

Meadow Road, Gravesend, Kent DA11 7LS
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Website: www.saintgeorgescofe.kent.sch.uk
Email: office@saintgeorgescofe.kent.sch.uk
Executive Headteacher: Mr Stephen Carey BA Hons

Newsletter July 2022

Dear Parents and Carers

Thank you for all you have done to support your children throughout this year. It has been a tough year for many members of our community. However, there is a great deal to celebrate as the school year draws to a close. Since April so many opportunities have been made available to the pupils. We have taken over 200 pupils to visit universities, years 10 and 12 have been involved in work experience, year 7 have been away on their residential, there have been Geography field trips, athletics trials, and careers events. There are already many trips and activities planned for next year.

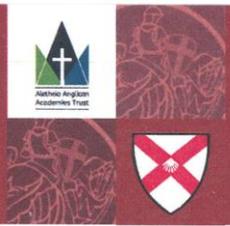
The pupils at Saint George's are always looking to support those who are less fortunate than themselves. They have raised a huge amount of money for charities this year. This has been done through tutor group fundraising events, non-uniform days, and other special events such as the Colour Run. So far, they have raised over £8000. This has gone to a whole range of charities including Sickle Cell Society, The Ukraine appeal, Children in Need, and the Gravesend Sanctuary. This is an amazing effort from the pupils.

The Colour Run was a fantastic way to round off the year. Seeing pupils from year R up to year 12 taking part in the event really highlighted the special sense of community that we have at Saint George's. A massive thank you to Mrs Lane and her amazing team for putting on such a wonderful event and raising over £1000!

I am hugely grateful for the amazingly dedicated team of staff that we have at Saint George's. They are always prepared to go the extra mile to support the pupils. Sadly, some members of staff are leaving us for new challenges, and we thank them for all they have done for the pupils and wish them every success in their new roles.

A reminder for year 13 that their results day is on 18th August and year 11 is on 25th August. We look forward to seeing you then and celebrating your success. Details for these days have been sent out already





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We are immensely proud of our pupils and all they have achieved this year. I have no doubt that they will build on this next year and achieve even greater things.

I hope that you all have a very safe and relaxing summer break.

Matt Lillie
Head of School

Start of term September 2022

In September we will be following our normal start of year process with year 7 and 12 in at 8:40am on Thursday 1st September. Year 7 need to come in on Thursday wearing their PE kit as they have team building activities taking place on that day.

The rest of the school is back in at 8:40am on Friday 2nd September. Year 11 will need to go to the hall at the start of the day.

Sixth Form News

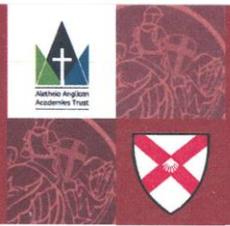
Year 11-12 Induction Day

On Wednesday 6th July the sixth form team welcomed 115 year 11 applicants to our sixth form induction day. Students spent the morning experiencing taster sessions in four different subjects. This allowed students to experience the subjects they have chosen to study, plus one additional subject to help them make an informed choice about what to study in September. Students also were able to experience time in our new sixth form study centre and many too the opportunity to purchase snacks from our sixth form canteen. During the day our current year 12 students were excellent in supporting students finding their way round the school site, especially those students who were new to the school. We look forward to enrolling these students in August, after their GCSE results day on 25th August.

Year 13 Prom

On Friday 8th July, year 13 students and many staff members partied the night away at the Dartford Hilton for the year 13 prom. We had a sit down three course meal, photobooth and disco late into the night. All attendee's looked very smart in their finest clothes, and we all enjoyed celebrating the end of school with our year 13 students. The final song of the evening 'Sweet Caroline' had the





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dancefloor filled and we hope everyone takes away wonderful memories from the evening. We now look forward to celebrating with our year 13 students on A Level results day on the 18th August.

Game on

Girls from year 7,8,9 have been the 'Game On' programme in partnership with the Youth Sport Trust and Barclays Bank. On the 20th June the girls held a football festival for girls in year 5 and 6 from St Botolph's. The event was planned and lead by the students. The girls also have designed a club called 7 Kicks for year 7 girls who are new to football or do not participate in any sports to be held at lunchtime. This will be their contribution to a national plan to provide equal opportunities to girls in football by 2024.

