

Welcome to our Winter Newsletter. I hope you are able to take a few moments to discover the vast range of activities our students have been engaged in over the last few months. Reading through, you realise why St George is such a positive and vibrant place in which to learn.

Our students take part in so many extra curricular activities that are complementing their development and embedding our college values. It is no wonder that we receive so much positive feedback about our strengths, attitudes, approach to learning and respect for others, when you see what they contribute to the local, regional and national community. Well done to all involved!

In the build up to Christmas, as we come together to celebrate the "good news", let us reflect on these achievements and renew our commitment to our values as a college community, to our families and friends and endeavour to work and grow together.

Graham R Wilson

Graham Wilson
Headteacher



May I take this opportunity to wish you all a happy and peaceful Christmas and many blessings for 2014.

Year 7, with our first cohort of girls since the 1970s, have settled in really well.

Beginning the term with a special welcome mass, they have enjoyed team building events that included a trip to *Action Stations*, a competition to design and construct model sail boats and they have taken part in a literacy day.

We have already received many admissions for September 2014 and demand for places at St George continues to grow.



Diary Dates

January

Mon 6th Inset Day
Thurs 16th Year 11 Parents Evening
Mon 20th Year 8 Gifted & Talented Trip
Tues 21st Living Rainforest Trip
Thurs 23rd Year 9 Parents Evening
Fri 24th Year 9/10 History Trip

February

Sat 15th - Sun 23rd - Half Term
Tues 25th Year 10 Gifted & Talented Trip
Thurs 27th Year 10 Gifted & Talented Trip

March

Thurs 20th Year 10 Parents Evening
Fri 21st Ski Trip Departs
Thurs 27th Year 8 Parents Evening

April

Thurs 3rd Reward Trips KS3 & 4
Sat 5th - Mon 21st Easter Holiday

See our website diary pages for updates and more details



Advent Prayer



*Holy darkness, blessed light,
Heaven's answer hidden from our sight.
As we await you, O God of silence,
We embrace your holy night.*

Our all weather sports pitch under construction in December





Raising Literacy

The start of the new school year saw a major drive to raise literacy levels at the college. A whole day of fun activities involved students in reading and writing challenges and visits from local authors, *Ali Sparkes* and *Judy Waite*. Staff from Southampton Central Library were on hand to sign up students and teachers alike with library cards.

The launch was given a boost with the donation of 200 novels as well as popular magazines and comics. The emphasis on reading continues with students being given weekly 'reading for fun' lessons.

Reward System

In September we introduced a reward system to acknowledge outstanding achievement. Students are awarded a house point in the form of a raffle ticket and every two weeks a draw is made in assembly. There are various prizes from vouchers to 'skipping the dinner queue'. Bronze, silver and gold star badges are given when twenty five, fifty and one hundred house points are collected.

As well as individual prizes, tutor groups are also awarded fortnightly prizes. At the end of term the tutor group with the highest house points is awarded *Domino's Pizza*. The following pupils have topped their year group for collecting the most house points so far:

Dynel Simeu, Nathan Dunbar, Ravinder Singh, Andrei Jacob, Kamar Mirza, William Hadley, Leo Stoy, Ali Usman, Tom Fish, Kamil Lis, Patryk Pieczkowski, Nthethe Thakanyane, Alexandru Bondar and Kamil Derucki

Voice Coach

As part of Southampton Music Service 'boys vocal strategy', a vocal coach came into college to work with 20 students from Years 7 – 10 during the first half term. The boys really enjoyed the sessions and gained confidence in using their voices.



Indian workshop

A group of students from Year 9 and KS4 took part in a Classical Indian music workshop with Jonathan Mayer, one of the top sitar players in the world! Students took part in a range of activities which gave them a good understanding of Indian music; both students and staff were left quite inspired by Jonathan's playing and both came away from the workshop with a real appreciation of Indian musical culture.



Baby grand piano

The music department and Friends of Saint George are currently raising funds to purchase a baby grand piano for the main hall.

WW1 Battlefields Visit

Forty-four Year 9 and 10 History students visited Belgium in November and brought home some lasting memories.

For Year 10's **Keiran O'Driscoll**, taking part in the remembrance parade through the *Menin Gate* was an unforgettable experience. Keiran, who was given the *Adam Hunt Award* for exceptional conduct commented, "We saw some breathtaking and moving monuments and cemeteries, such as the *Canadian National* and *Thiepval* memorials and *Tyne Cemetery*, that showed the massive scale of soldiers who lost their lives".



