter the world at a running pace. Just like the many generations that have gone before, they will be ably led by a Head who believes in each and every girl achieving her best.



Mrs Judith Goodland

Memories and photos by decade

Wartime memories

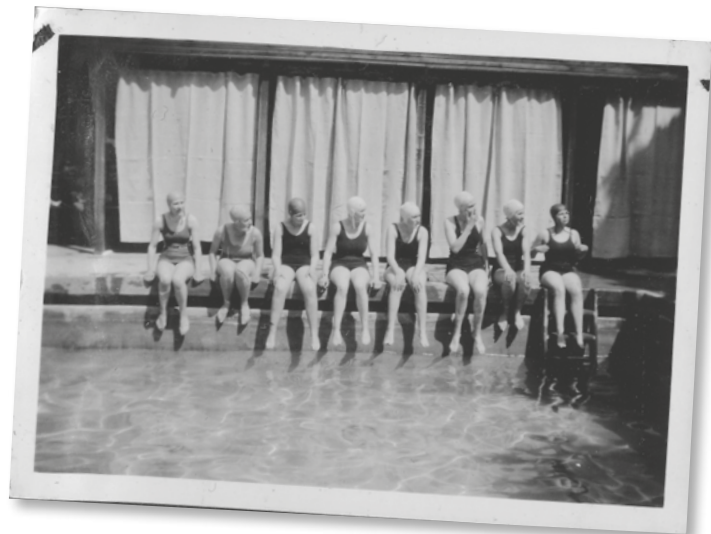
Sonja Ross (née Hobbs)

Memories come in vignettes with little continuity. For instance the loudness of the air raid siren at the Junior School, it was just across the road. Not much chance of sleeping through that. Sometimes we went to an air raid shelter that had been put up in what had been the vegetable garden; at other times we slept on the ground floor, I think in the headmistress' private rooms.

The air raid shelter for the Senior School was built to take advantage of a ravine in the wood. An Elsen toilet at the entrance, then the long room of bunks, three-high each side with a narrow path between. There were two girls in each bed, head to tail. There were times when we slept on the ground floor rather than move to the shelter – I guess the air raid warning came early in the day and it wasn't considered safe to go to the shelter.

Austerity came gradually, the staff stopped making cream for our deserts, presumably when butter came on the ration, although Miss Loveday (the Headmistress) kept a Jersey cow in the bottom field and when it calved we all had cream on our porridge for breakfast. From some of the seats at the dining table one could see into the kitchen in the Junior School – they had an electric mixer to make cream from unsalted butter and heated milk.

Then came scrambled dried eggs. I liked that, but the portions for breakfast in the Senior School were a quarter of a piece of toast with egg on – if you really gobbled, you might get seconds... yippee! I was not a vegetable enthusiast so the veggie only lunch was not my favourite, especially if there were globe artichokes in the mix – yuck!



The outdoor swimming pool

The headmistress was a keen gardener, so we had lots of veggies and fruit – I remember having to top and tail gooseberries for the kitchen while sitting at a table – a lot of gooseberries! The table was in the cloakroom – it had basins where they washed our hair once in a blue moon, places to keep our lacrosse sticks and tennis racquets, cupboards for coats, shoes and hats, and a row of WCs where I got a finger caught in the hinge side of a door when someone went in to pee. When she came out I took my agony up to Matron's room, which was just to the right at the top of the stairs. Matron told the nurse I was just crying from shock!!!

I remember sheep on the grass tennis courts, they kept the grass nice and short and fertilized it too! Most of the grass in the main playing field was allowed to grow for hay, and after it was cut we had to rake it into rows to dry, ready for a hay stack.

I picked up pieces of shrapnel on the grounds, it was sharp and rough and smelled of sulphur – I can smell it now...

We practiced going down the fire escape chute but I don't recall that we ever had to in an emergency;



my sister June stuck out her elbows and got herself stuck!! Good thing it was only a practice.

We could tell the difference between the German planes and our own by the sounds – the German's had a deep throbbing sound – once heard, never forgotten.

On Sundays after lunch we did our mending and if we didn't have any, we were taught how to patch sheets, or darn our socks properly – maybe that was when we wrote our letters?

Some of us knitted for the forces. (I can't remember when I learned to knit, I seemed to have done it always). Wool was rationed, actually virtually unobtainable, but wool was supplied free and I made balaclavas, socks, and a complicated mitt that had fingers up to the first knuckle with a mitt that buttoned over the fingers when needed; I also made ordinary gloves.

We made little dresses in class out of rose printed cotton; they were for children who had been bombed out of their homes and didn't have enough clothes. The Mistress cut them out and we sewed them by hand. French seams. I flunked – my stitches were too small! Looking back, I suppose they could have behaved like perforations, then the clothes would have easily ripped at the seams? I had to do it over!!

A late memory is eating the nuts that fell from the beech trees, maybe they supplied some missing nutrition? They were certainly a lot of fiddly work for a little nibble, but treasure to some of us.



1940s

Priscilla Coley (née Hedley) 1955 cohort)

Miss Baker, The Head at the time, was gentle with the younger girls. On Sunday evenings in the room that is still next to the Headmistress' office she would read a really good book to us whilst we made an attempt to sew or knit. We still had our red cloaks to wear between buildings for different classes: just as well, as it was quite a walk to the building half way down the hill with on one side Miss Woodruff teaching Art, and on the other Miss Horne teaching such science as we got – mostly biology and botany – I don't remember physics

featuring strongly, although we did get to do limited experiments with Bunsen burners.

One of the advantages (I felt) of our being further away from the High Street, was that one no longer heard the sirens going off up by the Racecourse to warn of fires on the Heath. They had been used during the War to give warnings of air raids, and to our generation, if we heard that noise in our classrooms, the whole class of 20 odd would automatically dive under our desks for protection, as we had learnt to do.

Every summer the School would put on a play for the parents and friends, staging it on the croquet lawn (now built over by the Luker Building), with a backdrop of a great Copper Beech and a Laburnum.



The annual play, held on the lawns

I wanted to do my best for my House, but was not strong in the sporting department: my finest hour was probably as goalie in my House Lacrosse team – I remember it being so cold that I smuggled a hot water bottle inside my protective ‘apron’ and got away with it.

Apart from those Staff members already mentioned, there was Mlle Catrou, who taught us (quite good) French, but who we could tease rather too easily: Miss Leaver (‘Oily Boily’) who taught Latin (for which I am more than grateful), Miss Horne, who later became Headmistress and taught Science subjects, Miss Lowe who taught Gym and Games and was in charge of Swimming, and Geography, History and RS. All taught by women, as well as a very good English teacher.

Breakfast often left quite a lot to be desired: one recalls tinned tomatoes on toast, and dried egg scrambled egg, all doled out under the eagle eye of Matron, who was not to be disrespected! Sundays were different: oh the bliss of not having thick or slimy porridge: cereal, a roll with real butter, and honey were the treats – because some rationing of food continued certainly up to the time of the Festival of Britain in 1951, and there were still shortages.



The Grotto

My last recall is of spending a year sleeping in The Lodge at the end of the drive. Only about half a dozen trusted Vth formers did that. Walking to it in the evening you could just about see the old swimming pool from Winston Churchill’s days in the woods behind the shell Grotto on the left.

1950s

Gabrielle Robertson (née Maynard) 1953 cohort

We were living in Horsell, near Woking and I came to school by car, a battered old Austin 7 with 36 holes in it caused by shrapnel when a bomb dropped on our house in 1940. I was extremely embarrassed by the car as it made the most frightful rattling noise when it came over the little bridge so everybody knew when my parents had arrived! I was a boarder. There were 3 day girls in my form I think.

I saw my parents three times each term as we had a Sunday outing twice a term, one before half term and the other after half term and then half term itself which I think was from Friday lunch time until Sunday evening. My parents never telephoned me during the term unless it was for something extremely important. Those were the days of three minute telephone calls before the pips went!

The members of staff I particularly remember are Mlle Catrou because she was so very French in every way. I loved Miss Edwards who came straight from university and was very pretty. The person who stood out all the time was Nurse because she was so powerful. When my daughter Alice went to St George’s for her first term and my father came with me to deliver her there, Nurse was greeting everybody in the front hall. My father said “Good God, there’s Nurse! I thought she was almost 100 when you were here!”

I spent evenings and weekends when not working playing the piano a lot, doing play readings on Sunday nights, playing tennis in the summer or just sitting around! Actually I don’t remember having much spare time anyway. We were only allowed out in fours to go for walks on Sunday afternoons and could get special permission to walk to the Copper Horse in Windsor Park, but we were absolutely forbidden to go anywhere near Eton! It was only in the VIth form that we were allowed to go shopping up the High Street. During Royal Ascot week the School gates were firmly locked though we did all go to the





Golden Gates to watch the Royal Procession on one day during the week. We were certainly not allowed further afield by bus or train. Also at half term we were not supposed to go to the cinema in case we picked up some filthy germ there and we had to have our temperatures taken every morning for the next three weeks which was also the case at the start of every term! As for bed times, lights were out everywhere by 8.30pm but it was a Prefect's privilege to have lights on until 9pm!

Rationing did hit hard. For a start clothing coupons were in force and my various relations all gave up theirs so that I could have the School uniform. The thing I particularly remember was the bread rationing so that at tea time we only had one piece of bread each, margarine with jam or even condensed milk on every day except for Wednesdays and Sundays when we had butter but nothing else with it. If we were still hungry after that we could go along to the kitchen and ask for 'the dry bread tin' which contained all the crusts and left over bits which we eagerly devoured despite the fact there was nothing on it.

I remember the death of George VI vividly as I heard it on somebody's radio and then went straight to a Maths lesson with Miss Johnstone. When we all seemed rather inattentive she asked why and we had to tell her. I don't remember a special announcement but I suppose there must have been. We all went to Windsor to see the flowers which were displayed on the grass leading up to the Castle and we also went to London to see the Lying in State which I think was in Westminster Hall.

For the Coronation we were allowed home. There were no televisions at school and we did not even have one at home. We did however all go to see the film in the cinema in Sunninghill.

1960s

Memories of a St George's Day Girl 1959 – Dec '65

Carla Stevens (née Boulton) 1965 cohort

In September 1959 at the age of 11, I went to St George's as a day girl. We lived very near the school (in Sunningdale) and although I had passed my 11+ (and nearly went to Windsor Grammar instead), my parents decided I should join my older sister Nicki who was in the Sixth Form. I was one of 3 day girls in a class of 20 girls many of whom had been at Queens Hill Lodge (then the prep school) and so already knew one another and some of the teachers.

It was very difficult to make friends with the boarders; we missed most of the recreational time when they would get to know one another and of course dormitory fun and games was something else we could only imagine and envy. Our main usefulness was posting letters 'illegally' and occasional buying some forbidden sweets and biscuits; it was tempting to do this to curry favour with the boarders, but always with the threat of being caught, hanging over our heads.

As day girls we took part in the whole curriculum and even had to come in on Saturday mornings to do prep. Science lessons took place in an old Nissan hut at the top of the hill with gas taps hanging from the ceiling (now the site of the Sports Hall, I think). When I was in the Sixth Form, Miss Horne was able to teach me A Level Biology (which I loved) but A Level Chemistry was well

beyond her and so I went twice a week (in my School uniform!) to Reading Technical College, by train from Ascot station, to study Chemistry with unfamiliar young men and women, who probably regarded me as a silly school girl. What a unique experience that was. By then I had persuaded my parents to let me board. In the Upper Fifth, I shared a room with Mary Sandwith at Queens Hill Lodge, which had by then become a boarding house, run by Misses Horne and Low. Our Matron, Mrs Wilcox, became a firm friend with whom I remained in contact for several years after leaving. We were allowed to bath twice a week and had our hair washed (by Matron) every two weeks! We were allowed to wear our own clothes in the evening (after days spent in blue serge gym slippers in the winter, and red and white checked gingham dresses in the summer) and (long before the advent of designer labels!) there was great competition for neat appearance and sophistication... I was always at the lower end! Many of us went to bed in curlers every night, in order to maintain neater hairdos than our peers!

Because the wooden school chapel was too small for the whole school, we walked every Sunday to church in Sunninghill in a crocodile, wearing, in the summer term, our special blue and white spotted dresses, blazers and straw boaters!

Margaret Wickham was the Head Mistress and most of us were afraid of her rather severe expression and very thick glasses. With her hair scraped back in a bun, she rarely smiled and could be very fierce with wrong doers. However, when she taught me (and 3 others) A Level German, we discovered her softer side... and indeed she became a firm friend after I

left school and I still see her several times a year; now in her late 80s, she lives in a home at Gt Dunmow near Braintree in Essex and is always interested in news of the school and old girls. It was she who persuaded me to apply to university to read Psychology; such a rare event was it for a pupil from St George's (which was very much 'A School for Young Ladies' at that time), to continue with higher education, that we were given a lesson-free half day when I won a place to read Psychology at Bristol University!



Tea with Nurse

My final two years were great fun. We slept in the Cathedral wing above the cloakrooms with no central heating and frost on the insides of the windows in winter! We went to bed in socks, wooly hats and gloves with our thick Harris tweed coats and red and black 'Red Riding Hood' cloaks spread over the bed. There were only 5 of us left in the Upper Sixth (myself, Vanessa, Clare, Meredith and Ann) and we were joined by a sixth girl from Germany called Rosie Pachany (her father was a friend of MEW). Rosie and I developed a very close friendship and often sat up all night talking to one another (much to the annoyance of our roommates). Rosie was a widely travelled young woman and our friendship which continued over many years, broadened my horizons and opened my eyes to the

possibilities that were waiting for me beyond the school gates.

As Sixth Formers we were allowed to go shopping in Ascot High Street except when there was a race meeting, when there were too many undesirables around! Also we had our own common room where we could play our Beatles, Cliff Richards and other 60s records, and it was in there that I remember hearing about the death of Winston Churchill and the assassination of John Kennedy.

On a Saturday evening the whole school was allowed to watch *Top of the Pops* and occasionally there would be a film shown in the evening. We had a party every

year at Halloween, when we were allowed to decorate the school hall, but never any social events with those tantalizing young men at Eton, Harrow or Charterhouse! Miss Leaver once took us to the Latin play at Bradfield which was a VERY special outing! I also remember a tour of the Peek Frean's biscuit factory in Reading.

Games was a special favourite for me; I captained the Lacrosse Team in my last year and loved playing netball and tennis as well. We had to walk round the vegetable garden, down a longish path every day to get to the games field, which was source of much chatter and hilarity. Our lacrosse boots were stored in the boiler room under the watchful eye of Bill, the janitor, who also had responsibility for preparing the outdoor swimming pool, which we used in the summer term (whatever the weather!). I also loved PE and Scottish dancing!

I remember all my teachers very well; those who influenced me most were Miss Wickham (MEW), Miss Leaver (Latin) Miss Horne (Science) and Miss Asher (History). I felt sorry for Miss Wardle (Geography) who always had difficulty in controlling the class. Nurse, who presided over the Matrons' room, slumped in an old armchair in the corner, was a formidable figure and I was always very apprehensive when



Lunch in the Dining Hall



A dressmaking lesson

1970s

Alice Sheepshanks (née Robertson) 1981 cohort

I had to go into her room and collect my pile of newly laundered washing (the piles were arranged in year groups and amazingly little was lost... thanks to Cash's name tapes which were sown on everything, even pants, bras and socks!).

All meals were eaten in the dining hall, with a prefect and a member of staff at the end of every table (for 8 or 10). The usual school dinner fare prevailed and especially memorable was Sunday evening supper of thinly sliced spam and tinned Russian salad! Sometimes we had to eat in silence which was particularly difficult, and there was a weekly rota for helping Eileen and Frances in the scullery washing up the dishes and cutlery for the whole school.

We were allowed 2 day outings a term and a long weekend in the middle. Matrons checked our chests-of-drawers regularly, so it was impossible to hide anything forbidden (cameras, radios, love letters etc) in them. Telephone calls were strictly forbidden and our letters, written under supervision every Sunday, were probably read before being sent off!

Despite the lack of privacy, the rules and the discomforts of everyday life, I loved my time at St George's and am thankful to this day, that I was a pupil there.

Everybody loved the red cloaks, particularly for watching matches on a freezing day. They were also wonderful on Bonfire Night, when everyone brought a firework and a fizzy drink back from half-term – we drank the fizzy drinks while watching our feeble individual fireworks being let off.

The dorm names were wonderfully esoteric and had been the same for decades: Round the Corner, Ice Box, Dungeon, Nursery, White Room were some of them.

When I first arrived the Sixth Form had to bring trays of currant buns and hot chocolate for the rest of the school at break time. There was total anarchy at this point with girls grabbing as many buns as they could manage and knocking over hot chocolate in the process. Dr Riding put a stop to this unseemly behaviour.

Dr Riding couldn't abide coughing in Chapel so during a particularly bad epidemic staff would stand outside the Chapel monitoring those going in and deciding who had to miss Chapel as a consequence. Naturally every single member of the school would instantly develop a hacking cough.

A trip up the gloomy High Street was essential once one was old enough, to trail round Budgens and return with a packet of crisps (costing 3½ pence in 1975) or some other delicacy.

Drama abounded. There was the annual Dragons performance directed by a pupil, as well as the school play and the Declamation Cup. Every form had to put on entertainment one Saturday evening during the year. Some

sort of performance would take place, preferably with audience participation. A particularly memorable entertainment was the Third Form's rendition of The Generation Game, with maximum audience participation.

There was a Christmas Party every year for which everyone wore long dresses. It was extremely exciting but also terrifying as one had to fraternise with older girls and the staff.

We packed our trunks by the stairs going down to the concert hall – we had to bring all our clothes downstairs in our counterpanes which worked extremely well – rather than lugging enormous trunks downstairs.

Every morning we had to strip our beds before breakfast and make them again afterwards. We all agreed recently that it turned us into extremely speedy bed makers. Once a term you would be 'on clearing' after a meal with another girl from your year – it was universally dreaded but actually only took a few minutes. Eileen who worked in the kitchens was on hand to tell you what to do 'IT'S CRUET DAY TODAY!' she would call with relish.

Nurse was a major feature of the early seventies. She looked exactly as she had in my mother's day (the fifties) according to my grandfather.



1980s

Jax Fothergill (née Peters) 1984 cohort

Teaching Dr Riding's baby rats to go through a maze built by the handymen following a trail of sweetened sugar. Streaker was the fastest to learn the way!

The bright orange gloss walls of the dining room, the slime green gloss of the walls in the hallway and the lurid bubblegum pink in the shower rooms.

Sausages with marmalade, sugar and butter sandwiches, Shippams meat pastes for tea, bags of cheap broken biscuits and cocoa for winter break times. You may throw your hands up in horror but back then, we thought these foods 'fit for the gods'. Mr Hart (the cook's) Halloween cake had black icing which left us all with grey teeth.

The whole school on the floor in pyjamas and blankets, watching films in the concert hall from a projector onto a screen. And the inevitable gaps when the reels were changed or burnt through and had to be spliced!



Cold wet heavy cotton school issue swimsuits which stayed wet from one swimming lesson to the next, Speedos came later!

Mrs Shaw taking us girls who lived abroad and therefore had to spend an extra day at school after everyone had left at the end of term, for fish and chips and to the cinema.

Feverish excitement for the School dances, the Domestic Science classes making quiches and Dr Riding keeping a stern hold of the punch bowl to stop anything extra being added. The horror at having to actually WEAR the long

skirts we made in sewing class for the Christmas parties.

Miss Knight doling out the tuck from your tuck boxes kept in the laundry room. "Two by two and over by the washing machine!" You were allowed a handful of sweets or a small chocolate bar at a time.

The different 'crazes'. Jacks tournaments, dorm entertainment nights, splat fights, whirling ribbons on sticks, (all ending up on the terrapin roof!) All things *Grease* and *Six Million Dollar Man*.

Midnight feasts... at 10 o'clock as no one could stay awake till midnight.

School trips to galleries or musicals in London, ALWAYS preceded by a trip to Swan and Edgars (long since closed) where your term pocket money allowance of £5 was carefully eked out.

The red cloaks, multi function items of clothing, incredibly warm in cold churches or as an extra layer on beds, picnic blankets, rabbit hutch covers, study screens, bath mats...

The claustrophobic dark boiler/boot room where lacrosse boots were dried, the only truly hot place in the school. Woe betide you if your boots fell off their shelf and you had to scabble in the filthy dark corners to find them.





