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## FROM THE HEAD

As the summer holidays drew to a close having celebrated the impressive examination results and university outcomes for our Fifth Year and Upper Sixth girls in August, the completion and opening of our new indoor swimming pool was eagerly anticipated. We were delighted to

have use of this stunning 6 lane 25m pool from the second week of term and welcomed many parents and guests to our formal opening on 13 September. This included our special guest and alumna, Kirsty Gallacher, who was honoured to cut the ribbon and share tales of her school swimming, which were in the old outdoor pool when she was a pupil. The pool is already being very well used and I am delighted that our St George's swim squad continues to grow and go from strength to strength, even with 6.45am training!

Having numerous opportunities for girls, and staff, to exercise and focus on their wellbeing is important in any environment and especially in schools where habits can be formed for life. Building on the success of securing the highly regarded Mental Health in Schools Kitemark for St George's from the Carnegie Institute of Education at Leeds Beckett University last year, we were delighted to be recognised and named as a finalist for the Independent School of the Year for Student Wellbeing and Mrs Simpson, Deputy Head (Pastoral) and I were invited to attend the awards ceremony in London earlier this term.

This edition of eNews continues to showcase many of the opportunities and experiences the girls enjoy and, as is always the case in October, we finished for the half-term break with a very impressive whole-school musical. This year certainly did not disappoint and The Sound of Music was a stunning occasion involving girls across all year groups from the Second Year to the Upper Sixth with some outstanding individual and chorus performances across three packed nights in the theatre.

Liz Hewer  
Head

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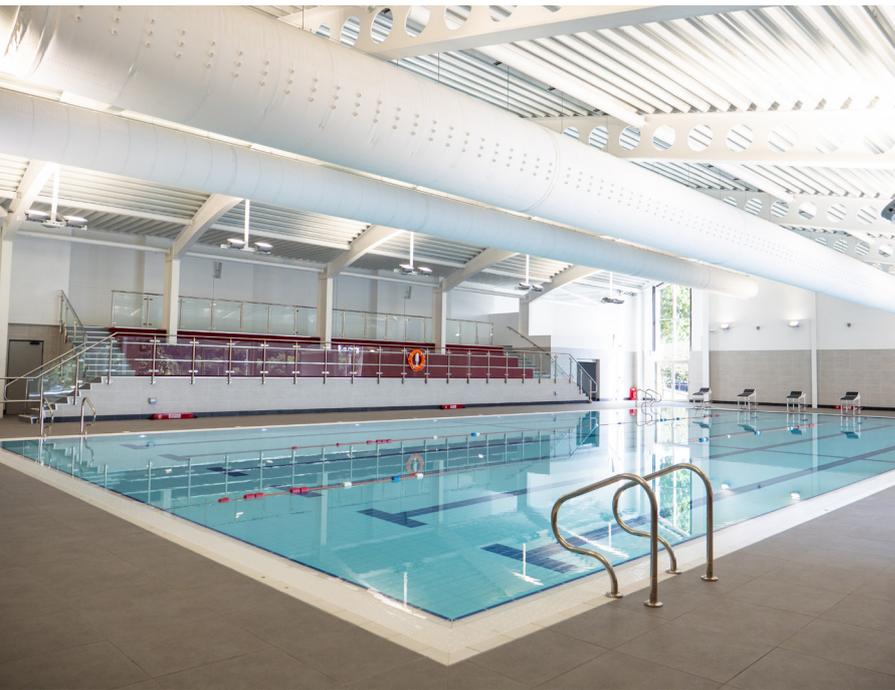
# SWIMMING POOL OPENING

Friday 13 September 2019 marked a day of huge excitement and celebration as the new Swimming Pool was officially opened.

