

# ST GEORGE'S ASCOT

eNewsletter

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## FROM THE HEAD

Liz Hewer

February half-term always sneaks up on us during this term in what is a busy time and often the shortest term of the school year. As you read through the pages of this edition of eNews it will be no great surprise that the girls will be in need of a good rest in order to recharge their batteries for the second half of term, which looks to be no less 'action-packed'!

As you will read in the following pages, one of the highlights of this time of year for me is having the Lower Sixth girls in groups to my home for dinner. These evenings always prove to be full of great company, good humour and endless conversation and give me a good insight into what is going on in the girls' lives at the moment, and also what they may be

considering doing when the time finally comes for them to leave St George's. It has also provided an opportunity to dig into two of the big discussion points in the School this term, both raised by School Council. These are, the introduction of a trouser option into the uniform and whether the names of our Houses should change to be named after inspirational women rather than men, as they currently are. We continue to discuss trousers in terms of possible style and fit (while looking at what we like and don't like in other schools' girls' uniform trousers) and the School Council will be modelling future styles that are sent from our uniform supplier later this term. As for the Houses, you will find the result of the democratic process we have been through in the following pages.....



## SKIING SUCCESS IN FLAINE

On Friday 24 January, the ski team jetted off to compete in the British Schoolgirls Races in Flaine, France. The team, consisting of Ruby, Lily, Connie and Daisy, prepared for the races with two days of race specific training with their coach, Theo. The focus was on improving their race technique for GS (Giant Slalom) and Slalom, each event having slightly different skis and methods of attacking the piste.

The first event was the GS race with Ruby, Lily and Connie all completing the course well and giving them the confidence to attack their second runs with more determination and aggression. The afternoon brought the excitement of the Parallel Slalom race, a relay against another school, in which the competitors skied side by side down the race piste. Ruby, Lily and Daisy were nervous but directed their energy to win their first race against Kirkstone

House with a significant lead. This victory meant that St George's was through to the second round and up the girls went to race once more. Despite a valiant effort, they just missed out on the final. On the final day of the competition, Ruby, Lily and Daisy competed in the Slalom race and all completed the course, which was a feat indeed, given the very difficult conditions.

All together, the trip was full of laughter and memories to take away, including sledging, bowling, fondue and endless hot chocolates! The performances from the girls this year were a huge improvement on last year and it was pleasing to see the input from Coach Theo making all the difference. The girls are already looking forward to taking another St. George's team next year and building on this year's success.







## ASCOT SCHOOLS' SWIMMING GALA

On Monday 20 January, it was St George's turn to host the annual Ascot Schools' gala against The Marist and Heathfield, giving the swim squad the opportunity to use the stunning new facilities in a competitive setting rather than just for training.

First up was the Under 14 Medley Relay and St George's was off to a strong start with a win by Isobel, Costi, Alex and Anya. The girls continued to perform well with Alex in the Individual Medley and Costi in the 25m Butterfly. In the Individual Medley Erin showed grit and determination to win the Under 12 age category. She continued to impress in the 25m Butterfly where she was joined by teammate Seesy achieving first and second places respectively. Grace gained a season's best time in the Under

12 25m Breastroke. The girls were joined in the medley relay by Thea and swam an excellent race just pipping The Marist to first place. In the Under 15 age group, Alice swam an excellent 25m Breastroke and achieved a season's best time. She was joined by Annabel, Anya and Annabel for the freestyle relay where a joint effort resulted in first place. The Open age category followed with first places won by Daisy in the 25m Backstroke and Imogen in the 25m Breastroke.

Overall, St George's came second place with The Marist winning the gala and Heathfield placing third. A truly outstanding day for the St. George's swim squad, and excellent preparation for a term of intense training sessions ready for the upcoming galas this year.

## BERKSHIRE COUNTY LACROSSE TOURNAMENT

On Wednesday 5 February, the U14, U13 and U12 lacrosse teams played in the Berkshire County Tournament at Queen Anne's.

The U12s put up a really good fight in all their matches and played intelligently in attack and defence, putting into practice what they have learned in training. They were pleased with their win against St Barts and they managed to keep their losing scores in their other matches very close. Players of the tournament go to Cara and Cameron.

The U13s had a challenging afternoon at the tournament.

