



Dear Parents/Carers,



We have made it! Thank you so much for your support, ensuring your son/daughter has been able to continue their education throughout this year. Despite the constant changes, the restrictions, home learning, lateral flow testing and new school routines you have all adapted and made sure we continue to provide and progress at St George on all levels. We are delighted that the number of covid cases has remained very low throughout the year which has ensured some continuity. We have finished the year strongly maintaining on-site education, whole school events such as sports day, reward trips and reward assemblies.

Bishop Philip Egan kindly opened our new science and technology block and entrusted our school to our lady of Guadalupe. A memorable moment from the year was the spontaneous applause that could be heard across the school as the building was formally opened and students watched the ceremony live across the school. Sadly we held our memorial mass for Charles Marchetti our chair of governors who passed away at Christmas.

We look forward to September and a return to normal, we are cautious and will monitor the picture closely. Please ensure your son/daughter completes a Lateral Flow test (Years 8-11) before they return to school. We remain focused on keeping everyone safe, maintaining high quality teaching and learning across the school and developing our enrichment offer. In addition the final stage of building works start in February 2022. This includes a new state of the art library/ resource centre, chapel, and additional toilets, an expanded dining room and new front of school reception areas. This should all be complete by Easter 2023.

I would like to wish you all a wonderful summer holiday, we hope you get plenty of time together to relax and reflect on the year that has gone, a huge thank you to the team of staff at St George, we are truly blessed to have such a commitment and talented group of people who believe in our ASPIRE values and your son/daughter.

Thanks,

James Habberley
Headteacher

Diary Dates

Please check our website for important dates in our school calendar. You can find exam information in the Teaching and Learning section of the website. Please also look out for important announcements on our news pages.

September

2nd / 3rd INSET Days

6th - Year 7

7th - All students return

October

25th 29th - Half term



Girls and Boys at St George



It's been almost nine years since female students were welcomed back to the St George family and more recently our governors and school leadership team have been looking into how this has been going.

30 brave girls joined 600 boys in 2013 following 40 years of being a single sex school. Since that time St George has become an attractive option for families with both boys and girls and our numbers have grown. In 2020/21 37% of all students and almost 50% of year 7's are girls, something for the whole school community to be proud of.

Having a daughter in that Year 7 group I'm pleased to be part of this journey. I'm thankful that governors have set aside time to reflect on this. I also have a son in the school and know that joining St George as a coeducational school was the right choice for many reasons including social and personal development and especially in terms of providing real life preparation for the future.

An independent person was invited to support the college in this. They met with groups of students and also staff to ask about what works well and what could be improved. This was presented to the school and a number of things have happened. Governors recently heard more about this and we wanted to share this with you. Below are some of the points we heard about:

- All students (as well as most parents and many staff! have now only known St George as a co-education college.
- Continuing to embed and develop the dual gender approach in

