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NATIONAL LACROSSE CHAMPIONSHIPS

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FROM THE HEAD

Liz Hewer

Looking through the pages of the activities and events of the past half-term it seems somewhat surreal that, firstly, so much has taken place since half-term, and secondly, that not long afterwards, the school buildings were closed due to the coronavirus outbreak.

The whole St George's community came together in impressive fashion, in challenging circumstances, and we were fortunate enough to remain a healthy and purposeful school until the government led schools closures a week before the end of our term.

During the past week, with the school buildings closed, the staff and girls,

in many parts of the world, have approached their remote teaching and learning with enthusiasm, commitment and positivity. We have embraced online live lessons, activities and meetings along with independent study in all areas of the curriculum and co-curriculum, and for many, this has been for the first time.

While the girls and staff stay well connected, it remains to be seen what next term holds for us all, and we do not know when we will be able to be together again as a community. We are all very much looking forward to this time.

HOUSE MUSIC COMPETITION

On Thursday, 12 March the four Houses of St George's battled it out on stage, each giving their best performance in the hopes of winning the annual House Music Cup.

This year, all four Houses had rehearsed extremely well and prepared very interesting, diverse programmes. Each House presented a beginner, intermediate and advanced soloist, an ensemble, a special item and a House Song involving every girl in the House.

This year the adjudicator was Mr Ben Gunner from Musica Europa and, judging by his comments, he was greatly impressed by all the girls' efforts. Well done to Mia who won the prize for the best solo performance of the day playing 'Trinidad' on the trombone and a huge congratulations to Alexander, the overall winning house.





JUNIOR CONCERT

The Junior Concert was held on Friday, 13 March and the audience were entertained throughout by the assured and confident performances of all the girls involved. Of special mention were Maya, Honey, Cameron, Maclaren, Isobel, Olivia, Alice and Millie who sang solos. Izzy and Felicitas sang and played a duet, Elodie, Kristina & Paige performed an inventive trio, Ava played Vivaldi on the violin, Mika played Dussek on the piano and the First Year choir rounded the concert off with two great pieces: 'Count on me' and 'All is found'. It was a rousing start to the Exeat weekend and a reminder of the value of music in buoying spirits and building the wider St George's community.



ELEVATE EDUCATION STUDY SKILLS SESSIONS

For many years, St George's has welcomed the inspiring and enthusiastic speakers of Elevate Education to Ascot to bring to the girls the latest developments in study skills. Awareness of the importance of how young people "learn to learn" has been a major development in education over the past decades.

There was a belief amongst educators in the past that, once the content of a subject had been taught, pupils could be trusted to simply get on with revision and assimilate knowledge in a way which worked for them. Elevate have successfully challenged such assumptions by bringing an evidence-based approach to the understanding of learning. Using the latest research in education to underpin the methodology, the sessions undertaken by the girls throughout the School are focused on all elements of education, from note-taking through to examination preparation.

The speakers employed by Elevate are recent graduates and their energetic, youthful dynamism is well-received by the pupils. Staff from the company have also given inset to staff and a seminar to parents which has been beneficial in ensuring that everyone understands the methods being taught to the girls.

Elevate ran an excellent session with the Third Year on Monday, 2 March to kickstart their transition towards GCSE studies. In just one hour, the girls were empowered with an understanding of dynamic reading skills and they also began to develop their conceptual learning techniques.

On Monday, 9 March, the Fifth Year enjoyed a session on Memory Mnemonics, taking the girls through various memory techniques designed to help them with their GCSE studies and capacity to recall information.



YOUNG ENTERPRISE TRADE FAIR

Saturday, 7 March saw the annual Young Enterprise trade fair in the Royal Shopping Arcade in Windsor. Student companies from across Berkshire gathered to sell their products and advertise their companies to the tourists and local shoppers in Windsor town centre. Despite some cold and rainy weather, the three St George's teams did an incredibly impressive job selling their products and impressed the public with their inventive product ideas. These included technology-based accessories, branded tracksuit bottoms and recyclable drinks cups. Congratulations to all the young entrepreneurs on an incredibly successful trade fair.





