



The Crimson Cross
6th Publication
December 2025

The Crimson Cross

A BUMPER CHRISTMAS EDITION!

Merry Christmas!

December always seems to sneak upon us, and although both staff and students are no doubt looking forward to the Christmas break, it has been full steam ahead as normal!

There have been lots of exciting things to happen over the first two terms of the academic year here at Saint George Catholic College.

With this, our festive 6th edition, I just want to take the opportunity to thank all of the incredible young journalists who have created a variety of informative and entertaining articles for your reading pleasure over the course of 2025.

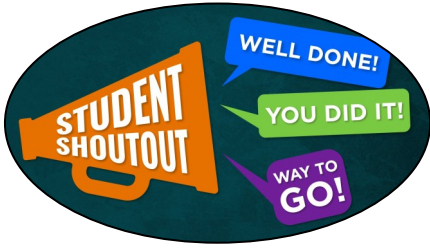
From all of us here at Saint George, we wish you a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year 2026!

Mr J Scott

INSIDE THIS ISSUE

Pupil Shout Out	2
Carol Service.....	2
Christmas Prayer.....	3
Christmas Traditions.....	4
Book Review.....	6
Christmas Markets.....	6
Student Clubs	7
School Production.....	8
Festive Word Search.....	9
Xmas Holiday Interview.....	10
Teacher Interviews.....	12
Student Credits.....	13

PUPIL SHOUT OUT



Pupil Shout out is a way to celebrate the kindness of other pupils and the way they use their talents to benefit others. This pupil has particularly impressed the Crimson Cross with their ability to share kindness to both teachers and staff and always opens the door for anybody no matter who they are.

The Final Pupil Shout Out of 2025 is **Zion Addo (8RO)**

Since Year 7, Zion has been an inspiration for many pupils and teachers here at St George. He always knows the right thing and is not afraid to challenge anything that is wrong. I think we should all aspire to be like Zion because he acts like a model pupil with a great can do attitude and an all round positive influence on everybody.

By Caydan Chituh

CAROL SERVICE

Students, teachers and families gathered in the school hall on Wednesday 3rd December evening to celebrate Advent and the coming of Jesus Christ with a well-put together Carol Service. Beautiful performances of classic carols and some more modern ones were performed right here on the school stage, sharing festive excitement to everyone watching!

Our Year 7 Singers and ASPIRE Voices prepared some Christmas songs in their music lessons/rehearsals to light up the stage and bring joy to our local community (which was executed perfectly!). Their voices really brought a smile to everyone's face as we celebrated Advent in unison, lighting the five candles in the meantime. We also had Mr Walford's wonderful GIFT team do some readings for us, really showing all those watching the true meaning of this holiday season! It really got me in a much better mood after singing with them.

Behind the fantastic choir, of course, there is the equally fantastic college band. Annually, the band works hard to get the music just right to back the choir. It allows them to create a better experience for the carol service; instead of some boring backing track, there is live music supporting our talented singers!

The band loves to do the Christmas Carol yearly. It is something consistent, with many carols being repeatedly used. It is an experience lovely to go through. Carol service is beautiful to be a part of, at least from my perspective as a clarinettist. Honestly, I will miss doing the carol service, as next year I'm moving onto college.



We decided to interview Mr May, one of the organisers for this event, handling the Music aspect and making sure the performance was the best it could be!

Which carol is your favourite to do with College Band and ASPIRE voices?

My favourite Carol to do with the college band is "The Angel Gabriel" - it's a traditional Basque carol (from Spain) and because it's in a minor key, it's very beautiful and expressive. Its lyrics relate to the Gospel of Luke and the story of the Annunciation, where the angel Gabriel appeared to Mary. My favourite song that ASPIRE voices are doing this year, is "The Day the Child Was Born" which is from a Filipino choral group called Hangad. It is a lovely representation of my heritage as a half-Filipino and half-British person and is also a very beautiful song with interesting harmony.

What message do you want audience members to take away from the Carol Service?

I want audience members to gain that lovely Christmas feeling that comes during advent. I always find myself in a much better mood after the carol service. There's nothing like that feeling of hearing over a 100 people singing Christmas carols!

How did you choose the songs for the choir/the Year 7s?

Myself and Mrs Pegg plan the Carol Service at the end of the summer holidays! Usually we like to rotate the carols and songs so that no two year groups sing the same songs consecutively each year. We also try to broaden the music we do with ASPIRE voices as well. We also take into consideration the readings used and the meaning behind the scripture and prayers that are organised by Mr Walford, our chaplain.

