



ST. GEORGE'S CHURCH OF ENGLAND FOUNDATION SCHOOL

"A Business and Enterprise College"

END OF TERM 2 NEWSLETTER

DECEMBER 2011

"Nothing But Our Best Will Do"



Message from the Principal

Dear Parent/Carer,

Welcome to the 2011 Christmas Newsletter. At this time of year it gives us the opportunity to reflect on the year gone by and look forward to the year ahead.

2011 for St George's C of E Foundation School was filled with many successes which included the best ever GCSE & A-Level results:-

- ♦ 91% of Year 11 students achieved 5A*-C at GCSE
48% of Year 11 students achieved 5A* - C at GCSE including English & Mathematics.
- ♦ Over 60% of Year 13 students achieved A or A* grades
- ♦ We achieved "good with outstanding" features in the new "tougher" OFSTED Inspection which included comments such as **"This school has made rapid improvement in the last two years"** and **"Excellent relationships exist between staff and students"**.
- ♦ An Outstanding Anglican Inspection—June 2011.
- ♦ Ranked in the top 100 most improved schools and within the top 8% for Value Added nationally and 9th in Kent (including Grammar schools) for Contextual Value Added.

The 2011-2012 academic year has started well and we have received many visitors. Laura Sandys MP and Mike Whiting KCC Cabinet Member for Education, Learning and Skills both visited the school and were very impressed with our students.

Christian Ethos continues to grow from strength to strength and I am delighted that we have so many of the local clergy supporting the school. All Year 7 students were presented with Gideon's New Testament Bible earlier this term.

I, along with Mrs Wreford, Assistant Principal the Head of School, Head Boy, Head Girl and their deputies were invited as part of the Bicentenary Celebration for the Church of England Schools to a service at Westminster Abbey. It was an amazing experience; the sun shone, the bells rang and the Archbishop of Canterbury shook hands with all the students. It was a truly inspirational day.

Many of the Year 11 and Year 10 students attended revision sessions during Half-term and Saturday School in preparation for their GCSE English, Mathematics and/or Science examinations in November. We are now awaiting the results in January!

We held a very successful Prize Evening whereby the achievements of the Class of 2011 were celebrated. Rev Nigel Genders gave the address and many of the local dignitaries attended. During the evening I was able to present a further cheque for over £1,000 to the Principal's charity "Global Challenge". To date we have raised over £4,320 to help the Crossroads School in Uganda.

Mr Adam Mirams, Vice Principal handing over the cheque to Paul Eastwood & John Rew.



I would like to thank everyone who has supported this charity, your money is making a real difference. Thank you.

As we approach Christmas there are many things we are all blessed with. However there are those amongst us who have dealt with or are dealing with some extremely challenging circumstances. Our thoughts and prayers are with you at this time, and in particular to all those who have lost loved ones over the past year.

We look forward to 2012, a leap year, the Olympics and Paralympics and most importantly to the achievements of all our students.

Happy Christmas & New Year

*Kim Stoner,
Principal*

THANET FAMILY OF CHURCH SCHOOLS SERVICE



On the 12th October, the first Thanet Family of Church Schools Service took place at Holy Trinity Church, Broadstairs. This was to give thanks for 200 years of Church Schools. We were represented by our Head Of School - Ryan Chantrill-Smith, Head Boy - Kieran Newell, Head Girl - Lydia Baker, a team of Prefects and our School Choir. It was wonderful to see all the young people from the different schools.

PTFA NEWS

The meeting in November that took place involving the PTFA and representatives of the English department resulted in a £1,300 donation for new books and author visits.

Working with "Waterstones" to promote literacy, the English department has an exciting variety of visits arranged.

So watch this space in 2012!