1990s

Multiple contributors

Gymnastic lessons on cold mats in a cold sports hall in not very warm red leotards.

Whole school Christmas dinner was dreaded as – shock horror – the year groups were mixed up and we had to sit next to ‘strangers’.

Smuggling chocolate oranges under our cloaks to the Carol Service to snack on throughout.



The first IT room



Mrs Fidler and girls with Christmas charity boxes

Mardi Gras each Easter time where Years 1 to 3 created costumes in small groups and paraded in front of the other years in the Concert Hall, where they voted for the best costumes.

The First Years were tasked with feeding Mrs Griggs’ labradors at lunchtime. It was a race against time to feed them and get them outside for a walk before it was ‘too late...’

As First Years we were issued with a straw boater which we wore with a blazer to wave at the Royal Procession during Ascot week. This was the one and only time we ever wore a boater.

Parading through the school in our dressing gowns all the way from the Sports Hall to the Swimming pool, via the science

block. We then had to search through 200 identical blue swimsuits hanging on a rotary dryer for our own, then change into it in a cobweb filled lean-to!

If the fire alarm ever went off, several fire engines would be dispatched and arrive at the school nomatter whether it was a real or false alarm. I think the staff and girls enjoyed this!

No matter what the complaint, treatment at any visit to Surgery was a Strepsil and some Carvol on a tissue. This was the cure-all.

The pet shed was a sanctuary where we could have some peace and quiet and tend to our pets. These ranged from rabbits and hamsters to a gerboa. Mrs Fitton, the biology teacher would supervise Pet Club.

2000s



Memories of St George's

Mark Howlett

As we share memories of St George's through the years, another member of the School's extended family looks back at their time here. Mark Howlett lived here with his family in the late 1960s and 1970s, and shares his story:

"In 1968 my family moved from Gloucester to St George's as my dad, Edwin Howlett (Ted) took a job as a gardener, working alongside Bill Cox who was then Head Gardener. Bill had a white goat called Dandy who was put out to graze every morning on the grass bank in front of the main building, then put in a small stable near the greenhouses at night where he would enjoy a huge bowl of sugary tea before bed.

We lived in the white prefab bungalow on the Queens Hill Lodge side of Wells Lane.

It was a very cold and damp building with no central heating or double glazing, just a coal fire in the living room. I think it was of Australian design (officially The Woolawong Bungalow) and was one of the first in the country – but



Spring 1974 – Mrs Hosgood, Matron, off duty with Dandy the goat on the hill



Mark Howlett as a teenager with his dad Ted, head gardener, and sister Mary who worked, on a voluntary basis, with Miss Williams in the office to gain some work experience during her secretarial course at college

probably much better designed for the Aussie climate!

As a young lad (I was the youngest member of the family) I used to love the freedom of running around the grounds during the school holidays and exploring the original swimming pool, which was situated in the wooded area between the main building and the South part of Wells Lane, along with the air raid shelter and grotto.

Once I reached secondary school my best mate used to join me playing around the grounds during holiday time, we'd play tennis on the courts, play football and frisbee on the sports field and the *crème de la crème*... use of the 'new' swimming pool next to Queens Hill Lodge. Back in the day Wells Lane was part of the main route from London to Bath, so was really the A4 of its time.

I used to love the look on friends faces when they came for the first time as I'd turn off London Road

and in through the big gates and 4 big white stone pillars which led to Queens Hill Lodge, they looked in amazement thinking that the lodge was my home and then slightly disappointed when we turned down the drive to our humble bungalow.

During Royal Ascot, Queens Hill Lodge would be used as a car park to provide extra revenue for the school. At the end of the day's Royal meeting we would wait at the end of the drive to see the Queen being driven back to Windsor, she never failed to wave to us and even more special was that you knew she was waving to you and not to a big crowd in general.

I can vividly remember my dad taking me into the main school building and it was like stepping back decades in time. When I walked into the kitchen I quite expected Mrs Bridges from *Upstairs Downstairs* to make an appearance. The catering staff must have worked so hard at the time to keep everyone

fed as they had no mod cons that kitchens enjoy today. We also reaped the rewards of having fresh fruit and veg in abundance from the gardens once the catering team had what they needed for the kitchen.

There was another man called Bill, who was a very tall, ex army sergeant, whose job it was to keep the coal fired central heating going 24/7. I can remember the boiler rooms being so hot and dirty with a pretty strong smell.

My mum, Ivy Howlett, also did work for the school. I can remember her stitching, by hand, the hem on the curtains that went across the stage hours before the yearly production was due to take place.

My younger sister, Mary, used to work, voluntarily, alongside Miss Williams, the Bursar at the time, as she was training at a secretarial college and Miss Williams said it would be great experience for her.

I remember the arrival of Dr Riding and as a 13 year old I was very impressed with her bright red Lotus Elite, she was like a breath of fresh air and strived to bring St George's into the 20th century. My dad got on with her really well. It was around this time that dad became Head



Mark Howlett at his 60th birthday party



Aerial view of St George's, 1970s

Gardener, and also took on the role of caretaker, this made for a very long working day for him. He would start at 8am, finish at 5pm then go back out 9-30pm till 10pm to do a final lock up. My dad was a very friendly, humble and approachable person and this was reflected in his rapport with the parents and girls at the school.

I would earn some pocket money on the Saturday when the school term ended and I would help load those big heavy leather trunks into the cars – I think I got £1.00 for my efforts.

I started my working life as a carpenter and one evening Dr Riding called dad to see if I could go to the dormitory block as a few of the girls were stuck in one of the bedrooms, the door lock had jammed, so I very carefully removed the door stop to get to the catch and as gently as I could managed to get the catch out of the keep in the door frame. Unfortunately this led to me being catapulted very unceremoniously into the room and had to retreat red faced almost as hastily as I'd entered.

We used to wait every year for the weather to get hot and look out for wisps of smoke from the fields on the other side of the sports field which meant that the peat had spontaneously combusted and required constant attention from Ascot fire station.

We are still friends with Sue Simms (Cox) who is Bill Cox's daughter along with Chris Fidler the art teacher and also Scott Drummie who eventually took on my dad's role and lived in the same white bungalow, although by then double glazing and central heating had been installed.

Before my dad retired I started work driving for Carlsberg and Dr Riding very kindly used to let me park my 18 ton truck in the staff car park overnight if I was on a late finish, much to the bemusement of many visitors.

Sadly my dad, mum and eldest sister Sue have all left us just leaving me and Mary.

I feel very fortunate to have grown up there and I'm sure there are some other stories deep inside the memory banks.

100 Years of Mr Hillier (well, almost...)

As we look back over St George's history this year, it feels fitting that we pay tribute to someone who has played an important part of much of the last half century; someone who is very familiar to most of us.

In 2023 our St George's Director of Music, Ian Hillier celebrates forty amazing years of service to the school. His ambition has always primarily been 'that music should be an area of school life that anyone could be part of and that everyone could enjoy' and his catalogue of achievements speak volumes about his successful fulfilment of that aim. The Year 7 Choir has always included every member of the year group, all instrumental groups are non auditioned groups and at the annual House Music competition every girl takes part. The fourteen school musicals over which he has presided have involved a very high percentage of pupils from Year 8 through to Upper Sixth whether on stage or behind the scenes and his more contemporary Open Mic Nights are, as the name suggests, accessible to all.

Mr Hillier also naturally wants for the school to offer music of the highest standard and quality. He teaches in a way that passes on his own enthusiasm and love for music and has found it incredibly rewarding to see a number of Georgians realise their own potential and go on to become professional musicians. His own musical talent is evident; pupils over the years have enjoyed performing bespoke compositions created on their behalf, the Chapel Choir regularly perform his own works and he has even composed pieces for Georgian's weddings!

Mr Hillier has spearheaded the introduction of termly concerts

that are now a regular and essential feature of SGA life, the annual Music for a Summer Evening, the Advent and Candlemas carol services, the Valedictory Service for Upper Sixth leavers and other special events during the year. He has worked hard to create a supportive and encouraging environment in which pupils are keen to take part and, in keeping with the school's ethos, accrue invaluable confidence as a result of their involvement. Mr Hillier reflects on his career, 'The music – what we do, how we do it and the quality of both – has changed a huge amount. More than anything, however, it has been amazing to

watch so many girls develop a love for music and enjoy their part in it.'

Impact

When alumnae from the four decades were asked to describe Mr Hillier in three words, *kind, talented, patient, dedicated* and *fun* were common descriptives. The reason Mr Hillier stands out is because he has not just inspired a love for – and capability in – music in so many pupils, but far more importantly he has role modelled invaluable qualities and nurtured their character in equal measure.



Ian Hillier with Howard Goodall

“He taught me about community, kindness and supporting those in need around you.” (2005-10)

“He was so talented, so inspirational and brought the best out of all of us.” (1986-93)

“Mr Hillier was not just my Choir Master but also a father figure in my life.” (2003-2009)

“Mr Hillier gave me confidence in my abilities and he made me feel that I was welcome and fitted in.” (1990-1992)

“He helped me to come out of my shell, feel part of a community, and grow my love of music into a true appreciation of music.” (2000-2005)

“Mr H not only inspired my love of music through the Chapel Choir but taught me the values of good manners, decency and kindness which I try to adopt in my everyday life today.” (2009-2016)

“With him and the other Choir members I got to feel a part of something special, which to an awkward teenager finding their place in the world is the greatest gift I can imagine.” (1996-2003)

Looking back

Ian Hillier first came to St George’s as a piano teacher in 1983, prior to which he taught the piano and organ in various schools and was Director of Music at Windsor Parish Church, Assistant Organist at All Hallows by the Tower in London, and a freelance player. After two years he was appointed Director of Chapel Music at SGA with the challenge of starting a new Choir and establishing an ethos of accomplished choral singing to coincide with the building of



Mr Hillier on Chapel Choir Tour in the 1990s, courtesy of Sarah Dyer

the new Chapel in 1986. He then became Director of Music in 1994. He no longer (or rarely) teaches the piano but the Chapel Choir has, after 37 years, become a major part of his life and he hopes a major part of the school’s life.

Mr Hillier’s firm belief is that, despite the focus on boys, girls’ voices are just as effective and equally special and he set out to show this by forming the Chapel Choir in 1986. Far more girls regularly audition than there are places for, and the privilege of entry has created a renownedly hard working, committed group which makes in Mr Hillier’s view ‘a really magical sound.’ Mr Hillier recalls many happy hours of great music making and cites the recording three super CDs, broadcasting for *Radio 3*, giving the first performance of *Howard Goodall’s Jubilate*, singing for the late Queen Elizabeth on four occasions including a visit to Sandringham and taking the Choir on sixteen European summer tours as highlights.

Legacy

Words cannot really describe the profound impact Director of Music, Ian Hillier, has had both on the life of St George’s but far more importantly on that

of the pupils in his care during his forty years of service. Music is, of course, something of an anomaly within any curriculum. Scientifically-proven to contribute positively to mental wellbeing, Mr Hillier and his Music Department have provided pupils with a home as much as given them an education and the testimonials received from alumnae, from staff colleagues and from current pupils alike speak enthusiastically and with great affection about Mr Hillier’s wider, more personal legacy.

Testimonials

Alumnae

“Throughout my time at St George’s School, Ascot Mr Hillier encouraged and showed me not just to become a better musician but a better person. The significance of music in the holistic development of young people at school is often dismissed, when in fact music teachers teach so many priceless life lessons.

For me, Mr Hillier, his wonderful wife Sue and his whole family (who lived in our school for many years) dedicated their lives to heavily shouldering this important role. The familial and supportive

atmosphere they fostered in our choirs, our orchestras and our precious creative teams, as well as the valuable life lessons Mr Hillier taught us through musical discipline and practice are valued.

The Chapel Choir felt like my surrogate family of sisters as I grew up at school. Mr Hillier's passion for our school, its Music Department and the time and sheer attention and care he dedicated to each and every one of his musical pupils, set for me an example from a very young age, of commitment, dedication and the value of hard work. Mr Hillier didn't just teach us dedication and discipline but he led it by example. I learnt the dedication and patience necessary to achieve perfection, by watching Mr Hillier spend hours and hours and hours re-writing our school musical repertoire or practising pieces for school concerts – over and over and over – with patience and unwavering commitment."

Francesca Houslander
(2000-2007)

"I pretty much owe my entire career to Mr Hillier. I am a full time singer songwriter, am releasing an album this year (2023), perform in the most prestigious venues in the country and absolutely love what I do. Mr Hillier encouraged me to sing whenever possible at school, and to study A Level music and later, music at Bristol. He solidified my confidence, always believed in me, and made me realise my passion and talent. He also put me forward for the Eton Choral course in the summer which developed my skill leaps and bounds. Not only this, he is the kindest man in the world, and was always there for his pupils. He cares for St George's with all his heart and wants the best for every single pupil he teaches. He put up with all of us on the many choir tours (and this is a task by itself). He really is one in a million and as teachers go he really is the absolute best in the business. It is a real rarity to get a teacher that inspires as much as this man."

Darcy Winter
(2007-2013)

Current Members of Staff

"He loves music of many kinds, but especially sacred choral music. His enthusiasm is infectious and overflows in hymn practice, lessons, Chapel Choir rehearsals and chapel services. Ian's commitment is an extraordinary example of selfless service. He pushes every pupil to the utmost that they are capable of, but he only asks of them what he is prepared to give of himself – the very best."

Revd Sami Watts
School Chaplain

"[Mr Hillier] makes a lasting impression – he encourages both pupils and teachers to be the best versions of themselves and inspires them to pursue their interests. He takes an active interest in every individual. Pupils and staff will often come via his office to say 'hi' and he always asks after everyone. After being on school trips, you can see how much the parents value him and all his work he does."

Miss Tomsett,
a member of the Music
Department

"It would be hard to imagine a musical event at St George's without Ian at the very heart. Ensuring music, especially singing, is a joyful and important part of school life for everyone is at the centre of his mission and he instills in each girl the confidence to perform on the stage. In my seven years as Head I have witnessed scores of current and past pupils thrive under his encouragement and care, and despite so many years in post he retains his endless enthusiasm and remains a cheerful and calmly committed champion for them all. It is clear to all who witness Chapel Choir together for rehearsals, performances, services and tours that he has built a loyal and fiercely connected family of girls across the year groups which so clearly embodies the strength of the St George's community."

Liz Hewer
Head

Pupils

"Mr Hillier has always helped to make me feel confident in my singing ability and has always pushed me to take part in all musical opportunities on offer at St George's. Mr Hillier is always there to listen."

Anya
Year 11

"Mr Hillier has always encouraged me to get involved with music at St George's and has helped build my confidence immensely. I remember in Year 7, when I was terrified to sing in Open Mic Night, after some encouragement from Mr Hillier I did and I have not looked back since. The incredible thing about Mr Hillier is that he is always there to inspire me, not just in matters concerning music but in everything. He is always there for a little chat, a laugh, a catchphrase or just to have someone to talk to. I think I can truly say that Mr Hillier is an integral part of life at St George's and is the perfect embodiment of our SGA values."

Oona
Lower Sixth,

"Mr Hillier has had a massive impact on me at St George's in more ways than one. In terms of music, he has always made me feel confident with singing and has made participating and singing with the Choir a joy! Other than through music, Mr Hillier has always been a smiling face around school and someone who I can talk to about just about anything. He will always listen, make time for me and have a piece of advice up his sleeve. Many feel that Mr Hillier is the heart of the St George's community. He is someone who genuinely cares for the girls, and I cannot imagine my time at St George's without knowing Mr Hillier and do not envy anyone who has to do so in the future."

Connie
Upper Sixth

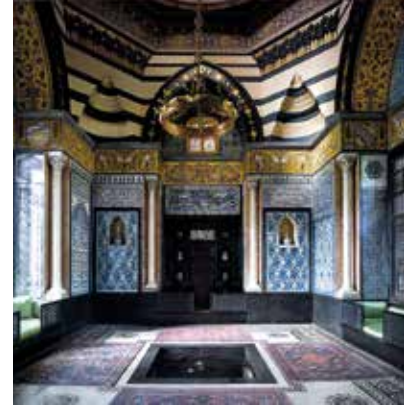
Alumnae News

Lavender Scaramanga (née Beauman) 1944 cohort

I was a pupil from 1941-43; Miss Loveday was Headmistress and names I can recall include Miss Baird, Miss Johnson, and Mlle Catroux. I took School Certificate (a distinction and 4 credits) and then Higher Certificate (dismal failure!) We put on a play called Berkley Square (I was the heroine's sister), and were taken by bus to play some away matches – lacrosse, netball and tennis. It can't have been easy with petrol rationing. After St George's, I did Domestic Science at Oxford and another Georgian was there – Suzette Morgan. I wonder how many of my contemporaries are still around? I am 95!

Diana Smyly (Purser) 1952 cohort

I have lived in my home in South Africa for 54 years, and celebrated my 90th birthday there in March. Following a stroke in 2001, I have no permanent injuries and walk every day and get on my bicycle (stationary!) so I am very fit. Judy – my elder sister and Wendy (two years younger) are coping well. Judy lives with her family in Durban and Wendy lives just 10 minutes away and still drives so we see her often. My own family are well, and all live in South Africa, for which I am unusually blessed. Since I last wrote, I have had a great grandson, who is two years old – their family lives in Cape Town and have just returned from a 4 month holiday in Bali. Carolyn lives 10 minutes from here and we spend lots of time with her and her husband.



Lisa Peacock 1957 cohort

My only news is that in the past year I have organised a highly successful series of piano recitals at the wonderful Leighton House Museum in Kensington, which reopened in September 2022 after a major refurbishment. The series included some of the most outstanding talent with the opportunity to enjoy an hour of music in the most beautiful surroundings. The second series will start on 24 October 2023. Details can be found on my website: www.lisapeacock.co.uk

I am including a photo of the stunning Arab Hall. It never ceases to amaze me how many people do not know about this 'Hidden Gem' in Kensington!

Priscilla Coley (née Hedley) 1955 cohort

My daughter and I very much enjoyed the Centenary Celebrations at St George's in June – here is a photograph my daughter took.



Catching up on arrival at the Centenary Celebrations

Margie Riley (née Vaughan) 1964 cohort

In the process of renovating yet another house here in SE Queensland, this one's in the Sunshine Coast hinterland. Looking pretty schmick now.

A quick trip to the UK, via the US, last year to see family. I stayed with Heather Previn (née Sneddon) at her home in Maryland and we had the best time catching up on, ooh, just a few years! After the family visit in Wilts, I stayed with Vanessa Gibbon (née Brower) in London and also managed to see Julia Wilson (née Fisher). Amazing that these wonderful friendships continue over the years (and years).

Carla Stevens (née Boulton) 1965 cohort

My news is that we are still dividing our time between Highbury and Fishguard in West Wales, where we have a wonderful cottage for rent: www.salemstrumblehead.co.uk. Worth thinking about now that southern Europe is too hot in the summer!

Our latest granddaughter, Vinca Carla was born in May! All are in great shape. I would love to hear from any contemporaries from Group 'O'. Still see Julia Fisher, Deborah Cornabe and Louella Hanbury-Tenison.



Carolyn Barker (née Barnett) 1967 cohort

My news is that I am adjusting to having a new granddaughter born in mid June. I forgot how careful mothers who have C-sections have to be so I have to lift her toddler when required. My grandson is just going on to secondary school. I am kept alive by wonderful doctors and still have such happy memories of St George's.



Priscilla Draper (née Matthews) 1972 cohort

2023 has meant some changes for me and my husband David. After 33 years living in Belgium we have taken the plunge and have moved to Cartagena on the south-east coast of Spain. We have rented a lovely flat with magnificent views of the port in this ancient city.

Also our son Mario is getting married in November so I look forward to seeing my USA based brother Peter and sister Peggy at the wedding.

I couldn't make it to the centenary celebrations as it clashed with our move to Spain but Peggy was there to represent us both and found our 'brick' in the swimming pool complex.

Victoria Mossop (née Spencer-Cooper) 1975 cohort

We had a fantastic turn out for our year at the Centenary Reunion in June this year with Ro and Julie from Australia, Peggy from America, Linda from Canada and Gillie from Ghana plus the rest of us from the UK. It was really wonderful to be together again for some hilarious reminiscing and we plan to get together again in 5 years time, hopefully with all the others who couldn't get there this year.