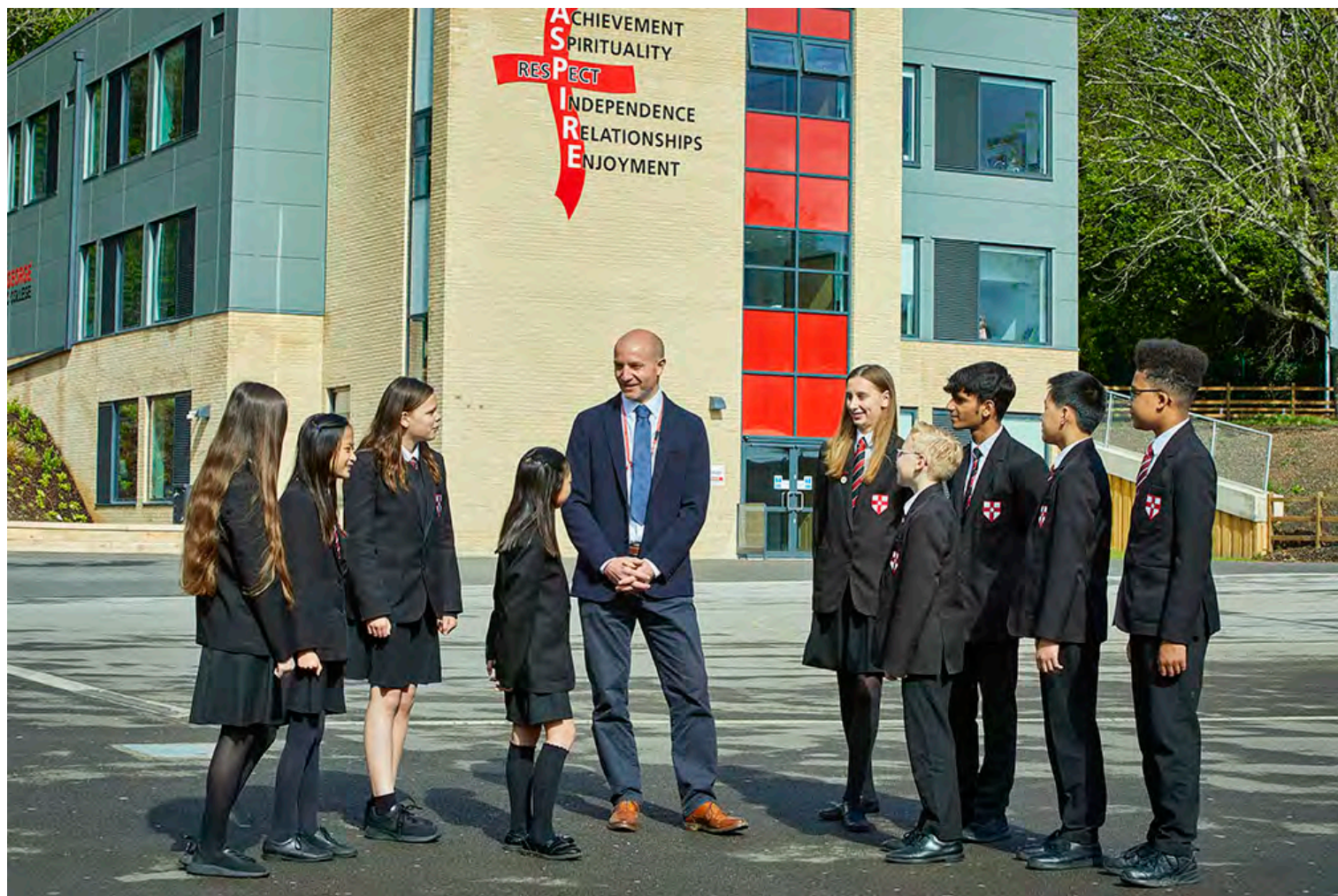
college is a priority.

- We ensure positive role models and representation of females in leadership roles for students, staff and governors.
- We've improved facilities such as changing rooms and toilets, this has benefitted both girls and boys.
- We ensure awareness of gender issues throughout the college including in terms of safety and diversity.
- We regularly look at results and progress of girls (along with other groups) in all subjects and will look at how options choices are balanced.
- We ensure the curriculum is fully accessible to all pupils
- Reviewing gender balance of GCSE subject choices, and adapting practice as necessary

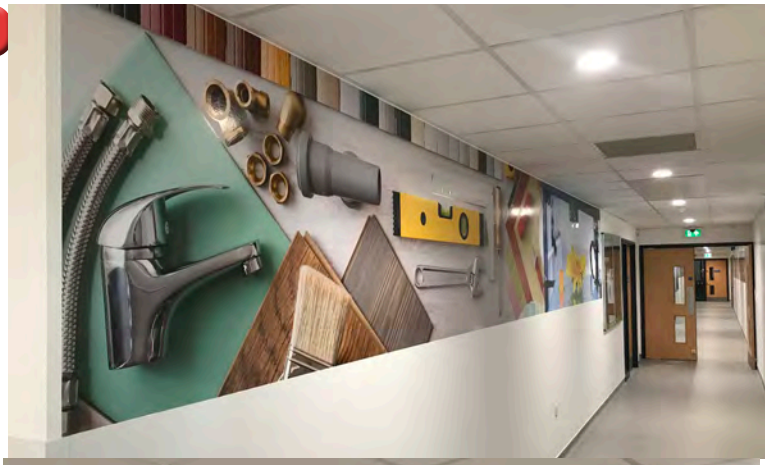
We will keep developing 'enrichment' at the college (things outside the standard curriculum) and will be making sure that there are activities on offer to appeal to all students.

This is such an important area for the college, governors will continue to hear about progress and to support the college staff with this. Wishing you and your families all the best for the summer, and hoping for an even more 'normal' school year from September.

Sarah Davis (Parent Governor).