In their first game, they started brightly and were 1-0 up at half time. Unfortunately they were unable to sustain the high tempo for the rest of the match. With new targets in the second game the girls responded with hard work, determination and great team work. The third game was their best. They were a match for St Barts and had their chances.

Unfortunately they were unable to claim the victory but certainly gave their strongest performance. Player of the tournament goes to Estelle.

The U14s played extremely well in their matches. After a sleepy start against Heathfield they really picked up their game against Downe House B to only lose by one goal. Against Downe House A, they were outstanding in defence and held out the Downe House attack for long periods of the game. In their match against St Barts, they started to show their attacking drive to score goals and only just lost out to some of St Bart's

strong runners in attack to lose by two goals. Against Queen Anne's, tiredness was creeping in but they put up strong opposition in defence again but were not able to convert their own scoring chances. Players of the tournament were Oona, Izzy, Jess and Anya.

It was a day of much progress in so many areas of the fields and the girls really stepped up to the challenge and so much of what they have been working on in training is starting to show in their game. Well done to all the girls for their hard work and perseverance.

## ASCOT SCHOOLS' NETBALL TOURNAMENT

At the U14 Ascot Schools' Netball Tournament on Tuesday 11 February, St George's U14 As were entered into the cup competition alongside the Marist, St Mary's and Charters A teams. The standard was high, and the girls faced a well contested game against the Marist, losing by a small margin, but finishing in high spirits as the girls played with strength in the mid court, and shooting was on form. St Mary's played a fantastically fast paced game, and the girls fought hard to keep up but finished with a loss against a well drilled team. The final game against Charters was a real nail-biter. The final result was 9-8 to Charters, but real credit goes to the defence who worked tirelessly to win the ball back. Only the final whistle stopped them from drawing level with Charters on the

final shot. Very well played to all the girls, but a special mention goes to Judit, who encouraged the team from start to finish and gave all her energy to winning the ball in defence. A very good effort from the U14 As.

The U14 B team were entered into the Plate competition of the tournament, alongside St Mary's BCD, Heathfield A, Charters B and the Marist B. The girls were challenged by some very strong teams in this division, and some very strong winds!

With one win secured and some very close losses, St George's managed to finish sixth out of eight.





## OXFORD BOUND

Three Georgians in the Sixth Form have received conditional offers from Oxford University. Lily to read Philosophy & Theology at Keble College, TJ to read Economics & Management at Hertford College and Bella to read History at Lady Margaret Hall. All three girls joined St George's in First Year from fantastic local prep schools.

## FAUSTUS TRIP

WRITTEN BY SIXTH FORM PUPIL OLIVIA

On Thursday 23 January, all of the A level drama pupils went to the Lyric Theatre in Hammersmith, London to see the play 'Faustus - That Damned Woman' adapted, by Chris Bush, from the initial myth of 'Fausters'.

Other than knowing that the basis of the story was a woman who sold her soul to the devil (we felt inadvisable!), we didn't know much about the play. While it was sombre in content, there was a definite mix of light and shade throughout. I definitely wasn't expecting it to be at all funny, but, in parts, it certainly was! There was also a feeling of sustained tension as the story unfolded. The audience was invited to share all of the era-specific, new experiences that the eponymous heroine, Faustus, was able to have. We saw how the obstacles she faced, as well as her ambitions, so often reflected her gender, and enjoyed how the play explored morality, and the growth of the protagonist as she experienced more in life.

The set was particularly interesting as well, as it wasn't clear what it was! Some of our interpretations were; a spiral staircase, a skeleton, a cave, a shell or a shipwreck, representing Faustus' life, her decisions or her character.

I think it is safe to say that we all enjoyed the trip. Not only did we see a really good play, but it inspired a lot of animated conversation on the bus on the way home!



## THIRD YEAR VICTORIA & ALBERT TRIP

On Friday 24 January, the Art Department took the Third Year to see Tim Walker's photography exhibition at the Victoria & Albert Museum, London. He is one of the most inventive and imaginative of fashion photographers and this exhibition was particularly influenced by the Victoria & Albert's own collection. The Third Years spent plenty of time discussing what they saw, selecting and writing about their favourite photographs as well as sketching.

They explored the vast collections of jewellery, fashion, and ceramics as well as spending some time in the theatre and performance sections. Here the pupils were able to see various set designs, costumes and even try costumes on themselves.