The day after the reunion Peggy and I set off from Kings Cross to Edinburgh where we stayed in Rosie's gorgeous flat, sadly without her, and did some great tourist attractions atop the hop on hop off bus. Edinburgh was on my bucket list so when Peggy asked me to go to Scotland with her that was part of the deal, I'm looking forward to returning. Then onward to Peebles on the rickety bus to stay

with Lucy and her husband in their glorious home, not quite a castle as it doesn't have castellations but as beautifully decorated and as





Peggy Matthews 1975 cohort

The summer of 2023 was the highlight of my year! It was just amazing to reconnect with so many from my year at the centennial celebration. After 50 years we all still felt the same close-knit connection, which is incredible seeing as many of us haven't stayed in touch and have such disparate lives all over the globe. Having travelled all the way from the USA, I thought: why not take in some sights? Tori and I hopped on the train to Edinburgh (4.5 hours, and highly recommended, btw) and had free lodging at a mutual St George's friend's flat, and we took in the sights of the city as best we could under the rainy circumstances. Then a bus to Peebles to stay with Lu at her castle-like home, picturesquely



set in a breathtakingly beautiful and expansive landscape... I honestly couldn't have conceived of a more magical experience (and of course, there were lots of laughs too!). Ro and Allen were guests there at the same time, and they were a bottomless source of fascinating tales of their life on land and sea in Australia. Miranda kindly opened her London home and her heart to me, and I

enjoyed spending some meaningful one-on-one time with her, interspersed with giggles and great food. Linda, who was also a houseguest, kept things light and bright as always. Anya's sleepover turned the one guest bedroom into a veritable dormitory, which I dubbed 'Centennial Dorm', haha. We all got along like close sisters, nothing but laughs, love and support. I returned home with a heart overflowing with

gratitude for the friends I didn't know I had. This was by far the best decision I made (to face my anxieties and fears about the whole trip and to do it anyway) and I hope – as discussed – that we'll keep our promise for an encore get-together in 5 years' time! Hopefully more of us will sign up... even though an impressive 50% of our year showed up this time.

comfortable as a castle for sure! Ro and her partner Alan were also staying so we had a ball and Lucy entertained us all royally.

Meanwhile I have 5, (6 by the time this goes to print) grandchildren who keep me very busy and are a total joy in my life. I am

happily settled in a small village in the Wylve Valley in south west Wiltshire and I still have my little place in the Isle of Wight.



Caroline Cummins (née Williams) 1978 cohort

I am now retired and mostly living in North London with regular trips to Dorset and Scotland. Dinah and I are in close touch but I can't help thinking it's time for a class of '72 reunion (late starters included obv's!). How about it?

Natasha Safavi Martin (née Safavi) 1979 cohort

2022 was a harsh year and I was very saddened to hear of the passing away of one of our dear classmates Charlotte Williams, and I wanted to share that we shared a joyful time with her while we were at St George's and on many occasions socially after we left school.

While my old entertainment company took a real knock after the effects of the pandemic, I found myself pursuing a new career where my advocacy skills came into full use. Helping ordinary citizens bring about litigation cases against landlords has been both challenging and eye opening. Working with people from all walks of life and identifying the root cause of disrepair has been an exciting opportunity. Importantly, my lifelong fear of canines has been overcome, as I have met almost every breed and learned how to behave around these magnificent creatures. In addition, I have progressed in my Flamenco dance skills, able to take part in Bulerias, Alegrias, Fandangos and even supply accompaniment with castanets.

Emma Davies (Alun-Jones) 1987 cohort

I so enjoyed the wonderful gala day and meeting up with Rachel Gibson (née Aldridge), Victoria Simmons (née Braithwaite), Harriet Hathaway (née Dawson), Serena Althaus, Lizzie Strangman, Alicia Pawson (née Crossley), Lucinda Wakefield (née Pipe), Georgina Walker (née Napier), and others... What a fun day.



Emma Davies at the Centenary Celebrations



Emma Davies and friends in their old dorm circa 1983-4



Antonia Felix (née Phillips) 1999 cohort

Here is a photograph of myself, Karen Maxwell (née Goddard) and Olivia Vaughan-Griffith (née Ealand) at the old girls day with our children! We all left in 1999.



Lucy Jones 2001 cohort

My latest book, *Matrescence: On the Metamorphosis of Pregnancy, Childbirth and Motherhood*, was published by Penguin in June. It's a non-fiction book which combines personal memoir (I've got three young children), science and nature writing and social critique. *The Observer* reviewer called it the "best book I've ever read about motherhood", which was a thrill! Always thankful to Dr Cushing for her amazing English teaching.

Roxanne (Rocky) First 2004 cohort

I am opening my first fine jewellery store on Walton Street. The store will be open from September 2023. We celebrate our 5th birthday at the same time (founded in 2018). Celebrity clients include Dua Lipa, Rhianna, Lilly Allen, Paul Mescal, Lily James and Nicholas Hoult! Stockists include Liberty London, Selfridges, Harrods, Harvey Nichols and online with matches.com, net-a-porter.com, brownsfashion.com. We have also just launched in the US with The Webster.
www.roxannefirst.com



Some examples of Roxanne First's fine jewellery

Laura Nicholls (née Earle) 2005 cohort

My husband Phil and I welcomed our son Freddie in May. He is our second child and a brother to our daughter Amelia.



Laura and family with her new baby son, Freddie

Henrietta and Annabel Russell 2006 cohort

Henrietta sends this about her business with her sister Annabel:
The Sisters behind Peapod & Co.

Henrietta and Annabel Russell are the driving force behind Peapod & Co. Through their shared passion for gastronomy and business acumen, these sisters have cultivated a thriving catering company that caters to a diverse range of occasions throughout the South East of England.

Peapod & Co. stands as a testament to the power of sibling collaboration. Henrietta, a talented chef known for her innovative and seasonal dishes, recognised that her culinary skills and experience gained from working at London's leading caterers could be channelled into creating something truly special. Launched in 2019, Peapod & Co. became the dynamic partnership of Henrietta and her sister Annabel, with Henrietta at the helm, overseeing the company and kitchen's operations, and Annabel spearheading the marketing endeavours.



Henrietta and Annabel Russell

Every dish crafted by Peapod & Co. is a testament to the unwavering dedication and attention to detail of Head Chef Henrietta and her team. Prepared with the utmost care, these culinary creations come to life through the use of the finest local ingredients sourced from Peapod & Co.'s trusted and award-winning suppliers.

While based in Selborne, Hampshire, Peapod & Co. extends its service to private and corporate clients across the South East of England. Their dedication to quality has garnered them a devoted following and a well-deserved reputation for excellence within the catering and event industry.
www.peapodandco.com



Carolyn and her husband with their sons James and Bertie

Carolyn Self (née Pakuls) 2007 cohort

It certainly has been a whirlwind of a year! Following our wedding last year, we welcomed our 2nd son,

James, on the 3rd of May this year. I am now officially outnumbered and we have our hands full with two under two, but Bertie loves his little brother and I can't wait to see them grow up together.



**Alexandra Tyan
2013 cohort**

Some updates from me; I got married last year in the south of Italy, by the sea, watching the sunset, like I've always wanted. I now live in Italy and still work as a multimedia journalist, producing podcasts, videos, live shows and occasionally writing.

Alexandra Tyan on her wedding day

Frances Booth

**Staff (1994 to 2003),
Pastoral Senior Mistress
and Head of Boarding**

This year is my 20th anniversary of arriving in Australia and the past twelve months have brought about a lot of change. After 19 years in Sydney I moved to Melbourne last October to take up a new job as Principal



Frances Booth at her commissioning as Principal



A selfie Frances took of herself and her school leaders... just to show it's still all about the students for her!

of a girls' school in Glen Iris, a suburb in Melbourne's inner east. It's a big change – moving house, city, state and job, all at the same time! And living in Victoria is very different from living in New South Wales... I almost think it was easier moving from the UK to Australia than it has been moving from NSW to Victoria. In fact, it was so difficult to change the registration on my car that I just bought a new one instead!

My new school is Korowa Anglican Girls' School and reminds me a bit of St George's... full of lovely

people who are incredibly welcoming. It's very academic but also full of sport and debating and drama and music... so very like St George's. No boarding though... I still think about St George's and am still in touch with a number of staff and students. If anyone is ever in Melbourne, come and say hello. I'm attaching two photographs – one is of me at my commissioning as Principal, and the other is a selfie I took of me and my school leaders... just to show it's still all about the students for me!

The outdoor Swimming Pool that so many of us remember, in the 1970s



ALUMNAE

Obituaries

John Calvert

Former Chairman of Governors

We were informed by former Headmistress, Mrs Joanna Grant-Peterkin, that John Calvert, the Chairman of Governors during her time at St George's, very sadly died in October 2022, following a long illness.

Madalyn Jean Eaton (née Temple) 1938 cohort

Roger Eaton wrote in late February 2023 "This is to let you know of the passing of my mother Madalyn Jean Eaton, née Temple who passed away peacefully yesterday afternoon at the age of 99. As an ex pupil of yours it was her wish that I let you know. She had a long happy

and eventful life. She will be sadly missed by all her family and friends, especially her two sons Roger and Michael".

Joan Anderson (née Ansley) 1944 cohort

Caroline Booth (daughter), advised us that Joan passed away in Autumn 2022.

Sally Ewart (née Gordon) 1952 cohort

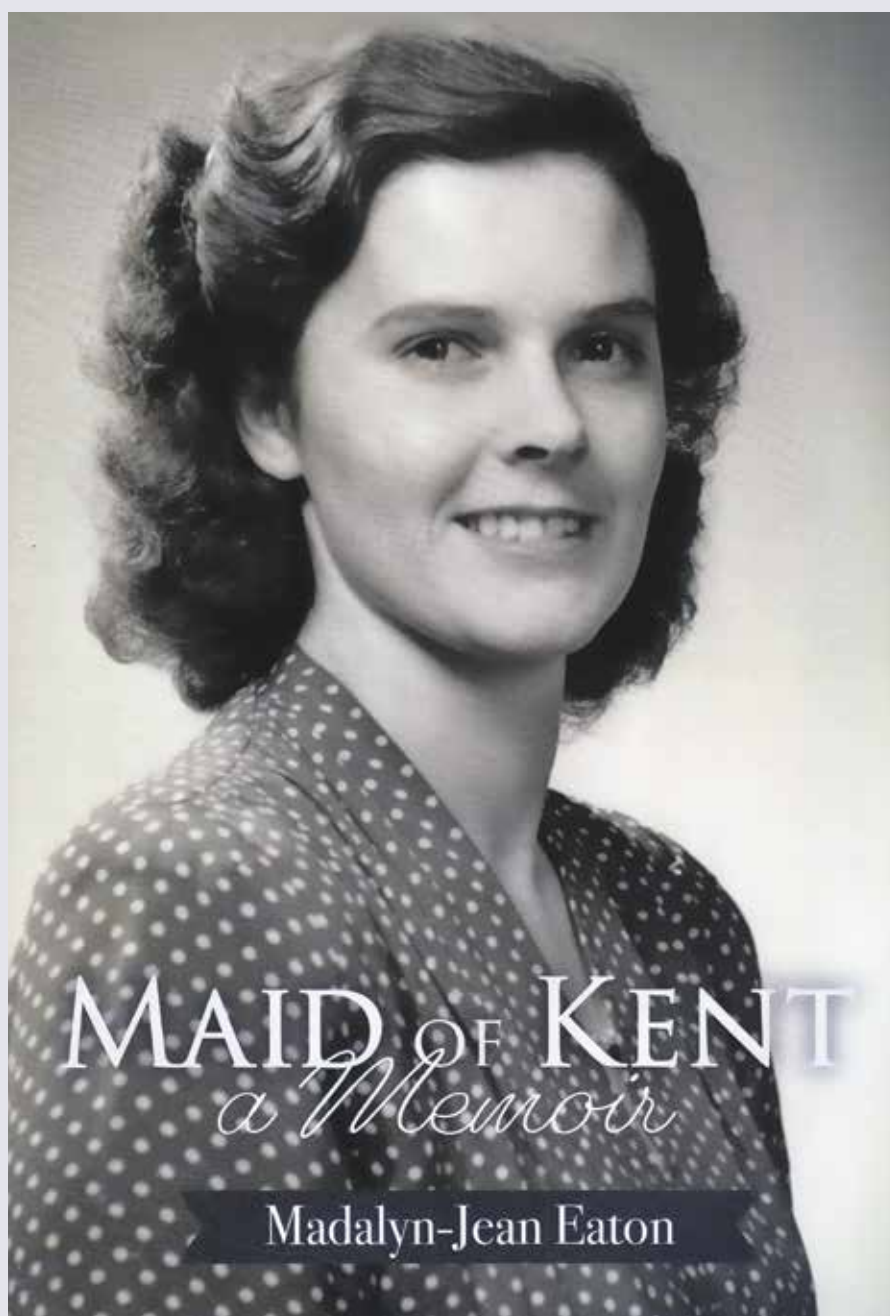
Anna Rainbow, Sally's daughter, wrote with sadness to say that her mother died in August 2022.

Philippa Wilson (née Lester) 1952 cohort

Mary James, Philippa's daughter writes: "My mother Philippa, née Lester, spent very happy years at St George's, and would, I am sure, appreciate being mentioned in *The Dragon* as having passed away. She had so many friends from St George's and always talked about it with real affection.

She died very peacefully in October 2022 after a very short illness, in no pain at all, and with her wits very much intact, aged 88, in her own home with her beloved dog beside her (and me!); 2 children, 3 grandchildren.

She was married to my father, Vere Davidge, and then to Roddy Wilson. She survived both of them".



A photo of Madalyn Jean Eaton, née Temple, used on the cover of her memoirs that she wrote a few years ago

Belina Forster (née Harvie) 1952 cohort

Stephen Barraud, Belinda's son, wrote to advise that sadly Belinda Forster (previously Barraud, née Harvie) died on the 26 May 2023. It was a peaceful passing with most of her family around her.

She had happy memories of school and remained friends with at least one of her classmates for her entire life.

Josephine (Jo) Meany (née Sharp) 1968 cohort

20 July 1950 – 15 April 2022. Died peacefully after a bravely fought battle against cancer at her beloved home 'Kempshot', Montego Bay, St James, Jamaica. She is so sorely missed by all her family – her much loved daughter Debra and son Dermot John, and adored grandchildren Sabrina, Thomas, John Ryan, Sophie and Victoria, together with her faithful dogs, two cats and her many loyal friends.

Patricia Harper (née Heyland) 1972 cohort

Anthony Harper, Patricia's husband, wrote to tell us that after fighting cancer for the last six years, Patricia sadly lost her battle in March 2022.

Charlotte Williams 1978 cohort

Charlotte's sister Caroline Cummins (née Williams) says: I am sorry to report that my sister Charlotte (pictured) died in December 2022 from ovarian cancer. She battled her illness fiercely and courageously over 21 months never losing her sense of humour and energy for life. It was lovely to see her St George's friends Jo, Lisa and Tanya at her memorial in January. What a huge gap she leaves.

Caroline Tettenborn (née Hodson) 1976 cohort

Caroline Tettenborn (who attended the school under the name Caroline Rose Hodson) unfortunately died on 15 December 2023.

Charlotte Billington (née Bond) 1994 cohort

Amelia Holden (née Vernon, 1994) writes of her friend Charlotte who incredibly sadly passed in 2022:

Charlie attended St Georges between 1989 – 1994. A testament to her engaging, warm and sincere character, school-friends became life-friends and she remained close to almost everyone in her year in the years that followed into careers, motherhood and beyond.

After St George's, Charlie read Geography and Sociology at Leeds University, graduating with a 2:1 degree. She pursued those interests, going on to become a recruitment consultant and as the years passed, specialising in career coaching to aspiring senior executives. She went on to focus further here and set up her own business with a friend. Charlie saw her role far beyond what's required in a 'job' and impressively committed her best advice to a book entitled *What to*



Charlotte Billington (née Bond)

do next which was published and remains available in print.

Charlie married Dave Billington in 2006, and in 2009 their first son Thomas was born followed by their second son Douglas in 2013.

Tragically, Charlie's mental health was a source of personal challenge to her, something few of her closest friends even knew. Charlie tragically cut her own life short and, as a friend writing this, I felt it was important to be clear about this because mental health is no longer the taboo it once was. If you are struggling, you can, you should, and you must seek support from those best able to give it whether it's a loved one, a charity, or another source of understanding entirely. Charlie's gift to everyone in this sad time is to give us all a clear sign that anyone dealing with internalised angst of any sort, should feel no stigma in taking steps to address it.

Charlie was a devoted mother and wife and loving daughter and sister and leaves an immense hole in all of their lives. Charlie was incredibly popular, much loved and will be missed hugely by friends and family. Testament to this were the huge number of Georgians, their husbands and families who all attended her Memorial Service on the 25 July 2022 at St Mary's Church in Wimbledon which was a sad but also inspiring and uplifting occasion for all those who came to pay their respects.



Highlights of the Year

Excellent in all areas – ISI report
Google Learning Festival
Cultural Diversity Week
SGA Big Help Out
Centenary Time Capsule
Alumnae Families Day

St George's awarded 'excellent' in all areas by ISI to start the centenary year

2023 was always set to be a special year for St George's as the School marks 100 years of excellence in girls' education. Prior to Anne Loveday's purchase of the school in 1923, St George's had been both a boys' prep school and then a finishing school and the changes initiated on Miss Loveday's arrival heralded the start of the modern, progressive educational establishment for girls that is known today.

It is fitting, then, that the centenary year started with the fantastic news that the Independent Schools Inspectorate had awarded the school 'excellent' across the board in their educational quality and focused compliance inspection. Their report lauded the School's high academic standards, the marked technological capability of both pupils and staff and the School's confidence-building

“Pupils are highly confident, combining healthy self-knowledge, first-class social skills and an awareness of the world around them.”

ISI Inspection Report
November 2022

co-curricular programme. Even more encouraging, however, was the positive impression the pupils made on the inspectors and the way in which their attitude towards school life so strongly evoked the Confident, Capable and Connected ethos of the school.





Google Learning Festival

St George's was delighted to welcome ten local prep and primary schools for its inaugural Google Festival at the end of January. Working in collaboration with Tablet Academy and

EdPuzzle, St George's hosted teachers and Year 6 and 7 pupils for morning and afternoon sessions in which both children and adults explored creative digital projects intended to engage young children in the learning process. There was the

opportunity to look at a coding and robotics platform, Adobe Express design software, they used technology to increase their capacity for problem solving and puzzles, they had a go at virtual reality and learnt how to use Google Sites.



Having been awarded the prestigious Google for Education Reference School status in the summer of 2022, it was encouraging to see St George's quickly establish itself as a valuable technological resource and hub and a pioneering example for local schools looking to expand their digital provision.





Cultural Diversity Week

Cultural Diversity Week in May focused on mythbusting about different countries. It was launched in assembly by Kourtney, Nailah, Aramees and Dom who explained about the culture, geography and food of their own countries and mythbusted about the different nations of Africa as well as sharing a fabulous video that had been made by Neera.

Through the week, tutor groups watched a video made by Yavi mythbusting about her home country of India and enjoyed a quiz from Amber and Hedy called *Where in the World?* in which pupils were invited to guess the locations from photographs at odd, deceptive angles.

Throughout the week there were various events for pupils to enjoy from a Diversity History Lecture from Royal Holloway professor, Dr Shahmima Akhtar, to the screening of a Bollywood movie, and an International-themed *Desert Island Discs* in Thursday's clubtime hosted by Mr Hillier. The very first SGA Diversity Playlist had



been shared with everyone at the start of the week and contained an array of different music from KPop to Afrobeats, many of which

were the choices of the panel that evening.

The highlight, however, was definitely when pupils and staff wore their cultural dress or the flags of their country. Pupils adorned the site in a dazzling array of colourful, bejewelled materials and beautiful ethnic patterns, inspiring understandable curiosity and giving a fantastic visual indication of the diversity of the global SGA community.

Mrs Kratt,
Diversity and Inclusion Lead





“

Pupils adorned the site in a dazzling array of colourful, bejewelled materials and beautiful ethnic patterns

”

SGA Big Help Out

The very first St George's *Big Help Out*, held early in July, was a great success. There were so many

fantastic stories to tell as all pupils and staff volunteered their time, on and offsite, to 'help out' in an incredible breadth of community activities. It was such a pleasure



to host 150 children from five local primary schools for a multi-activity sports day and geocaching onsite as well as welcome residents from the Ascot Day Centre for a lunchtime concert with tea and cakes. Pupils completed first aid qualifications, they gardened at the Ascot Day Centre, supported the work of the Wokingham Foodbank and the Windsor Baby



Bank, helped prepare for a fete in the St Michael's church and joined Riding for the Disabled to name but a few! It was a fantastic opportunity for the girls to understand more about social responsibility and active citizenship and experience first hand the pleasure of serving others and giving time and effort for others' sake.



