



Well I would expect nobody thought this term would end the way it has. All schools to close, no exams, a pandemic and all within a few days. I hope you are all taking care of each other and are following the guidance by the Government. I reflect that this will probably never happen again and we can only be positive, look to the future, pray for those who have the virus at the

moment and support our families as much as possible. School is now an emergency service and I am very proud of how quickly the pupils have adjusted despite the shock and how committed our staff are.

Despite the term being three weeks shorter an incredible amount has happened and how much success there is to celebrate. Thirty-five students went on our first ever ski trip to Killington Lodge in Vermont led by Mr Shelley and a team of very excited staff, our Year 11 students have completed their final March mock exams and a mock results day in preparation for their summer finals along with a number of intervention days. Year 10 have completed mock job interviews as part of an enterprise day with outside agencies, Year 7 have taken part in world book day with Miss Barron and there has been a huge amount of sporting success. Congratulations to the Year 8 and Year 10 teams who at the time of writing have won the Southampton schools football league, the Under 14 Basketball team for winning the Hampshire schools basketball league and the girls and boys that took part in the volleyball and dodgeball competitions as champions. As you reflect with your son/daughter's tutor on mentoring day on their progress we hope it is an opportunity to celebrate the improvement's they have made this term.

A key challenge at the moment is ensuring that the school is functioning as normal despite all the building work that is taking place. I can only congratulate the students and staff on how well they have managed. We are delighted that the new Science and Technology building is on track and I would like to express a huge thank you to Ms Cecil and the student council for putting a time capsule together that will sit in the grounds of our new building. Alongside this we have completed

refurbishment work to the Maths block, updated two ICT rooms and installed additional fencing and ground works at the back of the site.

Moving forward we have received encouraging news from Southampton that plans are moving ahead rapidly to upgrade and extend our dining and toilet facilities as well as building a new Library. These, and I have to urge caution, are a few years off and is certainly something we would not do whilst current building work is being completed.

At the end of the term we were graded "outstanding" for the third year running following an inspection by the local authority which confirmed the high-quality education being provided commenting that "pupils are happy here and enjoy the school's strong sense of community. The quality of the care for students, and the range of opportunities presented to them ensure that everyone feels valued and well prepared for their next stage of life". Central to ensuring we maintain our community feel and ASPIRE values has been our day of Retreat that all staff attended this term at Chilworth which gave us the opportunity to reflect on what we do first and foremost as a Catholic college, our Catholic ethos and how we can continue to deepen our faith as a family.

I would like to mention the work of our inclusion team who work tirelessly supporting all of our students to ensure that they get the support and care needed to be successful in a mainstream school. Under Ms Cordeiro, Mr Prout, Ali, Sharon, the team they have successfully supported a number of students to be the best versions of themselves, helping them to overcome their challenges. There are exciting plans ahead to ensure all our students have access to courses and opportunities that prepare them for the next stage of their journey.

As we approach the holidays I would like to take this opportunity to wish you all a healthy and as enjoyable time as possible in current situation.

James Habberley
Headteacher

Year 11 2020



Year 11

On the last day before the Government's announcement to close schools we hastily gathered our Year 11 students together for a group photograph. Afterwards the students and their teachers met in the hall for an impromptu leavers celebration. We are hoping that Year 11 parents and pupils will be able to return to St George in the summer term for a formal leavers assembly when we will formally say goodbye, hand out hoodies and celebrate the end of this stage of your journey. The date for our Year 11 leavers assembly is now Friday 10th July at 3-4pm.

This is for parents and all Year 11 pupils and will be dependent on when schools are permitted to re-open. We will confirm the date in writing and on the school website.

Year 11 Prom. Unfortunately due to the COVID 19 outbreak we have cancelled the Prom on Friday 10th July 2020 and have rearranged it for Friday 20th November 2020 at Victoria House in Hamble. We have tried our best to keep this date but both Victoria House and the school feel that with social distancing measures in place it will be the hospitality industry that will be last to return to normal and therefore the original date was no longer realistic.

Our annual school ski trip in February was a great success. This was the first time we have organised a ski-trip to the Killington resort in Vermont, Canada and the superb conditions and facilities made the extra flying time very worthwhile.