SGA CAPABLE

NATIONAL LACROSSE CHAMPIONSHIPS FOR THE U19S, U15S, U14S AND U13S

“All the teams...rose to the occasion and played brilliantly.”

Despite the endless rain that fell on the National Lacrosse Championships this year, all the St George's teams ignored the weather conditions, rose to the occasion and played brilliantly. As the first day of play had been abandoned due to the weather, the U19s were seeded in Division 3 of the tournament and played some fantastic lacrosse against King's School Canterbury, Abbot's Hill and Malvern St James. Harrogate College and Queen Margaret's proved to be two very tough opponents but the girls secured a place in the semi-finals where they met Harrogate College again. This was a tough match. The team fought with real determination to stay in the game but Harrogate proved too strong and St George's went out of the competition as losing semi-finalists. The strength of the girls' performances on the day clearly demonstrated their development through this season.

The U15s had a strong day at their tournament. They won three out of their seven matches (beating Downe House A was one of the highlights!), lost three and drew one. This took them through to the knockout stages where they met Bedford High. A fantastic back-and-forth match ensued and

the defence had to work hard to keep out a very determined Bedford attack! Having initially gone behind, the U15s fought back to draw level and finished the game on a 1-1 draw. Count back on goal difference sadly meant that Bedford went through but the U15s can be delighted with their day, a fitting end to a fabulous season.

The U14s had a tough section of games on their day of the championships and came very close in a number of matches - particularly against Heathfield and North London Collegiate. Their best performances were against the stronger schools - Moreton Hall and Caterham - and the whole team gave everything in these matches, standing up with tenacity and courage time and again to repel their opponents. They played with fantastic team spirit and can really be proud of how far they have come over the last two seasons.

Sadly the U13s tournament was cancelled due to the ground conditions at the venue.

All St George's teams played with spirit, heart and determination and they were model sportswomen on the field, making all their coaches very proud.





NATIONAL SCIENCE WEEK

Science week started on Monday, 9 March with a virtual bang, as the girls enjoyed an assembly given by Dr Alsop in which she outlined the A-Z of where science can take you. This set the tone of a week in which scientific aspiration and ambition were the order of the day.

On Tuesday and Wednesday, the First to Fifth Year girls learnt about very different areas of industry. Mr John Steel gave a lecture on the electricity industry and exposed the girls to high-level mathematical concepts regarding energy demands. He helped the girls to think about how the energy industry copes with spikes in demand for example when the great British public put the kettle on in the advert break of Coronation Street! The girls then heard from Mr Chris Joly who spoke about the wonders of our universe and our place in it.

The talk inspired the girls' imagination on where life can be found in the universe and the vast

distances that would need to be travelled to reach habitable planets.

Throughout the week, girls took part in the Daily Science Challenges, solving science puzzles through practical activities with points scored for completing tasks in a specific time. There were also a mighty thirty nine projects submitted for the SGA 2020 Science Fair. The diversity of topics clearly showed a Georgian enthusiasm for and interest in science. From a model of the Corona Virus, to Volcanoes, from Dancing Popcorn to Biohacking, each project was put to the public vote with awards given for best presented, best for scientific content, the most original and best overall.

Given the focus on STEM opportunities for women, it remains a priority at St George's to provide opportunities such as Science Week to develop the girls' knowledge, confidence and enthusiasm.

CLASSICS TRIP TO THE KALLOS GALLERY & THE BRITISH MUSEUM

On Thursday, 27 February, the Fourth Year Classics and Latin GCSE classes and the Lower Sixth Classics A level class went on a day trip to London. Firstly, we went to visit an alumna of St George's, named Hayley, who works at the Kallos Gallery in Mayfair. She showed us many interesting artefacts and explained their history. We enjoyed hearing about testing authenticity and fakes on the market. Our favourite artefact was a Cupid's arm made out of bronze; it looked like a thumbs up sign!