There are so many wonderful collections within the V&A inspiring the girls to continue appreciating art at galleries as well as creating their own.

Milly writes "The Tim Walker exhibition was very unique. I liked the idea of the different rooms. Lil' Dragon was my favourite because of the dragon on the ceiling. My favourite part was the theatre and performance section as there were costumes from theatre productions such as the Lion King and Wicked. I especially loved the original dress, hats and boots the the Wicked Witch wore in the Broadway production in 2003."



## FIFTH YEARS WATCH WOMAN IN BLACK

REVIEWED BY DAISY

On Thursday 23 January, the Fourth and Fifth Years visited the Fortune Theatre in London to see 'The Woman in Black' to help us with our GCSE written exam. As we took our seats, our first impression of the theatre was that it had been set up to appear to be very run-down; the set had old fabrics draped over furniture and buckets placed on the stage intentionally evoking a sense of foreboding within the audience members.

The two actors were incredibly talented and demonstrated their strong grasp of various drama techniques including multi-rolling and soundscapes. Furthermore, the audience were clearly able to see actors transition into different characters; through their convincing accents, change in body language and the use of lighting. Lighting was also used to indicate to the audience the time period in which the storyline was set. Additionally, spotlights were used to evoke fear among audience members. I felt fear cascade over me when the audience

was submerged in a cloud of fog and could no longer see clearly. I felt as if the sepulchral character of the Woman In Black was going to jump out of nowhere!

Overall, the play was very cleverly constructed and a really helpful experience as we prepare for our GCSEs.



## INDEPENDENT SCHOOLS' MOCK BAR TRIALS

After weeks, no months, of preparation, practice and court visits, the actual day of the Independent Schools Bar Mock Trial arrived. All were up for an early start at the Inner London Crown Court in Newington. The barristers, Ruby N, Grace, Olivia and Ruby CD, were appropriately dressed, donning the wig and gown and were ready for action. These advocates were brilliant and indeed much better than the ones the girls had witnessed in an actual Crown Court earlier that week!

The girls certainly rose to the challenge as Grace destroyed a witness with her cross examination and won the case, followed by Olivia who managed to get a witness to admit something they had not done!

The witnesses played their characters well with Tabitha becoming so aggressive with her responses that the poor defence barrister had to back down (much giggling was suppressed amongst the rest of the team and indeed the teachers). Eve, Celia and Jacqueline were so deeply in character, as they were cross examined by the defence and prosecution, that they ably managed to maintain their stories and correct the other advocates when they tried to push them into admitting guilt.

The court proceedings were well managed by the clerk Shaina who completely 'owned' the court and Milly, as the Court Usher, who was extremely professional in the way she directed the witnesses and took their affirmation. The court artist, June, completed some amazing drawings of the trials and it is to be hoped she is recognised for this.

It was a wonderful day and St George's were one of the best teams there; they were faultless in their performances and more importantly were enthusiastic and excited about the day - they will return next year to clinch the prize! This was their first attempt but not their last.

Both staff and girls would like to thank June Gratton and Amar Hyare who were invaluable in their commitment to coaching the girls ready for the trial. Every Monday from November they advised the girls on court protocol and how to win the cases.



## LOWER SIXTH CLASSICS VISIT TO SOVEREIGN EDUCATION

On Wednesday 5 February, the Classical Civilisation A Level class enjoyed a series of lectures on 'The World of the Hero' in London.

The girls learnt a lot about the topics which are relevant to their A Level study, including religion in Virgil and Homer, comparisons between the texts and heroic values shown by Achilles, Odysseus and Aeneas.

It has to be said that Professor Edith Hall was the most entertaining; she even got some cheers at the end of her talk - that's when you know you are in a room full of keen Classicists! It was nice to join with other Classics students from around the country and enjoy lectures from the top intellectuals from British universities.



## SGA STRETCH WEEK

Monday 10 February marked the first day of SGA Stretch Week. Girls in all years took part in activities designed to go beyond the normal curriculum and provide breadth and depth in the different subject areas.

SGA Stretch Week is an excellent way of boosting confidence and pushing the girls out of their comfort zones. A wide selection of talks, workshops and quizzes ran each day throughout prep time.

Follow #SGAstretch on social media to see what's been going on.