After just over twelve months of building, the pool was opened by sports presenter, journalist and alumna Kirsty Gallacher, with a great turnout from parents and alumnae alongside pupils, governors and staff. The impressive and spacious indoor six-lane, 25m Swimming Pool adjoins the existing school Sports Hall and boasts a stunning view of the

school's extensive playing fields through the magnificent south-facing panoramic windows. The swim squad, including our 11+ and 13+ swimming scholars, were in the pool to show off the new equipment, while parents were able to tour the facility and watch the activity from the viewing gallery.

As well as a new facility for our current pupils and staff, we have already hosted our first local swimming lessons as well as local Primary and Prep schools and clubs in the local community.



## ACTIVITIES DAY

Wednesday 11 September saw our whole school activities day, with each year group participating in an activity to celebrate the start of the new school year.

### FIRST YEAR

The First Year went to Marwell Zoo and saw lots of different animals and listened to a talk about poaching. To illustrate the session there were different types of animals including bugs and snakes, and some of the girls stroked the bugs which were hard on the outside, and touched a snake which was soft and scaly. They also heard about how, sadly, so many of the animals in the zoo are extinct in the wild and the zoo are trying to let them back into their original habitat.

The girls really enjoyed the sight of all of the animals, including tigers, hippos, different breeds of birds, reptiles and plenty more. This was a really good opportunity to help the girls to make new friends and get to know one another more.

### SECOND YEAR

The Second Year donned their jumpers and raincoats and checked they had a set of spare clothes as they knew they were likely to get wet, not just because rain was forecast but because two of their three activities were canoeing and raft-building. Arriving at the lakes in Marlow, the girls were sorted into their tutor groups and got ready for their first adventure, canoeing. There was a team of six people in each double canoe and the instructor tested the girls manoeuvring skills, at one point asking them to stand up in the canoe! Their next activity was crate stacking where they worked in pairs to stack as many crates as possible on top of one another whilst standing

precariouly on the top. Each person had an important role to play, ensuring that the ropes suspending the others remained taut, and throwing up additional crates. After lunch, the girls got out onto the lake again on a raft which they had built themselves. They learnt some new knots and worked together to create the best raft they could. Once they were on the water, they had a lot of fun swapping seats on the raft and at the end of the day those who were prepared to brave the chilly water were allowed to jump into the lake off the jetty. Overall, it was a very enjoyable day with a variety of suitably challenging activities.

## THIRD YEAR

The Third Year enjoyed a day of mountain boarding, bouldering, team work challenges and making a leap of faith at the Oakwood activity centre. A day of outdoor activities provided a perfect opportunity for the new Georgians to meet the existing year group of wonderful Third Year girls. Everyone was especially impressed when Mrs Hewer arrived and confidently did the leap of faith. It was a fantastic day in which every individual was pushed and excelled beyond their comfort zone.



## FOURTH YEAR

The Fourth Year girls embarked on an exciting Spy Games event for their Activities Day. Not only stretching their knowledge of different countries, but also their reasoning in working out solutions to problems. Divided into four teams, they competed in a range of different events including a competition where they had to dress up in various employment roles with little or no props. These included ballerinas, tramps and soldiers. Guiding each other blind folded through a 'mine field' was one activity which furthered their trust in each other. It was a successful day in which they were all able to spend time together and build up their friendships, catching up after the summer holidays.



## FIFTH YEAR

The Fifth Year, along with their tutors and Miss Myers, went to Longridge Activity Centre in Marlow. The girls took part in three different activities: Trebuchet (catapult) making, team challenges and the Jacob's Ladder high ropes challenge. The girls embraced the team challenges and worked well together to solve problems and create new techniques for games. A particular highlight was working out how to get the whole team through a spider's web without talking... The Jacob's Ladder high ropes challenge involved climbing up the ladder as far as you could with the rest of your team, helping each other along the way. Most girls faced their fears and worked brilliantly together to support each other both emotionally and physically.





