



Dear Parents

The Autumn Term 2015 is almost complete. Time just seems to fly once term begins and here we are ready to celebrate Christmas once more with our families and friends.

This term has brought a lot of good news for the college with our highest ever GCSE results (72% 5 A* - C including Maths and English), placing the college in the top 2% nationally for progress. In fact our humanities subjects are in the top 1%. Fantastic achievements by our students last year! Year 11 are currently working very hard to improve this and we are confident that they will be close or even better.

We have also been successful as a college nationally with **Alex Dunbar** winning 2nd prize in the Schools Bible Project. **Emily Wanstall, Michael Thomson and Anthony Baillie-Powell** have been awarded highly commended in the Catholic Young Writer Competition and Mr Douglas has won a National Teaching Leaders Award for impact in science teaching.

The college is continuing to strive for a new Science and Technology block with national funding through PSB2 looking likely to be secured. We are currently awaiting a firm decision and I will be writing to inform you of just what we have been granted.

The Sion Mission in October was a huge success within the college and brought the whole community together in a week of prayer and reflection. Our hosts from the Sion Mission team were engaging and interactive making the whole week fun, even for some of the more reluctant participants. The event is now being built upon with a number of groups and activities taking place in the college on a regular basis.

One of the highlights of the term was our Presentation Evening, where we welcomed back last year's Year 11 students and our guest presenter, ex-student David Palethorpe. David, who is now a medical doctor, gave an inspirational speech about how commitment and hard work are the keys to success, and how the college values are at the centre of his success. David is just one example of many students who return to the college to share their experiences with our students in the hope that they will be inspired to work hard and achieve their dreams. Thank you once again to David.

We say a few goodbyes: Lorraine Bennett worked at the college for 7 years in a number of roles. Unfortunately, Lorraine's health has deteriorated and she has resigned her post as a teacher of technology. We all thank her for her commitment over the 7 years and wish her well in overcoming her illness.

Laura Reynolds, who has been with us for this term, has found the drive from Ringwood and some health issues a combination which is not conducive to continuing at St George.

Cover Supervisor, Charlie Ashman, who has worked at the college for over a year, has found a fresh challenge, coaching and teaching. Finally, Teaching Assistant, Joe Fenton who is returning to university to study for a Masters qualification.

As you will see by reading this newsletter there has been a great deal of activity in the college this term with trips for every year group and a huge amount of sport. I want to thank all the staff at the college for their dedication and commitment, going the extra mile to provide such a varied and engaging programme for our students. At our recent mock inspection and SIP visit, the quality and commitment of the staff were highlighted in both reports. Well deserved recognition in my view!

Finally, may I take this opportunity to wish everyone in our community a very merry Christmas and a prosperous and peaceful New Year!

Graham Wilson, Headteacher

DIARY DATES

January

- 4th Start of Spring Term
- 13th Nat History Museum Trip (Year7)
- 14th Year 11 Parents Evening - 5pm
- 20th Science Trip (G&T)

February

- 3rd Junior University Trip (Year10)
- 4th Drama Production - 7pm
- 5th KS3 Inter-tutor Cross Country
- 9th KS3 Tate Gallery Visit
- 10th Year 8 Parents Evening- 5pm
- 13th - 21st Half Term
- 25th Year 9 Parents Evening- 5pm

March

- 12th Ski Trip Departs -4.30pm
- 16th Junior University Trip (Year 10)
- 18th End of Term Masses
- 19th Ski Trip Returns
- 23rd Mentoring Day
- 25th - 10th April - Easter Holiday

April

- 20th Year 7 Parents Evening-5pm

Some of these dates might change. Please check our website diary page.

Prayer

*Come, Light of Life,
Lighten the darkness in our lives
With your mighty word of love.
Lighten our hearts with the joy
Of your promised coming.
Lighten our world with the hope
That faith in you still brings.
Amen*

A Message from the Bishop



Are you a baptised Catholic? Did you make your first Holy Communion? Are you confirmed? Have you given up attending Sunday Mass? Do you feel let down by the Church? Is there something you want to tell the Church? If so, the diocese want to hear from you and invite you to join in our online conversation at www.mystoryshared.co.uk and [#shareyourstory](https://twitter.com/shareyourstory).