#SGAstretch



## OPEN MIC NIGHT

Open Mic Night on Monday 10 February was, as ever, a great celebration of Georgian confidence and capability. With individual pieces chosen from 'Broadway, Here I Come' to Coldplay, Lewis Capaldi to the Beatles, the audience were entertained throughout. The band's confident rendition of Nina Simone's 'Feeling Good' summed up the mood of the evening as a whole with Open Mic Night remaining a highlight of the St George's year.





## HOUSE ART COMPETITION

WRITTEN BY RUBY, IMOGEN, EVE AND JUNE

Following the theme of weather, the Alexander House painting depicts a turbulent marine scene with extreme lightning and rain. We used a range of different media, including acrylic paint, texture paste and acrylic ink to create different effects, as well as a multitude of techniques, such as dry brush and splatter effects. Before starting our painting we researched a number of different artists we could use for inspiration, such as William Turner, Ivan Aivazovsky and Alex Dzigurski. Overall, we are happy with the finished painting and the turbulent effect it gives with the extreme weather featured. (Ruby)

Becket House's interpretation of the theme 'Weather' speaks into the devastating impact that climate change is having on the environment. We wanted to create a snowy arctic scene, showing the beauty of the place through the northern lights, while also having an emotional impact on the viewer with the separation of the mother and baby polar bears due to the melting ice caps. Our main inspiration for the piece was from Zaria Forman who is a fine art, large scale landscape artist. Her drawings show the fragility and beauty of Earth and she aims "to celebrate what is still here; to give viewers the sense that it is still possible to do something to protect this Earth that sustains us." This inspired us to create a piece that shows both hope and urgency, to heighten the effect that the weather and global warming is having on Earth. Jonathan Shearer contributed to our inspiration for the mountains as he uses dabs of white, grey and black paint building layers to make it 3D. We also used Shearer's technique when we painted the polar bears with white, grey and beige acrylic paint. (Immy)

Darwin House wanted to create a painting that conveys a sense of hope for the future,

exploring what the world would look like if we continued to use the forces of weather to fuel our planet. Inspired by recent developments of climate friendly agriculture in South-East and East Asia, we wanted to portray the integration of modern weather-fuelled technology and the preservation of traditional farming. This integration is symbolised by our incorporation of traditional Shan-Shui Chinese landscape painting, which can be seen in our fairly muted mountains with many thin black lines going down their unrealistic jagged forms. Artists we have used as a reference include the work of painter Wu Hufan and photographer King Wu, whose dramatic paintings and photos of misty Chinese mountains left a strong impression on us all. (June)

The Churchill House artwork is inspired by the Australian Wildfires, therefore looking at the impact of weather rather than weather itself. Our house believes that climate change is an important and current topic and we wanted to raise awareness about it. We wanted to represent the fire and smoke from the wildfires in the background, with black, stark trees placed through the landscape to show the devastation the fires caused. At the forefront are the firemen, given a prominent position to highlight their role and the risks they took to stop the fires from spreading. We have also raised the word FIRE to create visual impact. We wanted to interpret this tragedy for ourselves and create something unique so we looked at news articles and media coverage rather than other artists' interpretations. (Eve)

The competition winners are yet to be announced. Follow St George's on Twitter, Instagram and Facebook to keep up-to-date.



## ART WORKSHOP WITH SORAYA FRENCH

“WE FEEL INSPIRED TO USE MORE MATERIALS AND TEXTURES IN OUR OWN WORK NOW.”

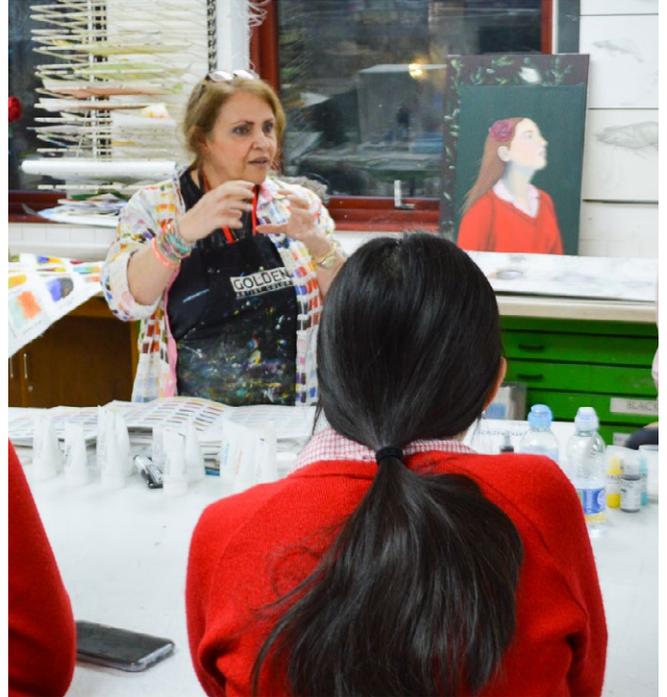
Inspired by her books on contemporary landscapes in mixed media, the Art department invited artist Soraya French into school on Thursday 16 January to talk about her work and the materials she uses to create her paintings.