## SIXTH FORM

This year, the Sixth Form girls' activities day was spent doing 'It's a Knockout' activities. Girls from the Lower and Upper Sixth worked together in their tutor groups on games including a four person sack race, inflatable assault course and foam pit. The girls, and staff, had a wonderful time completing the challenges and worked hard in their teams in the hope of being crowned champions at the end of the day. A great deal of fun was had by all involved.



## BRONZE AWARD

This September, our Bronze DofE cohort successfully completed their two day qualifying expedition in Ashdown Forest.

The weather was glorious, the sun shone, and at the very end of their hike the girls enjoyed a delicious and well deserved ice-cream at Heaven Farm (made from the milk of their own herd and on site in their dairy).

Spirits were high throughout the expedition and a good time was had by girls and staff alike.



## SILVER AWARD

Our Silver DofE cohort undertook their qualifying expedition in the Lake District over four days at the end of September. This year the girls chose to complete a hybrid expedition involving both canoeing and walking.

The group arrived in Keswick on the Friday evening and were welcomed with a hot chicken dinner at the local hostel which was very much appreciated by all after the long journey. On the following day, the sun shone and the girls canoed the eastern length of Derwent Water. On reaching shore they then walked to their camp-site, pitched their tents and cooked supper on their stoves.

On the second day the weather was not so kind and it rained heavily. Despite this, the girls kept up their spirits and morale and spent the day walking a route around Skiddaw.

For the last day of the trip the sun came out and Derwent Water was as still as a mill pond. The girls headed south from Keswick, skirting the western shores of the lake and explored an island en route. Finally, having completely circumnavigated the lake, the girls made for shore and the finish line, again in high spirits, having successfully completed their expedition.



# KEW GARDENS

On a sunny morning in mid-September Fourth Year GCSE and Lower Sixth A Level Fine Art pupils armed themselves with sketchbooks, pencils, pens, charcoal, pastel and travelled to Kew Gardens by minibus. They were excited to explore the Chihuly exhibition which was throughout the gardens as well as an exhibition of his drawings and smaller glass sculptures. The girls discovered Chihuly's stunning glass sculptures in surprising places such as appearing as lily pads in ponds, suspended from high ceilings and hidden around the gardens. They produced a number of beautiful sketches that they will use as part of their coursework. These sketches will be used to form ideas for a clay sculpture. In the Prince of Wales conservatory students also sketched various plants and cactus improving their

practical skills. The weather was fantastic for observational drawing outdoors and the girls greatly benefited from this opportunity.



# NEASDEN MANDIR



The Second Year girls enjoyed a fascinating trip to the Neasden Mandir, a Hindu temple. They learnt about Hindu culture and, as well as looking in the beautiful exhibition on the history of Hinduism, the girls got to witness the Arti ceremony in the temple. It was exciting and the girls enjoyed it a lot. Also, the girls were especially excited to look round all the amazingly crafted statues of the deities and to find out more about each of them. The timing of the trip was excellent as the girls were able to visit the temple just as Hindus around the world were preparing for Diwali.

# V&A MUSEUM

On 25 September the First Year girls went to the V&A Museum in London. Grace tells us all about it.

"Firstly we went to the fashion exhibition and drew any dress we wanted to. There were lots to choose from but I chose a Charles James evening dress made in London 1937. We then went and found Kate Malone's pot in the ceramic section where we drew it. It was very big and shiny and made from stone-ware and glazed with crystalline. It also had streaks of cream and blue.

Next we went to the Chinese contemporary

section where we saw lots of ceramics. All the contemporary work was beautiful. I drew one of a pair of vases. It was made out of porcelain with clear glaze. Afterwards we went to the jewellery section, where we drew some of our favourite pieces of jewellery. My favourite piece was Queen Victoria's sapphire and diamond coronet. It was made especially for her and designed by Albert. It was one of her favourite pieces of jewellery. The final place we went to was the Islamic Art section where I drew the pattern from the front of a dress.

I had a lovely day at the museum and I really hope I can go again!"