The group of 35 students had a great time and were able to practice their skiing skills for 6 days and made excellent progress. The snow conditions were perfect, even though the temperature dropped to -15° on occasions.

Everyone loved all the extra activities including, quiz nights, karaoke, bowling, and pizza nights as well as a day of shopping in Boston.

Winter in Vermont



New Building Takes Shape

After the more challenging weather conditions in the early part of the year, the construction of our new science & technology building is now blooming with the fine spring weather. Over Easter the huge steel frame was erected, giving us a feel for how the finished building will look.

View of the new building from the playground

With the closure of the school, caused by the covid 19 crisis, most students will have missed out on this exciting stage of the development. However, photographs of the project are posted on our website (news and events section) which is updated regularly as the building progresses. We have also installed a time-lapse camera which will be running until the project is completed.

Mayflower 400 Project



Twenty-one of our students took part in a city-wide musical extravaganza to celebrate the 400th anniversary of the Mayflower's pioneering voyage. The event at the Mayflower Theatre in March was the culmination of a project run by the Southampton Music Hub with young musicians from across the region coming together for

rehearsals and the final show.

Our singers, along with all the other young musicians, gave an exceptional performance with our choir positioned on the front row for the grand finale. Well done to all those who took part and represented St George so well.

Year 11:
Maria Rog

Year 9:
Faith Paterson,
Maisie McNamara, Edward Allan,
Malwina Boryszewska

Year 8:
Kasia Russell, Isobel Moran,
Chloe Williams, Zuzanna
Sliwa, Freddie Mullin, Grace
Robins, Grace Kajingu

Year 7:
Nathan Morton-Roberts,
Alice Devlin, Orla Fearon,
Isobel Croft, Emilia Traut,
Joshua Smirk, Amelie
Maher, Charlotte Kennison,
Seamus O'Connor

Time Capsule



Our Student Council took on the project of creating a time capsule that will be buried near to our new Science and Technology building. After lengthy discussion on what was to be included in the capsule, the team decided to include: a St George tie and badges, various photographs of the buildings, a lunch menu, a school planner and a cross. The original plan was to bury the time capsule

in the foundations of the building but the project was interrupted by school closure measures.

The time capsule will now be buried for future generations to discover in the grounds of the new building.



Learning the Business

A representative from the construction company 'Kier' came in to give Year 9 Business Studies students a talk about how their business operates.

They discussed how the business is set-up, its aims, the role of stakeholders, importance of location and ethical issues. The talk gave the students the opportunity to understand the construction and outsourcing industry in more depth.

This was a unique opportunity which was engaging and eye-opening for Business Studies students and we would like to thank Kier for their ongoing support within the Business Studies department. Kier is the contractor for our new building project.

Sport

Those magnificent men (and women) in their rowing machines!



In March, members of staff took part in a fun rowing challenge for Sports Relief. Staff from a mix of departments competed against each other in two teams.

The teams, captained by Mr Douglas and Mr Ellerby completed in a 20 minute relay row. Mr Douglas's team rowed the winning distance beating Mr Ellerby's team by 450m.

Well done to all the staff who took part and thank you to the students and staff for their encouragement and support.



Knife Crime

A selected group of students participated in a schools' initiative to cover the topic of knife crime with young people.

In a presentation of video clips and group discussion, the students from all years, saw how knife crime affects both the aggressors and their victims. Video clips showed a former gang member who illustrated how gangs can take a hold of young people and showed the way they can be drawn into potentially lethal criminal activities. The video went on to show the effect of gang membership and knife crime on victims and their family members.

At the end of the session our students gave presentations in their groups on their reaction to what they had seen.

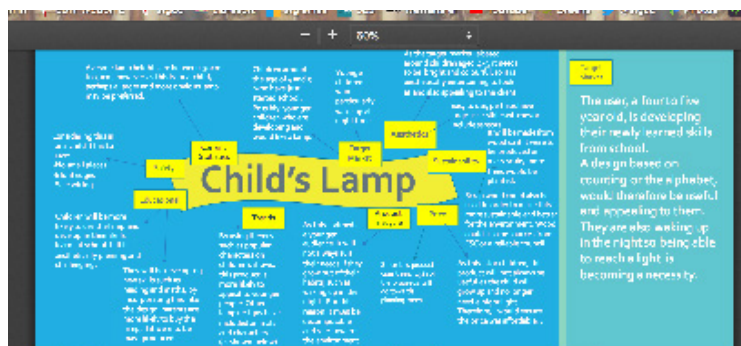
St George students were recent winners of a competition to produce a video on knife crime. The video can be viewed in the news section of our website.