The girls were given a brief history of the origins of acrylic paint and learnt about the many different types now on offer. It was fascinating to find that many of the acrylic paints, paste and gels were requested by artists who had not been successful in creating the effect they wanted in their own work.

One of the GCSE pupils, Isabel, commented that “Her work was very inspiring and it was interesting to see how she used the paint in different ways to create different textures. I had never considered how acrylic paint could have so many different qualities.”

Another GCSE pupil, Lucy, said that “It was interesting to see how the artist showed texture in her work and experimented with mixed media. We feel inspired to use more materials and textures in our own work now.”

The Art Department are looking forward to seeing how this visit will inspire the girls in their future artistic endeavours and grow their confidence in their use of mixed media.



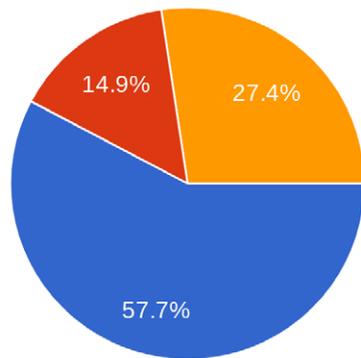
## THE VOICE OF DEMOCRACY

Capability and confidence are pillars of the St George's education and the girls are always encouraged to question the status quo and engage in informed, lively debate. Discussion over why the competitive Houses are named after four men and not women was raised again by the Third Year girls last term and has been an interesting and animated discussion point at School Council since. Mrs Hewer has also gauged the views of both the Lower Sixth girls at the informal dinners hosted at her home and from the Upper Sixth Prefects. After a lively brainstorming session in School Council on the

positives and negatives of making a change, it was decided to hold an assembly to engage in wider dialogue with the school as a whole. Three pupils Alice, Grace and Jess, took to the podium to speak on the three potential options; to keep the names as they are, to change Alexander and Beckett but keep Churchill and Darwin or to change all the names to womens' names. This was followed by a questionnaire to the whole school to gather comprehensive feedback. The result of which was overwhelmingly in favour of keeping the original names of the Houses.

Which of the 3 options put forward in Assembly is your MOST favourite?

168 responses



- Keep the names of all 4 Houses the same
- Change the names of all 4 Houses to names of women
- Change the names of 'A' House and 'B' House to names of women and keep Churchill and Darwin House names

## LOWER SIXTH DINNERS WITH MRS HEWER

During this half term, the Lower Sixth girls have enjoyed a series of dinners hosted by Mrs Hewer at her home here in St George's. Divided into House groups, the girls were invited to share a meal with the Head and talk about their Sixth Form experience, their future aspirations and reflect on matters of importance to the school body as a whole in an informal setting. This term has seen a resurgence of discussion around the inclusion of trousers within the school uniform and a question over the naming of the four competitive Houses after women not men. Mrs Hewer greatly appreciated hearing the girls' views and was impressed, as ever, by their social confidence and the erudite expression of their views.



## PIZZA & PAMPER NIGHT

On Tuesday 21 January, the Upper Sixth boarders in Loveday were treated to a pizza and pamper evening with Glo Pamper. This evening was a lovely way to relax after the two weeks of mock examinations that started their term. The girls were each given a 'Glopamper' experience with therapist Caroline treating them to a fifteen minute massage. Kiera really enjoyed her shoulder, back and scalp massage and said that it was 'simply incredible after a stressful few weeks'.