Sion Mission

Sion Youth is a Roman Catholic evangelical mission, serving to bring young people aged 11-18 into a living relationship with Jesus Christ. During the second week of October we were delighted to host a Mission Week led by the Sion Youth Team.

The week consisted of daily assemblies and opportunities for prayer and reconciliation throughout the week. Using the mediums of drama, dance, music and mime the Sion team interacted with the students in a new and engaging way.

Workshops were held each day, helping to bring to life aspects of our faith including moral teaching and the Word of God. There was daily Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament in the chapel and a team of students was also engaged in praying for other students using passages from the scriptures.



Year 7 Action Stations

Year 7 students enjoyed a team-building day at *Action Stations* in Portsmouth Historic Dockyard. It was a fun-filled day full of activities and was a great way for our new students to make friends and build strong, long lasting relationships.

Among the activities were rock climbing, a flight simulator, Laser Quest and a workshop to build their own rocket using limited materials.



On the Wednesday the local clergy were kept busy administrating the Sacrament of Reconciliation all day. To see queues of teenagers for reconciliation and adoration was a real highlight of the week.

On Thursday evening the mission had its showcase where the students put on performances of dance, drama and music. The Sion team said it was the best showcase they had seen. There were also testimonies from students about how the Lord had touched them during the week, which was very moving. Finally there were the end of week liturgies where the whole school ended with adoration in front of the Blessed Sacrament.

A big thank you goes out to the Sion team for their efforts and to the diocese who funded the mission week through the *Living Our Faith Campaign* and to all those who participated. Of course it is Jesus who must be thanked most of all, for blessing and continuing to bless us at St George.



New Dance and Drama Studios

In September we welcomed our new Head of Drama, Miss Drummond, and saw the introduction of new dedicated drama and dance studios at St George.

The new classrooms are part of the redevelopment of the old gym, which also houses four new classrooms on the first floor. The new rooms are much needed due to the increased intake of the college.

Year of Mercy

On December the 8th The Holy Father Pope Francis launched the *Jubilee Year of Mercy* across the church. We at St George will also be celebrating the Year of Mercy. The theme for the year is 'Merciful like the Father,' Luke 6:36.



To become *Merciful like the Father* the Pope in his letter to announce the Year of Mercy is encouraging us to seek the Sacrament of Reconciliation, and act on the corporal and spiritual acts of mercy such as feeding the hungry, visiting the sick and praying for the dead. www.thedivinemercy.org

Zany Zebras



Our Art department is taking part in Marwell Zoo's Zany Zebra project. We already have 'George' the rhino, who guards the reception area, and we have just taken possession of 'Zena' our zebra. The design that has been selected to be painted onto Zena has been created by **Konrad Parzyszek** and **Darcy Hollinsworth**.

Sail Away Challenge

In November, Year 7 took up the challenge to design and create the most efficient model sailcraft. Dividing into teams, the students set about creating boats using a set of materials that they could choose from. Corridors were turned into temporary test strips giving students the chance to refine their designs before the final and exciting competition.

As well as prizes for the craft that travelled the furthest, using a desk fan on the stage, there was also a prize for the most original and well presented craft.





Slugs Get Rhythm

In November, 30 Year 8 students took part in a music workshop at St George with the afro beat band Sea Slugs.

After listening and joining in with some harmony singing, the students (who were divided into string, percussion, wind and vocal sections) were given the chance to perform themselves after some group instruction from members of the band.



Congratulations to our RE Students

St George students achieved success in the Schools Bible Project, a national RE writing competition. **Jocelyn Parker-Jennings, Nathan Dunbar, Daniel Bonavia, Savanna Pearce, Isabelle Mills and Gabriella Diaper** won book prizes and were highly commended for their work. **Alex Dunbar** won second prize and visited the House of Lords for the prize-giving where he was awarded book prizes for himself and £250 for the RE department.