We arrived at the British Museum and had some free time to explore the shops and enjoy the atrium. We then proceeded to the 'Troy: Myth and Reality' exhibition, where we were given some questions to complete. We enjoyed the atmospheric lighting and the sound effects. Some exhibits which we liked included: a Greek vase showing Odysseus and the Cyclops and the painting of Clytemnestra by John Collier.

Overall it was an interesting and informative day. Thank you to Hayley from the Kallos Gallery for having us.



House Art Winners Announced!

St George's are delighted to announce that the winners of the House Art competition 2020 are... Darwin House! Well done to all of the participants. The level of work produced by each House was excellent. The final pieces have all been on display in the SLR.

U13 ASCOT SCHOOLS' NETBALL TOURNAMENT

Both the U13A and B netball teams took part in the Ascot Schools' Netball tournament here at St George's on Tuesday, 25 February. The A team started promisingly with wins in tight games against St Mary's and Heathfield. Unfortunately, despite some strong defending from Tilly and Poppy, they were unable to secure wins against Charters or The Marist and finished the tournament in third place. The U13B team sadly lost their first two games by one goal each time, but then gained a good victory over Heathfield with Daisy-Mae and Izzy dominating the attack. They finished the tournament in equal third. Well done to all the girls who played.



U12 ASCOT SCHOOLS' NETBALL TOURNAMENT

On Tuesday, 3 March the U12s competed in their age group of the Ascot Schools' Netball Tournament. The A team worked extremely well as a team and passed the ball accurately down the court whilst the defence worked hard to intercept the ball and gain possession. The girls won four out of five matches and should be very proud of how they played, coming second overall and receiving silver medals in the cup competition. Player of the tournament goes to Cara.



The B team were entered into the plate competition. Every single girl in the squad played their part in a hugely successful evening. They worked so hard in both attack and defence, playing some brilliant netball and showing a lot of fight. Outstanding shooting enabled them to progress through to the semi final and then into the final. A wonderful performance in the final gave the girls a gold medal in the Plate competition. Players of the Tournament were Izzy, Dom and Anya.



SECOND YEAR VISIT TO 3M



On Friday, 6 March, the Second Years travelled to the innovative design company, 3M in Bracknell.

Upon arrival, we were split into two classes, and were given a talk about how 3M works and what they create and design to make lives easier. The staff gave us multiple demonstrations about their innovative work, such as a pair of headphones which enable you to hear other people from a distance.

We then participated in some riddles which we had to solve as a team, and also designed our own aeroplanes out of paper, tape and straw. The aim was to fly them as far as possible through the room.

Finally, we were given an activity which involved us working as a team to order photos from the most zoomed-in to the most zoomed-out, and then the other way round. All of these challenges were very fun, but also quite challenging and got us all working collectively as a group and learning how science is applied in real life.

Written by Daisy-Mae





ALEXANDER HOUSE PARTY

On Friday, 6 March it was the turn of Alexander House to host their annual House Party and this year the theme was Hawaiian Luau. The dining hall was impressively decorated with lots of fun props for photos and colourful flowers which created a tropical mood despite the cold weather outside! The evening began with welcome drinks and mocktails for the students. The guests were then treated to a delicious coconut curry and tropical fruit salad for the evening meal. It was then the turn of the girls to showcase their incredible talents. Naomi began the night with a lovely classical performance on the harp and, later in the

evening, she showed the breadth of her talents performing a dance to a popular K-Pop song. Lydia and Ruby gave a fantastic rendition of the song 'Other Friends' and were followed by a beautifully harmonised performance of The Scientist by Tilly, Millie and Connie. The whole house also gave a sneaky peek of their song for the House Music Competition, 'Mr Blue Sky', and a special item, 'Classic'. Thank you to all the members of staff and the catering team for organising such a successful event and to the parents and girls for making it such an entertaining evening.



ASH WEDNESDAY



Ash Wednesday marks the start of Lent for Christians, a period of forty days leading up to Easter. Christians traditionally give up something as a form of fasting, perhaps chocolate or sweet treats, whilst others go for a technological fast from social media, or choose to take on a new activity such as running, giving or even prayer. At St George's there

was a Simple Lunch held on Ash Wednesday. A nutritious and plentiful meal was served, but with fewer choices than usual and less expensive ingredients. The money saved then went towards our brilliant charities for this year: Thames Hospice, Melanoma UK and Mary's Meals.