It was the perfect way to reward the Upper Sixth girls after all their hard work and the girls had a great evening socialising over Dominos pizza and finished the night watching Love Island as a family.



## COME DINE WITH ME

WRITTEN BY FOURTH YEAR BOARDER, ERIN

On Tuesday 4 February, the Fourth Year boarders participated in a 'Come Dine with Me' event. Everyone was split into small groups, headed for the cookery room, decided on a menu, and found recipes. For the starter, blinis were chosen which were made by Charlotte, Emily, Trista and Veronika. For mains, Joanna, Guilia and Eli made halloumi burgers or cheeseburgers and Millie, Erin, Alice and Annabel made brownies with ice cream and

berries for dessert. Everyone enjoyed the meal while singing along to Miley Cyrus and High School Musical. It was obviously very different from the normal meals at school with much more ketchup spilt and a few oven temperature challenges! Many thanks to Mrs Harmon for arranging everything, getting the ingredients, and supervising. We would love to do an evening like this again.



## VALENTINE'S DAY PARTY

In celebration of Valentine's Day, girls throughout the boarding Houses enjoyed Valentine's Day celebrations including a delicious breakfast and a themed party in the evening complete with treats and gifts.







On Friday 7 February Becket House hosted their annual House Party. House Captain, Sophie chose the theme of Wish Upon a Star and the girls worked hard to decorate the dining room in theme, creating a magical atmosphere for everyone to enjoy. After dinner, all the guests moved over to Cormack Hall for the entertainment. Jacqueline, Eli, Erin, Vasilisa & Pippa opened the show with a group piece which really set the mood for the evening. We had excellent solos from Milly, Cameron, Felicitas and Jacqueline. Giulia also performed a ballet piece which showed off her fantastic dancing ability. The First Years then performed a section of one of their choir pieces as a group with Mrs Thompson on the piano.

The evening finished with our House Song, Heart on Fire. All the girls sang with an enthusiasm that spoke of their house loyalty and it was a great way to finish a marvellous evening full of Georgian confidence and ability.

## BECKET HOUSE PARTY





## CHARITY SWIMATHON

£185 RAISED FOR MARY'S MEALS, MELANOMA UK  
& THAMES HOSPICE

On 13 January, the Third Year girls held a Swimathon in aid of the three charities that St George's are supporting for 2019-20; Mary's Meals, Melanoma UK and Thames Hospice.

It was great to see the pool absolutely full of activity with swimmers of every ability and plenty of supporters amongst staff and girls. The most prolific swimmers were undoubtedly Costanza and Alexandra, with Isabel and Annie swimming in a very speedy duo. Meanwhile Jess, Gemma, Leila, Elodie, Charlotte and Milly formed the fastest two relay teams. Mrs Magill and Miss Earnshaw-Punnett also put on some goggles and joined in with the event! It was a fantastic first fundraising event showcasing the breadth of opportunity provided by our new St George's pool and raising £185 for our three worthy causes.





## AUSTRALIAN EXCHANGE

One of the most distinctive features of St George's provision is the Australian Exchange programme for the Third Year girls. This year, four of our Third Years, Honey, Teniola, Charlotte and Annie, will have the opportunity both to stay with Australian families and enjoy the classes and co-curricular activities offered by St Catherine's School, Melbourne but also to host two Australian visitors here at St George's as well.

St George's strongly believes that the Australian Exchange offers these Third Years a number of valuable benefits. The selected girls are chosen after a rigorous application process which includes writing a letter to the Headmistress

and two interviews. The experience of learning in an Australian school for half a term is often life-changing and perspective-broadening for the girls. It certainly offers them the opportunity to build resilience and independence as, in most cases, it is the longest time that they will have experienced away from friends and families. The rest of the year group also benefit from learning with Australian pupils who have different educational experiences and cultural references. To confront the challenges of the coming decades, so vividly indicated in the recent Australian Wildfires, strong bonds between countries and their peoples will be an asset upon which we increasingly depend.

## CAKETASTIC BAKE SALE

It was incredibly encouraging to see the girls respond with such sympathy and compassion to the devastating bushfires in Australia and praise must go to Maya and Lydia and friends for organising a Charity Bake Sale in aid of The New South Wales Fire Service on Friday 17 January. A huge thank you to everyone who contributed delicious edible treats; the cakes baked were absolutely beautiful to look at and even more delicious to taste. The event was (not surprisingly!) extremely popular and raised an incredible £645 for such a pressing, important cause.