Do you have a few spare hours and would like to make new friends, come along and be part of the PTFA
Please contact reception for further details

NEWS AND INFORMATION

SCHOOL DAY

8.00 a.m.—8.45 a.m. Breakfast Club
8.45 a.m.—8.50 a.m. Registration
8.50 a.m.—9.00 a.m. Assembly
9.00 a.m.—10.00 a.m. Period 1
10.00 a.m.—11.00 a.m. Period 2
11.00 a.m.—12.00 p.m. Period 3
12.00 p.m.—12.30 p.m. Lunch
12.30 p.m.—1.30 p.m. Period 4
1.30 p.m.—2.30 p.m. Period 5
2.30 p.m.—3.30 p.m. Period 6*
*(Period 6 for 6th form only)
End of Day

PARENTS - REPORT YOUR CHILD'S ABSENCE

Please use the number below to send a text (only) reporting your son/daughter's absence:
07624811905
or alternatively
Telephone
Mrs Owen
(Student Support Assistant) on
01843 609030

DATES FOR THE DIARY TERM DATES 2012

Term Three Begins - Wednesday, 4th January 2012
End of Term Three - Friday, 10th February 2012
(Term Three Holiday)
Monday, 13th February 2012 — Friday, 17th February 2012

Term Four Begins - Monday, 20th February 2012
End of Term Four - Friday, 30th March 2012
(Term Four Holiday)
Monday, 2nd April 2012 — Friday, 13th April 2012

Term Five Begins - Monday, 16th April 2012
End of Term Five - Friday, 1st June 2012
(Term Five Holiday)
Monday, 4th June 2012 — Friday, 8th June 2012

Term Six Begins - Monday, 11th June 2012
End of Term Six - Friday, 20th July 2012

BANK HOLIDAYS

Monday 26th & Tuesday 27th December 2011
Monday 2nd January 2012
Friday, 6th & Monday, 9th April 2012
Monday, 7th May 2012
Monday 4th June &
Tuesday 5th June 2012 (Queens Diamond Jubilee)

EXAMINATION DATES 2012

JANUARY

Tuesday, 10th January	GCSE English Language
Thursday, 12th January	GCE Sociology (Unit 1) AS
Friday, 13th January	GCSE I.T. Unit 1
Friday, 13th January	GCSE English Literature
Monday, 16th January	GCSE French Reading/Listening
Monday, 16th January	GCE History Unit 1 (AS)
Friday, 20th January	GCE Sociology—Unit 2 (AS)
Friday, 20th January	GCSE Geography Unit 1
Monday, 23rd January	GCSE History—Unit 2 (AS)
Tuesday, 24th January	GCSE Biology 2 & 3
Thursday, 26th January	GCSE Chemistry 2 & 3

MARCH

Thursday, 1st March	GCSE Biology
	GCSE Chemistry
	GCSE Physics
Friday, 2nd March (Non-calculator)	GCSE Physics 1
	GCSE Mathematics Foundation
	GCSE Mathematics Higher
Monday, 5th March (Calculator)	GCSE Mathematics Foundation
	GCSE Mathematics Higher

November GCSE Examination Results Day -
Thursday, 12th January 2012

EVERY DAY MATTERS

Continuity of learning is vital for a student to make progress in school. By attending every day you increase your chances of achieving 5 GCSE grades A*-C. We recognise that parents and carers want their children to leave St George's with the highest possible qualifications and hence gain access to greater employment opportunities.

Although 90% would be deemed outstanding in most circumstances 90% attendance is unsatisfactory as it represents one day's absence every 2 weeks. Evidence shows that students of all abilities under perform as attendance drops below 95%.

We are therefore implementing a number of measures to support our students to achieve 95% attendance or better. These include a new rewards system for good or improved attendance and a rigorous intervention system for students with attendance of less than 95%. We look forward to achieving regular and high attendance for every student.

Please note:

On the advice of the Attendance and Behaviour Service we will be introducing Penalty Notices for those students taking holidays during term time.

