

Meadow Road, Gravesend, Kent DA11 7LS
Telephone: 01474 533082
Confidential Fax: 01474 561536

Website: www.saintgeorgescofe.kent.sch.uk
Email: office@saintgeorgescofe.kent.sch.uk
Executive Headteacher: Mr Stephen Carey BA Hons

Newsletter February 2022

Dear Parents and Carers

I hope you and your families are well. As always this has been a busy term. The works to the social space outside K block are moving forward rapidly and we hope to have all the building works completed by the end of the first week in March. The pupils have asked for an area where they can sit and eat their packed lunches and socialise with their friends, so the new social space will be an area where they can do this.

We have had the NHS vaccination team in this term delivering the COVID and the HPV vaccinations. They were hugely complimentary of the way all the pupils conducted themselves and how polite they were.

Well done to the year 11 and year 13s who have completed their final round of PPEs this week. As always, your conduct has been exemplary. The final exams will come around very quickly, please make sure that you have checked the recent guidance that has been sent out regarding the changes to this year's exams.

We are currently in the process of changing our school management information system from SIMs to a company called Arbor. The new system will be going live at the beginning of term 5. There will be updates sent out to you next term explaining how you will be able to access Arbor.

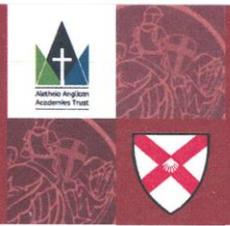
I am very fortunate in my role as it allows me to take time to see the learning that is taking place around the school. I am always delighted to see the range of topics that are being covered in class and the engagement of all the pupils in their learning. It is lovely to speak with the pupils and hear them talk so eloquently about what they are doing and why they are doing it. We are very fortunate at Saint George's to have such a dedicated team of staff who work so hard to support the pupils both academically and pastorally, which allows the pupils to flourish.

And finally, thank you for your continued support for all we are doing at Saint George's.

I hope that you have a peaceful break.

Matt Lillie
Head of School





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Exams Update

We want to congratulate our exam students on completing their February mock exams. Our invigilators have complemented students on their positive attitudes and exemplary conduct in the exam hall. We appreciate this will have been a busy and stressful time for students and we'd like to thank parents and carers for your support at home.

You may have read this week that the Department for Education has confirmed exams will only be cancelled this summer if there is a "public health emergency". Therefore, we expect the full exam season to run as planned and will continue our exam preparations with students in the final weeks. While the intention for exams to go ahead is clear, we will keep our contingency plans in place to ensure we collect sufficient evidence to grade students should this be required.

Finally, the advance information for students has been released this week and we have shared this information with students. The main purpose of this advance information is to help students prioritise their revision by providing focus for some aspects of the examination; for example, some of the content, contexts, texts, topics, sub-topics, themes and skills that will be assessed in the 2022 assessments. Teachers will be going through this with students in lessons after half term to ensure they can use it to their greatest advantage in the run up to the examinations.

Mrs Scott-Halsey

Quality of Education

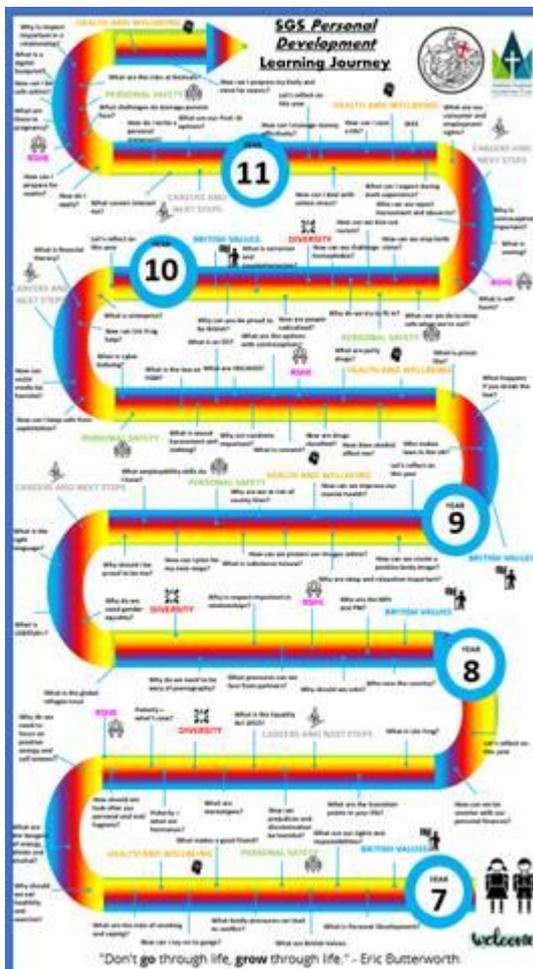
At Saint George's, the classroom experience for all of our pupils across all phases is built on our core values: Inclusivity, Academic Excellence and that all the pupils should Developing and Flourish, not just academically but as young people. To ensure that this continues, our staff have been working very hard to develop their curriculum over the last 3 terms so that pupils at Saint George's get the best. This has included colleagues working cross phase to support the development of a Reception to Year 13 learning journey, as well as colleagues in the secondary phase reshaping the journey through subject based learning journeys. I have included examples from Personal Development and Geography below; next term, we will be making these journeys available to all parents via the school website and we hope that by giving you a clear picture of the progression of skills and content in each subject, we can help you to support and guide your children through their education:





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Our staff also continue to use a range of approaches in their classrooms to help our pupils learn, as well as instilling our values in them. If you would like to learn more about the approaches we use regularly in the classroom, you can find more information below:

[Kagan](#)

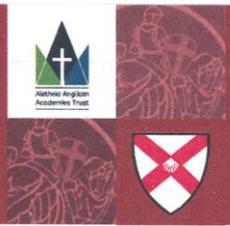
[Thinking Hard \(Magenta Principles\)](#)

[Responsive Teaching](#)

If you have any questions or would like to discuss the learning experience your child has at Saint George's, please do not hesitate to contact me – bakerm@saintgeorgescofe.kent.sch.uk

Mr M Baker





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Why good attendance matters

We recognise that we are in exceptional times however we must reiterate that regular school attendance is an important part of giving children the best possible start in life. The aim should be to attend 100% of the time.

Students who miss school frequently can fall behind with their work and do less well in exams. Good attendance also shows potential employers that a young person is reliable. All absences must be reported in view of safeguarding and academic tracking.

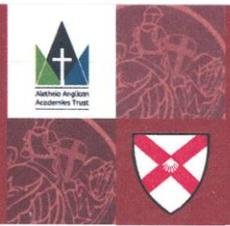
Research suggests that students who attend school regularly could also be at less risk of getting involved in antisocial behaviour or crime. Below is a table showing how children's percentage attendance equates to the amount of school time missed.

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Attendance during one school year	Equivalent Days	Equivalent Sessions	Equivalent Weeks	Equivalent Lessons Missed
95%	9 Days	18 Sessions	2 Weeks	54 Lessons
90%	19 Days	38 Sessions	4 Weeks	114 Lessons
85%	29 Days	58 Sessions	6 Weeks	174 Lessons
80%	38 Days	72 Sessions	8 Weeks	228 Lessons
75%	48 Days	96 Sessions	10 Weeks	288 Lessons
70%	57 Days	114 Sessions	11.5 Weeks	342 Lessons
65%	67 Days	134 Sessions	13.5 Weeks	402 Lessons

17 days absent from school a year could mean a drop in a GCSE grade in all subjects!





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It is also important to arrive at school on time. If a child arrives late to school every day, their learning begins to suffer. Below is a graph showing how being late to school every day over a school year adds up to lost learning time over one academic year.

Well-Being Matters



Students keeping themselves safe

We would like to remind you about the organisations you can access to support your child’s mental health.

SANE is a leading UK mental health charity working to improve the quality of life for anyone affected by mental illness: www.sane.org.uk

YOUNG MINDS a support charity building a movement where all young people get the mental health support they need: www.youngminds.org.uk

NHS - Find support about mental health for children, teenagers, students and parents: www.nhs.uk/mental-health/children-and-young-adults/

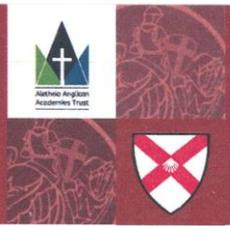
MIND a UK charity offering advice and support to empower those experiencing a mental health problem: www.mind.org.uk

STEM4 a charity that promotes positive mental health in teenagers. Offering a range of free apps to support young people: www.stem4.or.uk

CALM APP - the number one app for sleep and meditation. For those wanting to experience better sleep, less anxiety and lower stress: www.calm.com

On-line Support information





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NSPCC a charity which offers a range of online advice on keeping children safe online:

<https://www.nspcc.org.uk/keeping-children-safe/online-safety/>

INTERNET MATTERS founded by BY, Sky, TalkTalk, and Virgin Media, supports parents and carers to navigate the ever changing digital landscape: <https://www.internetmatters.org/>

SAFER INTERNET CENTRE a partnership of three leading UK organisations with a goal to make the internet a safe place for children and young adults: <https://saferinternet.org.uk/>

CEOP Child Exploitation and Online Protection command. A website where people can report online abuse or targeting: <https://www.ceop.police.uk/Safety-Centre/>

Pastoral Notices

We have seen an increase in students having their noses pierced this term. Facial piercings are not permitted in school. Existing nose piercings should only have small, clear nose studs and be of the utmost discretion. We would strongly advise you discourage your child from having their nose pierced in term time. Any visible piercings are required to be covered until removed and may result in the child working outside of the classroom environment until resolved as part of our basic expectations on personal appearance and uniform.