## ST MICHAEL'S PRIMARY SCHOOL VISITS

**“They’re stunning young ladies. They look elegant and conduct themselves beautifully”**

*Mrs Anderton, Headmistress of St. Michael's Primary School*

Throughout the Lower Sixth year, the girls are given the opportunity to connect with the community by regularly visiting St Michael's C of E Primary School in Sunninghill along with a number of other local Primary Schools to support younger children with their reading.

It is absolutely evident, speaking to both the girls and Mrs Anderton, the Headmistress of St Michael's, that this opportunity is deeply beneficial for all involved. “We love the girls” was Mrs Anderton's enthusiastic opener, going on to explain how respectful, courteous and helpful our girls have consistently proven to be.

With a focus on Talking for Writing in primary education, the girls are giving these young children an invaluable opportunity to talk with an older peer, encouraging them to engage with different texts, and helping them develop invaluable questioning skills.

The girls really enjoy the adoration of the younger children and are learning to control the more spirited ones! As they work hard towards their A levels, these visits are both a welcome change of focus for the girls but also help to grow their self esteem and develop the ability to relate beyond the walls of St George's; the perfect preparation for a successful future.

## HAPPY CHINESE NEW YEAR

On Wednesday 22 January the whole of Knatchbull House came together to celebrate Chinese New Year. A team of Lower Sixth girls, led by Jennie, cooked sticky Coca Cola chicken and egg fried rice which the girls enjoyed with some delicious spring rolls and prawn crackers.

It was lovely to see all the girls trying different food, talking about the various Chinese traditions and socialising together. Some of the girls were making red window flowers and teaching each other how to write using Chinese characters. A wonderful night was had by all.

All staff and girls also enjoyed a delicious Chinese feast to celebrate in the dining room at lunchtime.



## GCSE AND A LEVEL WICKED THEATRE TRIP

On Tuesday 21 January, the GCSE and A level Music pupils enjoyed a super trip to see Wicked at The Apollo Victoria in London. The girls arrived in London at around 6pm and had a delicious meal together at Pizza Express. After which they made their way to the theatre, ready to watch the performance. The show was amazing and the girls were all on the edge of their seats the whole way through. The set was incredible, the music stunning and the dancing and acting on stage was incredibly inspiring. Highlights included the song, 'Defying Gravity', which the girls are all studying for their Music GCSE and the moment when Elphaba reappeared after the girls had all thought that she was dead was incredible! It was so so good and all agreed that they would love to go again!



## CAREERS LUNCH WITH MRS CHRISTIE FIDURA

St George's parent and Salesforce Director, Mrs Christie Fidura, was invited to speak on Friday 31 January at the second Careers Lunch of the academic year. Mrs Fidura spoke about her life in Technology and Marketing to a group of girls from the First Year to the Lower Sixth. Mrs Fidura emphasised to the pupils the importance of taking opportunities and building a strong network with personal contacts being important alongside online interactions. One of the many striking things she said was that it had taken twenty five years to arrive at her ideal role. However, the jobs she had undertaken before this had given her the opportunity to learn and furthered her career.

After a fantastic presentation, all those present, including Mr Wright, enjoyed an impromptu training session which involved introducing themselves to Mrs Fidura and shaking hands. Everyone who attended was enthused by her message and energised by the advice given.



## SOCIALS AT ST GEORGE'S

St George's hosted the Third Year social with Eton, St Mary's Ascot and Godolphin on Saturday 8 February. The disco was truly one of Mr Pearn's finest, involving an eclectic mix of tunes from Despacito to YMCA. It was fantastic to see so many people having fun on the dance floor and meeting new friends over delicious nibbles.



## SOCIAL WITH PAPPLEWICK

Socials are hosted for a number of Year groups throughout each term and they are a great way to make new friends and meet pupils of a similar age from local schools. On Saturday 1 February, it was the turn of the First Years who were extremely excited to welcome the boys from Papplewick to St George's.

The evening began with a sit down meal of cordon bleu chicken burgers and chips. The girls were integrated with the boys on mixed tables and were able to make new friends and find common interests.