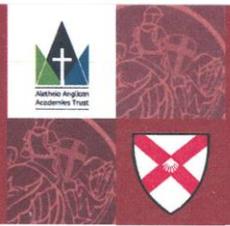
Miss Cutler

Curriculum & assessments

Subject areas have been working hard this year to further improve and develop their curriculum to ensure that our pupils understand how what they are studying links to topics they have covered previously and topics they are going to cover in the future. Departments have developed Learning Journeys which have been published on the website and can be found in each subject area on the [curriculum page](#) of our website. We hope that this will allow the curriculum to be more transparent for parents, so that they can support their child in their learning. In addition, students will have the relevant section of their learning journeys visible in each subject exercise book from September so that they can review their learning in advance of assessments. Alongside in class assessment, each year group will continue to have two summative assessment points each academic year, which will be published on the school calendar in the Autumn. Raising Standards Leaders (Mrs Clarkson – Y7/8, Ms Cocks – Y9/10, Mrs Lane – Y11 and Mrs Pye – Y12/13) will share information regarding these assessments and their content nearer the time. As with this academic year, Y11 & Y13 will undertake all of their summative assessments under formal exam conditions (PPEs) to prepare them for the summer exam season. Y10 will undertake their second summative assessments under formal exam conditions and Y9 will undertake their second summative assessments in English, Maths, Science and RE under exam conditions.

Mr Baker





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Dear Parents/carers,

Thank you

I would like to take this opportunity for supporting the pastoral team this year and working together to bring about the best outcomes for your children. I would also like to thank those parents that completed the parent behaviour and safeguarding survey. We were very pleased with the responses, 94% of parents said they felt their child was happy at Saint George's and 95.4% said they felt their child was safe at Saint George's School.

Leavers

Sadly, two of our wonderful community leaders are leaving us this summer to pastures new. Mrs Hope and Mrs Holden have been long-standing members of staff and have been instrumental in supporting and providing outstanding pastoral care for all the students at Saint George's. I'm sure you join me in wishing them well and whole heartedly thank them for their services to Saint George's students past and present.

We look forward to welcoming our new community leaders in September.

Safeguarding

Our safeguarding team will not be available over the summer period, but I have included other charities and organisations that can support you and your child, should you need it. We will continue to monitor our anonymous reporting app Whisper on a weekly basis throughout the holidays.

Uniform Expectations

The school holidays are also a time to check uniforms and purchase equipment for the new academic year. Please can I ask that you check our uniform policy <https://www.saintgeorgescofe.kent.sch.uk/parents-info/uniform/before> purchasing.

Here is the link for tackle bag <https://www.tacklebag.co.uk/>, the company that supplies Saint George's PE kit. The only compulsory item is the PE t-shirt. All other items can be purchased from any sports shop, as long as items purchased are plain and without logos or hoods.

School Shoes

Please can we request that you do not buy black Nike Air Force 1 Low Junior trainers from JD Sports, which are marketing these trainers as leather school shoes.

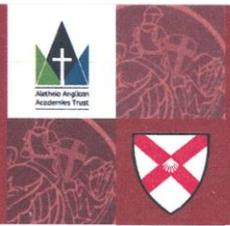




Saint George's
Church of England School

Part of Aletheia Anglican Academies
Trust (Company No. 07801612)

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ALL EQUAL
ALL FLOURISHING



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School Equipment

All students should have a school bag, basic equipment (pen, pencil, rubber, ruler, calculator, colouring pens, highlighters) and a water bottle on their first day.

We hope you have a lovely summer and look forward to seeing you in September.

Mrs Hartley

Should your child need mental health support in the holidays, please use the below charities and organisations.

Kooth is an online and
confidential service
giving help and advice
about emotional health
kooth.com

kooth

Access a free chat services using Kooth.com.

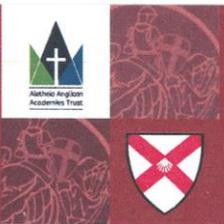




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NELFT - mental health direct support line (24/7) - 0300 555 1000 nelft.nhs.uk

24 hour
#mentalhealth
crisis line
0300 555 1000

Mental Health Crisis Line for
children and young people,
their families and carers if you
need urgent support or advice

We are
#Hereforyou

NELFT **NHS**
NHS Foundation Trust

Childline for immediate support around a variety of issues - 0800 1111 childline.org.uk