Christian Ethos

This has been another busy year so far. In addition to the services at Westminster Abbey and for Remembrance Day, our School has been represented by students and staff at the Broadstairs and St. Peter's Civic Service and the Thanet Family of Church Schools Service.

In October our Year 7 students had a session entitled 'Now You Are Here'. This was led by Reverend Rhodri Walters and Maggie Paddison of Fegan's Child and Family care, to give students an insight into Christian Ethos at St. George's. This was also supported by several members of the Clergy who work regularly with our students through Assemblies and The Chaplaincy Scheme.

We were visited in November by Victor and Emily Spanner of the Gideons International, who gave an interesting Assembly and distributed New Testaments to year 7 students.

We continue to have a Communion Service each month and these are well supported by students. Our next Communion Service is on Tuesday 6th December at 8.50am in the Drama Studio. Parents and carers are welcome to join us. Philip Musindi will lead the Service.

Our Students have now raised over £4,320 towards a hostel for Crossroads School in Soroti, Uganda and we hope to build closer links between our two schools. In March 2012 we will be holding a sponsored walk in aid of this cause, further details of this event to follow.

The St. George's Carol Service will be held on Tuesday 6th December at St. Peter's Church and there will be an address by Reverend Jonathan Cruickshank, who has been welcomed as a new member of our Christian Ethos Group. We hope that you will join us. **Linda Billings, Christian Ethos Coordinator.**

COMMUNION DATES:

Thursday 19th January 2012 & Wednesday 8th February 2012

EMAIL*EMAIL*EMAIL*EMAIL

Parents/carers

We are sending copies of this newsletter and other information via email. This is a very 'green' alternative to posting and reduces waste and cost considerably!

Do you have an email address? **If you do**, would you like to receive copies of the newsletter and other items of correspondence this way?

If the answer is **YES** and you have not done so already, please contact the school a.s.a.p. and inform us of your email address.

Don't worry if you do not have an email, you will still continue to receive your copies and all other mailings, through the normal post!

Thank you and have a Merry Christmas!



NEWS AND INFORMATION



REMEMBRANCE DAY

The whole school observed a 2 minute silence to remember those that have fallen.

11.11.2011



On Sunday 13th November 2011, Mrs Stoner, Principal, along with students, attended the Remembrance Service at Pierremont Hall Broadstairs for the wreath laying service.

In addition we were represented at the St Peter's Church by Mrs Billings, accompanied by James Isaac & Luke Smith who both read biographies of the fallen to the congregation.

WESTMINSTER ABBEY VISIT



Principal, Mrs Stoner and Assistant Principal, Mrs Wreford along with the following students; Ryan Chantrill-Smith - Head of School, Harriet Aish & Constance Baker - Deputy Heads of School, Kieran Newell - Head Boy, Lydia Baker - Head Girl, Tyler Abrahams Deputy Head Boy, Liberty Van Der Linden & Louise Cooper - Deputy Head Girls enjoyed a wonderful day at Westminster Abbey on Friday 14th October 2011.

This visit was to mark the 200th year for the Family of Church Schools.

The service was led by
The Archbishop of Canterbury

Drink for thought?

We've noticed a lot of students coming into school with energy drinks (eg Red Bull, Monster, Rockstar), often a litre in size. It's become a bit of a craze among some. **What are the effects?**

Recent research shows that sports drinks aren't needed by teenagers doing average amounts of physical activity, and that energy drinks aren't good for them because of their high **caffeine** content.

Researchers say that water is generally the best first choice for hydration before, during and after most exercise, rather than sports or energy drinks.

Most energy drinks deliver a big dose of sugar and **caffeine** — sometimes as much caffeine as in up to 3 cups of coffee. Too much sugar can lead to the dentist and increase weight. Excessive caffeine can negatively affect attention and concentration. It reportedly increases talking and movement. Caffeine is also a diuretic: it makes you need the toilet more!