Centenary Time Capsule

After much debate amongst the members of our School Council during the past year, the contents of the SGA Centenary Time Capsule were

finally confirmed and collated and the lead-lined box sealed, ready for burial. The site was marked with a smart SGA-red plaque to commemorate the occasion and, with the whole school watching on, Mrs Hewer and outgoing Upper Sixth



Head Girls, Hannah, Alice and Ruby added the first soil to cover the box once it had been lowered into the ground. The eclectic list of items gathered reflect the girls' perceptions of SGA life now and just as they have spent much of this centenary year looking back on the School's rich history, we hope that pupils of 2048 will similarly do so and learn something of their past as they uncover its treasures.

Centenary 'Alumnae and Former Staff Family Day'

It was particularly fitting in St George's centenary year to welcome back over four hundred alumnae, former staff and their families for a SGA Alumnae and Former Staff Family Day late in June. It was a beautiful day of sunshine and Georgians from every generation gathered on the lawns to reminisce and catch up with friends, enjoy a spectacular BBQ provided by the catering team as well as view the changes and developments that have taken place at the School since their time.









CONFIDENT



CONFIDENT

Co Curricular

Activities Day
Year 7 Residential trip
Bronze and Silver DofE
MUN
ESU Debating
Young Enterprise

Activities Day

For Activities Day, Year 7 travelled to Marwell Zoo, Year 8 travelled to Westhorpe Farm to take part in canoeing, raft building and crate stacking. Year 9 took to the high ropes course at Oakwood Youth Challenge near Wokingham. Year 10 travelled to Portsmouth Historic Dockyard. Year 11 enjoyed a strategic, combative afternoon with Predator Assault in Beale Park, near Reading.

The Sixth Form put on their problem solving hats and took to the St George's sports fields to take part in various 'Escape Room' themed activities.

It was an excellent day both for building our year groups together but also for developing teamwork skills as we worked on solving each of the challenging puzzles.

Divya, Lower Sixth





Year 7 Residential trip to Fairthorne Manor

The Year 7 Residential is designed to develop teamwork, outdoor skills and to be a lot of fun! It is also the culmination of the first academic year at the school, and the pupils were certainly excited getting onto the coach which was to take them to the YMCA Fairthorne Manor.

Many thanks to Mr Wright, Miss Tang, Mrs Davies and The Reverend Watts for joining the girls on their adventures!



Bronze and Silver DofE Qualifying Expeditions

In beautiful September sunshine, the four SGA Bronze DofE groups were driven to the end of the Long Walk and found their way back to School via the Copper Horse, the Cow Pond and other landmarks in the Windsor Great Park. After supper the groups planned the second day's walking which took them around Virginia Water. The weather was in their favour and all the girls succeeded in passing the assessment, showing a good deal of effort, determination and teamwork.

Later in the term, 26 pupils set off on their Silver DofE expedition on the South Downs. The largest Silver DofE cohort in recent SGA history headed off in four groups from their start point at Ditchling Beacon for their long walk to Southease and their first night campsite at the YHA.

"We could be in the South of France" announced one, very positive group member! The final day of the expedition was the highlight with routes which meandered down the stunning Cuckmere River before reaching the coast and the famous white cliffs. In glorious sunshine, the groups walked over the Seven Sisters to their finish point at the Birling Gap.



MUN

The St George's Modern United Nations (MUN) Club headed off to their first MUN Conference of the year at London Oratory School in November, fielding three strong delegations representing Poland, Gabon and South Africa.

The conference began with an inspirational talk by Julie Etchingham from ITV news in which she gave tips to the delegates on how to appear confident when feeling

nervous about speaking in public. Following the opening ceremony, the delegates went into their different committee rooms and discussed the various resolutions. The Disarmament and International

Security Committee, in which Amber, Anya, Tesni and Isabella were debating, focused on the period just after the Cuban Missile Crisis of 1963 and discussed the possibility of banning the spread of nuclear weapons as well as their use in space. The General Assembly Crisis focused on a developing crisis in Venezuela and the growing opposition to Maduro's rule. The girls thoroughly enjoyed this quasi real-life experience and were more widely educated about the global issues that were covered.





ESU debating

Having been successful in the second round of the ESU debating competition at Gordon's School in Woking in January, the formidable Lower Sixth Debating team of Izzy, Judit, Jess and Milly set off early in March for the regional finals. They were proposing a 100% inheritance tax – a tough point to argue – but they were, as ever, articulate and persuasive in their debate. Though not successful in reaching the final, the team were placed in the top six of 350 schools which is an impressive achievement in itself.



Young Enterprise

Early in May, the four St George's Young Enterprise companies made their way to the O2 Building in Slough for the annual Young Enterprise Area Final. The SGA teams, LUX, ROMI, SNUG and The Sage competed against teams from five other local schools. After an inspection of the companies' trade stands, some intensive quizzing by the judging panel and some very polished presentations, ROMI – who sold

branded pyjama bottoms – were declared the winners of the Slough, Windsor and Maidenhead heat.

At the end of May, ROMI travelled to Buckingham University for the South Central Regional Final. Having won the local area heat, ROMI now faced a stiffer challenge, as they were competing against the best seven companies from across Berkshire, Oxfordshire and the Chilterns. The team gave an incredibly

impressive performance both in the quality of trade stand they displayed and also in their presentation to the judging panel. Whilst ROMI did not win the regional competition, they were delighted to receive the Judges Award, which is presented to the company which displays all round excellence. St George's is so proud of this year's teams who have shown true entrepreneurial flair throughout their Young Enterprise journey.



Art

Centenary Summer Art Exhibition
Textiles Workshop
Chicken Wire Workshop
Digital Printmaking



Centenary Summer Art Exhibition

The Art department worked very hard at the end of the summer term to mount a year's worth of artwork in the South Lawn Room, the Dining Room hallway and

Luker foyer in preparation for their Centenary Summer Art Exhibition. Parents and pupils wandered the displays taking in the talent of so many of our pupils across the different disciplines and engaging in the carousel of media which Georgians are able to access and enjoy from Year 7 onwards.





CONFIDENT

“

Parents and pupils wandered the displays taking in the talent of so many of our girls

”

Textiles Workshop with Ryan Dawson Laight

During the workshop with set costume designer, Ryan Dawson Laight, we completed a number of tasks in short time periods, for example, we made a claw of a bird in three minutes! We were tasked with making our own fabric design based on a given emotion, and then we worked in teams to make a jacket including our designs.



It was a really productive workshop that taught me a lot about costume design but also that quick work and imperfect experimentation is a helpful part of any design process.

Lucy, Year 10

Chicken Wire Workshop

In February, St George's welcomed William Ashley-Norman, founder of sculpture company ChickenWIRED, back to the Art Department for two creative workshops. Pupils from

Years 8 and 9, Fine Art GCSE pupils from 10 and A Level artists from the Lower Sixth threw themselves into the creative process, working hard at twisting, snipping and shaping a flat piece of chicken wire to form a quite extraordinary range of objects. Girls worked on hands, flowers, human bodies and spiders whilst one even managed to complete a 3D duck! Definitely a novel challenge for many and great for pupils to leave their paint brushes aside to work with such an unusual media form.



Digital Printmaking with Alicia Fidler

The Lower Sixth Textiles pupils enjoyed a fascinating day in June working with performance and sculpture artist, Alicia Fidler, looking at digital printmaking. The girls took to their computers in the morning, choosing a motif and then disrupting it repeatedly to create a much-altered final design. Their finished work was then sent to a fabric printer ready to work on in the future. In the afternoon the girls handled paper versions of their morning's work, once again disturbing their design by cutting into it, and then attaching it to material with a view to embellishing it using their sewing machines under Ms Fidler's encouraging eye.

Drama

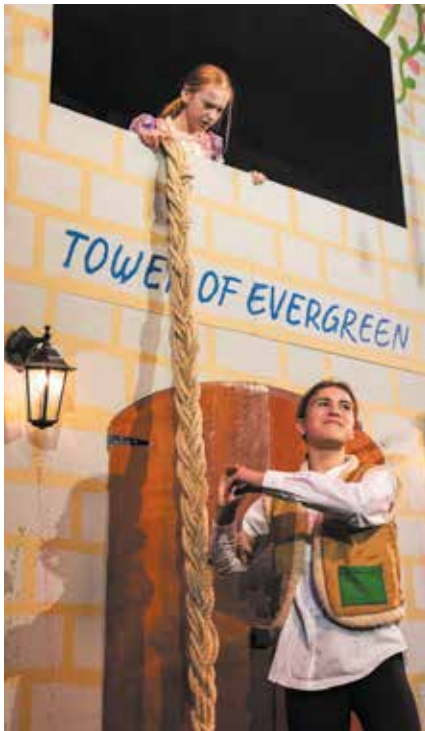
Godspell, School Musical
Rapunzel
A Midsummer Night's Dream
Bright. Young. Things
Workshops

Godspell School Musical, Year 8 to Upper Sixth



CONFIDENT

Rapunzel, Year 7









Paper Birds Workshop

The Paper Birds are a world-leading devised and verbatim theatre company, and St George's girls from Year 10 and the Lower Sixth were lucky enough to work with one of their members and practitioners, Ciaran Forde, at a workshop in October. The workshop was based on the theme of climate change and, during the session, Ciaran took them through approaches to working with verbatim text, physical theatre and audience. The girls were challenged to work in a wide range of theatrical styles and developed thought provoking and challenging pieces.

Movement with Steve Kirkham



Girls studying Drama from Year 9 through to the Upper Sixth participated in a workshop with movement director, Steve Kirkham, in November. Pupils explored how to use movement sequences, lifts and physical theatre to tell a story. Steve Kirkham put the girls through their paces, both physically and dramatically, and it was fantastic to see such high level work being produced.

Screen Acting with Miss Ash



At the end of January, the Drama and Performing Arts scholars took part in a screen acting workshop led by previous Director in Residence, Miss Ash. The group started with some ice breaker activities to help the girls to think about the differences between acting for theatre and acting for screen. They then learnt how to set up the different types of shots

used in film and TV, such as close-ups, wides and tracking shots.

Finally pupils were divided into small groups and given the opportunity to create their own short film telling a story using only 10 shots: 3 close ups, 3 medium shots, 3 wides and 1 tracking shot. They then watched each others' work in their own SGA version of a 10-Shot Film Festival.

Puppetry with Ashleigh Cheadle

Just after the Easter holidays, Drama and Performing Arts scholars from Years 7 to 10 took part in a workshop led by professional puppeteer, Ashleigh Cheadle. Having worked on productions such as War Horse, the girls were fortunate to learn about a skill outside of their curriculum from such an illustrious and experienced practitioner.

The girls learnt the key skills needed for puppetry, such as focus, teamwork and subtlety in their movements. They then progressed to making puppets of their own out of paper. They worked in groups of three to bring their puppets to life, creating stories and scenarios and working hard to make the movements of the paper puppets as detailed as possible.



Music

- Chapel Choir
- Christmas Carol Service
- Jazz and Dance Show
- Music for a Summer Evening
- Autumn and Spring Concerts
- Junior Concerts
- Open Mic Nights

Chapel Choir at Coworth Park and St Paul's Cathedral



Early in December, the Chapel Choir had the privilege of travelling to London to sing in the service of sung Evening Prayer or Evensong in St Paul's Cathedral. This annual tradition has long been a highlight of the Chapel Choir's calendar and it was a pleasure to return to the cathedral for this, the Choir's first visit since covid restrictions were lifted. The girls enjoyed taking part in the more unusual sung responses, the canticles and the psalms set for the day and performed *Carol of the Advent*, a carol composed for St George's by John Sanders, as their anthem.

On the Friday of the week before, the Choir had benefited from

something of a warm up, singing a full repertoire of seasonal carols and anthems for a coffee morning held at Coworth Park. This event always feels like the start of the festive season and ensured the girls were well rehearsed for the busy schedule of seasonal performances ahead.



Christmas Carol Service

The end of the autumn term was marked, as usual, by the whole school community travelling to St George's Parish Church in Windsor for the annual Carol Service on the final morning of term. Director of Music, Mr Hillier played an organ voluntary as the congregation took their seats, followed by an instrumental medley of seasonal music on the flute, saxophone, violin and cello. The Chapel Choir interspersed carols and readings with Sanders' *Carol of the Advent*, Willcocks' *I Saw Three Ships*, *Nativity Carol* and *Angel's Carol* by Rutter,



Taverner's *A Christmas Round*, *Tomorrow Shall Be My Dancing Day* by Gardner and Mr Hillier's own *Love Came Down at Christmas*. They were joined by the Year 7 Choir who performed *Torches!* by John Joubert and

All on a Silent Night by Becki Slagle Mayo. The nine readings were given by pupils from across the year groups, by Head Girl Hannah, Mrs Hewer and Alistair Mackintosh, Chairman of Governors.



Jazz and Dance Show

The annual Jazz and Dance show in May, hosted in collaboration with our friends at the Natalie Vinson School of Dance and Drama, was a wonderful evening of entertainment, packed full of talented and confident performances that showcased the breadth of dance styles taught here at SGA. Colourful displays of acro, ballet, lyrical and contemporary dance were beautifully accompanied by our Jazz Band who interspersed the programme with delightful jazz performances.





Music for a Summer Evening

Director of Music, Mr Hillier and the Music department achieve wonders with the girls and the final concert of the academic year, Music for a Summer Evening, was a true celebration of the choral and individual musical heritage of the School. This was the final performance for many of our Upper Sixth on this well-loved stage and the joy, and sadness, of our leavers

was a fitting acknowledgement of the influence of Mr Hillier who celebrates 40 years at SGA this year.



Autumn and Spring Concerts

Our Autumn and Spring Concerts showcased impressive stage confidence. Pupils entertained on the piano, saxophone, guitar and flute interspersed with a number of moving vocal performances and the evenings finished with rousing numbers from the Year 7 Choir.

Junior Concerts

Individual pupils, pairs and the Year 7 Choir performed for parents in the Chapel at the Junior Concert in March. A varied programme of vocal and instrumental performances including harp, guitar, ukulele, piano and violin, took the audience from Debussy and Beethoven to Billie Eilish and Adele. The Year 7 Choir finished off the afternoon with typically confident performances of Pink's *Cover Me in Sunshine* and *The Dreamer in Me* by the similarly named Pinkzebra.





Open Mic Nights

This popular termly institution allows pupils to showcase their talents in a more informal atmosphere compared to other concerts. It was particularly exciting to listen to new pupils and it was

a testament to their blossoming confidence that Year 7 pupils Georgie, Georgia, and Mamie all took part across the year. It was also exciting to hear two performances from the new St George's Music Scholar, Jeanne Marie in the very first Open Mic of the year.





“ Excellence of performance is a characteristic of music at St George’s ”





CAPABLE



CAPABLE

Learning

Stretch Week

Each year, St George's pupils have the opportunity to broaden their education beyond the limitations of subject curricula by taking part in the St George's Stretch Week. From how to read a work of art to a talk on the story of Anne Frank, or from learning about the technical aspects of theatre to an exciting glimpse into A Level Psychology: looking at the difference between psychopaths, sociopaths and neuroticism, the list of activities on offer this year was as varied as it was stimulating. Creating an appetite for learning beyond the criteria set for examinations communicates a vitally important message that qualifications are but a small component part of wider intelligence.

Anne Frank Talk for Year 7, 8 and 9

A lovely outside speaker visited SGA to speak to the Junior School about Anne Frank's life. Gillian Walnes, from the Anne Frank Trust, was very engaging and gave us an incredible insight into Anne's character and experiences. She was very knowledgeable and shed light on Anne's family background, her childhood, and then life under Nazi control in the Netherlands. It magnified to us the cruel and unjust treatment the Jews faced not just in Germany but in other countries that were occupied during World War Two.

India, Year 9

History and Politics Visit to Westminster

A group of Lower Sixth politicians travelled to London to visit both the Supreme Court and the UK Parliament. Starting with the Supreme Court on Parliament



Square in Westminster, they observed a trial about a man from the Bahamas who was being deported. At the Houses of Parliament, we observed the House of Commons and House of Lords in action, and visited other important rooms such as the Lobby and Westminster Hall.

Year 10 Independent Research Projects (IRP)

Over the spring term, pupils in Year 10 were given the opportunity to choose a topic and undertake their own research, with the aim of producing a 1000-word essay or an artefact. The pupils were delighted to be able to present their projects in a poster fair in the Cormack Hall and it was wonderful to see them talk confidently and with passion about their wide range of chosen topics, ranging from "Do gender-neutral toys lead to children with stereotypical views of gender roles" to "Are we living in a simulation?"



Stretch Week

Anne Frank Talk

History and Politics Visit to Westminster

School Trips

Independent Research Projects

British Science Week

Rutherford Appleton Laboratory School Science Prize

Female Pioneers in Science, National Poetry and English Competitions

Chemistry in Action

Historical Association Great Debate

History Lectures

Association of Art History Annual Conference

MFL International Languages Week

Sports Scholars

Parliament Week

Year 7, 8 and 9 pupils visit Bletchley Park

A group of pupils from Year 7, 8 and 9 visited Bletchley Park, the home of the allied forces' code-breaking in World War II and the birthplace of modern computing. We enjoyed a workshop in which we were taught lots of interesting facts about Bletchley Park and how to decipher some codes and ciphers. At the end of this session, we were excited to be able to use a real enigma machine! A self-guided tour allowed us to see the conditions in which people worked hard on deciphering the German codes, including the office of Alan Turing himself.

Amber, Year 9



Art trip to Hallyu!

At the start of the spring term, Year 9 jumped on a coach and travelled to South Kensington to visit the V&A Museum. In groups we toured different parts of the museum including the main exhibition called Hallyu! which featured Korean dancing, fashion and pop culture. Seeing so many visual elements of Korean life gave us a valuable insight into a very different culture from our own. As well as this temporary exhibition, the permanent jewellery and fashion exhibits were a highlight and the group found looking at fashion through the years very interesting. The trip was finished off with a visit to the photography, theatre and ceramics exhibition where we took time to sketch our highlights.

Manon, Year 9



British Science Week

St George's celebrated British Science Week in March with an array of lessons, external speakers and activities which helped pupils to explore #STEM and make 'connections' (British Science Association's theme for 2023) in their scientific learning.

The highlight of the week for pupils was undoubtedly the arrival of the SGA duckling eggs which arrived ready to hatch the day before the week's start. Great joy was found not only in cuddling the visitors but also in learning about their care in the early days of life.

Pupils also enjoyed talks from SGA parent, Dr Julie Mount and Medical Physicist, Jo Jones. Dr Mount launched Science Week in assembly sharing the trajectory of her career, from studying for a

BA in Anthropology at Durham University, through to her current role as Senior Director, Diabetes Real World Evidence at Eli Lilly and Company. A number of year groups were also fortunate to hear presentations from Jo Jones, a



Medical Physicist from the Berkshire Cancer Centre, who opened the girls eyes to the incredible science of radiotherapy and its positive impact on the treatment of cancer.

Finally, early the next week, the Explorer Dome Science Experience took up residence in the Sports Hall. Year 7 and 8 enjoyed a space-themed tour of the sun, solar system, galaxy and beyond, navigating through the seasonal night sky via legends from ancient Greek mythology. Year 9 and 10 learned about cosmology, constellations, observational astronomy and astrobiology and the relevance of space science in their lives today.



Hana awarded runner up in the Rutherford Appleton Laboratory School Science Prize



The School was proud of Year 8, Hana who came second in the STFC Rutherford Appleton Laboratory School Science Prize this year. Having submitted both an essay and a video presentation on 'Why I Love Science', Hana, her family and Teacher in Charge, Mrs Ferrar were invited to the Rutherford Appleton Laboratory in Oxford for the finals.

GSA's Female Pioneers in Science competition

In the spring term, the Year 8 scientists were fortunate to work with Tablet Academy to broaden their digital capabilities adding Adobe Express to their suite of

skills. They worked on presentations for entry into the Girls' Schools Association's (GSA) Female Pioneers in History competition, a creative element of their Girls Go Bold programme celebrating the brilliant talents and potential of young women in STEM.