# CONDOVER HALL

On Friday 20 September the U13 and U14 netballers headed to Condover Hall for the annual GSA netball tournament. Thank you to Izzy and Charlotte (U14) and Katie and Estella (U13) who told us about their experiences.

## U14

On the first day the U14s had a full schedule of matches onsite. They played seven games and came up against some very strong teams, but they held their own against much larger schools. After a full day of games they went back to their dorm to shower and relax before dinner and an exciting and inspiring talk from England netball player, Eboni Usoro-Brown.

The next day the team made it into the plate

competition. They started with a close match against The Marist, where they were neck and neck right up to the end when The Marist just pulled ahead. The rest of the games were all won, including the very competitive game versus the U14/U13 mixed team.

The team finished as runners up in the Plate competition and enjoyed a very full, inspiring weekend where everyone learnt a lot.





## U13

On the first day, the U13s first activity was climbing. Everyone had a go and most of the girls got to the top! This was followed by the very inspiring talk by Eboni Usoro-Brown who showed the group the medals she has won and passed them round so the girls could hold them.

The second day was full of competitive netball against many different schools from across England. The girls faced some very tough fixtures, winning some and losing others, but they did not let this bring them down.

Once they had finished their matches they headed back to Condover to enjoy some fun afternoon activities. They did tunnelling, laser challenges, high ropes and many more.

On the final day, the U13s were in a harder pool, competing with more teams of a similar level to them. Despite the hard opposition they pushed through and managed to gain a few wins, draws and narrow losses. Even with the rain and a few injuries the play did not stop.

As the day went on the team became more developed, and were understanding how each other play. They managed to read the game well which led to many turnovers and goals. Great shooting accuracy and quick passes meant the team got into the Trophy Competition. Here they faced some tough matches, however, they didn't stop fighting, and they placed 6th in their competition. Well played everyone!



# COUNTY NETBALL TOURNAMENT

## U15

On Saturday 5 October the U15 team travelled to Theale, Reading to participate in the U16 Berkshire Netball Tournament. The girls played six matches throughout the day against tough competition from a school year above, and fought hard in all areas of the court. They worked on passing more accurately, especially on their overhead passes to the shooters. The midfield did well in moving the ball up and down the court and their defence stuck to their players, making lots of interceptions. They adapted to suit their opponents and had some very close matches. Player of the tournament went to Gabby.

## U14

At the Berkshire round of National Schools Netball Tournament, St George's had a great start winning 13-5 against Windsor Girls School. The girls have improved so much in such a short time this term, and are giving some big schools a real challenge on the court. Their attack was seamless, and our through court play was fast and powerful. Players of the tournament went to Izzy, Charlotte and Lila.





# INDOOR SKI COMPETITION

On Sunday 15 September, six St George's girls donned their skis to enter the British Schoolgirls' Indoor Races at the SnoZone in Milton Keynes. It was a good opportunity for girls to gain some race experience and to improve for those who competed last year in the British Schoolgirl Ski Races in Flaine.

As ever, the competition was fierce and the girls attacked the slalom course bravely on both runs and all improved with their second run. Following the slalom races, the girls competed in the parallel event, a team relay. The A team received a bye into the second round before narrowly missing out on a place in the quarter finals and the B team lost their first round race. However, this did not take away from the brilliant experience and it has certainly started the buzz early for the forthcoming races in Flaine next term.





# VERSATILITY NETBALL

On Wednesday 16 October the girls took part in the School Versatility Netball Tournament.

Teams were mixed ability and comprised of students from all age groups. There was a large number of girls involved and a total of ten teams competing against each other.

The girls had to randomly select their

positions and, therefore, some had to play a position they may have not experienced before. They all reacted well and adapted to mark their opposition. It was great to see the new First Year pupils marking the Sixth Form girls!

Overall, the winning team was Team 10 which was captained by Georgia Morris!

Well done to all of the girls who took part.