Sailboat Challenge 2013

Our Year 7 Sailboat Challenge displayed some exceptional talent for design. Students were given the basic material to design and build a craft and teams entered into a race at the end of the event. The awards were based on visual creativity as well as performance.



French Trip to Amiens and Paris- 20th to 23rd September 2013

This September, 42 students, Mrs Bartlett, Miss Ennuyer, Miss Barron and Mr Liston set off on a four-day trip to France. On route to Paris they visited the spectacular *Chateau de Compiègne*, a beautiful palace with magnificent chandeliers in the huge ballroom.

The first full day was spent at *Parc Asterix* theme park. Some of the rides were definitely not for the faint hearted! Afterwards they travelled in to Paris for dinner and stood under the *Arc de Triomphe* and saw the Eternal Flame for the Unknown Soldier. On the Sunday, they spent the day in Paris, starting off with a morning at the *Cité des Sciences*: the largest science museum in Europe, which also has the Géode IMAX cinema where they watched a mesmerizing film about life under the sea, in French! In the afternoon the boys enjoyed a river cruise down the Seine, and went up the *Eiffel Tower*. Walking down the steps inside one of the legs from the first floor, amongst the criss-cross of iron work, was a truly unforgettable experience!

On the last morning in Paris they walked up the many steps to the *Sacre Cœur Basilica* and soaked up the Bohemian café culture in the artists' square in *Mont Martre*. A few students had their portraits sketched and the souvenir shops received a huge boost in profits! They all had a fantastic time!





Christmas Concert

With the tree is up and decorated, the Christmas season began with a fantastic display of talent from our students.

Our choir now barely fits on the stage and is enriched with the girls voices. Soloists included **Philippa Brainwood**

who played a superb solo drum piece, a beautiful classical guitar instrumental by **Josh Eva**, **Eoin Shaw** shone with his saxophone and **Alex Wanstall** wowed us with his piano solo. **Connor Swain** sang a stunning rendition of 'A Thousand Years'. and the Year 9 and 11 rock bands were rockin'! Year 8 string ensemble, the brass ensemble, the ukulele band were all excellent as was the college band, *SG Pops*, who rounded the evening off with a vibrant 'Merry Christmas Everybody'.

The cast of 'Rich Heart, Poor Spirit', showed how much the girls are already adding to our drama productions and festive artworks was on sale at the interval along with refreshments by The Friends of St George



Trinity Support Wessex Heartbeat

For the 3rd year running, pupils in Trinity have been raising funds for *Wessex Heartbeat* to help support their *High 5 Appeal* to help with the running of their young adult ward.

Our current Year 11 pupils raised money with a variety of activities that included burger and ice cream stalls and a football tournament. Their efforts inspired more pupils who organised a raffle, with fantastic prizes from local businesses.



Altogether the pupils raised **£638** and received a visit from footballer **Matt Le Tissier** as a thank you from *Wessex Heartbeat*.



From the chaplain

Over 70 families joined us for our Year 7 welcome mass and it was lovely to welcome back Fr Paul Leonard to celebrate with us. It was great to hear the girls' voices in the readings and hymns.

Fr John Cooke joined us for the opening of year masses for the rest of the school and we were privileged to invite the family and friends of **Adam Hunt**, a former pupil

of St George who died suddenly during the summer holidays. We offered mass for the repose of his soul and had a minutes applause for him at the end of mass. We continue to keep Adam's family in our prayers.

The chapel has been a hive of activity at lunch and break-times with students making rosaries and other craft activities. We now pray the rosary every Wednesday lunchtime (to which all are

Harvest of Talents Project

Representatives of CAFOD came to St George in October and taught 32 Year 8 students about the 'parable of the talents'. They were then given £10 each to multiply as many times as they could. They worked hard, setting up sweet stalls, cake sales, busking, car washing and candy floss stalls, raising just over £500 for CAFOD as well as returning the initial outlay of £10 each. The group who earned the most money comprised **Joe Cousins, Thomas Siou, Billy Pook and Albin Jaison** who raised over £100 selling sweets on Open Evening. Lynda Mussell, CAFOD Portsmouth Diocesan Manager was delighted with their efforts and returned to St George on 18th November to thank them personally.



Pink Day

Once again we all went pink to raise money for breast cancer. Boys and girls alike entered into the spirit of the day and raised a superb £480 toward the charity. Well done all.

welcome of course). We are delighted that a regular weekly mass has been reinstated with the 2 week timetable giving us some flexibility. In Week A, we have mass at 8.05 a.m. and in Week B at 1.25 p.m.

Following visits by the ACROSS Trust with their Jumbulance we have also had a very successful World AIDS Day mass and workshops with CAFOD and students from other school around the diocese.