Is there any songs you wanted to add for the singing aspect, but didn't make the cut?

"Carol of the Bells!" Once I find a good, accessible arrangement we'll definitely be doing it next year in December 2026!

Written by Zuzanna Tylec and Maciej Lulek

A CHRISTMAS PRAYER FOR OUR SCHOOL COMMUNITY



Loving God,

As we gather during this joyful Christmas season,
we thank You for the gift of hope, peace, and new beginnings.
Bless our school, our teachers, students, and families.
Fill our classrooms with kindness, our hearts with gratitude,
and our days with moments that help us grow in wisdom and compassion.
May the spirit of Christmas remind us to care for one another,
to share generously, and to shine Your light in all we do.
Guide us into the new year with courage, patience, and joy.
Amen.

By Jonah Tomy

CHRISTMAS TRADITIONS THAT ROCK AROUND THE WORLD

Christmas is celebrated in many ways around the world, and some countries have traditions that are vastly different from ours. From unusual foods to unique decorations, each place has its own way of making the holiday special.



In **Japan**, on Christmas day, December 25th they eat KFC. This tradition originated during the 1970s and has become so popular that families order their buckets weeks in advance. These buckets include the chicken of course, a side (sometimes chicken or shrimp gratin), a festive cake normally a sponge cake topped with whipped cream and maybe a festive plate set.

Cities and shopping centres around Japan often decorate themselves with colourful and vivid LED lights. Households also put up mini Christmas trees and cute, cartoon style ornaments.

In **Iceland**, they have 13 Santas, called Yule Lads. Every Yule visits children on different days before December 25th, leaving nice gifts for the good and well behaved, and rotten potatoes for the rude and unkind. Children put their shoes outside for the Yules to fill with their good or bad present. On Christmas eve, families gather all together, no matter what because it is one of the most important days of the year. For food, the more popular dish to have is hangikjöt, which is smoked lamb served with potatoes and a creamy white sauce.

Leading up to Christmas, usually during December 23rd, people eat fermented skate known for its strong smell and unique taste. Icelanders love to decorate their houses with cozy decorations, using candles, string lights (often a warm yellow or bright white) and snowy window scenes.

In **Venezuela** they skate to early-morning Christmas church services. Roads are often closed to keep the skaters safe.

Many families celebrate with dancing and music, especially traditional Christmas music. On Christmas eve, families gather for a large meal and to stay up late together. For food, they eat Hallacas, which is a corn dough filled with seasoned meat, vegetables, and spices, wrapped in plantain leaves and boiled.

Along with that they also have roast pork and chicken salad, which is a common part of Christmas dinner. For dessert they have Dulce de Lechosa, which is a sweet Venezuelan dessert made from green papaya cooked slowly in sugar and spices until it becomes soft and syrupy.



In the **Philippines** they have the longest Christmas season, starting in September and lasting till January. One of their biggest events is the giant lantern festival, where countless people release their lanterns, which they decorated with vivid and colourful designs, hoping to win a contest.

Families also attend something called Simbang Gabi, which is a daily early morning church service, this last for 5 days, starting from December 16th and last till December 24th. On Christmas eve, families gather and have a midnight feast and celebrate together. The food that the Filipinos eat at this time includes roast pig, rice cakes like bibingka and puto bumbong, sweet fruit salad, and ham and queso de bola. For decorations, they put up star shapes, that they make out of bamboo. Homes, streets, and malls are filled with bright lights, Christmas trees, and festive arches. Families also put up nativity scenes, showing the birth of Jesus.



In **Austria**, On December 5th, people dress up as the mythical creature, Krampus, to scare naughty children into becoming nice kids. The next day is St Nicholas day, where St Nicholas gives sweets and treats to the nice kids. Christmas markets are also a massive part of their festive season, where many visit stalls for food, crafts, and festive music. For food, they have gingerbread, traditional Christmas cookies, fruit spread, freshly made sausages, roasted meats from market stalls, and hot spiced wine called Glühwein.

For decorations, city centres often are often decorated with bright twinkling lights, wooden stalls, and festive garlands. Homes often have advent wreaths, with 4 candles that are lit every Sunday before Christmas.

Christmas is celebrated by billions, and every culture has their own tradition. This shows you that no matter where you are, Christmas is mainly celebrated with family, food, and decorations. Who knows, maybe your family should celebrate one of these this Christmas.