Cameron and Maclaren thanked the catering staff for a lovely meal and then led everyone to the disco. Mr Pearn had an array of music prepared for the girls and boys and there was a constant queue at the music request table! This evening was a great way to build friendships with the boys and spend time with the other girls in the year group.



## BOARDING TASTER NIGHT

Friday 31 January marked the much awaited, termly boarding taster night, with prospective pupils from Years 5 and 6 joining the Markham House boarders to experience a night of boarding at St George's. The girls had a jampacked, fun evening, painting some beautiful glass votives and making rainbow designs to take home with them. The girls were looking forward, not only to making new friends and trying out boarding for the first time, but far more importantly to trying out the fluffy socks from their taster treat bag! Inevitably, some had butterflies as they arrived but spoke the next day of how much they had enjoyed seeing old friends but also making new ones as well.



## GEOGRAPHY EDUCATION DAY

On Saturday 1 February twenty two, Year Five and Six girls joined the Geography department for a day of adventure and excitement, as they designed earthquake proof buildings, explored an undiscovered rainforest and completed the day with a highly competitive game about world trade. There were some fantastic designs of undiscovered rainforest animals and plants which had imaginative (and in some

cases hilarious) adaptations for the rainforest climate. Other than the exciting world of Geography, a definite highlight for the girls would have been the chocolate doughnuts for dessert at lunchtime. The staff and Sixth Form Geographers, who came to help, had a great day with the girls. We look forward to welcoming many to St George's in the Autumn Term.



## 11+ AFTERNOON TEA

On Thursday 13 February, Mrs Hewer and a number of staff and pupils provided a warm Georgian welcome to those girls offered places for First Year entry at the 11+ Celebratory Tea.

It was a pleasure to spend time with both the girls and their families and provided an excellent opportunity for them to find out more about St George's in a relaxed, informal setting. The catering team treated everyone to delicious treats and the warmth of their welcome represented the spirit of St George's so well.



## PREP SCHOOL NETBALL TOURNAMENT

On Saturday 26 January, St George's held the annual Prep Schools Netball Tournament for Year 5 girls.

This year eleven schools attended, coming from London, Surrey and Berkshire, with some new entries to the competition. As ever, the standard was very high, with incredible talent shown by the semi finalists Yateley Manor, Orchard House, The Marist and the overall winners Hoe Bridge. Everyone was impressed with the speed at which the girls were able to move the ball through the court, and the incredibly accurate shooting that was shown for their age.

All the girls enjoyed their visit to St George's and hopefully will return for Open Day in March or perhaps the forthcoming Prep School Lacrosse event.



## CANDLEMAS SERVICE

There was, as ever, a sense of anticipation and reverence at the start of the annual Candlemas Service on Sunday 2 February. Parents, staff and pupils gathered in the darkness to celebrate the Bible's teaching that Jesus is the Light of the World. They enjoyed a moving choral rendition of 'I wonder as I wander' (Appalachian carol arranged by our Director of Music, Ian Hillier), as the chapel candles were lit and the chaplain, Rev Sami Watts got the service underway. The choir continued to delight with performances of All My Heart This Night Rejoices by Ebeling, The Infant King, a Christmas piece from the

Basque region, It Was On Christmas Day, an English Carol arranged by Ian Hillier, and O Sent Thy Light Forth by Balakirev. Readings were beautifully delivered by Jacqueline, Olivia C and Olivia B, current parents Mrs Milns and Mrs Ewens and the Gospel was read by the Headmistress, Liz Hewer. While the congregational candles were lit, the choir sang Resonemus Laudibus arranged by David Willcocks. The service concluded with a triumphant rendition of Widor's Toccata and everyone gathered to celebrate with refreshments in the Top Foyer.

## BERKSHIRE BOOK AWARD

On Wednesday 12 February, sixteen of the most avid readers in the First and Second Years made their way across Berkshire to attend the announcement of this year's Berkshire Book Award shortlisted books.

The event was hosted at Denefield School and the eagerly awaited announcement was made by local children's author Clare Rees. Clare talked about her current book, Jelly, which is set on top of a giant jellyfish, and regaled everyone

with funny tales about what inspires an author. After the announcement of the shortlisted books, everyone mingled to discuss the titles and the voting for the winner was officially opened.

Any young person from across Berkshire can register their vote with their school librarian or by visiting the website. The 2020 winner will be announced on 25 March.





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