Caffeine has other dangers for children and can affect the developing brain and heart and the risk of developing addiction. Also, energy drinks often include the plant extract **guarana**. This contains caffeine so it increases the total caffeine content in the drink. Finally there is **taurine**. This is an amino acid (not from bulls!) whose effects on children have not been tested.

The NHS and Food Standards Agency recommend moderation when it comes to caffeine — but these drinks don't provide moderation. *Could your child have got in trouble in school because they were agitated by caffeine and sugar?*

YOU'RE A WINNER CHARLIE PINDAR

"Smyths" toy shop have kindly sponsored the Chess Tournament again this year. Charlie Pindar of 10G has won the individual prize for the second time running. He will shortly be accompanying Ms Cullen, House Manager (Exeter & Gloucester) to collect his prize which will be presented by Bob Jewell, manager of the Westwood Cross branch.

SPORTS NEWS

FOOTBALL CONGRATULATIONS

Year 7 Football team have won the **Thanet Championships**

The team only conceded one goal during the whole competition and went on to beat **Dane Court 1-0** in the final. **WELL DONE!**

CONGRATULATIONS to the school Netball Squad for fulfilling all their fixtures **WELL DONE** to all those who took part in the **Football Festival** on **Tuesday, 4th October 2011**, an enjoyable afternoon was had by all!

PE KIT

The Requirements are all students should attend their PE lessons in full PE kit. Items can be purchased from the National School Wear Centre, Margate. (01843 293555)

CHILDREN IN NEED 18TH NOVEMBER 2011

The students and staff had a great time raising money!

*They raised a staggering **£1,061.89***



A very well deserved 'pat on the back' for everyone who took part!

The money raised will be shared between the Principal's Charity and Children in Need

NEW SCHOOL MINI BUS

Silver Dream Machine

The delighted faces of the staff and students says it all as St. George's received the keys to their brand new, state of the art, minibus. This 17 Seater, Silver Peugeot Boxer will be used by the students for numerous Curriculum and extra curricular events.



Thanks to a £5,000 contribution from 'Northgate' and the generosity of the PTFA who raised a similar amount, the new bus will be used to add a new dimension to students opportunities. Principal, Kim Stoner praised the hard work of the PTFA and the continued support of Northgate.

Parents/Carers

NEW ANNOUNCEMENT MESSAGE SYSTEM (effective from January 2012)

When your child goes on a trip, do you find it difficult to get hold of anyone for updated information regarding returning to school and or delays? Would you like an easier way of being informed about up and coming school events? Well, if you **key 1** when dialling school you will automatically be transferred to the automated message system which will inform you of all announcements as applicable at the time of telephoning.

Go on...give it a go!

01843 609000/861696 key 1

If you have a comment regarding this newsletter please contact the school on:

01843 861696 or email: admin@st-georgescofe-thanet.kent.sch.uk

Be FITTER, HEALTHIER and HAPPIER with MEND. Families who attend MEND (Mind, Exercise, Nutrition Do it!) will learn how to eat more healthily, understand food values, enjoy fun ways to improve health and fitness and boost self confidence. Please call 0800 849 4000 or visit www.mendcentral.org MEND is part of the NHS Trust Eastern and Coastal Community Health.



NORWICH & SALISBURY HLC's

In term 3, students in N/SHLC's will be given the opportunity to visit Margate Lifeboat station. The RNLI is the N&SHLC's House charity and we will be exploring fundraising opportunities, as well as arranging visits to learn about the important work that they do around our coastline.

ROCHESTER & YORK HLC's

Good News! R & Y HLC's attendance is currently 93.9% which puts us at the top of the leaderboard. Following the 1st Academic Overview of the year there were 120 certificates for excellent behaviour and work.

WELL DONE!

CHRISTMAS DISCO

Reward

For years 7,8 and 9

Tuesday 13th December 2011

6.30 p.m. - 9.00 p.m.