A Splash of colour for Guadalupe



At half term, the corridors of our new building were given a 'finishing touch' in the form of large photographic wallcoverings. Science and Technology themes were chosen to give the long corridors a warmer and friendlier feel and students and staff have commented that the images help to make the building more inviting. The project was successfully completed by a local printer and a decorating firm who took on the challenge of creating and fitting the wallcoverings that were up to 6 metres long.



Sports Day



We were able to continue with sports day within the government restrictions this year. Although very different to previous years, the event was a great success with school records being broken!



Business Winners

This year St George was lucky enough to be included in the Solent Business Challenge pilot. This involved Bitterne Park, Cantell and St George going up against one another to create a resource to be included in the City of Culture bid 2025. The students were required to create a resource which proves why we should win the bid. This was then watched/read by the panel at the University and from the City of Culture. All the Year 9 GCSE Business Studies students (60+) took part in the challenge and all excelled expectations to create professional and award winning pieces.

St George won the competition! And the work will be used within the City of Culture bid. We are extremely proud of the students and the students are thankful to have a real-life experience within their Business education.



Goodbye to Year 11

On the 25th June, our Year 11 students officially left us, having completed their learning journey at St George, but this was a journey much more complicated than it should have been! With the world being in the midst of the covid 19 pandemic, the students battled through an extraordinary 2 years to obtain their grades and this meant that many of the things we were so used to doing had to be cancelled, exams, proms, all of the things that should shape their final year of school. Because of the pandemic, we were, unfortunately, not able to have a prom, something that many students look forward to.

On the 13th July 2021, we were able to send our Year 11's away and offer them some kind of compensation in the form of a social event or informal prom held on the school campus, in year group bubbles and adhering to social distancing measures that were stipulated at the time. We saw 68 students return to celebrate the end of their programme of study, and socialise with 24 members of staff who came back for the evening. Mr Dwyer took control of the BBQ and was able to put on a selection of meat, salads and side dishes with the help of the Year 11 tutor team and a few others. Mr Horrocks took to the DJ decks with a creative playlists including all of the students requests. It was amazing to see the students come back and update us on their future prospects and plans for summer and to see students smiling again after the toughest of years. It is safe to say everyone deserves a good rest over summer!

We would like to take this opportunity again to congratulate all of our Year 11s for their accomplishments this year, and we wish them all the very best for the future! We look forward to seeing many of our Year 11 on results day and would like to remind anyone who has not yet collected their leavers hoodies and yearbooks that they can do so then.

Mr Shelley
Year 11 Progress Leader & Teacher of PE



Reward Events



The sun shone on our awards events in July and it was a pleasure to see our students out on the sports fields enjoying games in the good weather.

Various informal sports activities were supplemented by a number of inflatable games activities that were used for our Year 11 leaver's event at the start of the week.



Cheque for



Girl with cheque- Amiee Fry and Erin Walford raised £404.00 for local charity

Chaplaincy

Year 10 students, Amiee Fry and Erin Walford took part in a 5km challenge and raised £404.00 for local charity Abby's Heroes in June, this local charity supports families with children undergoing cancer treatment. Many thanks to Aimee and Erin and to all who sponsored them.

During this month we have been fundraising for Ujichilie project in Kenya for children with disabilities. This project run by the



Missionary sisters of St Charles Borromeo helps children in Kenya with various needs as well as providing some support to families. We have been fund raising from them with our tuck shop at sports day, a cake sale in the last week of term and our last non uniform day of the year. We are currently fund raising to provide an out door tent for the group in Nairobi. We are currently fund raising to provide an outdoor tent for the group in Nairobi.



On July 6th we held a Memorial Mass for our former Chair of Governors Charles Marchetti who sadly passed away recently. The Mass was attended by former colleagues from St George and governors as well as

members of Charles family. We were pleased to present to the family the Papal award the Bene Merenti awarded posthumously for Charles commitment to Catholic Education in the diocese and towards St George. RIP Charles.

Bishop Visits Guadalupe



The Bishop of Portsmouth visited St George Catholic College on 24th June to officially open our new Science and Technology building. The event, which was postponed in February due to government regulations, was attended by Headteacher, James Habberley, visiting priests, key figures in the development of the project and our Head and Deputy-head boys and girls.

Bishop Philip Egan was given a tour of the building and was impressed by the scale of the development and its excellent facilities. He officially blessed the new building in a ceremony that was broadcast live around the school using the Microsoft Teams software which was set up for remote learning and broadcasting assemblies during the pandemic.