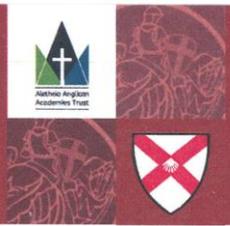




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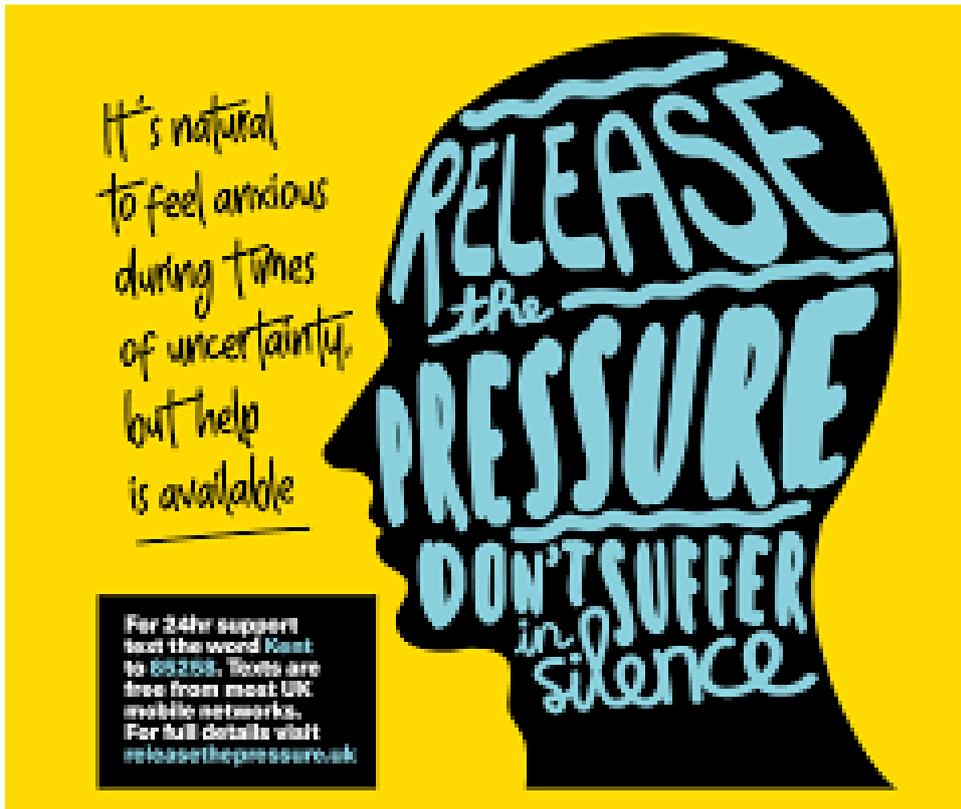
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Release the pressure for immediate support - Text Kent to 85258 (www.release the pressure.uk)





TikTok

You must be over 13 years of age to use TikTok. Some of the videos on TikTok may contain explicit language and sexual imagery, which may not be suitable for your child to view and there is also the risk of strangers contacting your child. If your child is using TikTok then make sure the appropriate security/privacy settings are on.

We recommend setting the account as private (this is the default setting for users under 16 since Jan 2021). Even with a private account, your child's profile information such as their photo are still visible so ensure your child understands the importance of not adding personal information (e.g. location, age and phone numbers) to this area. This article explains how you can strengthen your privacy settings and what features are turned off by default for accounts for children aged 13 – 15: <https://newsroom.tiktok.com/en-us/strengthening-privacy-and-safety-for-youth>

Family Pairing

This allows you to link your own account to your child's account. You can then set controls such as restricted mode (limit the appearance of inappropriate content) and screen time management. You can find out more here: <https://www.tiktok.com/safety/en/guardians-guide/>

Blocking and Reporting

Ensure your child knows how to use these features.

Bullying on TikTok

Make sure your child knows that help is always available. This article makes suggestions on appropriate settings as well as how to deal with bullying: <https://www.tiktok.com/safety/en-sg/bullying-prevention/>

WhatsApp

You must be at least 16 years old to register for and use WhatsApp. WhatsApp is a free messaging app that allows you to send messages and videos.



Group chats: One of the key features is that

WhatsApp has a group chat function that are set up by one person (the admin). Everybody in the group, even if they are not one of your child's phone contacts, will be able to see all messages within that group. *If your child is added to a group with someone that they have previously blocked, that person can still see their messages and send them messages within the group.*

In settings, you can change who can add your child to groups, for example, you can change it to 'my contacts', which means that only those in your child's contacts can add them to a group. You can leave a group chat at any point so talk to your child and encourage them to leave any chat that makes them feel uncomfortable.