Visit to Bayer Lab

The Lower Sixth biologists and chemists really enjoyed our trip to The Bayer Laboratory, the pharmaceuticals, consumer health and crop science specialists near Reading in the summer term. We spent the day doing an

investigation in which we solved a hypothetical shark attack case. We learnt more about DNA and also how it is used by the police in forensic cases. We had access to the PCR machine which allowed us to use DNA polymerase to synthesise a new strand of identical DNA. We also had a go at using gel electrophoresis to work out which of the possible victim's DNA matched the DNA found at the crime scene. It was a very fun trip in which we also learnt a lot. Furthermore, by seeing a real lab and hearing women talking about how much they have enjoyed their careers in Science, many of us were inspired to consider degrees and careers in this field.

Jessica, Lower Sixth



Chemistry in Action

In November, the A Level chemists went on a trip to the Emmanuel Centre in London to hear a series of talks that were advertised as taking 'students from their studies to cutting-edge research and future applications in great style.'

The day started off with an inspiring talk from Dr Jamie Gallagher on colours in Chemistry. Dr Gallagher helped the girls to think about questions such as why rubies are red and butterfly wings blue. Material scientist from Oxford University,



from leading chemists in such a variety of cutting edge research, showcasing the breadth of the industry and giving them an exciting sense of what the future might hold.

Physics trip to Thorpe Park

Early in September, the GCSE Physicists enjoyed their visit to the theme park, Thorpe Park to experience the use of Physics in real life. Pupils were asked to visit six different rides and complete calculations involving forces, energy and acceleration. They used facts and measurements about each ride to find approximations of energy stored and measure the acceleration their bodies experienced on each ride. Pupils were also tasked with taking photographs of the rides and annotating them to show maximum and minimum points of various energy stores and forces. The day ended with lots of calculations completed, rides conquered and forces and energy experienced in exciting and engaging ways.

Dr Siaful Islam, followed, speaking about new materials for green energy and looked particularly at the future of batteries, our consumption thereof and how ideas are developing into the future. Thirdly, the girls heard from nuclear chemist, Dr Kit Chapman, who discussed the many ways chemistry has been used in conflict including glowing foxes, ice planes and disarming

nuclear bombs. Following on from Dr Chapman was chemist and broadcaster, Andrea Sella, who spoke about the niche use of the rare earth elements in the electronics and renewable energy industries. Finally material scientist, Jess Wade, spoke on the complex but beautiful world of nanostructures, bringing the day to a fascinating end. It was such a privilege for the girls to hear



Drama visit to *The Doctor*

During the academic year, Drama pupils at St George's have the opportunity to take in a number of theatre productions that connect with their GCSE and A Level curricula.

The Drama Department's first theatre trip of the year was for the Sixth Form to see the acclaimed production of *The Doctor* at Richmond Theatre following its transfer from the West End. Year 10 and 11 enjoyed (either for a first or second, 'refresher' visit) to *The Woman in Black* at The Fortune Theatre in London in preparation for the question they would have to answer in their GCSE on a live theatre performance they have seen. GCSE and A Level Drama classes also went to Woking Theatre to see the celebrated production of *Ocean at the End of the Lane* having completed its run at the National Theatre and in the West End. The girls' responses to the production showcased the depth a live performance brings to their understanding of a text.

'We thought the play was a genius piece of theatre. The set was very artistic and the lighting was powerful. The physical theatre was choreographed incredibly and was engaging throughout.'

Anya and Feli, Year 11

'The use of physical theatre was very effective in enhancing the suspense and mystery associated with the supernatural elements of the play.'

Olivia and Izzy, Lower Sixth

'The play was incredibly performed with creative elements that were cleverly shown through physical theatre, lighting and sound. I particularly enjoyed how it played with your perception of reality'

Jojo and Molly, Year 11.



The Young Writers' National Poetry Competition

In the spring term, pupils in Years 7, 8 and 9 entered pieces into The Young Writers' national poetry competition and the English Department was delighted that a large number of Georgians had their poems selected for publication. Chosen from thousands of entries, those selected were awarded a certificate to mark their achievement and received a physical copy of *The Power of Poetry - In Other Words* on publication.

Year 8 'Chair of the Future' English Competition

In the spring term, Year 8 pupils took part in an innovative project that explored alternative,

technology-led methodology for teaching non-fiction persuasive writing, a first for the English Department at St George's. Working in teams, they were tasked with designing the Chair of the Future with a view to ultimately presenting their product to a Dragon's Den style panel of judges.

The project included thinking about branding, design and advertising as well as how they would ultimately present their product to their target audience putting their understanding of non-fiction writing into effect for a specific purpose, audience and form. Head of Business and Economics, Mr Wilkins and current parent, Mr Martin proved Dragon-like in their judging, ultimately settling on the ProChair Team as the winners of the competition.

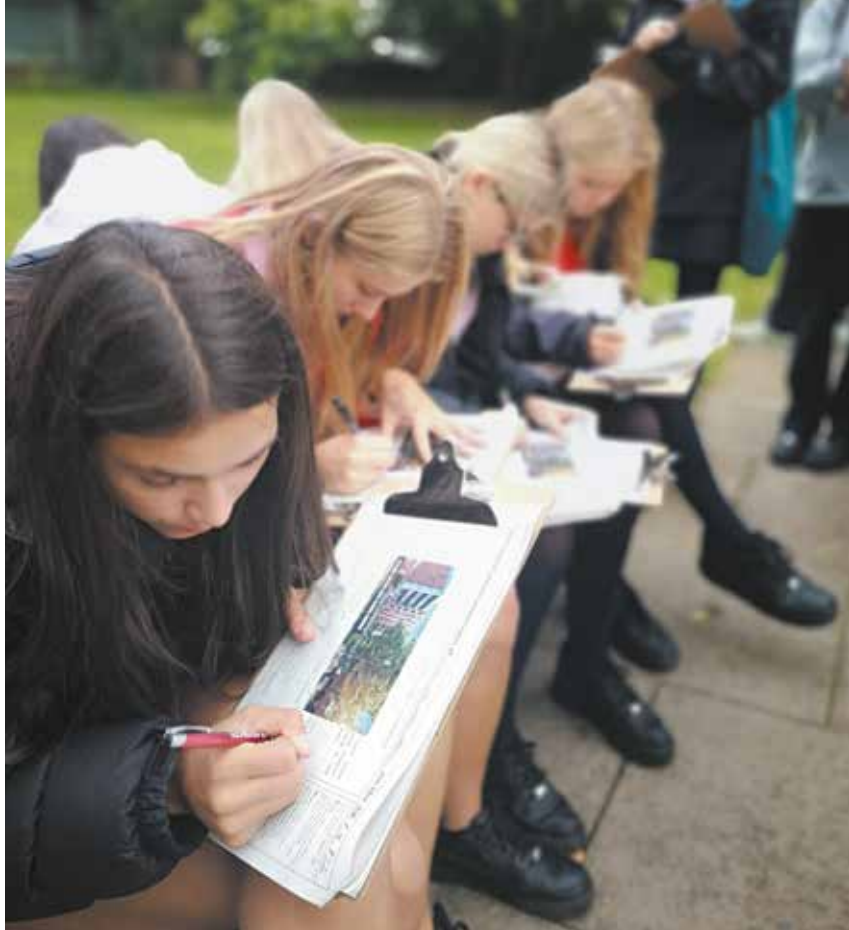




Geography Field Trips

In September, the Year 11 geographers set off for the banks of the Tillingbourne and the market town of Leatherhead to complete the practical element of their GCSE. In the morning, the girls completed an urban study in Leatherhead looking at the success of the regeneration scheme there and in the afternoon, they donned their wellies to investigate how the characteristics of the River Tillingbourne change as one moves downstream.

In May, the Lower Sixth Geographers ventured to Somerset in order to explore different investigation sites and fieldwork techniques to prepare for their non-exam assessment (NEA). On day one the sun was shining in the village of Watchet where the girls investigated what affected the town's sense of place. The following days involved visits to Porlock Bay to investigate coastal processes and



Minehead to evaluate the coastal management, allowing the girls to consider possible investigation

questions and then actually carry out their data collection later in the week.



Year 10 History trip to Berlin

By 11am on the last day of the spring term, the Year 10 historians were outside the Reichstag in Berlin hearing how the German Empire was formed and being challenged on who burnt down the building in 1933! The busy schedule of visits continued with a sobering visit to the Holocaust memorial after which the group went down to the Bebelplatz where the infamous book burning took place in the same year.



After a much needed night's rest, everyone made their way out to Sachsenhausen which pupil, Amber, found the most interesting of the trip as 'it became very clear how bad the conditions were.' As the historical focus moved from the Nazi period to the Cold War, Sunday was spent at the Stasi Prison. The group then went to Treptow Park, which houses the most incredible Soviet War Memorial. It is not something easily forgotten with the story of the Soviet contribution to WW2 depicted on the blocks leading up to the main memorial.



In the afternoon, the group visited the East Side Gallery Wall to view the various artistic representations displayed there. Then finally, onto Head of History, Mrs Kratt's favourite, the DDR museum which she thinks is the most fascinating and interactive museum ever!

With over 20,000 steps taken every day, and endless jumping on and off trains, trams and buses, the girls finished their trip exhausted, but much more richly educated by what they had seen and experienced.



it to the top and listened to old French music whilst enjoying the vast view.

Yr 9 History and French Trip to Normandy

Each of the days of our Normandy trip was jam-packed with amazing activities, including learning about the history of WWII in that area, splashing around on beaches, exploring local markets, and wandering the streets of small French towns. We had conversations with people in French, asking them for directions or buying things, which strengthened our French speaking skills. We bought souvenirs for our families and feasted on ice cream.

Our favourite day was when we went to an island called Mont-Saint-Michel, crossing the causeway on a very cramped shuttle bus. The island has a huge mediaeval castle built on top of a steep hill. It was beautiful, and the two of us made

Although there were many light-hearted activities, we also got to see the masses and masses of graves from WWII lined up neatly in rows as far as the eye could see. The size of the cemeteries and the number of graves was appalling, and all of us were moved to hear some of the sad stories of individual soldiers and the sacrifice they had made as part of the war effort. At times though their stories were also very interesting, giving detail to our historical understanding, and some of the tales that our tour guide told us were extremely heart-warming.

We returned safely back home, but we were genuinely very reluctant to leave, because we had such an incredible time.

Jeanne-Marie and Sakina,
Year 9





Historical Association Great Debate at Brighton Hill Community College, Basingstoke

Lower Sixth pupil, Charlotte, represented St George's at the Historical Association's Great Debate at Brighton Hill Community School in January, engaging the audience very effectively with a fascinating speech on 'What Does History Mean to Me?' Charlotte shared her father's history explaining how the use of primary source letters that he had written (currently held in the Imperial War Museum) had helped her to understand her father's experience more clearly. They had also shown her the cyclical nature of history and how one can have better relationships with family and friends through a more in depth understanding of the past.



History Lectures to celebrate 100 Years of Excellence in Girls' Education at SGA

St George's welcomed Professor Sarah Ansari, SouthEast Asian Historian from Royal Holloway College, to speak at the first of a series of History Lectures to celebrate 100 years of

Excellence in Girls' Education at SGA. Professor Ansari spoke impressively about the Partition of India in 1948, helping pupils to understand the reasons for it and its impact on national and international relations today.

Association of Art History Annual Conference at National Gallery, London

Organised by the Association of Art History, "Ways of Seeing" is the highlight of any year for young art historians. The theme this year was Nature, which, fortuitously, was one of the themes the St George's pupils were studying for their Art History A Level examination.

The girls enjoyed listening to a fantastic lineup of presenters including Dr James Fox, BAFTA-nominated broadcaster and art historian, Clare Nadal, Barbara Hepworth and Matthew Morgan, Director of Turner's House, Cassius Ashcroft and Articulation alumni and artist, Saroj Patel. They provided inspiring insights into how artists working in various media in the past and present draw inspiration from nature to create world class art.



Visit to the Royal Academy of Arts

In February, the SGA Art Historians and A Level Spanish pupils took a trip to the Royal Academy in London to view the Spain and the Hispanic World exhibition.

"The Spain and the Hispanic World exhibition at the Royal Academy widened my knowledge on the Spanish and Hispanic history that has shaped our world today, as well as allowing me to see all the amazing artwork done by incredibly skilled Spanish and Hispanic artists."

Charlotte,
Lower Sixth



History of Art Trip to St Ives

During the exeat weekend in March, the A Level Fine Art and History of Art pupils in the Lower Sixth enjoyed their residential trip to the Barbara Hepworth Museum and Tate Gallery in St Ives, Cornwall.



After a five hour train journey everyone was ready to stretch their legs on arrival and immediately joined a walking tour with a landscape artist from the St Ives School of Painting. The group had a go at en plein air drawing, following the steps of 20th Century Modernist artists such as Peter Lanyon and Ben Nicholson. On Saturday the group visited the Barbara Hepworth Museum and Sculpture Garden and the Tate St Ives Barbara Hepworth Art and Life exhibition, seeing many works of art in person that the girls had studied during the spring term as part of their Nature and Art module. Beautiful sunrises, cream teas and strolling up and down the picturesque streets of St Ives in spring weather made the trip even more memorable.

“Spending the weekend in St Ives really made me appreciate and understand Barbara Hepworth’s work as I began to feel a personal connection to it and better understood where she got her inspiration from.”

Kinza,
Lower Sixth



Classics trips to Bath

Aquae Sulis, or the modern day City of Bath, is a classicist’s dream with its thermae so beautifully preserved for the modern visitor to enjoy. In September, the GCSE Classics and Latin pupils visited the ancient Roman city to learn about the various stages of a citizen’s trip to the Roman baths in the 2nd century AD. Pupils identified the tepidarium, frigidarium and caldarium based on various artefacts such as a strigil, a toga and remnants of mosaics, frescoes and roof tiles. Models of the previous architecture of the baths and holograms of typical Roman citizens playing games and socialising with each other, demonstrated the common activities that took place in the baths long ago. To end the trip the girls actually tasted the bath water which is sourced from hot springs and contains upward of 50 minerals. A very unpleasant taste to finish a superb day!

In November, Year 9 had their chance to visit Bath too, enjoying an educational workshop that

helped the girls understand and experience first hand what life would have been like in Roman times.

Classics trip to Italy

The Classics trip for Year 8, 9 and 10 pupils to Italy in the Easter holidays was a very beneficial experience for those who were lucky to go, helping us all to become more independent as travellers and more knowledgeable as pupils.





School community was spoiled by the catering staff who put on a feast each day, taking everyone to Spain, Italy, Cuba, Brazil and France accompanied by live music from the talented Music Department. On Wednesday, tutor groups' geographical knowledge was tested by an international-themed quiz and, in MFL lessons, girls took part in various fun tasks on languages and world culture. To finish the week, Madame Tea held her annual international shortbread decorating competition with some creative, themed results.

On arrival in Rome, we immediately left to visit the site of the ancient town of Ostia which had impressive mosaics and a well-preserved theatre and bath house. We enjoyed a couple of busy days in Rome itself visiting well-known sites such as the Colosseum and the Forum, then travelled on to Sorrento on the famous Amalfi coast. Our favourite dinner of the trip was at the Galatea Farm nearby, where we enjoyed the pizza the owners had made with their own produce. We were also introduced to all of their animals and saw how Italian burrata was made. We also managed to hike to the top of Mount Vesuvius, and enjoyed fascinating tours of Pompeii and Herculaneum, shopped for souvenirs and particularly loved ice-cream making and tasting.

Sally D, Sophia and Betty,
Year 8

MFL International Languages Week

Every year the Modern Foreign Languages Department keenly celebrates International Languages Week to coincide with the European Day of Languages on 26 September. During assembly at the start of the week, pupils were encouraged



to see the link between different cultures and their music and the Upper Sixth linguists presented a video of both pupils and staff being asked, in French or Spanish, about their favourite foreign song; who knew that SGA was so European in their taste? The

A Level French trip to Paris

At the start of the Easter holidays, the GCSE and A Level French pupils departed on a 5-day trip to Paris.

Once we had arrived at our hotel, we met our animateur, Anthony, who helped us practise our French in light of our upcoming speaking exams. We visited the Latin Quarter and enjoyed our first French coffee before heading back past Notre Dame.

On the second day, we visited the Musée D'Orsay gallery before enjoying lunch in the Jardin des Tuileries, next to the Louvre. After



that, we walked the steep hill up to Montmartre and the striking white Sacre Cœur church before having free time to explore the area.

The next day, we went to the cinema to watch the iconic french film *Amelie* which was set in Montmartre. Then we headed to the Arc de Triomphe before doing some shopping on the Champs-Elysees.

On our last full day in Paris, we enjoyed some modern art at the Centre Pompidou to look at some modern art before getting on a Bateau Mouche to see Paris from a different perspective. Once we got off the boat, Miss Pierre surprised us with a trip up the Eiffel Tower.

Hannah, Lucy and Kendra,
Upper Sixth

Year 8 Trip to Spain

On 19 June, Year 8 embarked on a very exciting trip to Spain. Although it was an early rise, the girls were full of enthusiasm to be on the road and the early start meant they had plenty of time on their first day to explore the town of Fuengirola, where they were staying and also use the pool in the hotel. After an early night, day two began with a coach trip to Córdoba, a beautiful and historic city in Spain. There the girls visited the infamous Mezquita and learnt how a Mosque and a Cathedral became part of one building.

The next day, the group travelled to Granada to visit the beautiful gardens of the Alhambra Palace. The girls also had some time to try tapas, which they all really enjoyed. Day four was a very active day, with a paella making class in the morning, a trip to Malaga in the afternoon to explore the shops. Before leaving, the girls enjoyed a flamenco lesson, which was taught in Spanish – a great opportunity for the girls to practise both their dancing and their language skills! It was a wonderful trip that allowed the girls to immerse themselves in Spanish culture and also build on their friendships with each other.



Sports Scholars

The sports scholars and exhibition holders were treated to a fascinating workshop from Sports Psychologist and Lifestyle Support Consultant, Letitia Rizan, from Sport Life at the end of November. As a teacher herself, Miss Rizan engaged brilliantly with the girls, helping them to think about the pros and cons of nervousness in sport and how they might manage the more unhelpful kind: anxiety. She spoke about mindfulness and being in the moment, the importance of strong breathing technique, visualisation and having a positive mental attitude and there was even the opportunity for the girls to take to the floor and engage in some progressive muscle relaxation! Many of our scholars are engaged in sport at a high level and the session provided useful and practical food for thought for them to apply both at St George's and at their clubs outside of school.



Scholars' Session with Strength and Conditioning Coach, Mr Watson

The Sports Scholars enjoyed an informative and exciting session in May led by Mr Watson, the SGA

Strength and Conditioning Coach. The session opened the pupils' eyes to more technical means of doing everyday sporting activity, such as how to make warm ups more effective, avoid injury and how to mimic game-like requirements.

The first of three objectives was to introduce the girls to a more dynamic and specific warm up for sports. The second was to work on acceleration through a drill which required them to run as fast as possible to catch a balloon before it made contact with the floor. The third objective was to help the girls achieve rapid changes of direction and help them to shape their approach to maximise efficiency.

"The session was very helpful as we learned fun and easy ways to build up our strength."

Sophie,
Lower Sixth

Parliament Week

UK Parliament Week (UKPW) in November is an annual national event which seeks to spread awareness of and engagement in the work of Parliament. Parliament Week at SGA started with an incredible PMQs with Upper Sixth pupils, Erin as Rishi Sunak, Jess as Keir Starmer and Hannah as the Speaker. The two leaders of the parties took their positions on either side of the chapel which had been staged to replicate the Chamber of the Commons. Each had supporters on either side of them all of whom were pupils studying Politics at SGA. 'Rishi' was grilled by 'Keir' on a variety of policies ranging from the cost of

living crisis to renewable energy. Rishi was subjected to further questioning from the opposition benches and then from the floor on issues ranging from private schooling to recyclable packaging. This main event was followed by a Parliament quiz the next day in tutor groups and, in the subsequent tutor group sessions, videos were shared explaining the workings of the House of Lords. Parliament Week closed with the exciting final of the SGA House Debating competition between Beckett and Churchill Houses.



Year 7 trip to Winchester Cathedral

Year 7 had a fantastic time exploring Winchester Cathedral for their Religious Studies trip in November.