We were very proud of our Year 10 students who welcomed and looked after our visitors as well as participating with great enthusiasm and maturity in the *Trade Game*.

St George was well-represented at the International Conference and Pilgrimage of Catechists in Rome at the beginning of term. Chaplain - Ms Cunio, Governor - Angela Wood and parent - Marianne Wanstall joined other pilgrims from Portsmouth Diocese and around the world for the 4 day conference where they were privileged to be addressed by the Holy Father, Pope Francis.

Jumbulance

A specially converted bus for sick and disabled people visited the college in November. Equipped with medical facilities and a special lift for trolley beds, the bus gives the opportunity for holidays for individuals and groups of up to 23 people. Our students were given a talk about the work of the trust and were able to go aboard and meet the crew.



School Uniform

You can now purchase some items of our school uniform from Tesco as well as Skoolkit. Please visit www.tesco.com/ues or our own website for more details.

Sports News

Work on our new 3G all weather sports pitch is making good progress and we anticipate that it should be completed by the end of January, weather permitting. We have also agreed with Southampton City Council to use a field adjacent to our current playing fields, that will house two full size rugby pitches and a 400 metre running track to ensure we lose no playing space once the all weather pitch is completed.

Rugby and Football

Our Year 7 girls and boys football teams are both unbeaten so far this term, as are our boys rugby team who are the most successful team in five years. The girls rugby team also did themselves proud this term. Our Year 8 football team is currently second in the league. Year 9 football are unbeaten in the league and are in the semi finals of the *Southampton City Cup* and the Year 9 rugby team is aiming to win the league.

Badminton

The U12 team competed in the U14 age group this year and have more than held their own, winning half of their games. The U14 team are winners of the *Southampton Schools Badminton League* and have progressed through to the regional finals. U16 badminton team won the *Southampton Schools Badminton League* and have progressed through to the regional finals.

Basketball

The U14 team are unbeaten in the league so far, the team are aiming for the playoffs this year. The U16 team, has had two wins and one defeat and are aiming for the playoffs again.

Table Tennis

U13 table tennis (boys) won the *Partnership Cup* which saw them progress to the *Hampshire Finals*, eventually finishing in 7th place. U14 table tennis (girls) won the *Partnership Cup* which saw them progress to the *Hampshire Finals*, eventually finishing in 4th place. U16 table tennis; a solid start to the year with a 50% win/loss record. It's good to see so many at training every Friday, a great way to end the week!

Cross Country - League fixtures have commenced with strong performances in all age groups. **Jack Bignell** has led the Year 7 boys team with top 5 finishes in all his races, while **Caitlin Walford**, **India Miles** and **Mia Gardner** have been in the top 10 in their age groups. **Luke Bennett** has led the Year 8 team, with encouraging performances from **Will Reynolds** and **Ben Orchard**. Once again **Tom and Greg Coleman** have set the standard for the Year 9 team, having always finished in the top 3 of their age group.



Christ Ngoulou



Archie Waldock



Daisy Waldock

Individual Honors:

Christ Ngoulou has been selected to play for Hampshire u16 rugby team and started the first game against Sussex on the wing. This is a fantastic achievement considering that he only started playing rugby at Saint George three years ago.

Archie Waldock, number one in Great Britain for his weight category in Taekwondo.

Daisy Waldock, individual gold medalist in Taekwondo.

Mia Gardner – Hampshire football representative.

Lewis Curtis, selected for the U14 Hampshire Schools rugby team.

Tom and Greg Coleman, representing Hampshire in the regional cross-country championships.

Tom and Greg Coleman and Luke Bennett, representing Southampton Schools in the Hampshire championships.

Theo Barnes, continues to excel in national diving competitions.

Sports Journalists

We now have our own team of sports Journalists. They will be following the sport here at St George and will be writing up reports and taking photos. Our team will keep you up to date with results and you can check out photos and write ups from our journalists via our school website by following the link to our blog

Twitter You can now follow the PE Department on Twitter for all the latest news, results and updates: @STGeorgePE

Sports Kit The PE Department would be very grateful for donations of any unwanted sports kit.

Next Term Basketball and table tennis fixtures continue into the new term. Rugby and netball league fixtures also take place after Christmas. Students taking part in the ski trip are set to depart on Friday 21st March having already had some practice on the dry ski slopes.



We have been nationally recognized to its commitment to school sport and participation by receiving two awards! Awarded by the *Youth Sports Trust*, we now hold 'Gold Partner Status'. We have also become the only school in Southampton to achieve the GOLD Kitemark, awarded by the *Sainsbury School Games*.