MEMES MUFTI DAY

On Friday, 28 February, St George's held its first ever meme MUFTI day to raise money for the school's chosen charities. It was arranged by the Fourth Year and the idea was met with much excitement by the rest of the school. There was a fantastic array of outfits, ranging from dinosaurs to celebrities and people from viral internet videos.

PANCAKE DAY IN KNATCHBULL

The Knatchbull girls enjoyed lots of pancake flipping fun on Shrove Tuesday with many toppings to choose from and indulge in. It was wonderful to see the girls enjoying themselves and, despite being a little reluctant at the beginning, they soon got into the swing of things. No pancakes were lost to the floor which was a great result!

INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S DAY

St George's marked International Women's Day in School on Monday, 9 March with a special assembly highlighting two appeals, Smalls for All and Period Poverty.

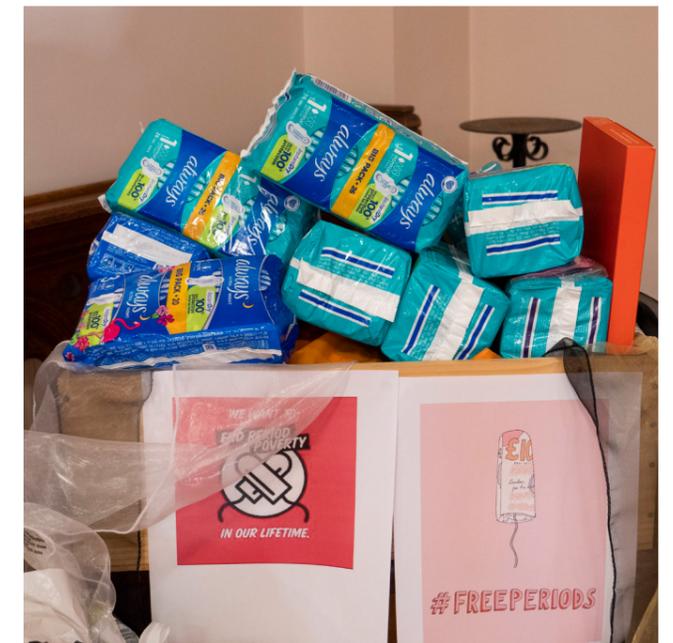
Rev Watts explained a little of the background to International Women's Day and encouraged each person to think about the women who inspire them. In the main part of the assembly, Ruby and Elizabeth in the Lower Sixth highlighted the two appeals the school chose to support.

The first was a collection of sanitary products to help relieve Period Poverty. Ruby and Elizabeth explained that menstruation negatively affects as many as one in nine girls in the UK, forcing them, under extreme circumstances, to miss days of school each month because they cannot afford products to maintain personal hygiene during this time. Donations will go to the Wokingham and Bracknell Food Banks.

The second appeal is in support of Smalls for All. This charity collects and distributes bras and pants, particularly for women in Africa. The wearing of underwear helps prevent sexual abuse of girls and young women, and also helps with hygiene when they are menstruating.

"I think it's important to support these causes for International Women's Day because it highlights how we take these essential goods for granted while others are forced to live without them. It is important that we are not only supporting local charities, but also international charities, as it allows the girls to recognise the need for International Women's day and the organisations which are set up to help women in disadvantaged positions. Our International Women's day event allows us to help those in need, giving as we can, as even a small donation can make a big difference" written by Ruby in the Lower Sixth.

"On the day after International Women's Day, one of the Markham boarders clubs hosted a bake sale on behalf of Smalls for All and Period Poverty. Our enthusiastic and committed members created amazing baked goods including lots of scrumptious brownies, cookies and lemon cakes. We raised a whopping total of TBC. With the money raised we will be buying sanitary products to donate to the local Woking and Bracknell food banks. We also have bra donations to give to the Smalls for All charity." Written by the Markham boarders club team.