“On Tuesday, we all went to Winchester to see the Cathedral. We were split into two groups and my group went straight to the Cathedral. There was a huge Christmas Tree and also a big window with glass pictures of Jesus and God that were smashed by the Romans and then pieced back together again. As we were touring around, I learned so much; we saw graves and learnt about their history and we saw holes, objects and things that were created hundreds of years ago! Afterwards we got to make our own stained glass window with just thin coloured paper. Overall, it was really fun!”

Georgia, Year 7

Their visit to the Cathedral included seeing the Sound II statue in the Crypt, climbing the pilgrims’ steps to St Swithun’s tomb on their knees and hearing the story of the diver, William Walker, whose work shoring up the walls of the foundations saved the Cathedral in the 19th century. They were also very fortunate to see the Winchester illuminated Bible, the largest of its kind, kept in the best condition

of all existent 12th century English bibles. A trip to the Christmas market, where many baubles were purchased, completed a wonderful day.

Year 8 trip to Guru Maneyo Granth Gurwara

In June, we visited the Guru Maneyo Granth Gurdwara, the Sikh place of worship in Slough. We had to cover our heads with a headscarf and take off our shoes as a sign of respect. We learnt about the Commitments of a Sikh, which include the 5Ks, the Punjabi language and Simran, a practice used to focus the mind.

We went to the gallery which had a lot of information and many pictures represented Sikhism and we answered questions based on the information we had seen.

We then visited the praying area of the Gurdwara. We washed our hands before entering the prayer hall and then those who wished to bowed down to the Guru Granth Sahib Ji. Lastly, we enjoyed the Langar, or the communal meal, which included Dhal, Roti and Parshad. We were all impressed by how much the Sikh community promotes generosity and equality for everyone no matter where they came from.

Liv, Year 8



Sport

Sports Review of the Year

It was a pleasure to welcome many pupils and parents to the Centenary Sports Review of the Year in the last week of the summer term. It was also a pleasure to hear from former Great Britain Badminton player, Gail Emms MBE, who was the keynote speaker for the evening. She spoke of developing resilience in sport; from her mother beating her in badminton to competing away from the UK with no supporters in the crowd in

China, experiences which forged a World Champion and Olympic silver medallist in badminton doubles.

All pupils who had participated in athletics, cricket, football, lacrosse, netball and swimming for each age group were asked to stand on the stage before the awards for their respective sports and age groups were read out. Many congratulations to all of those who achieved an award; they were thoroughly well deserved.

Sports Review of the Year
Netball Tour
Condover Hall
SGA's First Football Fixture
New Fitness Suite
National Lacrosse Championships

As well as being awarded Senior Valedictorian for her outstanding contribution and commitment to SGA sporting life, Millie closed the evening in her capacity as our outgoing Sports Prefect. She recognised the importance of the PE staff in her journey in sport at St George's as well as the lessons she has learnt in her time at the School, and the importance of other sporting benefits, such as friendship.





“

Pupils have many successful role models to look up to and are now widely participating, and excelling, in sport

”

Netball Tour to Abu Dhabi and Dubai

This year's much-awaited SGA Senior Netball Tour to Dubai and Abu Dhabi started on the Friday of the spring half term with three squads of players catching a busy evening flight from Heathrow to



Abu Dhabi. During the beautiful sunny week, the three teams played in tournaments against a selection of local schools and fellow British touring teams in Dubai as well as individual fixtures against Dubai English-Speaking College and the Dubai Hurricanes Netball Club, and in the Capital Netball Tournament in Abu Dhabi. The girls also enjoyed a stimulating whistlestop cultural programme including a 4x4 desert safari, and visits to



the Burj Khalifa, the Dubai Global Village, Kite Beach, the beautiful

Sheikh Zayed Grand Mosque in Abu Dhabi and Yas Waterworld. Obviously, their busy schedule was padded out with pool time and shopping trips that allowed the girls to relax!

Many of the players described the tour as the 'time of their lives', and it was a joy and pleasure to be part of those memories.

Mrs Simpson,
Deputy Head Pastoral



Condover Hall

In September a group of U13 pupils travelled to Condover Hall near Shrewsbury for a weekend of outdoor activities and netball. Upon arrival, the girls enjoyed an array of high adrenalin adventurous activities including climbing, abseiling, completing the 'leap of faith', high ropes, archery and the zip wire! They also listened to an inspirational talk from Ella Bowen, who was recently selected into the future England Roses programme.

On Saturday the girls played some fantastic netball winning all but one of their eight games. This put them at the top of their group



and, therefore, through to the top competition, the Trophy, on the Sunday. The next day, the girls faced the top teams in the competition and put on an excellent display of their skills throughout the matches. Overall, St George's came sixth out of 26 teams with Poppy S voted player of the tournament by the umpires.

First Football Fixtures for St George's

On 5 October, the St George's U12 and U14/15 football teams played in the inaugural Ascot Schools Football Tournament at LVS. St George's is fortunate to have a number of local rival schools in the Ascot area who are equally keen to develop new sports for girls and the SGA players were very excited to have the opportunity to take part. The U12 team played six matches in which their excellent defending gave a great foundation for the attack to put pressure on the opposition. St George's got through to the 3rd/4th place play off ultimately losing 3rd place to the LVS A team. The U14/U15 team played five strong matches and made it through to the final against the Marist A team. Sadly they lost by just one goal in the final, but it was an outstanding performance from their captain, Fong, and her team.

New Fitness Suite

The new St George's fitness suite, developed on the site of the old gym, opened in September 2022 and has proven a great hit with both pupils and staff. Strength and Conditioning Coach, Daryl Watson, joined SGA offering pupils the opportunity for one-to-one or paired coaching and there is a growing list of girls looking to learn how to get the most out of their time in the gym. The boarding community are certainly enjoying using it in their free time and Mrs Dunnage's 10-11am slot on a Saturday has been very popular, providing helpful balance for girls alongside their preparation for A Levels in the summer.



National Lacrosse Championships

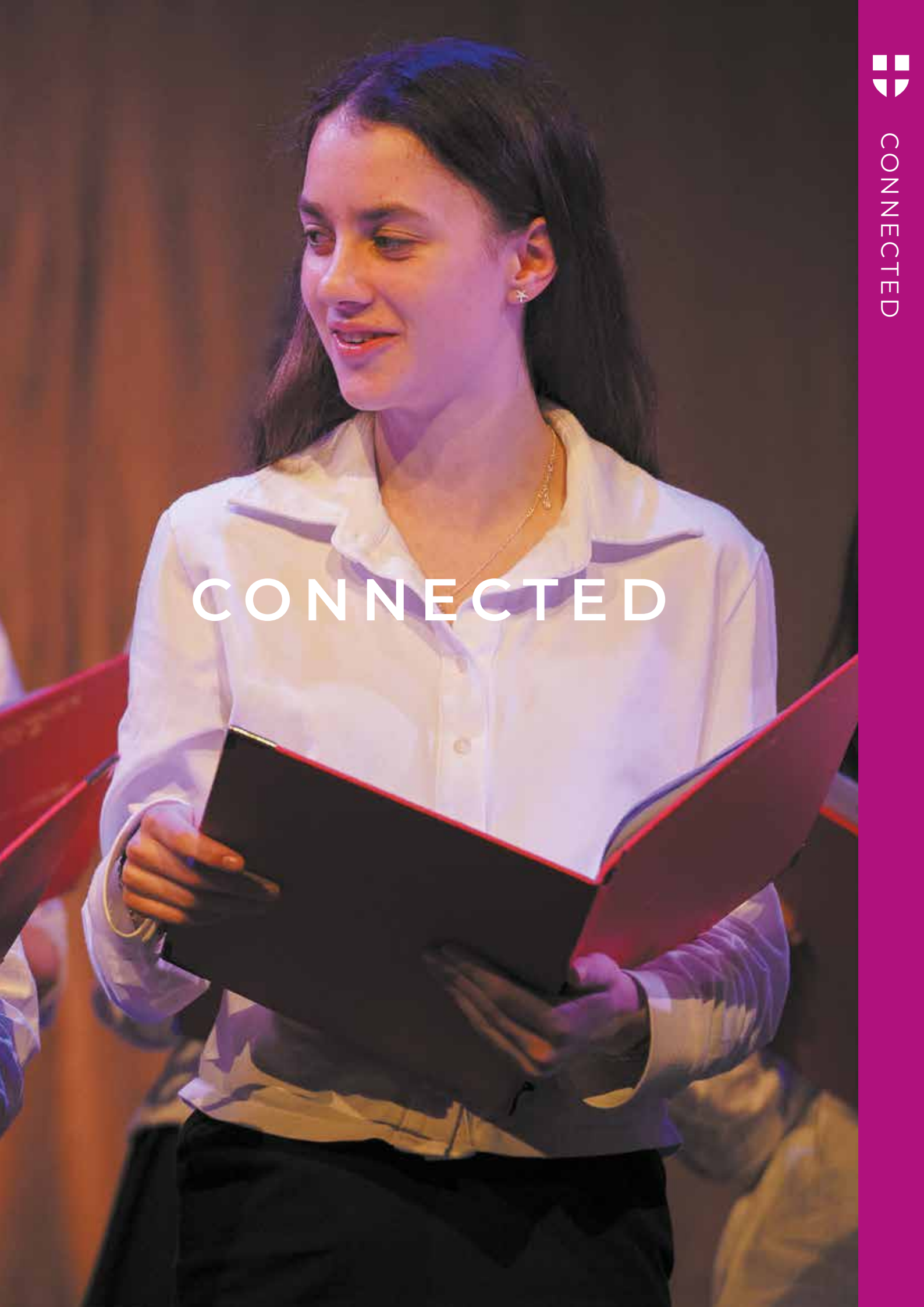


The senior and U15 lacrosse teams enjoyed taking part in their age group of the National Schools Lacrosse Championships in Aldershot in March. The senior lacrosse team started the event with two days of games. They faced some testing opposition but rose to the challenge admirably. After day one they were placed in Division 2 and they then went on to beat Queen Margaret's, York in the group games before sadly being knocked out by St George's, Edinburgh in the last sixteen.

Inclement weather on the Monday moved the U15 competition to the Tuesday which sadly resulted in the cancellation of the U14 event so SGA's younger teams will have to wait a year to take part. The U15 team were up against some much bigger schools, and kept good spirits throughout, learning much from the experience ready for the 2023-24 season.







CONNECTED



CONNECTED

The Connected SGA Community

- Reconnected Lunch
- Carols in the Quad & Christmas Dinner
- St George's Day Celebrations and Georgian Gallop
- The King's Coronation Celebratory Lunch
- Lower Sixth Dinners with Mrs Hewer
- Upper Sixth Leavers' Assembly
- Alumnae Reunion Lunch



Reconnected BBQ Lunch

Early in the autumn term the St George's community gathered for the annual #SGAreconnected celebratory BBQ lunch. It was a

beautiful afternoon for the event with groups of girls from across the school gathering on the South Lawn to catch up on holidays, and to welcome new faces into the SGA family.

Carols in the Quad & Christmas Dinner

Carols in the Quad proved to be an absolute highlight of last year's Christmas season and so it was a firm favourite to be included in this year's calendar of seasonal events. The girls enjoyed a non-uniform day on the penultimate day of term and then, early in the evening as the light faded, the whole school community gathered for enthusiastic carol singing in front of Markham House followed by the traditional Christmas Dinner and disco.





St George's Day Celebrations and Georgian Gallop

The traditional celebrations of St George's Day on 23 April fell on a Sunday this year providing the perfect timing for our Music and Readings for St George's Day chapel service which many pupils, their families and staff enjoyed.

The following week, the whole school gathered together on the sports pitches in the sunshine to take part in the annual Georgian Gallop in which pupils attacked obstacles in teams supported by vocal fellow house members on the tennis courts. It was a typically relaxed and buoyant afternoon and congratulations go to Churchill House for their victory overall.

The King's Coronation Celebratory Lunch

The Operations Team took delivery of the fantastic giant Centenary deck chair ready for the King's Coronation BBQ Celebration on 5 May. Pupils wore royalty-themed accessories and gathered on the South Lawn for a relaxed lunch with friends before the Coronation Bank Holiday weekend.

Lower Sixth House Dinners with Mrs Hewer

Mrs Hewer really enjoys annually hosting the Lower Sixth at a series of House Dinners and consistently finds the girls to be illuminating and excellent company. Taking conversations outside of the school day and giving this important year group time and space to process and reflect, significantly helps to build the open and close relationship between the Head and the pupils that both Mrs Hewer and the girls value so highly.

This year, conversations revolved around life in the Sixth Form,



whether in terms of the greater independence the girls enjoy or the higher standard and difficulty of work at A Level. The girls also shared their ambitions for the future and thoughts on leadership along with very affirming discussions about how they continue to achieve balance in life. All the girls remain fully



involved in the co-curricular life of the school with netball, dance, swimming, singing lessons, Leiths cookery, Young Enterprise, running clubs for younger girls and leading the school newspaper all on the list!

Despite the challenges, all the Lower Sixth felt they had chosen the right subjects for them, and Mrs Hewer particularly enjoyed the exchange that flowed from groups with such varied interests and broad subject choices.

Upper Sixth Leavers' Assembly

Before the Upper Sixth embarked on their A Level study leave, the whole school were fortunate to enjoy a final taste of this fun-loving, tight knit group of young women as they led their Leavers' Assembly on 27 April. Dressed as



Little Miss characters, the diverse talents and characters of the year group were lauded in a 'Georgies' awards ceremony compered by Alice and Erin. Teachers and staff who had particularly supported

them were thanked and a photo montage brought tears to the eye as the girls recalled the many memories that they had created during their time at SGA. Perhaps this could be said of every leaving cohort, but this year group have a palpable sense of balance and cohesion and will be greatly missed.

Alumnae Reunion Lunch

On a sunny afternoon in September, over 50 members of the St George's alumnae community gathered on the South Lawn for their first formal reunion for three years. Welcoming former staff members and pupils who had left the school as far back as 1951 and as recently as 2020, the event saw guests enjoy drinks on the South Lawn, a delicious lunch served in the dining room and, most importantly, tours of





the school taken by enthusiastic current pupils. Guests enjoyed meeting so many familiar faces again, as well as viewing the new

developments at St George's. Many commented that the school was almost unrecognisable from their time, and noted the many



positive changes that had been made over the decades, both in terms of the school's facilities and the resources available to pupils nowadays. Alumnae were particularly impressed to see the new swimming pool, and reminisced both fondly (and less fondly!) over the old pool which many rather ominously described as 'character building'!



House Life at SGA

Debating

The first battle of the House calendar reached its conclusion in November with the House Debating Final. The third-fourth play off between Alexander and Darwin had seen the teams speak on the motion "This House regrets the romanticisation of motherhood" whilst the final pitted the two stand-out teams from Churchill and Beckett against each other in debating the motion "This House would ban the use of digital manipulation in advertising, including social media ad content". This was a high-quality tussle with good use of points of information as well as speeches which targeted the motion and connected with the audience who responded with some probing questions in the floor debate. It was a close-run contest, but the excellent closing summary by Head Girl, Hannah, who picked up the award for Best Performer on the evening, saw Churchill crowned the Debating champions.



Swimming

The House Swimming competition for this year reached its culmination at the end of the autumn term when the Year 7 to 10 swimmers took to the pool for an uproarious and raucous afternoon of racing to secure points for their House. The senior swimmers had already raced during the previous week with Alexander House in the lead at the start of the day but, with the junior scores added, it was Churchill House who came out victors on the day.

- Debating
- Swimming
- Netball
- Art
- Music
- Lacrosse
- Tennis
- House Performing Arts
- House Athletics
- House Cricket

Netball

Having been delayed by the chilly weather conditions prior to Christmas, pupils from Alexander, Becket, Churchill and Darwin houses finally gathered late in February for this year's House Netball competition. It was a classic St George's morning of sport with good natured contests (and a lot of laughter!) combined with naturally competitive play. Churchill and Darwin won the Junior A and B competitions respectively whilst Alexander and Darwin drew for top position following a thrilling contest between the teams. Overall, however, Darwin House was announced the winner with the combined efforts of both Junior and Senior teams putting them at the top of the leaderboard.



Art

After weeks of hard work at lunchtimes and in club time from all the House Art teams, it was the Becket House team who were judged to be the winners of the 2022-2023 House Art competition by our previous Head of Art, Chris Fidler. Commenting on the piece she noted;

'This entry was skilfully painted and aesthetically pleasing. The owl was painted with wonderful detail, particularly on the head and face. It had vivid eyes. The use of texture on the hollow of the oak tree works well and is realistic. The moon is also very detailed and eye-catching.'



Music

Darwin began our ever-popular and much-rehearsed House Music competition with an enthusiastic rendition of One Direction's *What Makes You Beautiful* as their House song. Their junior soloist was Sarah, in Year 8, who played *Toccata* by Aram Khachaturian on the piano with remarkable maturity. Next up was Churchill whose intermediate soloist, Year 9 pupil, Jeanne-Marie played guitar and sang a soulful and exquisite version of Natalie Imbruglia's *Torn*. Their House song was the first of two Abba numbers across the afternoon, and everyone belted out *Super Trouper* with gusto.

The third entry of the afternoon was Alexander's and their senior soloist, Lower Sixth, Annie played Jeremy Norris' *La Parisienne* on the flute with eloquence and style. Their House song, Abba's *Angel Eyes*, featured some engaging choreography and a great sense of fun. Finally, it was the turn of Becket, who enthusiastically entered into the spirit of their House song, Bruno Mars' *Marry You*, with choreography and lyrics entwined. The final part of their programme, and of the whole

afternoon, was a House ensemble which saw the girls recreate the acappella, mash-up of songs that features at the conclusion of the film *Pitch Perfect*. It was hugely ambitious and was warmly applauded by the audience.

Ultimately, senior ABRSM examiner and judge, Robert Jones, awarded the Best Performance to Sarah from Darwin for her piano solo, whilst the 80 House Championship points for the winners was claimed by Churchill.

Lacrosse

In March, teams from all the Houses joined together on the sports pitches for the annual House Lacrosse competition. It was a pleasure, as always, to see girls of all capabilities joining together in friendly competition and the usual heavy dose of face paint in the four colours of the Houses and the cheers of friends along the sideline made for a wonderful afternoon of sport. It was the red teams from Darwin House who came out on top on the day.



Tennis

Over the summer term, the Senior and Junior House tennis teams battled it out during lesson and co-curricular time for this year's House Tennis title. Churchill House showed their force throughout the



Junior tournament whilst Alexander came out top of the Senior games. When the scores were added up, however, it was Churchill who were announced as winners.

House Performing Arts

As part of the SGA Centenary Celebrations, the annual House Performing Arts competition took place late in the summer term. The brief was that the performances needed an influence from the

1920s, the decade of St George's foundation as an academic school for girls.

Becket House's programme was all taken from, or influenced by, *Singing in the Rain* and presented by House Captain Elect, Portia. Year 10 Maya choreographed a ballet piece to the strains of *Singing in the Rain*. The B House group number saw Year 7 and 8 pupils dancing enthusiastically to *Make 'em Laugh*. The solo drama



performance was delivered by Ishpel in Year 9, and the group drama performance was Lower Sixth pupils acting a comic scene from the film.

Alexander House Captain Elect, Ava introduced their programme beginning with a dramatic solo modern dance performance from Year 7 Svetlana. The group drama offering was a scene from *Charlie and the Chocolate Factory*, whilst Year 7 Harriet gave an impassioned solo performance. Lower Sixth pupils provided a wiseguy-costumed number with plenty of jazz hands!

Charlotte, Churchill House's Captain Elect, introduced their performances with a starting duologue from the musical *Chicago*. The group number was a jazz number choreographed to *Diamonds are a Girl's Best Friend* which included some sensational gymnastics from Year 7 Eliza. The group piece was also taken from *Charlie and the Chocolate Factory*, whilst the solo dance performance was Lower Sixth Charlotte's interpretation of a song from *Anastasia*.

Darwin House Captain Elect, Olivia introduced Lower Sixth Nyah who performed a monologue from *Bugsy Malone*. Whilst Year 9 Tabby contributed the solo dance performance to the *Bugsy* theme tune. The group drama piece took place in a prohibition era 'speakeasy' with Year 8 Florence providing a star turn as a gangland boss. The group dance was a jazz number to accompany *Fat Sam's Grand Slam*, also from *Bugsy Malone*.