SPORTS



# WELCOME TO KNATCHBULL PARTY

On Monday 9 September, the Fifth Year boarders gathered in Knatchbull for the first social event of the year. Having enjoyed their first week getting to know their new house, they enjoyed an evening of board games and snacks together, which enabled them to get to know the boarding staff and relax. The games created a lot of laughter as the competitive nature came out in the girls!



# BOARDERS NETBALL TEAM



This term has seen the introduction of the first Boarders Netball Team which is made up of girls from Knatchbull and Loveday. The girls have entered into a local adult league based at St George's on a Monday evening and are playing against teams a similar age to them and much older. The pupil-led team gives the girls the opportunity to take complete ownership of the side, building invaluable leadership, organisational and communication skills. So far the girls have been playing well against tough competition and doing themselves and the boarding community proud!

# PAMPER & PIZZA NIGHT

On Monday 23 September, Loveday House girls were treated to a night of pizza and pampering. Thanks to the exceptional skills of a Glo Pamper Company beauty therapist, each Upper Sixth girl enjoyed a massage, foot rub or manicure. In addition to these glorious treatments, the girls had lots of pizza and snacks to enjoy, whilst we watched a hilarious comedy film together. It was a special bonding evening for all involved!



# CULTURAL MASH-UP

On Tuesday 8 October, the whole of Knatchbull came together for a cultural extravaganza! The girls got into small groups and were asked to bring in or cook a dish that reminded them of home, a happy memory or their own culture. It was wonderful to see all the girls enter into the spirit of it and put in the effort to make this event a success. They enjoyed everything from yorkshire puddings and gravy, to chips and curry sauce, fried rice and noodles, to cucumber sandwiches and cinnamon rolls.

Cultures and countries collided to make for an evening of cooking, laughter, chatter and bonding, where all girls learned a little more about each other and the cultures that their fellow boarders come from.

The success of the evening was so great that this will become an annual event and we are already looking forward to the next one!



## 'GIRLS DIVIDE AND CONQUER' MATHS CHALLENGE

'Girls Divide and Conquer' was our exciting inaugural Maths Challenge for local primary and prep schools. All-female teams from Bishopsgate School, Connaught Junior School, Eton End School, Lambrook School, St Michael's C of E School and St Piran's enjoyed numerous rounds of mathematical puzzles and challenges, which culminated in a prize-giving followed by lunch in our dining room. The contest was very close right up until the final round, and all schools participated brilliantly! In the end, our winners were Bishopsgate School. It was a wonderful day full of enthusiasm, energy, and great intellect!



## SHOEBOX APPEAL LAUNCH

On Friday 11 October, Rev Watts launched the Shoebox Project with Link to Hope. Girls are encouraged to fill a shoebox with Christmas presents, either for a family or for the elderly, with gifts and treats for Christmas. The wrapped shoeboxes are then shipped over to some of the poorest communities in Romania, Moldova, Ukraine and Bulgaria. Hopefully the half-term break will give lots of St George's students the opportunity to participate in this generous scheme and share a little bit of Christmas cheer. Shoeboxes are due back into school straight after half term.



# CONTACT THE ELDERLY

On Sunday 6 October, we welcomed a group of elderly women for Afternoon Tea in our Top Foyer, through our links with the wonderful charity 'Contact The Elderly'. Our boarders spent a delightful afternoon sharing stories with these interesting and joyful women, with delicious catering to

enhance the afternoon. Some of our most talented musicians put on a fabulous performance, and it is clear our visitors were blown away by the talent! It was a joyful event from start to finish, and one that left all involved very happy indeed.



# INVESTMENT BANKING CAREERS LUNCH

The first Careers Lunch of the academic year focused on Investment Banking with parent Mr Rupert Trefgarne leading the session. After everyone enjoyed a typically excellent school meal, Mr Trefgarne expanded on what the sector encompasses and the variety of roles that can be undertaken. He then moved on to provide specific advice on how to get into banking before answering questions concerning the benefits and challenges of life in the City using his extensive experience to illustrate his points. All the girls present benefited from the insight and advice given and appreciated the time given up by Mr Trefgarne.



