



Volume 4 | Issue 29 | 27th April 2018

### *Prayer for the week*

*And let us run with perseverance the race marked out for us, 2 fixing our eyes on Jesus, the pioneer and perfecter of faith (Hebrews 12:2)*

### **Chapel - Senior Communion 6.30pm, School Uniform**

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#### From the Headmistress

Mr Waters, Assistant Head writes

This point of the school year is incredibly busy, with exams on the horizon; everyone is gearing up for a final push of sorts. Indeed, on that note of busyness – the Great Curry Run! Sunday morning 0900 will see 606 participants, including 44 staff, competing at a range of distances, from 5k to 20k, walking, running, and cycling. All in aid of ABF The Soldiers' Charity and Humanitas. What a great cause. £13,700 raised so far, but please dig deep – still a chance to sponsor someone you know well, help those in need, and also your friend get over the line. Would be wonderful if we can hit our target of £20,000. <https://www.justgiving.com/teams/greatcurryrun18> Do come along and support and cheer everyone on. It is a great occasion. They'll be refreshments including ice creams – we are ever positive about the weather!

And yet, despite all of the hustle and bustle, there is calm. I have been privileged to be able to bear witness to some hugely impressive year 13 EPQ presentations organised by Mrs Priestland over the last couple of weeks; such imagination, intellect and insight. An incredibly wide range of interests were on show. All the talks fired up the synapses, and I was particularly struck by the multi-disciplinary nature of the topics. A vision of Artificial Intelligence and Neural Networks and our place in the world and the ethical implications of, amongst other things, Machine Intelligence and Neuro-technology really made me think. As I looked up in pensive or ponderous fashion, trying to formulate something meaningful, or

indeed, relevant to say or ask, I noticed M J Oakeshott on the Honours Board of the Old Library. *What would he have said?* You may be thinking...*who was he anyway?!*

Oakeshott was not one to seek fame or fortune during his life. He attended St George's from 1912 to 1920, was Captain of the school and of the rugby team. He maintained a strong connection with our founder Cecil Grant, and kept a watchful eye on St George's throughout his life. His academic life took him from Cambridge, to Oxford, via Harvard, settling as Chair of Political Science at the LSE from 1952. Oakeshott now features as a "key thinker" in the new Politics A Level as part of the study of Conservatism. He is well known in some circles for, perhaps surprisingly, rejecting a knighthood awarded by the Thatcher government. Described, in obituaries as "the greatest political philosopher in the Anglo-Saxon tradition since Mill – or even Burke" (Telegraph) and "perhaps the most original academic political philosopher of this century" (Guardian), he is perhaps both the best and least well-known figure to have attended this school.

He remembered St George's fondly, recalling the thick hedge that surrounded what is now Keswick House:

*"Inside the hedge was a world of beckoning activities and interests. Many of them emanated from Grant himself, many of them were the private enterprise of members of staff, some one made for oneself. There was a great deal of laughter and fun; there was a great deal of seriousness. As the years have passed I have found myself thinking often of my school days and constantly discovering new debts I owe to St George's. To me it was a world of remarkable personalities (and of course my friends) and from each I learnt something. There were moments of euphoria at discoveries, but the happiness was a kind of serenity; growing up was something to be enjoyed, not merely got through; there was intensity, but very little pressure. I don't ever remember being bored. What St George's provided, and it was a very great deal, was a feeling of safety and an immense variety of outlets, beckonings."*

I am sure the same can be said of St George's today.

Oakeshott's main significance as an academic lies in the field of Philosophy. One biographer writes, "Reading Oakeshott, one acquires a deeper understanding of the character of philosophy and its place in the conversation of mankind". His classic works, *On Human Conduct* (1975), and *Experience and its Modes* (1933) are now heralded as seminal works. Indeed, the praise goes further: "...Oakeshott's peers are not his twentieth century contemporaries but Plato, Augustine and Hobbes." Oakeshott is not, however, easy. In many ways his ideas remain elusive. In the preface to *On Human Conduct* he calls his writings "footprints in the snow."

As a younger man, however, Oakeshott was more definitive. In the school magazine of 1919 *The Georgian* he wrote about his scepticism of Socialism "...the man who says that the world in a state of Socialism will be in a state of perfection can hardly see further than his own nose." Latterly, it was clear he was suspicious of any politician who promised to solve society's problems with grand plans and noisy self-congratulation:

*"In political activity . . . men sail a boundless and bottomless sea; there is neither harbour for shelter nor floor for anchorage, neither starting-place nor appointed destination. The enterprise is to keep afloat on an even keel."*

For Oakeshott then, there is much to be said in human experience for enjoying the journey rather than the destination.

Back to the EPQs. As I finalise some thoughts for this "guest" newsletter, I look forward to the last round of year 13 presentations this evening, ranging from the potentialities of Plant-based medicines to the validity of the theory of the Austrian School of Economics. One of the most impressive aspects for me of the EPQ and borne out in its presentations, is the extent to which students not only show such enjoyment and thirst for knowledge but also become aware of the limitations of knowledge, the tentativeness of conclusions, and of the unavailability of evidence. Their wisdom gained from this investigation is as much the evaluative aspect, and what they have realised is not yet known, than a final answer to the question they were originally asking. It is as much the journey, than the destination that is important.