The scoring and prize winners were announced by our visiting judge, teacher of Drama at Charters School, Miss Annesley. The best dancer was Churchill's Charlotte, whilst the best actor was Florence for Darwin. The placing of the Houses was very tough with only a single point separating the top two. However, the overall winners were Darwin.

House Athletics

After a morning of field events, in the afternoon 30 June, the entire school came down to the sports pitches for House Athletics dressed proudly in their House colours to either compete or support their fellow House members. The day was filled with track and field events and many successes.

It was impressive to see a number of school records broken. Alex



in Year 7 broke the 600m record running the course in 2.15 mins. Manon in Year 9 broke the junior record and ran the 800m in 2.56 mins. Charlotte broke the 800m senior record with a time of 2.40 mins. Lastly, the Year 10 100m relay record was broken by Charlotte, Lulu, Callie and Dominique. Well done to all who competed and thank you to all the supporters. Congratulations to the overall winner of the House Athletics for 2023, Darwin with 207 points.

House Cricket

At the beginning of July the cricket season culminated with Junior and Senior House Cricket. Despite the day starting with some rather wet and windy conditions, it finished in glorious sunshine and allowed for some excellent batting and fielding performances. The Junior and Senior competitions were both won by Churchill. The standard on display was fantastic and the progress that has been made throughout this term was clear to see and the PE department look forward to moving towards hard ball over the year ahead.



House Parties

Alexander

Early in the new year, the pupils and families of Alexander House gathered together for our annual House Party, this year *Mamma Mia*-themed. The Sixth Form had turned the dining room into a Greek restaurant full of pink and blue floral decorations with one of the windows dressed to look out over a Greek sunset. The ambiance was completed with impressive coloured spotlights and, with the entire ABBA collection of songs playing, all our guests enjoyed the full 'Mamma Mia Experience'.

The evening was a great success, full of fun and a lovely way to commemorate the Upper Sixth girls' last House Party.

Connie,
Alexander House Captain



Becket

Early in February, the Becket community held its highly-

anticipated annual House Party. After some consideration and strong debate, we decided on the theme of The Oscars. We began with drinks for parents, then enjoyed dinner in the dining room with a photobooth and interactive forms for voting for who was best dressed, and photos of iconic award show moments. After dinner, everyone enjoyed incredible performances from girls from across all year groups. It was a wonderful evening and everyone had a great time.

Erin,
Becket House Captain



Churchill

Just before Christmas, Churchill House celebrated our annual House Party with this year's theme being espionage. With the help of the Sixth Form and pupils from Year 11, the dining room was filled with black and gold decorations. To make our evening a multimedia experience we had James Bond movie clips projected on the wall and appropriately themed spy music playing as well as our creatively produced posters with Churchill teachers photoshopped



into a James Bond scene. After dinner, the party moved over to the Cormack Hall where we had girls from Year 7 to Upper Sixth showcasing their talents and we were also entertained by a number of group dances. To finish the evening on a high, the party ended with our House Song, *Year 3000* by Busted. Overall, the evening was a great success and everyone had a great time.

Kendra,
Churchill House Captain

Darwin

Just after the autumn half-term, the families of Darwin gathered to celebrate a firework themed House Party. The dining room was full of sparkly decorations and a projection of fireworks displayed on the wall. Dinner and great conversation was followed by a programme of brilliant performances from the girls. We finished the entertainment off with our energetic House Song, *Heart Skips a Beat* by Olly Murs, the perfect end to a fantastic evening.

Lucy,
Darwin House Captain



Charity Connections

The St George's community traditionally vote for three charities to support throughout the academic year chosen from a shortlist working in the health, poverty and justice, and environmental sectors. At the start of the academic year, our new Charity Committee led a very informative assembly outlining the shortlisted options and then everyone in the school community had the opportunity to vote. The three charities chosen for 2022-23 were Winston's Wish who support young people through bereavement, Love Nepal, The Tara Project working to help women in Nepal and Ocean Conservancy, who advocate and work for cleaner oceans.

Jeans for Genes

Throughout the year, SGA shows its support for specific causes with involvement in a number of charitable days. To kick start the charitable year, on 23 September, all

of the school community enjoyed a non-uniform day of denim to mark Jeans for Genes day which raises money to support children affected by genetic disorders.

Harvest Collection for Wokingham Food Bank

St George's celebrated the Harvest Festival at the end of September with the whole school gathering in Chapel to think about generosity towards others and gratitude for the good things we enjoy. Throughout the first three weeks of term, pupils brought in donations of food, toiletries and household items to send to Wokingham Food Bank, creating a colourful and plentiful display on the Chapel steps. The produce was then transported to the Food Bank by a group of Upper and Lower Sixth pupils, including Charity Prefect, Jessica.

On arrival at the warehouse, the group were able to see the



Jeans for Genes

Harvest Collection for Wokingham Food Bank

Poppy Appeal and Link to Hope Shoebox Appeal

Year 11 Festive Fair

Pyjama Day and Lower Sixth Charity Quiz

Year 9 Sponsored Walk

Year 10 Movie-themed Charity Day

Create Arts Bake Sale

Year 8 Teacher for the Day

Year 7 Charity Fete



Food Bank's expanded premises and hear about the work they do, supporting individuals and families who are struggling in these difficult times. The gifts from SGA weighed in at an impressive 221.15 kgs and the girls then set to work, unpacking, sorting, labelling and storing the huge variety of items that the school community, and others, had contributed. The girls also presented the Foodbank with a cash donation of £100 collected at the evening service of Music and Readings for Harvest.

Poppy Appeal and Link to Hope Shoebox Appeal

The annual Poppy Appeal for the Royal British Legion was well supported in the autumn, with an array of paper poppies, metal poppy pin badges and hand knitted poppies (made by a pupil's grandmother). The collected



donations from poppies and from the Remembrance Chapel Service collection came to £280. It was also encouraging to see shoeboxes for Link to Hope steadily appear in the Chapel and, in the end, 30 boxes full of Christmas presents for families in Ukraine, Romania, Bulgaria and Moldova were collected.

Year 11 Festive Fair

During one of our Co-curricular clubs in December, the Year 11 pupils hosted a Festive Fair to raise funds for the three chosen school charities, Love Nepal, Winston's Wish and Ocean Conservancy. There was a delightful smorgasbord of games and stalls for everyone to enjoy, from 'hot chocolate pong', in which those who successfully bounced a ping pong ball into a cup were awarded hot chocolate,



through to face painting, temporary tattoos, Guess the Name of the Teddy and the number of sweets in the jar. The girls enjoyed candyfloss, cookie dough and a chocolate fountain alongside the usual abundance of biscuits and cakes and, given the delectable nature of everything on offer, perhaps it is no surprise that the event raised an incredible £812 for charity.

Pyjama Day and Lower Sixth Charity Quiz

There was a bonanza charity day at St George's at the end of January with pupils, and



even various members of staff, enjoying a non-uniform day in their pyjamas to raise funds for our three chosen charities for the year. The day concluded on an entertainment high with the whole school gathering for a quite brilliant Lower Sixth school quiz pitting Risky Quizness (Mrs Hewer, Mr Wright, Mrs Allen, Mrs Sutton-Jennings and Mr Schofield) against Pie in the Sky (Mr Wilkins, Mrs Kratt, Mr Naeem, Mr Hoar and Mrs Tea) in the battle of the teachers. Laying our staff's knowledge of contemporary culture aside, praise must go to Lower Sixth pupils, Judit and Portia who compered the event with a languid grace and dramatic aplomb synonymous with the most experienced of entertainers! A wonderful afternoon at St George's that finished with Pie in the Sky as victors.





Year 9 Sponsored Walk

On a bright sunny Monday afternoon in spring, Year 9, accompanied by Miss Prokopenko and Mr Schofield, completed a sponsored walk during their Co-curricular club time. They walked from School to Ascot racecourse and back to raise money for the three school charities of the year.

Year 10 Movie-themed Charity Day

Just before Easter, Year 10 pupils organised a movie-themed non-uniform day to raise funds. Non-uniform days always have a relaxed and happy vibe and the girls obviously enjoyed dipping into the fancy dress box to emulate characters from movies, past and present. During Co-curricular club time, the girls actually 'went to the movies' with a choice of three films on offer in L04, the Sue Cormack Hall and the Chapel for everyone to enjoy. Year 10 had sourced an amazing array of drinks, snacks and sweets as part of the ticket price and it is a credit to their great organisation and the generous contributions of the school community that St George's raised £1,273 for our three chosen charities.



Create Arts Bake Sale

In the spring, Lower Sixth A Level Fine Art pupil, Isabella organised a bake sale as part of her Extended Project Qualification (EPQ) raising nearly £500 for the charity, Create Arts. She explains something of the background to her project choice:



'I wanted to relate my EPQ project to art because that has been a life-long passion of mine and always will be. I was drawn to Create Arts in particular because the charity helps several groups of disadvantaged children, promoting inclusivity and engagement through many different forms of creative arts. The funds I raise will specifically help young primary students in schools that are in areas of deprivation who do not have art as part of their school timetable.

My wider goal has been to research and ultimately to support an initiative which promotes children's mental health and, based on the research I have conducted as part of my EPQ (as well as my own personal experience) I have found that art and the creative process can have a profoundly positive impact on a child's mental health.'

Year 8 Teacher for the Day

On Wednesday, 28 and Thursday, 29 June, a number of Year 8 joined the teaching staff for the day and enjoyed leading from the front of the classroom to raise money for our three SGA charities, Winston's Wish, Ocean Conservancy and Love Nepal: the Tara Project. It was, perhaps, no surprise that our pupils took

to the role with remarkable ease and there was a wonderful mix of productivity and laughter in a number of subject classes over both days. How to make slime in Biology, Classics bingo, learning Chinese calligraphy in English, an SGA Olympics in PE and making dumplings and Eton Mess in the Food Technology and Cookery room were just a few of the tasks taught with authority. Well done to all those girls who prepared so thoroughly and contributed to such a fun atmosphere in the classroom whilst also raising £280 for charity.

Year 7 Charity Fete

On Wednesday, 28 June, Year 7 hosted a tremendous charity fete to raise money for our three SGA charities. The slopes outside the Swimming Pool were full of parents and pupils enjoying a truly sweet affair, with slushies and bubble tea, ice creams and pick 'n mix bags available for the sweet-toothed. The highlight, however, was undoubtedly Mr Wright and Mrs Simpson having a go at eating the doughnut off the string hands-free and their stirring efforts were met with whoops of delight from the girls. So much work had gone into creating beautiful stalls and products and well done to the girls for raising £829 for our three School charities.



Futures

Insurance
Chiropractic
Marketing
STEM
Risk and Intelligence
Futures Skills



Jane Fenton

Insurance

A number of pupils joined alumna Jane Fenton for lunch in October to hear her speak about her career in the insurance industry. Mrs Fenton spoke enthusiastically about the diversity of roles that are available within the insurance industry, such as CAT modeller, actuarial scientist, broker or underwriter! She explained that the industry catered to an array of different areas of interest and, rather than being overly focused on mathematical capability, it was more about relating to people and creating networks of interest. She also shared with the girls about the professional qualifications available to them should they decide on this as a career path.



Dr Lauren Pienaar

Chiropractic

Dr Lauren Pienaar from the Ascot Chiropractic Clinic joined a group of pupils for a careers lunch in November. Dr Pienaar talked about the pleasure she takes in a job in which she is able to benefit her patients, both in terms of both their physical health and mental

wellbeing. She explained how satisfying it was as a job, being flexible, physical, and a role in which you leave work behind on exiting the practice.

Marketing

In the spring term, a number of Lower and Upper Sixth pupils gathered in the SLR at lunchtime to hear both from Deputy Head of Sixth Form and Head of Psychology, Mrs Shingles on degree apprenticeships and from Director of Marketing and External Communications, Ms Cooper about how she had forged her marketing career to date.

STEM

Pupils from Year 9, Lower Sixth and Upper Sixth were fortunate to attend a talk from, and discussion with, Senior Technical Manager at 3M, Mrs Sarah Chapman.



Mrs Sarah Chapman



Mrs Chapman talked about her time in college, how she swapped two of her A levels after just one term and how she found a passion for Chemistry because of a very inspiring teacher. Her experience of loving the sciences but not knowing what path she might take beyond school resonated with many of us. Mrs Chapman discussed how desirable a degree in science is and how many doors it opens for young people today. It was fascinating to hear about the many different careers that involve science and encouraging that they don't all involve the stereotypical image of someone in a white lab coat mixing chemicals! It was exciting to hear her advocate for gender equality in STEM education and in the workplace and hear stories of women in companies such as 3M, breaking through the 'glass ceiling'.

Jessica, Lower Sixth.

Risk and Intelligence

During Stretch Week a group of pupils attended a virtual Careers Lunch with SGA alumna, Jemima Mackenzie. Jemima shared her educational journey from St George's, to King's College, London and then on into the world of intelligence and risk. Having worked in locations such as the USA and the Middle East, her current role with Morgan Stanley is based in the UK. She encouraged the pupils to be open minded about their careers options, admitting that she had never imagined her current work when she was a pupil in Ascot. She also encouraged the girls that a grounding in STEM created a real breadth of career choices. This was further reinforced by Jemima's two colleagues who joined the call to talk about their work in coding which prompted a number of questions from fascinated pupils.

Futures Skills

Tinker Tailor is an important Futures partner to St George's and regularly hosts workshops for pupils to particularly look at skills and techniques that will help them prepare for further education. The main focus of the Year 11 session in November was self-awareness and providing a more detailed and interesting answer to the dreaded interview question, "Tell us about yourself".

In March, their second half-day seminar was focused on thinking about to which careers their skills, personality, interests and values might be suited. The girls received advice on how to create and start managing their personal brand, with a particular focus on CV creation. There were also lots of tips on how to look for work experience and how to make the most of every career opportunity.



Virtual Careers Lunch with Jemima Mackenzie

Philanthropy, Partnerships and Outreach

St George's strives to provide a broad education that extends well beyond the classroom. Through our Co-curricular activity and Enrichment Programme of speakers, we look to promote active citizenship, educating and inspiring our pupils to make a positive impact in their local and global communities. We aim to cultivate a philanthropic mindset, fostering lasting pupil engagement in social change both within and beyond our school.

As a school we want to lead by example. Through our Partnerships and Outreach programme we continue to collaborate with local schools, charities, and organisations to create meaningful learning and personal development opportunities for our girls and for those in our local community and beyond.

Sixth Form Visits to Signature Care Home in Ascot

Every Friday afternoon, St George's offers its Sixth Form pupils the opportunity to visit the Signature



Care Home in Ascot. The girls voluntarily spend time chatting to the residents and as the weeks have passed, they have begun to build charming friendships with them. Chatting with residents from a very different generation of life helps to broaden our pupils' perspective on life, allows them to engage with the local community and give of their time in a philanthropic way and provides valuable balance in an inevitably focused period of their lives.

"I just want to thank you for bringing your lovely girls along this afternoon. The residents really enjoyed their company and were asking if they could stay for dinner with them, so clearly they were a big hit!"

From the Signature Care Home

Lower Sixth A Level Drama pupils work with young children from Cheapside School in Ascot

Pupils studying Drama in the Lower Sixth started visiting Cheapside School in Ascot on Wednesday afternoons to run sessions which help the children to explore the potential of drama to build confidence as they prepare and deliver live performances for their friends. Read below some of our girls' thoughts on why they wanted to be involved in this new philanthropic project, and what they are getting from the experience.

"I think the last three weeks of teaching the primary school children drama has been a very

Sixth Form Visits to Signature Care Home in Ascot

Lower Sixth A Level Drama pupils work with young children from Cheapside School in Ascot

Year 8 Classics and Drama Workshop with Charters School

Activities Day for Connaught School

Music Education Day

Enrichment



big eye opener for me, in terms of developing my leadership skills and being able to connect with people younger than myself."

Ava

Year 8 Classics and Drama Workshop with Charters School

In March, a group of Year 8 pupils from Charters School joined Year 8 Classics and Latin pupils from SGA to work on Homer's Odyssey. Pupils worked in groups of varying sizes to present, through speech and action, the concept of the Greek hero, Odysseus. Much fun was had creating representations of the monsters Odysseus encounters, e.g. the cyclops and the scylla. Highlights of the morning were an improvised Haka and an elaborate version of the game, Rock, Paper Scissors. Pupils enjoyed learning a lot about Greek theatre and epic and literary concepts such as allegory.



The emphasis throughout the morning was on working as a team to tell stories and communicate ideas through sound and motion. Tilda from Splendid Theatre did an excellent job in enabling all the pupils to feel confident about their performances and find pleasure in learning.

Activities Day for Connaught School

Just before Easter, a group of pupils from Connaught Junior School in Bagshot visited St George's for a multi-activities day. The children's programme started with a lively drumming session with Music staff and then swiftly moved to the world of pop lacrosse with the PE team. A chance to conduct a fireworks experiment and make a pH rainbow in the science laboratories was followed by a Drama workshop run by Lower Sixth A Level dramatists, Oona, Nyah, Milly, Olivia and Ava who ran an exciting treasure hunt around the school grounds.





Music Education Day

It was a pleasure to welcome pupils from St Michael's School Sunninghill for a Music Education Day early in the summer term. Director of Music, Mr Hillier, and his staff provided a busy and stimulating programme, from drumming to taking part in a choir, which helped the children to enjoy the pleasure of making music in new ways and exploring its many sounds and forms.

Enrichment

Throughout the year, all of our Lower and Upper Sixth pupils enjoy one Enrichment lesson a week, taking the girls away from their studies and connecting them with the world outside of St George's. The programme is designed around five themes: British Values, Healthy Lives, Positive Relationships, Futures and Diversity and throughout the year SGA welcomes a number of external speakers who help the girls to think more widely and thoroughly about the world they will join.

"In September we attended a talk at Heathfield School given by feminist activist Dr Helen Pankhurst, Emmeline Pankhurst's great granddaughter. Dr Pankhurst educated us on the finer details of the women's suffrage movement, spoke about her past experiences and the Pankhurst family history,

whilst placing emphasis on her hopes for the future of feminism. We were encouraged by Dr Pankhurst to ask questions, share our own experiences, and express our own opinions on many different topics such as women in politics, violence against women, the effect of social media on feminism and how we might approach our surname. It was an hour which left us all feeling empowered and inspired both by the words of Dr Pankhurst and by the company of the other girls and women in the room."

Ellie, Lower Sixth



his background life and family and talked about his career and his experience of workplace stress and anxiety. A key piece of advice he gave us, which I'm sure will stick with many, is that life is like a rickety staircase and so the bannisters are there to help you through the tougher times. The talk was interactive and very helpful, allowing us to recognise and take reassurance from the simple things we all do and think in times of anxiety that help us to overcome our stress. This talk was very timely and will, I am sure, be one we will call on throughout our final year of A Level study."

Lily, Upper Sixth

Ms Kalsi is a passionate advocate for education about privilege



and she visited SGA in March to speak at one of our Enrichment sessions. Ms Kalsi started with the statement that 'change does not happen in the comfort zone' and encouraged the girls to ask searching questions about their own sense of privilege or lack thereof. Sharing from her own experience growing up as a young Asian woman in Reading, Ms Kalsi openly discussed her quest for belonging and thus explained her 'why', namely what motivated her avid engagement with issues of diversity and inclusion. Having explained some historical thoughts about the development of white supremacy and its impact today, the girls were encouraged to think of a scenario where they might 'acknowledge, challenge, educate and rework' their thinking and thus contribute to the culture of inclusivity both at school and in broader life situations.