Emily Wanstall, Anthony Baillie-Powell and Michael Thomson entered the Catholic Young Writer of the Year award. All three were highly commended and were given book prizes.

In the Knights of St Columbia prayer competition **Haydar Younis** won the local prize and **Mohit Kishor** won the local and provincial prize for their age groups. In the essay competition, **Michael Thomson** won the local prize, the provincial prize and came 2nd in the national competition.



Mary Rose Visit

The Mary Rose Museum at Portsmouth Historic Dockyard was the destination for a group of our Year 8 history students in October.

The collection of artefacts from the ship really brought history alive according to student **Miles Arme** who commented, "I was amazed at how well things had been preserved. Some of the personal items, like shoes and gloves, brought home the fact that the sailors aboard the ship were real people, just like us."

GCSE Presentation Evening

Arguably the most successful group of students ever to leave St George returned to receive their GCSE certificates at our Presentation Evening in November. Deserving a special mention are **Jonjo Bignell, Leon Collins and Luke Doble**, who achieved exceptional GCSE results with 10 or more A*/A grades.

Our current Year 8 - 11 pupils were also recognised for their contributions and achievements in subject areas and contribution to college life. Guest speaker and former pupil David Palethorpe gave an inspiring talk on aspiration and achievement.



Important Messages to Parents

Mobile Phones: Would all parents please remind students that any mobile phones and music devices that they bring into college are their sole responsibility.

Your Contact Details: Please ensure that we have your most up-to-date address, phone and email details.

Collecting Children : In the interest of safety, please do not drive beyond the gates when dropping off and collecting students.

Modeshift Award

We have now been awarded our Bronze plaque from Modeshift Stars as a result of our encouragement of safe and eco-friendly transport to and from school.

World Space Day

On Thursday 8th October it was World Space Day. To celebrate this, 5 Year 8s and 5 Year 10s visited the Winchester Science Centre to take part in a variety of workshops and demonstrations from leaders in space industry in the UK. They were able to talk with the designers of the next rover to visit Mars (including seeing a life-size model) as well as send their picture and voice to a satellite and back – **Jordan Crookes** will be a good news presenter in the future! Everyone enjoyed themselves and showed the school in a very good light, not only in their behaviour but in the questions they asked.



London Dungeons

Forty-five of our top readers faced a ghoulish reward in November as they set off for the despicable London Dungeons. Our victims braved the worst horror that history had to offer and survived to tell the tale.

The reward trip was for students who were all exceptional readers and had exceeded school expectations for literacy. The next literacy reward trip will be in January to Hogwarts so let's hope they keep up the excellent work.



Battlefields Trip

Forty-two boys and girls visited Belgium on our WW1 battlefields trip in November. They returned with many incredible memories, as Year 9 student **Emily Wanstall** writes:

"It was heart rending to see all the names of people whose bodies have never been found, I was shocked. One of the most interesting visits for me was the visit to Wellington quarries, where

the lives of soldiers in the days before battle are accurately portrayed. We were also able to go underground to have a look. On the trip we visited many German and British cemeteries which are so harrowing. My personal highlight of the trip was marching in the remembrance parade at Menin Gate, Ypres. It felt fantastic to represent the school on live television!"

Our Year 9 and 10 students were all a credit to the school.



Year 7 Boys Football

The boys have had an amazing start to their football careers at St George. They are through to the semi-finals of the Southampton Cup and the last eight of



the Hampshire Cup. Both games will be played in the forthcoming weeks against Bitterne Park. **John McCormack** has been a fantastic captain so far, with each member of the team being valuable.

Year 7 Rugby Festival

The Year 7 Rugby team competed for the first time at



the RFU Hampshire Schools Competition. In the morning pool, they won two games and drew two games. They were then put into the top pool in the afternoon, against stronger opponents, and they won 1 game, drew 1 game and lost 1 game.

Year 7/8 Girls Football

We have been very impressed with the increase of girls in Year 7 and 8 who have been attending after school training sessions; the ability is growing and improving. The girls have played their first cup game together against a very strong team and although we finished with a loss, heads have not dropped and we are looking to win the league! Special mention to **Anna Fenton** (Year 7) for outstanding performances.