Location sharing: If switched on, then when you share images/videos, it will show the location of where they were taken. This can be switched off in your phone settings. There is also a Live Location feature which allows you to share your location. Talk to your child about when this would be appropriate to use but also the potential danger of sharing their location, for example with strangers.

Blocking/Reporting: Show your child how to block and report.

Online Bullying: WhatsApp has been used in instances of online bullying, e.g. to send nasty messages or share images of other children without their permission. It is important to have regular chats with your child about their online life and that they understand that they must talk to you or another trusted adult if they are being bullied. This is a helpful article from BullyingUK, which talks about what to do if you are being bullied: <https://www.bullying.co.uk/cyberbullying/what-to-do-if-you-re-being-bullied-on-a-social-network/>

Be Kind: How we behave online should be the same as how we behave face to face. This YouTube video from Dr Linda Papadopoulos tells us how we can encourage our children to be kind online: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=1BqKi3J7g6Q>

Further information

<https://www.whatsapp.com/safety/>

Sendit

Have you heard of Sendit? It allows users to play games together and links with Snapchat. Although rated as 12+ by the App store, **Sendit state on their website that the app was made for 17+**. If you know that your child is using this app then you can contact Sendit to ask them to disable their account. The app does contain in-app purchases ranging from £0.89 to £25.99 so ensure payment details are not stored/accessible on your child's device to avoid unexpected bills.

Further information

<https://www.getsendit.com/parents>

Online Challenges/hoaxes

“The internet and social media provide a perfect platform for hoaxes, especially hoaxes about challenges or trends that are said to be harmful to children and young people to be spread quickly. You should carefully consider if a challenge or scare story is a hoax. Generally speaking, naming an online hoax and providing direct warnings is not helpful. Concerns are often fuelled by unhelpful publicity, usually generated on social media, and may not be based on confirmed or factual occurrences or any real risk to children and young people.”

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/harmful-online-challenges-and-online-hoaxes/harmful-online-challenges-and-online-hoaxes> [Accessed 27.6.22].



Reassure your child that challenges that suggest that bad stuff will happen if they do not complete the tasks are not real.

It is important to talk to your child about hoaxes and challenges that may appear on the internet. Some challenges are fun and provide no risk, however there will be challenges that are risky/dangerous. Your child may see others complete certain challenges online without being harmed and therefore may want to repeat them **and not weigh up the potential risks to themselves**. Make sure they know that they should talk to you about what they see online, particularly if they plan to try a challenge or if something scares or upsets them.

The following links will provide you with further information as well as content to help you talk to your child:

- <https://www.thinkuknow.co.uk/parents/articles/theres-a-viral-scare-online-what-should-i-do/>
- TikTok have produced this resource to help you talk to your child about challenges and the potential risks:
<https://www.tiktok.com/safety/en-sg/online-challenges/>.

YouTube

YouTube is intended for users over the age of 13, however the App store rates YouTube as 17+ due to the content that can be found on there.

How can I make YouTube safer?

- **Turn on Restricted mode** as this restricts the availability of mature content. You will need to set up a Google account to do this.
- **Explore YouTube together** and see what they like to watch. Make sure your child understands that they can **talk to you** if they see anything that makes them feel uncomfortable online.
- Ensure your child knows how to **report inappropriate content**.

YouTube Kids

YouTube recommends that **YouTube Kids** is used for children under the age of 13. Find out more here:
<https://support.google.com/youtubekids/answer/6172308?hl=en-GB>

Posting videos

You should be over 13 years of age to post videos. Talk to your child about posting videos, do they understand what information they should keep private? Check out these tips:
<https://support.google.com/youtube/answer/2802244?hl=en-GB>

Screen time

We often spend too much time online, so it is important to set limits to ensure a balance between being online and offline. It is recommended that devices are switched off prior to bedtime and not left in their bedroom. You can read more about screen time based on your child's age from Internet Matters:
<https://www.internetmatters.org/issues/screen-time/>

Comments

If you see an inappropriate comment, then remember to report it. You can also turn off comments on videos that you post.

Further information

Access the social media hub set up by Internet Matters here:
<https://www.internetmatters.org/resources/social-media-advice-hub/>