So,

Merry Christmas Everyone!

Written by Leo Ascensao



BOOK REVIEW

Book review: *The Boy on the Wooden Box*

Author: Leon Leyson

The Boy on the Wooden Box is a true story written by Leon Leyson, who was one of the youngest survivors saved by Oskar Schindler during World War II.

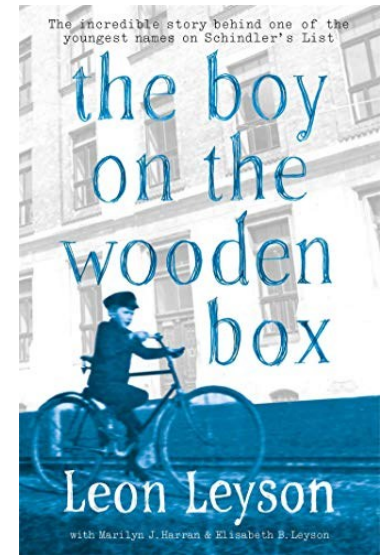
Although it is sad, it's a gripping read. Leon was just a young boy living a normal life in Poland, going to school, playing with friends, and being with his family. But when the Nazis invaded Poland, everything changed. Leon and his family faced hunger, fear and danger because they were Jewish.

The story is full of hope and courage. Leon shows bravery, kindness and determination even in the worst times. He reminds us that even in dark moments, there are good people who help others.

My rating:



Read and reviewed by Adam Miell



SOUTHAMPTON CHRISTMAS MARKETS

After ages of waiting for the Christmas spirit to arrive, a new adventure comes to contribute: the Christmas Market!

The twinkling lights illuminate the joy of this festive holiday as the friendly shopkeepers light your smile; the delicious hot chocolate with all of the other amazing sugar-dusted food is an unknown joy to the stomach. As I walked around Southampton's own little Santa's workshop, I could only see and enjoy the Christmas aroma all around me. I really recommend the Ferris wheel: you can really see the magic unveiling at sky-high views. However as I asked around the school, the most popular activity there was split between the chocolate pretzels and (as expected) the hot chocolate. Amazingly, as our love for Christmas expands yearly; fortunately so does our Christmas market!

Written by Hanna Kraska



Photo Credit: Visit Hampshire

CLUBS AT SAINT GEORGE

Are you interested in joining a club? Or are you just looking for something fun and new?

Here at Saint George, our school offers a vast number of fun activities and clubs to join, even if you just wanted to give something a try.

Participating in at least one club is a great opportunity to get involved, have fun and broaden your interests. There are a variety of games clubs, and a chance to go into the multigym but there are limited spaces for this club. Contact the teachers to find out more!

Monday lunchtime: This year, there are some new clubs like **Science club** on a Monday lunchtime in G9 for years 7 and 8. One of the popular clubs is **History club** in L8 with Ms Lefevre where you have the chance to present your own PowerPoints on anything historical. This year there is also the chance to meet some History Professors from Southampton University.

Tuesday after school: Drama club runs from the end of the school day till 4 pm, if you are interested in drama then you have hit the jackpot! This is a fun and friendly environment. This is a place where you do acting, theatre games and make new friends! Occasionally, you do a show/play which hold auditions and also provides an opportunity to also get involved behind the scenes! This year will be the Wizard of Oz! How fun does that sound?

Wednesday after school: Football club. It starts right after the end of the school day and finishes 4:15pm. Whether you are a football pro, or just fancy trying something new, this club is perfect for anyone who enjoys doing some physical activities and having a good time with friends

Sound fun!

Friday lunchtime: Philosophy club is a place where you answer out of the box questions and answer them as if you were a philosopher! Philosophy club is all about exploring interesting questions and sharing your ideas in a friendly environment



You could even join the **Newspaper club** and practice your journalist skills. Mr Scott is always on the lookout for new writers!

These clubs are open to everyone, and you make such cool and fun friends along the way. Who knows, maybe one of the friends you meet here could be someone you stay close with for years! Further information about clubs can be found on the school website via the [Clubs & Activities](#) page.

Have fun and get clubbing!

Written by Adam Miell and Leo Ascensao

Christmas Cracker: What is always full and is never hungry at Christmas?

Answer on p13

THE WONDERFUL WIZARD OF OZ

The Saint George Drama department prides itself on its stage shows. *Thays Pereira* discusses the production that they are currently working on: 'The Wizard of Oz'.