We all have much to ponder about that – and I am sure Oakeshott would be pleased.

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News and Events

## Vital Information for Runners and Walkers for Great Curry Run 2018

[Read more...](#)

[Vital info for Runners and Walkers for Great Curry Run 2018 \(0.13 MB\)](#)



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## SOUTH-EAST OF ENGLAND SCHOOLS' CHAMPIONSHIPS

Our St George's golfers recently took part in the County Competitions. (See details below)

Very well done to all them...

[Read more...](#)



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## GCSE Pod

Calling all Y11

[Read more...](#)



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Reminders & Notices

### Former school Chaplain (1981-1990)

**Alexander (Sandy) Noble has sadly passed away.**

**Should anyone from St George's wish to attend the funeral they would be most welcome...**

Tuesday 1<sup>st</sup> May 2018, 2.30pm (for main service), St Mary's Church, Shephall Green, Stevenage, SG2 9YD

3.30pm (for cremation service)

Harwood Park Crematorium, Watton Road, Stevenage, SG2 8XT

Approx. 4.15pm

Cromwell Hotel, High Street, Stevenage, SG1 3AZ  
Dress – colour (no black)  
No flowers please  
Donations to charity – United Society Partners in Gospel

### **PARENTPAY ALERTS**

Tired of only finding out your child has no money on their lunch time account when they go overdrawn?

Did you know you can set up alerts to notify you when their accounts get low on money?

Go to your ParentPay account and click on Communication along the top. Then Alert settings. You can receive alerts via Email for free and via Text for a small fee. Register your email / mobile number and then set the threshold for the balance alert e.g. £5.00. This means that you will be alerted either by email or text when your child's account goes below £5.00 giving you time to top up before they go overdrawn.

### **STUDENT ABSENCE**

Call the absence telephone line 01582 765477 or email [absent@stgeorges.herts.sch.uk](mailto:absent@stgeorges.herts.sch.uk) Please state the pupil's name, year group, tutor group and reason for absence

Further to my notice last term, may I remind you that all students sitting public exams in the summer will be bringing home statements of entry to check in the next few weeks. This is an important process, and I will post a copy of the notes issued to help in the Exams area of the website (access from Learning or Information on the home page.)

### **MEDICAL INFORMATION**

#### **HAY FEVER/ALLERGIES**

**This is a reminder to all parents/carers and students that we are now in the Hay fever Season.**

I have recently seen a number of students requiring medication for Hay fever related symptoms.

If your child suffers from **Hay fever or any allergies** could they please take their medication **before** they come to School.

Please note, that the Medical Centre will **NOT** be holding supplies of Hay fever & Allergy Relief medication.

NHS Choices - [Your Health April 2018](#)

#### **IMPORTANT MEDICAL INFORMATION**

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Vacancies

**[CLICK HERE](#) TO VIEW ALL CURRENT JOB VACANCIES AT THE SCHOOL**

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Letters Home

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## PE Fixtures

Please ensure you are following or have access to the Boys & Girls twitter account for any late notice changes to fixtures. The last few weeks have been very frustrating due to the home pitches being unplayable and we are glad to have been able to move games to the away venues.

[@StgeorgesboysPE](#)

[@StgeorgesgirlsPE](#)

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## PSA

The latest edition of the PSA newsletter is now available to view and download from the school website—please [click here](#)

You can contact the PSA at [psa@stgeorges.herts.sch.uk](mailto:psa@stgeorges.herts.sch.uk)

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## Parental Support

### Keystone Events

[Critical Thinking - Doing the Basics at Home - Mon 14th May 2018](#)

[Primary School Maths - The Basics For Parents](#)

### Harpenden Plus Partnership

[Families Feeling Safe - April/May/June 2018](#)

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## Supporting our Students in the Wider Community

### Race Night

Saturday 5th May

Herbie Barwell, Year 9, is fund raising for a Scout Trip to Ghana in 2019.

[Read more...](#)

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## Community

To find out what's happening in our Community please [CLICK HERE](#)

### Harpenden Carnival 2018

Saturday 10th June 2017

Harpenden Common  
12.30pm - 5pm

[Read more.....](#)

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Calendar

April 2018		
Sat	28	Jazz band perform at MENCAP concert at Harpenden Methodist Church
Sun	29	The Great Curry Run#7, registration from 8am, start 9am Senior Communion 6.30pm, School Uniform
Mon	30	Year 10 Art exam 4pm Trip Leaders Meeting
May 2018		
Tue	1	Year 10 MFL Orals County League Athletics round 1, Luton, StGs host, 4.30pm
Wed	2	Year 11 IGCSE History am
Thu	3	A-level Art Exam, Fine and Photography
Fri	4	A-level Art Exam, Fine and Photography Staff Summer Ball, Old Albanians, 7.30pm Boarder exeat from 2.55pm Deadline - replies to St George's Sixth Form Offer or Post 16 Destination Form to be returned to Mrs Warden, Sixth Form Office Year 11 MFL Orals begin



Don't forget to like us on Facebook. It is a great way of keeping up with news and events at school and the more we have online presence, the more people will be aware of cyber communication and how to keep each other safe

<https://www.facebook.com/stgeorgharpenden>



**St George's School**

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