Year 7/8 Girls Rugby

Year 7 and 8 girls attended a Hampshire rugby tournament, with most girls playing for their first time. They played extremely well as a team developing very quickly from touch-rugby to full-contact. They showed strength, agility and co-ordination resulting in multiple wins entering them into the top rugby pool. Well done girls! Special mention to **Taysharn Bannister** in Year 8 who was the top try scorer.

Year 8 Rugby

Our year 8 rugby team won their pre-season warm-up game convincingly against Portsmouth Grammar School in early October. We are hoping they continue this success in the forthcoming league games.

Year 8 Rugby Festival

The Year 8 rugby team competed in the RFU Hampshire Schools competition. The boys applied themselves really well, demonstrating hard work, teamwork and dedication throughout the day. Results: won 1, drew 2, lost 4.

Year 9 Girls Rugby Tournament

We have been hugely impressed with the number of girls who participated



in the U15 Girls Hampshire Rugby Tournament. With it being a Year 9 and 10 competition, our Year 9 girls played extremely well at full contact level against some talented schools. The ethos of the group was impressive and a joy to observe from the side-line. We look forward to seeing the girls compete in future rugby events.

Year 9 Girls Football

The girls have had a superb start in the U14 football league, currently undefeated and playing well, captained by **Mia Gardner**. The girls won

their preliminary Hampshire Cup game against a strong side from Springfield School. The girls worked very well as a team with high spirits. They then drew against Cantell in the next round but missed out on goals and will unfortunately not reach the finals this year.

Year 9 Girls Netball

With a very impressive start to the season for the U14 netball league, the girls have come back in 2015 with pace, strength and strong attacking and defensive skills. **Gabriella Diaper** has been an excellent captain and warm up coach, well done! With only one loss out of all games played so far the girls are determined to play well and win the league! Furthermore, Miss Ouvry is very impressed with the performance of the development squad at St George who will be entering the Netball Cup ready to challenge all the schools.

Year 10 Football

The Year 10 football team have made a solid start to the season. They are through to the fourth round of the Hampshire Cup and currently are 2nd in the Southampton A league. They face Wyvern in the next round.

Year 9 Rugby Festival

St George had a hugely successful morning winning all games in their pool to be seeded in the top pool in the afternoon. The boys played incredibly well in winning, drawing and losing one of their three afternoon games. All of the boys played with high spirits and positivity that we wish to carry into the new season.

Cross Country

We have had a fantastic start to the season for the cross country team. At the half way stage **Yazmin Knight** is winning the individual league for the Year 8 girls and the Year 7 boys are dominant in their league, winning 3 out of the 4 races overall. A fantastic effort from all runners, with **Rachel Parker** also in contention for a medal come the end of the season.

Year 8 Football Team

Well done to the Year 8 team for a great start to the league so far! Amidst changes to the team the boys remain strong in the league with convincing wins over Bitterne Park and Sholing, and narrowly losing to the Hampshire champions Henry Court in the first round of the Hampshire Cup in a stunning game of football. Let's hope they can keep the momentum going into the second half of the season...

Charities

Students and staff raised money for CAFOD this term.

Our team took part in the the 2.5 kilometre Junior Great South Run in October with great performances by **Ben Hamilton, Adrian Skuza, Yazmin & Louis Knight and Euan Lee-Cann**. Well done to Miss Billington for completing the 10 mile Great South Run.

In November six students took part in a bag pack at Tesco, Bursledon. The two events raised a total of £700 for CAFOD.

Anti Bullying Week

Our students left their school uniform at home for the day and wore blue in support of Anti Bullying Week in November.

During the week we held special assemblies that explained the different ways children can be bullied, the effects of bullying and what can be done to stop it.



Iceland Beckons

Following our very successful visit to Iceland in 2014, we are planning to run another trip in 2016. Parents of current Year 8 and Year 9 students are invited to register interest now for the 5-day excursion, which will take place in 2016/17. Please contact the Geography department for more information.