

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 March 2023

Dear Parents and Carers

Despite term 4 being short there has been a huge amount crammed into the 6 weeks. On Tuesday evening the Trust concert took place in the Woodville Halls with the theme of 'weather'. There were some amazing performances from the schools in the Trust. Both the Saint George's choirs sang beautifully with the secondary choir singing 'Purple Rain' and the primary choir singing 'Ain't no sunshine'. The evening culminated in all 12 trust schools singing a medley of songs from 'Frozen'. It was a fantastic evening.

There have been some amazing opportunities this term, for pupils to investigate their future careers. The careers show was a great success with over 30 companies coming in to talk to our pupils. A huge thank you for all the local businesses who gave up their time to support our pupils. We are very grateful to David Pickard, Director of the BBC Proms, who came in to speak to a group of pupils about careers in the performing arts. Canterbury University also came in and spoke to years 7 and 10 and University life and the opportunities that are available to pupils after leaving school. Next term we have BAE Systems, RAF & Royal Navy Education Programme Roadshow coming in to speak with years 7 and 8. A huge thank you to Ms Jordan and Mrs Hallam for organising these events.

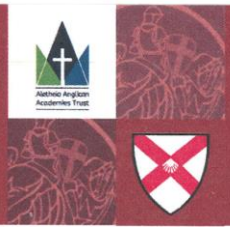
Thank you to all the staff who have run trips this term. The Business Department have taken students to Disneyland Paris and to Warner Bros Studios. Miss Goldberg took the drama students to see 'To Kill a Mockingbird' at the Gielgud theatre. The Languages department took 45 French students to the French institute and arranged for the Onatti Theatre company to come into school and perform a play in Spanish. Tomorrow the PE department are taking over 100 pupils skiing in Canada. I am very grateful for all the time and energy that staff put into organising these opportunities for the pupils.

Next term we get into exams season with year 11 and 13. Exams start in the week beginning 15th May and will continue until the end of June. I know the pupils are working hard revising to make sure that they are prepared for the exams. There are some revision classes happening over the Easter break and the pupils have all been given a timetable of when they need to be in.

As always, thank you all for your continued support this term. I hope you all have a very peaceful Easter.

Matt Lillie
Head of School





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From the MFL department

It has been a busy term with French & Spanish trips taking place. 45 French students went to the French Institute in London for a visit which included watching a film in French and working on activities linked to this. We also had the Onatti theatre company who came into school to perform a play in Spanish with great success. We are looking forward to the year 8 trip to France after the easter break.

ATTENDANCE MATTERS, Because.....

- Children with good attendance achieve much better in their learning.
- Absence (Time off) disrupts learning for your child and also for the rest of the class.
- Children who miss school miss out on their right to a full education.
- It is your legal responsibility to ensure that your child attends school regularly.
- Persistent unauthorised absence could lead to court action, including fines.
- For all students below 90% absence evidence is required and should be emailed to the attendance office.
- The attendance office must be informed of all planned absences for medical appointments and student absent due to illness giving full details of absence, this must be before 8.40am for each morning of absence.

96% -100% - 0-7 days - Your child's good attendance will give them every chance of being a successful learner who makes good progress.

92 – 95.9% - 8-15 days - You should try to improve your child's attendance to make sure they have the best possible chance of success in school.

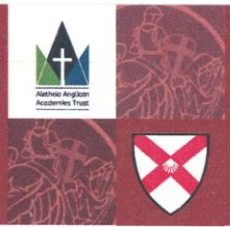
90% - 91.9% - 16-19 days - Your child's attendance is dangerously close to falling to a level which can stop them making progress at school

Below 90% - 20 or more days - Your child is considered a "persistent absentee" in government statistics and their poor attendance is putting them at serious risk of underachieving at school.

Uniform Shop

Thank you to those who have donated pre-loved uniform to the school's uniform shop. We would love more donations, particularly blazers, PE kit and school shirts. If you have any spare items that you could donate, please drop into our school reception.





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Safeguarding

As we enter the Easter period, we need to remember those students whose exams are now extremely close. Please find the below link which may support not only your son or daughter, but also you, in order that you are able to provide them with the right support during these challenging times:-

<https://www.mind.org.uk/for-young-people/feelings-and-experiences/exam-stress/#DuringExamPeriod>

In addition, young people may also be spending more time on-line during the holidays, and below are some useful wellbeing tips to ensure that not only are the safe but that they still have a break, enjoy some sunshine (we hope) and fresh air as well as precious family time together:-

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

We all, as parents/carers have times when we need to approach some delicate or difficult topics, again, please see the below link which you may find supportive:-

<https://www.nspcc.org.uk/keeping-children-safe/support-for-parents/talking-about-difficult-topics/>

If you have any worries or concerns for any child over the Easter break, then please utilise the below services.

NSPCC are available 24/7 for children call 0800 1111 for adults concerned about a child 0800 800 500

Childline offers free 1:1 counselling <https://www.childline.org.uk>

Gravesham Food Banks are available <https://gravesham.foodbank.org.uk>

Please call **The Front Door Team** if you are concerned about the safety and wellbeing of a young person 03000 111111 or 03000 419191 out of hours

- Call **101** if you suspect a crime
- Call **999** if there is a danger to life









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From the SEND department

Autistic Girls – exploring difference

Thursday 8th June 2023

Time: 9.30 – 2.30pm

Objectives:

- This course will explore how autistic girls and women can present differently to autistic boys.
- It will help parents improve their understanding on how to recognise issues relevant to their autistic girls that may need additional support.
- It will help parents think through ways that they may need to adapt their girl's experiences and what they may need to advocate for to help their girls to thrive.

Content:

Recent research tells us that there are marked differences in the ways that autism presents in females. The course will explore why autism has been under represented and under diagnosed in female populations and how this is changing. It will also draw on the lived experience of autistic females whose experiences can challenge what we currently think and help us to shape more inclusive spaces for our girls.

Target Audience:

Any parent with a daughter on the autism pathway or with an existing diagnosis. Any interested or concerned wider family/friend/carer who wishes to build their understanding. The content will mostly be relevant to parents of school age girls.

Presented by:

Claire Noordally, Specialist Teacher Communication & Interaction
Gravesham Specialist Teaching & Learning Service

Self-service refreshments are provided

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**SUPPORT GROUPS - WORKING WITH CHILDREN
WITH SPECIAL EDUCATIONAL NEEDS**

Autism South East www.autismsoutheast.co.uk
(Support Group for Families)

Beams (We are Beams) wearebeams.org.uk
(Advice, support, activities and respite)

Gravesham Children's Centre and Early Help-
www.kent.gov.uk/education-and-children/early-help-support-for-families
<https://www.facebook.com/GraveshamCC>
(Support for families)

Kent Autistic Trust (KAT) www.kentautistictrust.org
(Family support service - adults and children, advice and support)

National Autistic Society (NAS) www.autism.org.uk
(The largest autism charity in the UK. They have a directory of services for adults, autism helpline information and advice plus run various schools and care homes around the country)

Tree Tops www.treetopsclubs.co.uk
(Breakfast, After School Clubs and Holiday Camps)

Waterside Centre <https://watersideparentscentre.wordpress.com/>