Can we also remind you that, hoodies and trainers are not part of school uniform and should not be worn at any time. Leisure wear or jumpers should not replace a coat in cold weather and may be confiscated.

If your child has a medical reason for wearing trainers, a note must be provided and signed by a community leader.

Should you need any financial assistance with uniform and PE kit, please don't hesitate to contact the Pastoral Team.

Thank you for your support.



Immunisation Team Clinic Dates

Text Chat: 07401320923 Web Chat: [Live chat with us now](#)

Phone: 0300 123 5205 Email: kchft.cyp-immunisationteam@nhs.net

Please Note: The clinic date has to be after the school session date, we cannot vaccinate before a school session.



Kent Community Health
NHS Foundation Trust

Date		Name of Clinic	Time
Saturday 12 th February 2022	Sheerness	Sheppey Community Hospital, Plover Road, Minster on Sea, Sheerness, ME12 3LT	Please book this clinic via https://kchft.healthit.org.uk/patheks
Saturday 12 th February 2022 Limited Availability	Chatham	Clover Street Clinic, 4 Clover Street Chatham, ME4 4DT	Please book this clinic via Email: kchft.cyp-immunisationteam@nhs.net Phone: 0300 123 5205
Monday 14 th February 2022 Limited Availability	Maidstone	Foster Street Clinic, Foster Street, Maidstone, Kent ME15 6NH	Please book this clinic via Email: kchft.cyp-immunisationteam@nhs.net Phone: 0300 123 5205
Tuesday 15 th February 2022	Canterbury	Exchange House, Thomas Way, Lakesview Business Park, Hersden, Canterbury, CT3 4NH	Please book this clinic via https://kchft.healthit.org.uk/patheks
Tuesday 15 th February 2022	Dartford	Dartford 9th Scout Group Hut, Lower Heath Lane, Dartford, DA1 2DS	Please book this clinic via https://kchft.healthit.org.uk/patheks
Tuesday 15 th February 2022	Deal	Deal Community Clinic, Deal Community Hospital, Education Rom, London Road, Deal CT14 9UA	Please book this clinic via https://kchft.healthit.org.uk/patheks
Tuesday 15 th February 2022	Rochester	Army Reserve Centre, St Margaret's Street, Rochester ME1 3BG	Please book this clinic via Email: kchft.cyp-immunisationteam@nhs.net Phone: 0300 123 5205
Wednesday 16 th February 2022	Gravesend	City Praise Centre, 9-11 Lower Higham Road, Gravesend, DA12 2LY	Please book this clinic via https://kchft.healthit.org.uk/patheks
Wednesday 16 th February 2022	Dover	St Marys Parish Centre 5 Church Street Dover CT16 1LY	Please book this clinic via Email: kchft.cyp-immunisationteam@nhs.net Phone: 0300 123 5205
Wednesday 16 th February 2022	Sevenoaks	Sevenoaks Hospital, Rooms 4 & 6, Hospital Road, Sevenoaks, Kent TN13 3PG	Please book this clinic via Email: kchft.cyp-immunisationteam@nhs.net Phone: 0300 123 5205
Thursday 17 th February 2022 Limited Availability	Margate	Greenbanks Children Centre, Westfield Road, Garlinge, Kent CT9 5PA	Please book this clinic via Email: kchft.cyp-immunisationteam@nhs.net Phone: 0300 123 5205
Thursday 17 th February 2022	Sittingbourne	The Swallows Leisure Centre, Central Ave, Sittingbourne ME10 4NT	Please book this clinic via https://kchft.healthit.org.uk/patheks
Thursday 17 th February 2022	Gillingham	Medway Maritime Hospital, Magpies Centre, Windmill Road, Gillingham ME7 5NY	Please book this clinic via Email: kchft.cyp-immunisationteam@nhs.net Phone: 0300 123 5205
Thursday 17 th February 2022 Limited Availability	Ashford	The Scout Hall, Lower Vicarage Road, Kennington, Ashford, TN24 9AS	Please book this clinic via Email: kchft.cyp-immunisationteam@nhs.net Phone: 0300 123 5205