# JEANS FOR GENES DAY



Jeans for Genes is a well established UK charity, raising money and awareness to help improve the lives of children with life-altering genetic disorders. As many as 1 in 25 children live with these kinds of genetic conditions and the money raised through the simple act of wearing denim for a day helps to provide vital care, equipment and activities.

St George's raised a wonderful £294 on this day to make a difference to some of those children and their families.

## HARVEST FESTIVAL



'We plough the fields and scatter the good seed on the land...!' This year saw two harvest services in chapel - an informal service on Friday 20 September and a more traditional service of readings and music on Sunday evening, 22 September. The choir sang beautifully at both services and the front of chapel was full of gifts for Wokingham Foodbank. Harvest is a time to celebrate and give thanks for all that we have. It is also a time of generosity as we share with those less fortunate than ourselves. We may be more distant from the land and the yearly rhythms of agriculture than our forebears, but we are no less reliant on them. Gifts

of tinned food were alongside biscuits, dried goods and sweet treats. There were also many contributions of toiletries and cleaning products. Thanks to everyone who donated, however big or small. The Harvest Supper after the Sunday service completed the joyful celebrations.

## SCHOOL CHARITIES 2019/20

Each year, the whole school participates in a vote to select the three main charities as a focus for the year - one local, one national and one international. On 23 September, the Charities Prefect, with input from various other speakers, presented nine charities, three in each category and then invited the whole school to vote. It was difficult to choose, because every charity presented was a worthy cause, but in the end the following charities were selected to be supported across the school for this academic year:



Local: Thames Hospice, providing end of life care and support to families. They are particularly looking to fund a new building this year.



National: Melanoma UK, a charity providing support and research into melanoma, the UK's fifth biggest cancer.



International: Mary's Meals, working in the poorest countries in the world to give children healthy and nutritious meals in schools each day.





# THE SOUND OF MUSIC

After the success of last year's 'Sister Act', this year's whole school musical saw girls from Second Year to Upper Sixth once again don habit costumes as they transformed into nuns for 'The Sound of Music'. The cast shone throughout the show, with soaring melodies, intricately choreographed ensemble numbers and fantastic characterisation from all. Audiences were heard saying how brilliantly cast the show was, and the well-known songs of 'My Favourite Things', 'Climb Ev'ry Mountain', 'Edelweiss' and 'Do-Re-Mi' were heard being hummed around the school all week!

See more photos at:  
[www.flickr.com/photos/stgeorgesschoolascot](http://www.flickr.com/photos/stgeorgesschoolascot)









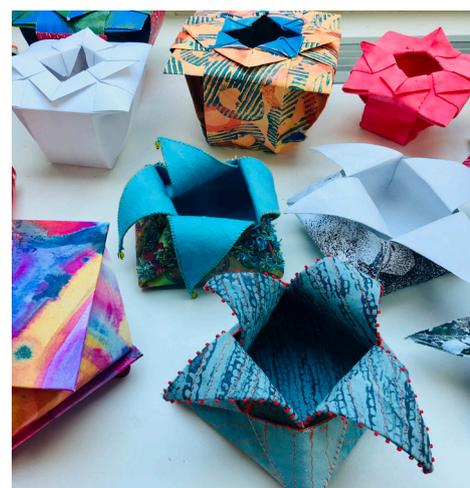
# OPEN MIC NIGHT



# TEXTILES WORKSHOP WITH JANET EDMONDS

Selected GCSE and A Level Textiles pupils have had the wonderful opportunity of meeting and working with the Textiles artist Janet Edmonds this term. They were shown an array of exciting samples and then advised on what to create. Girls have learnt new

techniques exploring different materials and created work that involved repetition and exploration of fabrics. The Textiles teachers look forward to seeing these impressive and inspiring techniques used in fashion and sculpture pieces!