Entrance is FREE

COMMUNITY CLUBS & ACTIVITIES

It's Happening Here

THANET KARATE:

Mons & Thurs 6.30pm-8.30pm
Telephone 07761258919
www.tskc.org/TSKC.org/home.html

1ST ST PETER'S SEA SCOUTS

Weds 7.00 pm-9.00pm
Contact S Hill on 01843 861696/609000

14TH BROADSTAIRS BEAVERS

Cub and Scout group.
For more information contact Mrs Cross on 01843 604990

MEND: (7-13Yrs) a specialist programme tackling childhood obesity & helping families to a healthy lifestyle. For Registration: **Tel 0800 849 4000**
www.mendprogramme.org

Stage Door: Dance School (Heidi)

Weds 4.30pm-9.30pm
Sat 9.00am-1.00pm
stagedoorinquiries@hotmail.co.uk
(07974428139)

Zumba & Pilates with

Andrea Richardson
01843 294068/07855198655:
ZUMBA Thursdays 6.30pm - 7.30pm
PILATES Thursdays 7.30pm-8.30pm

Westgate Badminton:

Thurs 8.30 - 10.30pm
Tel: 01843 225339

Grace Community Church

Sundays 9.30am-1.00pm
www.gracechurchthanet.org
Barry.gould@gracechurchthanet.org

Exciting New Adventure - hits St George's!

..a note from Mrs M Cox

Do you want to lose yourself in the Twilight Saga? Or maybe find out about Henry VIII in the Horrible Histories series? See yourself as the next Jamie Oliver?

Then come and visit the new school library.

After much planning the library is now open, offering a wide range of books from Charles Dickens to Enid Blyton — the list is endless!

Thanks to the generosity of Waterstones Senior Management but mainly to the staff with special thanks to Mrs S Milton, we now have a library to be proud of.

Opening times:

Monday, Tuesday, Thursday & Friday 2.30 p.m.—3.00 p.m.
(Will be reviewed if demand is high)

REMEMBER! —Reading Broadens the Mind—USE IT

KEEP THE DONATIONS COMING!!



SCHOOL RECEPTION — OPENING TIMES

Monday to Thursday, 7.45 a.m. to 4.00 p.m.

Fridays, 8.00 a.m.—4.00 p.m.

Contact us on 01843 609000/861696

Or email us at

admin@st-georgescofe-thanet.kent.sch.uk

Or through the school website!

DUTCH EXCHANGE—NOVEMBER 2011

a little note from Mr R Garnier...

45 year 8 students from Amerstort, Holland, visited St George's for the English experience! They were kept very busy by participating in various activities which included a trip to Canterbury with a visit around the Cathedral, followed by some retail therapy. Sightseeing around London; taking in the key landmarks of the city, which also included travelling around by tube! (in Holland they have double-decker trains, trams and bicycles, **no tube**). Various sporting matches were hosted by us, with us beating the Dutch 6-1 in the football...well done St George's!

New bonds and friendships were formed on both sides and will be maintained via the networking sites!

Overall, the exchange was a resounding success and everyone was impressed with the fantastic quality of the Year 8's use of English.

A big thank you to all staff who helped make this a fantastic experience for all!

CATERING FACILITIES

With the wonderful facilities at St George's, the Catering Team look forward to welcoming students to the homemade, cooked meals with a focus on healthy eating using quality ingredients.

Should students not want a hot meal at lunch time, can we tempt you with a 'Grab and Go' bag that contains quality homemade sandwiches, a piece of homemade cake and a drink. These are available from both the main restaurant and café. **Hot meals are always available from the restaurant.**

We operate a cashless system that offers full integration and privacy to those students entitled to free meals.



We have a vibrant breakfast club that offers cooked breakfasts along with cereals and other breakfast items. This is always very popular.

Opening times are:

Breakfast 7.30 am - 8.45 am from the Café

Lunch 12.00 pm - 12.30 pm - Grab Bags etc from the Café. Hot food and Grab Bags from the Restaurant.