What is the show/the plot?

The play is based on the movie which is about this girl Dorothy who dreams of a "better life somewhere over the rainbow" who gets caught in the eye of a tornado in Kansas with her dog and lands in the fantasy world of oz and has to follow the yellow brick road to the Emerald City to meet the Wizard and then on her way she meets a Scarecrow who needs a brain, a Tin Man who is missing a heart and a Cowardly Lion who wants courage. The Wizard asks the group to bring him the broom of the Wicked Witch of the West to earn his help.

What is it like planning for the show?

For the people in the show, they have Monday singing rehearsals, Thursday dancing/drama rehearsals (lunch time ones) then they have Thursday after school rehearsals which are sometimes for all cast members, or they will get a schedule and their name will be put on what week they have to go. They will have to learn lines, actions, dancing and singing which is seen in typical shows.

Main characters:

The main characters are Dorothy, Scarecrow, Tinman, Cowardly Lion and the Wicked Witch of the West (the main antagonist)

These characters are played by

Dorothy- Aurora U

Scarecrow- Caydan C

Tin man- Johan BV

Cowardly Lion- John Lucas

The Wicked Witch of the West- Zuzanna T



Final word from cast member Zuzanna Tylec:

Photo Credit: Collider.com

"I think Wizard of Oz is a great way to have fun in a drama/acting environment, it's only my second show (after Grease) but it quite easy once you get into the swing of things and focus when it comes to all the scenes and musical numbers. I play the main antagonist (the witch) which is honestly a really cool role to embody, and I look forward to the great things that will come with Act 2.

It does take a quite a bit of effort to learn all the songs, lines, dances, etc but it's understandable since we're performing it in February, and you get to make valuable memories with fellow actors. Seeing the show come to life behind the scenes is honestly amazing, and I love the fact I can be a part of that process. I personally recommend it if you have an interest and passion for drama, whether acting for a long time or just beginning!"

The Wizard of Oz will be showing in February 2026!

Christmas

Word Search

Name: _____

S L E S N O W M A N S T A R S
T F N R Z Q G R E E T I N G S
O C R F R O S T Y Y J I N A G
C Z A U E O Q M T M Y I P Y B
K F A M I L Y I M Q D B L A H
I S R R F T V G W I A N G E L
N L C P E I C E T R N V V P D
G E Y H T I U A S Q E I F J S
F I F A R W N Z K M C A B B R
Z G N P I I E D F E A S T T Y
X H U R B J S G E Y O N U H L
Y Q S P I R I T G E Q E G Q H
S S C O L G P K M N R O A E Z
P Q B G I F T C Q A O O P C R
P R E S E N T S G J S G Y X S

Word list:

ANGEL	FROSTY	NATIVITY	SPIRIT
CHRISTMAS	FRUITCAKE	PRESENTS	STAR
EGGNOG	GIFT	REINDEER	STOCKING
ELVES	GREETINGS	SLEIGH	TIDINGS
FAMILY	MANGER	SNOWMAN	WREATH

CHRISTMAS HOLIDAY INTERVIEWS

As we near the ever-anticipated Christmas holidays, the mornings grow colder but our hearts couldn't burn more brightly with excitement. With less than two weeks till we part for the season and for the year, we embrace Christmas as a time for friends, family and the gift of joy so what are some staff up to in the holidays? Well, I interviewed 3 members of staff with 4 questions and here's how it went!

1. What is one thing you think Christmas wouldn't be the same without?

2. What is your favourite part of Christmas?

3. What is your favourite Christmas movie/song and why?

4. What is one thing you are most grateful for this holiday season?



Ms Drummond:

"Christmas just wouldn't feel the same without being surrounded by the people I love. That feeling of togetherness, the warmth, the laughter and just being close to the people who matter is what makes Christmas special to me!"

"My favourite part of Christmas is the cozy atmosphere and the little moments leading up to it. The lights, the music, the decorations, and that quiet excitement with all my nieces and nephews that builds as the day gets closer. It's the one time of the year where everything feels a bit softer and magical. Oh, and let's not forget the Christmas games!"

"My favourite Christmas movie is The Muppet Christmas Carol. It's funny, warm, and comforting, and it turns a classic story into something that feels magical. I love all the songs and Christmas wouldn't be Christmas without watching it! My favourite Christmas song is 'The Christmas Song (Merry Christmas to You)' by Nat King Cole because it reminds me of Christmas with my dad. Hearing it brings back those familiar memories that mean so much to me."