Boarding Life in pictures





Awards and Prize Giving

PREFECTS

Head Girl

Hannah Beason

Deputy Head Girls

Alice Nicholson

Ruby Woodward

House Captain – Alexander

Constance Marriott

House Captain – Becket

Erin Smith

House Captain – Churchill

Kendra Jervis

House Captain – Darwin

Lucy Proctor

Art Prefect

Emily Simon

Charity Prefect

Jessica Smith

Performing Arts Prefect

Amelia Taylor

Library Prefect

Annabel Shaw

Marketing and Admissions Prefects

Ella Jackson

Trista Yen

Sport Prefect

Millie Hampshire

PRIZE GIVING

UPPER SIXTH SUBJECT PRIZES

Prize for Art

Lucy Grant

Prize for Biology

Mahnoor Pir

Prize for Business

Lily Woodward

Prize for Chemistry

Oi Yee Zhang

Prize for Drama

Amelia Taylor

Prize for Economics

Ruby Woodward

Prize for English

Amelia Lewis

Prize for Extended Project Qualification

Ruby Woodward

Prize for French

Kendra Jervis

Prize for Further Mathematics

Oi Yee Zhang

Prize for Geography

Gabriella Brinn Johnson

Prize for History

Hannah Beason

Prize for Mathematics

Oi Yee Zhang

Prize for Music

Amelia Taylor

Prize for Photography

Celine Freiha

Prize for Physical Education

Amelia Hampshire

Prize for Politics

Hannah Beason

Prize for Psychology

Annabel Macpherson

Prize for Religious Studies

Rosa Stanford-Harris

Prize for Spanish

Ella Jackson

Prize for Textiles

Jiahui Zhang

Dourontakis Cup for Academic Excellence

Oi Yee Zhang

Upper Sixth Progress

Rosa Stanford-Harris

Upper Sixth Effort

Madeleine Kneen

Upper Sixth Kindness & Community

Ella Jackson

Upper Sixth Diplomas

Megan Cale, Yaxue Gu,
Eleanor MacPhee, Annabel Shaw,
Dara Shubay, Charlotte Simon,
Emily Simon, Jessica Smith,
Tsz Man Yen

UPPER SIXTH CO-CURRICULAR PRIZES

Senior Acting Cup

Daisy Booth

The Miranda Leatham Singing Cup

Constance Marriott

The Kafena Cup for Music

Amelia Taylor

Senior Sports Cup

Ruby Woodward

Services to Chapel Choir

Imogen Hillary, Kendra Jervis,
Constance Marriott, Amelia Taylor,
Lily Woodward, Ruby Woodward

Alexander Award

Constance Marriott

Becket Award

Erin Smith

Churchill Award

Kendra Jervis

Darwin Award

Lucy Proctor

Deputy Head Girls' Award

Alice Nicholson

Ruby Woodward

Head Girls' Award

Hannah Beason

YEAR 7 COMMENDATIONS

Commendation for Art

Yixin Chen

Commendation for Drama

Harriet Watson

**Commendation for English**

Ruby Booke

Commendation for French

Gaia Nardo

Commendation for Geography

Gaia Nardo

Commendation for History

Etta Seager

Commendation for Latin

Harriet Watson

Commendation for Mathematics

Holly Lawrence

Commendation for Music

Etta Seager

Commendation for Religious Studies

Hermione Morgan-Cooper

Commendation for Science

Holly Lawrence

Head's Award for Outstanding Academic Achievement in History, Latin and Religious Studies

Daniella Nobrega

**YEAR 8
COMMENDATIONS****Commendation for Art**

Marina Thurner

Commendation for Drama

Emelie Simpson

Commendation for English

Georgia Eaton

Commendation for French

Hana Martin

Commendation for Geography

Gabriella Bremner

Commendation for History

Sally Davy

Commendation for Classics

Amber Hay

Commendation for Latin

Sally Davy

Commendation for Mathematics

Emerson Seabolt

Commendation for Music

Cleomé Corden

Commendation for Religious Studies

Amber Hay

Commendation for Science

Hana Martin

Commendation for Spanish

Qianyu Xu

Head's Award for Outstanding Academic Achievement in French, History, Latin, Religious Studies and Science

Liv Dhanda

YEAR 9 PRIZES**Prize for Art**

Sophia Kazaryan

Prize for Classics

Rida e Sakina Pir

Prize for Drama

Jeanne Marie Marais

Prize for English

Manon Morgan-Cooper

Prize for French

Jeanne Marie Marais

Prize for Geography

Emilia Petersen

Prize for History

Emilia Petersen

Prize for Latin

Ailsa McGuire

Prize for Mathematics

Marta Sharnahan

Prize for Music

Ishpel Williams

Prize for Religious Studies

Kourtney Mutamangira

Prize for Science

Marta Sharnahan

Prize for Spanish

Madalyn Cape

**YEAR 10
COMMENDATIONS****Commendation for Art**

Thea Rhead

Commendation for Biology

Katie Guest

Commendation for Chemistry

Asha Harris

Commendation for Classics

Yunqing Guan

Commendation for Computer Science

Grace Davy

Commendation for Drama

India Knowles

Commendation for English

Aanya Shukla

Commendation for French

Asees Dhanda

Commendation for Geography

Yan Sin Li

Commendation for History

Katie Guest

Commendation for Latin

Maya Evdokimova

Commendation for Mathematics

Yunqing Guan

Commendation for Music

Yan Sin Li

Commendation for Physical Education

Isobel MacLaurin

Commendation for Physics

Dominique Nobrega

Commendation for Religious Studies

India Knowles

Commendation for Science

Amanda Elliott

Commendation for Spanish

Aanya Shukla

Commendation for Textiles

Sum Yuet Xu

YEAR 11 PRIZES**Prize for Art**

Tesni Smith

Prize for Biology

Olivia Wells

Prize for Chemistry

Chloé Moston

Prize for Classics

Munachimso Oguine

Prize for Computer Science

Emily Arbuthnott

Prize for Drama

Orla Smith

Prize for English

Emily Arbuthnott

Prize for French

Rosemary Dangerfield

Prize for Geography

Amelia Wells

Prize for History

Tesni Smith

Prize for Latin

Rosemary Dangerfield

Prize for Mathematics

Ruiyi Li

Prize for Music

Ava Marson-Day

Prize for Physical Education

Josephine Marriott

Prize for Physics

Matilda Ward

Prize for Religious Studies

Matilda Ward

Prize for Science

Josephine Marriott

Prize for Spanish

Olivia Wells

Prize for Textiles

Chloé Moston

Head's Award for Outstanding Academic Achievement in Biology, Chemistry, Drama, French, History, Mathematics, Physics and Religious Studies

Anya Hagen

LOWER SIXTH COMMENDATIONS**Commendation for Art**

Kexin Zhang

Commendation for Biology

Hoi Yu Liu

Commendation for Business

Alexandra Rotheroe

Commendation for Chemistry

Hoi Yu Liu

Commendation for Drama

Olivia Hand

Commendation for Economics

Judit Arvidsson

Commendation for English

Ellie Darke

Commendation for French

Lucia Hall

Commendation for Geography

Charlotte Coates

Commendation for History

Jessica Guest

Commendation for History of Art

Kinza Nackvi

Commendation for Mathematics

Ruihan Ma

Commendation for Music

Anna Dripps

Commendation for Photography

Kexin Zhang

Commendation for Physical Education

Luka Devaux

Commendation for Physics

Nesha Giri

Commendation for Politics

Judit Arvidsson

Commendation for Psychology

Isobel Thomas

Commendation for Religious Studies

Lucia Hall

Commendation for Spanish

Charlotte Coates

Commendation for Textiles

Yeva Chemer

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

Oona Gibbons

PROGRESS PRIZES 2022-23**Year 7**

Holly Lawrence

Year 8

Qianyu Xu

Year 9

Marta Shanahan

Year 10

Yunqing Guan

Year 11

Estella Dhanda

Lower Sixth

Oi Yan Li

EFFORT PRIZES 2022-23**Year 7**

Ruby Brooke

Year 8

Sally Davy

Year 9

Sophia Hamid

Year 10

Katie Guest

Year 11

Lucia El-Bacha

Lower Sixth

Lucia Hall

KINDNESS AND COMMUNITY PRIZES 2022-23**Year 7**

Etta Seager

Year 8

Poppy Simpson

Year 9

Jeanne Marie Marais

Year 10

India Knowles

Year 11

Molly Blunt

Lower Sixth

Chin Yau Yap

JUNIOR CO-CURRICULAR PRIZES 2022-23**Junior Acting Cup**

Ishpel Williams

Junior Music Cup

Jeanne Marie Marais

Junior Sports Cup

Katie Thomson

EAL Cup

Yan Sin Li



13+ SCHOLARSHIPS 2023

Pre-existing 11+ scholar retained for 13+:

Art

Marina Thurner

Drama

Emelie Simpson

Music

Cleomé Corden

New 13+ scholarships:

All Round for Academic and Sport

Sally Davy

Sport

Poppy Simpson

Academic

Hana Martin

All Round for Art and Swimming

Georgia Eaton

All Round for Art and Music

ZhiQing Zhang

Drama

Florence Hodgkinson

Performing Arts Exhibition for Dance and Drama

Amber Hay

SIXTH FORM SCHOLARSHIPS 2023-25

Pre-existing scholarship retained for Sixth Form:

Art

Felicitas Petersen

Music

Ava Marson-Day

Performing Arts for Drama and Music

Olivia Wells

Sport

Estella Dhanda

Sport

Josephine Marriott

Academic Exhibition

Chloé Moston

Sport Exhibition

Katie Hewer

Sport Exhibition

Erin Marshall

Sport Exhibition

Matilda Ward

New Sixth Form scholarships:

All Round for Academic and Drama

Amelia Wells

All Round for Academic and Art

Rosemary Dangerfield

Music

Hin Hang Chiu

THE GOOD COMPANIONS CUP

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

Gemma Dripps

THE SPIRIT OF ST GEORGE AWARD

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

Rosa Stanford-Harris

THE LOVEDAY CUP

Awarded to a pupil who has shown generosity of time, demonstrating commitment to others in the wider community outside St George's and promoting the School's evolving philanthropic culture over the past academic year

Lauren Cole

HOUSE WORK SHIELD FOR MERITS

Churchill

THE HOUSE CHAMPIONSHIP CUP

Churchill

AUTUMN TERM AWARDS

London College of Music Examinations

Music Theatre Grade 8

Amelia Taylor *Distinction*

Associated Board of the Royal Schools of Music Awards

Grade 1 Harp (non-pedal) Practical

Wan Chu Tsang *Distinction*

LAMDA

Acting Grade 5 Solo

Lola Tomlin-Jones *Distinction*

Acting Grade 6 Bronze Medal

Josephine Marriott *Distinction*

Acting Grade 7 Solo Silver Medal

Milly Holdsworth *Merit*

New Era Academy of Dance and Music

Acting Grade 4

Emily Wabwire *Merit*

Acting Grade 4

Charley Jane Willis *Merit*

Acting Grade 4

Munachimso Oguine *Distinction*

Acting Grade 4

Maya Evdokimova *Distinction*

Acting Grade 4

Amber Hay *Distinction*

Acting Grade 5

Aanya Shukla *Distinction*

Interview Technique Grade 5

Lauren Cole *Distinction*

Acting Grade 3 Foundation Medal

Yavishthaa Dutt *Distinction*

Acting Grade 3 Foundation Medal

Emerson Seabolt *Distinction*

Acting Grade 3 Foundation Medal

Hin Hang Chiu *Distinction*

Acting Grade 6 Bronze Medal

Ava Marson-Day *Distinction*

Acting Grade 6 Bronze Medal

Alice Grant *Distinction*

Acting Grade 7 Silver MedalJessica Smith *Merit***Duke of Edinburgh's Award****Bronze Award**Emily Bennett
Amber Bennett
Emily Simon
Madeleine Rider
Laura McAllister**Silver Award**Milly Holdsworth
Kinza Nackvi
Malak Attia Mekawy
Ava Marson-Day**Gold Award**

Annabel Macpherson

Sports Awards**Junior Most Improved Sports Cup**

Francesca Dawborne-Baber

Senior Most Improved Sports Cup

Polly Booth

Junior Sports Achievement Cup

Poppy Simpson

Senior Sports Achievement Cup

Estella Dhanda

Effort, Achievement, Progress, Kindness and Community Cups**Year 7 Effort Cup**

Harriet Watson

Year 7 Achievement Cup

Yan Choi

Year 7 Progress Cup

Renee Paintal

Year 7 Kindness and Community Cup

Mamie Barry

Year 8 Effort Cup

Elise Celant

Year 8 Achievement Cup

Liv Dhanda

Year 8 Progress Cup

Emelie Simpson

Year 8 Kindness and Community Cup

Cleomé Corden

Year 9 Effort Cup

Ishpel Williams

Year 9 Achievement Cup

Jeanne Marie Marais

Year 9 Progress Cup

Ailsa Maguire

Year 9 Kindness and Community Cup

Kourtney Mutamangira

Year 10 Effort Cup

Dominique Nobrega

Year 10 Achievement Cup

Asees Dhanda

Year 10 Progress Cup

Constanza Rivera Mila

Year 10 Kindness and Community Cup

India Knowles

Year 11 Effort Cup

Josephine Marriott

Year 11 Achievement Cup

Sylvie Wijeratna

Year 11 Progress Cup

Estella Dhanda

Year 11 Kindness and Community Cup

Emily Wabwire

Lower Sixth Effort Cup

Ellie Darke

Lower Sixth Achievement Cup

Jessica Guest

Lower Sixth Progress Cup

Milly Holdsworth

Lower Sixth Kindness and Community Cup

Kinza Nackvi

Upper Sixth Effort Cup

Ella Jackson

Upper Sixth Achievement Cup

Hannah Beason

Upper Sixth Progress Cup

Celine Freiha

Upper Sixth Kindness and Community Cup

Jessica Smith

SPRING TERM AWARDS**Trinity College London****Grade 6 Singing**Georgina Howitt *Distinction***Grade 6 Singing**Ava Marson-Day *Distinction***Duke of Edinburgh's Award****Bronze Award**Emily Arbuthnott
Emily Wabwire
Lucinda Dyson
Katie Guest
Estella Pardellas-Marra
Ella Jackson**Silver Certificate of Achievement**Onaopemipo Olujimi
Katie Hewer
Kimberley Harvey
Josephine Marriott
Emily O'Neill**Bronze and Silver Certificate of Achievement**

Estella Dhanda

Sports Awards**Junior Most Improved Sports Cup**

Marta Shanahan

Senior Most Improved Sports Cup

Leila Nicholas

Junior Sports Achievement Cup

Katie Thomson

Senior Sports Achievement Cup

Gabriella Brinn-Johnson

Effort, Achievement, Progress, Kindness and Community Cups**Year 7 Effort Cup**

Fathima Mifam

Year 7 Achievement Cup

Etta Seager

Year 7 Progress Cup

Yixin Chen

Year 7 Kindness and Community Cup

Yan Choi

Year 8 Effort Cup

Yasmeen Conway

Year 8 Achievement Cup

Florence Hodgkinson



Year 8 Progress Cup
ZhiQing Zhang

Year 8 Kindness and Community Cup
Poppy Johnson

Year 9 Effort Cup
Tabitha MacPhee

Year 9 Achievement Cup
Katie Thomson

Year 9 Progress Cup
Helen Johnstone

Year 9 Kindness and Community Cup
Devon Jessop

Year 10 Effort Cup
Yan Sin Li

Year 10 Achievement Cup
Grace Davy

Year 10 Progress Cup
Hemani Mehta

Year 10 Kindness and Community Cup
Tina Rasti

Year 11 Effort Cup
Munachimso Oguine

Year 11 Achievement Cup
Chloé Moston

Year 11 Progress Cup
Lucia El-Bacha

Year 11 Kindness and Community Cup
Molly Blunt

Lower Sixth Effort Cup
Yeva Chemer

Lower Sixth Achievement Cup
Hoi Yu Liu

Lower Sixth Progress Cup
Honey Phaure

Lower Sixth Kindness and Community Cup
Raida Iqbal

Upper Sixth Effort Cup
Amelia Hampshire

Upper Sixth Achievement Cup
Ruby Woodward

Upper Sixth Progress Cup
Lily Woodward

Upper Sixth Kindness and Community Cup
Imogen Hillary

SUMMER TERM AWARDS

Associated Board of the Royal Schools of Music Awards

Grade 2 Singing Practical
Amber Hay *Pass*

Grade 3 Singing Practical
Hin Hang Chiu *Pass*

Grade 4 Singing Practical
Ishpel Williams *Pass*

Grade 5 Music Theory
Gemma Dripps *Pass*

Grade 6 Singing Practical
Gemma Dripps *Pass*

Grade 7 Flute Practical
Anna Dripps *Merit*

Trinity College London

Flute Grade 7
Oi Yee Zhang *Merit*

LAMDA

Acting Grade 8 Duo Gold Medal
Ruby Woodward *Distinction*

Acting Grade 8 Duo Gold Medal
Daisy Booth *Distinction*

New Era Academy of Drama and Music

Acting Grade 3 Foundation Medal
Hermione Morgan-Cooper *Merit*

Acting Grade 4
Elise Celant *Merit*

Acting Grade 4
Leonor Garcia Alvarez *Distinction*

Acting Grade 4
Kourtney Mutamangira *Distinction*

Acting Grade 5
Estella Pardellas-Marra *Merit*

Acting Grade 5
Hemani Mehta *Distinction*

Acting Grade 5
Manon Morgan-Cooper *Distinction*

Acting Grade 5
Dominique Nobrega *Distinction*

Acting Grade 6 Bronze Medal
Anya Hagen *Distinction*

Interview Technique Grade 6 Bronze Medal
Lauren Cole *Distinction*

Acting Duologue Grade 7 Silver Medal
Emily Arbuthnott *Distinction*

Acting Duologue Grade 7 Silver Medal
Orla Smith *Distinction*

Public Speaking Grade 6 Bronze Medal
Yeva Chemer *Merit*

Public Speaking Grade 6 Bronze Medal
Judit Arvidsson *Distinction*

Public Speaking Grade 6 Bronze Medal
Leila Nicholas *Distinction*

Public Speaking Grade 6 Bronze Medal
Isobel Thomas *Distinction*

Public Speaking Grade 8 Gold Medal
Isabella van Beurden *Distinction*

Public Speaking Grade 8 Gold Medal
Kar Hang Yuen *Distinction*

Duke of Edinburgh's Award

Bronze Award
Amanda Elliott

Silver
Anna Dripps
Gemma Dripps
Anya Hagen

Sports Awards

Junior Most Improved Sports Cup
Lola Tomlin-Jones

Senior Most Improved Sports Cup
Sariyapon Pinatha-Bates

Junior Sports Achievement Cup
Liv Dhanda

Senior Sports Achievement Cup
Siana Olaseinde-Rhodes

Effort, Achievement, Progress, Kindness and Community Cups

Year 7 Effort Cup
Ruby Brooke

Year 7 Achievement Cup

Holly Lawrence

Year 7 Progress Cup

Hermione Morgan-Cooper

Year 7 Kindness and Community Cup

Gaia Nardo

Year 8 Effort Cup

Hana Martin

Year 8 Achievement Cup

Liv Dhanda

Year 8 Progress Cup

Amber Hay

Year 8 Kindness and Community Cup

Emelie Simpson

Year 9 Effort Cup

Luisa McAllister

Year 9 Achievement Cup

Chelsea Yujnovich

Year 9 Progress Cup

Alexandra Beravale

Year 9 Kindness and Community Cup

Evie Ewens

Year 10 Effort Cup

Anyia Shukla

Year 10 Achievement Cup

Yunqing Guan

Year 10 Progress Cup

Yan Sin Li

Year 10 Kindness and Community Cup

Lucinda Dyson

Year 11 Effort Cup

Aanya Hyare

Year 11 Progress Cup

Josephine Marriott

Year 11 Kindness and Community Cup

Leila Mount

Lower Sixth Effort Cup

Alexandra Rotheroe

Lower Sixth Achievement Cup

Kar Hang Yuen

Lower Sixth Progress Cup

Olivia Hand

Lower Sixth Kindness and Community Cup

Gemma Dripps

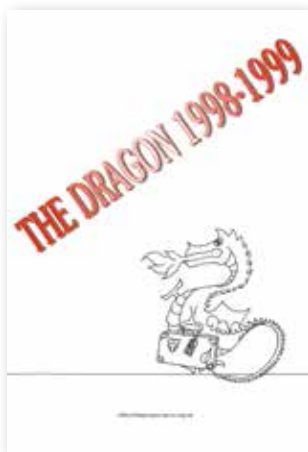
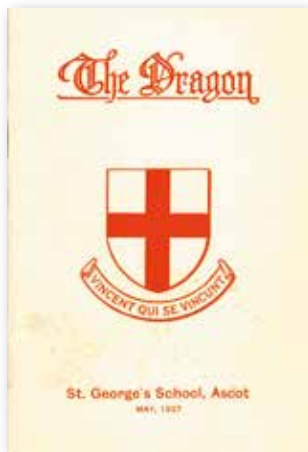


Upper Sixth Effort Cup
Daisy Booth

Upper Sixth Progress Cup
Charlotte Simon

**Upper Sixth Kindness and
Community Cup**
Emily Simon





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