ZUMBA FOR SPORTS RELIEF

SGA girls love to dance and PE lessons are sometimes devoted to the latest Just Dance moves. So it was no surprise that Dance fever gripped St George's on Sport Relief Day, as girls arrived at school in disco outfits for mufti day. Neon and lycra-clad pupils enjoyed fun and games in their PE lessons to the sounds of 80s disco hits and the PE department joined in the fun with leg warmers, head bands and disco leggings! At lunchtime our favourite Zumba teacher, Laura, treated us all to an hour-long disco zumba session and girls from the First Year through to the Sixth Form joined in the fun. Zumba is no walk in the park and heart rates were raised and muscles worked for the full hour by staff and students alike. Thank you to all those who brought their Disco Fever and helped raise money for Sport Relief.



MUSIC WORKSHOP WITH WINDLESHAM PRIMARY SCHOOL

On Thursday, 27 February the Music department welcomed thirty young visitors from Windlesham Infant school, with their staff, for a morning of music. The staff enjoyed the change to working with very young children and explore all kinds of musical experiences that were new for them. At the start of the morning, they enjoyed Mr Smith talking about and demonstrating percussion instruments from early African talking drums to the modern

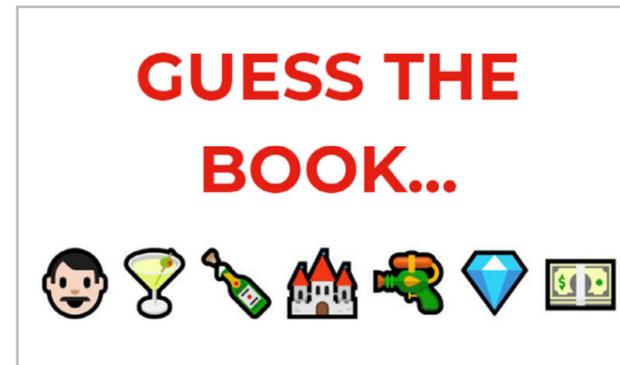
drum kit. The highlight was a guest appearance by 'monkey' who was in good form and had clearly done quite a lot of drumming practice! The children then divided into three groups, taking turns to work with Miss Johnson doing Music and Movement, with Mrs Thomson doing African Drumming with the djembes and with Mr Hillier learning the song 'Badgers and Hedgehogs'. It was a morning full of fun and much enjoyed by everyone.

MRS MILLNS' PARLIAMENTARY CANDIDATE TALK



The Politics Department were delighted to welcome St George's parent Mrs Rushi Millns to speak to the girls about her experience running for Parliament on Friday, 6 March. The Conservative Party candidate for the safest Labour seat of Knowsley on Merseyside, Mrs Millns discussed her political development, her decision to join the Tories, and her experience standing in the 2019 General Election. It was striking to hear of the challenges faced in fighting a positive campaign in a constituency which is characterised by strong anti-Conservative sentiment. Mrs Millns then went onto discuss the importance of greater engagement in politics, particularly amongst young women, and how there is a route into this critical career for all those willing to be involved in public service.

WORLD BOOK DAY



World Book Day is always a highlight for our school library and this year was no exception. The theme for 2020 was 'Share a Story' so everyone in the St George's community was encouraged to take just ten minutes out of their day to share a story with one another.

At lunchtime, on Wednesday, 5 March we had a Book Speed Dating session, in which everyone had one minute to 'sell' their chosen book before moving on to 'sell' their title to the next participant. Scores were awarded and the highest overall score showed who promoted their book best. This honour was shared by Orla in the Second Year and Isabella in the Upper



Sixth. Well done to the girls for encouraging others to read their chosen titles!

Throughout the day there was also a Mystery Key Hunt. Ten keys were hidden around the school and those lucky enough to find a key selected a free book of their choice. Everyone was also encouraged to take part in a Guess the Book emoji quiz. A series of emojis offered clues to famous book titles. Finally, girls were encouraged to pick up one of the free, special World Book Day books from the library. Once again, it was a wonderful celebration of books, imagination and storytelling.



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