"This holiday break, I'm most grateful for the people in my life, the ones who support me, make me laugh, and make the holidays meaningful. This year I'm looking forward to going skiing with my family and having a well-earned break from school!"

Ms Provenzano:

"Christmas definitely wouldn't be the same without the "good biscuits"- especially from M&S! The box of very chocolatey ones."

"My favourite part of Christmas is being with my family, especially now that I have a new baby niece. I think it's always the best day of the year when you all spend time together and give each other gifts you've thought about because you want to make them happy, and you eat great food together, have pretty decorations everywhere, and just generally enjoy spending time with one another."

"My favourite Christmas movie is probably The Grinch, just because I think it's funny and I watched it a lot as a child so it's nostalgic. Even though I watched it a lot as a child I still think it's quite funny and entertaining for adults too. It's a classic!"

"I'm grateful for my family and friends, that is the best part of Christmas by far! I am grateful that we're all happy and healthy and will be spending time together soon. I am also grateful for all the great Christmas food that comes out this time of year..."



Lastly, but certainly not least, here was how it went with Ms Cameron...

“Christmas wouldn't be the same without music- carols, songs, lyrics. It brings everyone together!”

“Christmas evening- everyone is cosy and happy from the day, usually watching a Christmas film. I also love giving out presents and I love to see the smiles on people's faces when they love their present!”

“My favourite Christmas film is Home Alone. I love it because it balances humour, heart, and nostalgia. It's funny no matter how many times you watch it, but it also has important messages about family, forgiveness and appreciating the people around you.”

“I'm grateful for my health and the health of my family!”



In the end, getting presents is nice but nothing can replace those special moments of joy that Christmas is all about. As we prepare our hearts and minds for this celebration, let us not forget to cherish the people we love and embrace the gift of giving this Christmas!

Happy holidays to all!

Ry-Lee Jones

Christmas **JUMPER DAY**



FRIDAY 19TH DECEMBER—£1

INTERVIEW A TEACHER

- *Sameer Kassamali* took the time out to interview our Design and Technology teacher Miss Gillings

Why did you want to teach at Saint George Catholic College?

I was surprised by the community and wanted a small school. I love the school.

Describe your best or Ideal lesson?

Any lesson where students are enthusiastic and lots of learning taking place, students challenging themselves and working hard, when students can be independent, creative and engaging.

What inspired you to become a teacher?

I worked for a factory for 5 years but wasn't feeling the benefit. I am motivated to help others; teaching skills made me feel like I can have an impact and help others.

Why did you choose to teach technology?

I have a background interest in this area and wanted to use my skills, knowledge and passion.

How can the newspaper club be support to you?

Introduce an exhibition at the end of year to promote and encourage students to participate. I would also like them to be judges and have an opportunity to evaluate the work produced.

What would you do if you weren't a teacher?

I would have opened a doggy day care.



CLUB CORNER

Basketball Club here at Saint George is in action every lunch time as well as after school on [Fridays](#) from [3pm to 4pm](#) . All year groups are welcome to join. No need to book in advance, simply turn up!

Lunch timings: 13:20 in the Sports Hall

Monday Years 10 & 11

Tuesday Years 7 – 9

Wednesday Years 10 & 11

Thursday Years 7 – 9

Friday Years 10 & 11



This is a great opportunity for students to participate in a fun and active sport. Basketball is great for team building and self-confidence. It is a club for all, to encourage and promote the sport. Their values are all about participation and fun, and this in turn has helped produce successful and socializing friendly teams.

Sameer Kassamali



THANKS TO THE FOLLOWING PUPILS FOR ALL THEIR HARD-
WORK IN THIS EDITION AND THROUGHOUT 2025

- Leo Ascensao
- Caydan Chituh
- Natasha D'Mello
- Luna Johnson
- Ry-Lee Jones
- Sameer Kassamali
- Hanna Kraska
- Maciej Lulek
- Adam Miell
- Adaline Prakash
- Arianne-Isabel Rabang
- Jonah Tomy
- Zuzanna Tylec

Christmas Cracker Answer: A stuffed turkey!



**SAINT GEORGE
CATHOLIC COLLEGE**

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*"There is a highly aspirational culture where
pupils want to work hard and achieve well"*

*"Expectations for behaviour
are extremely high and pupils
live up to these"*

"The school is 'one big family'"

*"This is a truly inclusive and
welcoming school"*



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At St George we Aspire to become all that God created us to be