# FUTURE GEORGIAN DAY



On Friday 27 September we welcomed 60 girls to our Future Georgian Day. The event, for many of our prospective 11+ candidates, gives girls the opportunity to spend time in school, meet the teachers and current pupils and, importantly for many, experience a St George's lunch! After starting with a lively pop lacrosse session, the girls split into three groups and rotated around three subjects. In RS with Mrs Magill they learnt about Diwali and played Hindu Top Trumps, in Music with Mr Hillier they took part in drumming and sang 'Favourite Things' from this year's school production 'The Sound of Music', and in MFL they used their newly learned Spanish to decipher recipes.



# INDEPENDENT SCHOOL OF THE YEAR AWARDS

We were thrilled to be selected as a finalist for the Independent Schools of the Year 2019 awards in the Student Well-being category. St George's is renowned for the importance placed on each pupil's well-being; developing respect for yourself and consideration for others is at the heart of the school ethos. Girls have the opportunity to develop their interests, be stretched and challenged, and our expansive co-curricular programme allows girls to develop existing interests and discover new talents including options for physical and mental well-being. This accolade comes hot on the heels of the Mental Health Kitemark for Boarding Schools which we were recently awarded from the Carnegie Centre of Excellence for Mental Health in Schools at Leeds Beckett University.



# BERKSHIRE BOOK AWARD

St George's have long been supporters of the Berkshire Book Award, and we were lucky enough to host this year's launch event. The Berkshire Book Award encourages young people from across the county to nominate their favourite book published in the last year. The winner in 2019 was Robin Stevens, an author who only last year visited our school to be greeted by a very enthusiastic audience! The Berkshire Book Award 2020 was

launched by children's author Laura Wood. She spoke about life as a writer and answered many questions from over 180 children visiting from a variety of schools, including our very own First and Second Year girls. Along with children from one of our partner schools, St Michael's Primary, we also welcomed LVS Ascot, Leighton Park, Denefield, Easthampstead Park Community School and Queen Anne's School, Caversham. At the end of an engaging talk, the excitement was palpable. There was massive demand afterwards to meet the author and get a signed copy of one of her books.

Nominations can be made by visiting [www.berkshirebookaward.org.uk/nominate](http://www.berkshirebookaward.org.uk/nominate) or by speaking to Ms Kennedy in the Library. We will be eagerly following each stage of the Berkshire Book Award 2020.



# YPRES

In the centre of Ypres, opposite the entrance to the Cathedral, one can visit St George's Memorial Church. This small Anglican community was created in 1929 to commemorate the thousands who perished in the Salient during the First World War. What one notices on entering this Church are the plaques on the walls which illustrate the loss and devastation caused by the conflict on the teachers and old boys of schools in the United Kingdom and from around the Commonwealth. The scale of the sacrifice is sobering and these small memorials are being added to every year as schools make their own modern pilgrimages to remember the fallen.

The Lower Sixth girls of St George's once again ventured to Western Belgium on Thursday, 3 October. They visited the Menin Gate, St George's Church, Essex Farm, Langemark and Tyne Cot Cemeteries with the group laying a wreath at the last stop to commemorate all those who died in the service of their country. Just like the little, engraved brass plates, it is a small reminder of the carnage and of the dead who we can only honour in remembering their sacrifice.



# SHOWJUMPING SUCCESS



Congratulations to Lower Sixth, Imogen, and her pony, Betty [Bowland Undercover], for winning the 153 Working Hunter Pony Championship at the end of the summer holidays. This was an amazing feat as all 34 horses in the class had to qualify to be able to compete. Betty was the youngest in the class along with Imogen being one of the youngest riders. A truly wonderful achievement!



[admissions@stgeorges-ascot.org.uk](mailto:admissions@stgeorges-ascot.org.uk) | 01344 629900

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