Student work during lockdown

Students have been very busy during the current school closure. Lots of examples of excellent work have been submitted to teachers and posted on our student webpages. Their work can be seen in the student area under the year group and subject heading and artwork is featured on our galleries page.

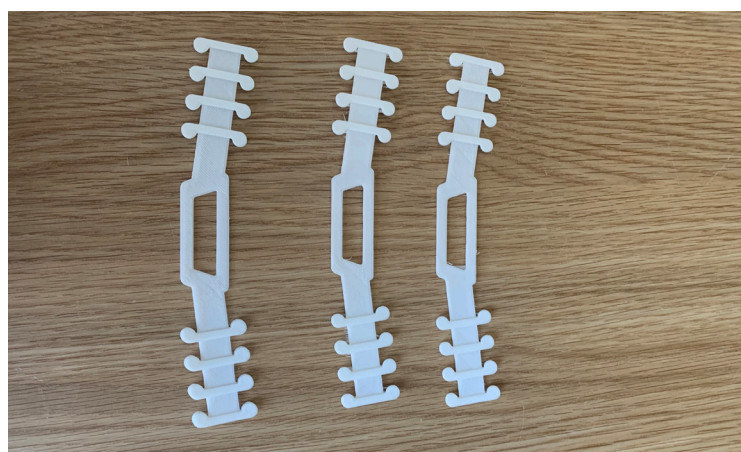
In addition we highlight some outstanding pieces - see 'Student Work Gallery' in our news and events section.



St George student creates PPE mask parts

One of our Year 9 students (Nic H) is using his technology skills to create face mask extenders on his 3D printer at home. The extenders are designed to provide greater comfort for the user by relieving some of the pressure on faces caused by the masks.

He has already supplied carers at a couple of local care homes. Well done to Nic for using his skill, ingenuity and effort to help others during the current crisis.



Virtual Orchestra

St George musicians have taken part in a virtual music project. Two of our students, **Marcus Zheng** in Year 9 and **Charlie Wright** in Year 10 have already taken part and are included in the "Avengers" theme tune performance.

It's a great opportunity for students to keep practicing and performing during the lockdown and we are encouraging more St George musicians to take part.

Performances are available to view on YouTube by searching Virtual Youth Orchestra.



Avengers Main Theme - Showcase Virtual Youth Orchestra

Governor News

Most of the governors have a 'link area' within the school which relates to ensuring legislative requirements are met and are effective - mine is careers.

At St George there is lots on offer and I am taking this opportunity to highlight to you the key careers activities which take place here, the individual help on offer to your children in school and the availability of information and advice to all, including parents.

As there is not enough room here to detail everything I would like to draw your attention to the careers pages in the 'student area' on the college website where a huge amount of information is available. Here you can find up to date information about:

- College open evening dates & links to college websites
- Apprentices vacancies
- Full range of university information
- Accurate careers information
- Skills and interests matching exercises to help identify areas of career interest at <https://hants.emsicc.com/> including info on real life job roles and labour market information
- Job vacancies for young people in the Southampton area
- Volunteering

- Work Experience

In addition you can find out more about the programme in school which includes:

- One to one careers interviews
- Careers Event days
- Two week work experience placement in year 10
- College and Apprenticeship Training providers in school

Extra Curricular Activities And Responsibilities

Finally I would also like to encourage you to support your children to take up extra curricular interests – whether arranged within school or outside. With my own background of working for a long time in Careers Guidance, I have spent many hours with young people trying to complete CVs, personal statements, application forms and interview practice, where they have had no involvement in anything outside of their school timetable and it is extremely difficult for them. I cannot stress enough the positive difference additional activities and responsibilities make to a young person; their communication skills, their motivation levels and self confidence.

Please have a browse of the careers area on our website and contact our School Careers Adviser, Sharron Ward, if you have questions. We would also love to hear from you if you can offer a work experience placement at your place of work in the future!

Rachel Brady, Governor, Careers