

ST GEORGE'S GAZETTE

Friday 19th December



Dear Students, Families, Staff and Governors,

We have had a busy couple of weeks leading up to the Christmas break. The Christmas service was fantastic and it was lovely to see so many students enjoying the music and singing along.

Students on both sites really enjoyed eating Christmas dinner together, a much deserved treat at the end of a busy term along with wearing their favourite Christmas jumpers!

We have applied for a development day on **Monday 26th January**, we are waiting for confirmation from the Local Authority that it has been agreed, but are anticipating school will be closed to all students on this day.

It has been a busy term, but great to welcome so many new students to the St George's Community and see how well they have settled in.

We are all looking forward to the festive break now and very much look forward to welcoming students back to school in the new year on **Monday 5th January**.

I hope you all have a fantastic Christmas and are able to spend time with your families and loved ones.

Best Wishes

S. Tolfrey

Sarah Tolfrey
Deputy Head



Dates for Your Diary / Events Programme

**DEVELOPMENT
DAYS**

**DATES FOR YOUR
DIARY**

**CHRISTMAS
HOLIDAYS
Friday 19th
December:**

Last day of Term

Monday 5th January
Students to return to
school

February Half Term:
Last of day of term:
Friday 13th of
February

Date to return:
Monday 23rd February

**Monday 2nd and
Monday 9th February
2026:**

**The View closed for
staff training**



Telephone:

01983 524634

[www.stgeorges-
school.co.uk](http://www.stgeorges-school.co.uk)

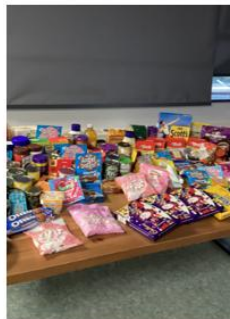
Creative Skills!



A big thank you to Debs for holding a wreath making workshop for staff last week. We had a great evening putting our creative skills to work, all whilst raising money for our wonderful school. Thanks again Debs!



The Foodbank



3VN would like to say a huge thank you to everyone who has donated to the foodbank.

They have worked hard over the last five weeks, creating posters to inform people what we are collecting, as well as checking dates and quality of donations.

Thursday we will deliver to the food bank in Cowes and look forward to continuing our learning about their role on the Isle of Wight.

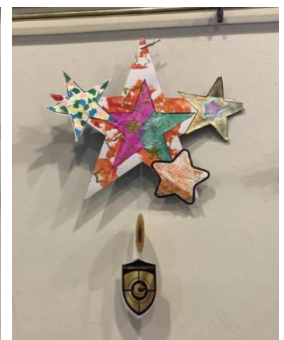
Newport Minster “Follow the Star” Installation

We're delighted to share some wonderful photos of the beautiful stars created by our Sunflower students and the Friday 6th Form Art Options students. Their creativity and hard work are now shining proudly as part of the “Follow the Star” Installation at Newport Minster.

Our 19 stars, made by our talented students, will be on display throughout the festive period; bringing colour, joy, and St George's spirit to the community.

Well done to all the students involved, your artwork is truly lighting up Newport.

Rachel, Guy and Zoe
St George's Art Department



A Wonderful First Term

As the KS4 Lead, stepping into post this September has been a privilege and a joy. Over the past term, I've had the pleasure of getting to know our fantastic young people, watching them grow in confidence and show great teamwork. It has been inspiring to see each student bring their unique strengths to our KS4 community and continue to work on our core values of respect and independence.

This term has been full of rich learning experiences both inside and outside the classroom. One of our highlights was our trip to the cinema, where students demonstrated fantastic behaviour, communication skills and a real sense of independence. We've also spent valuable time out in the community, developing life skills, building social confidence, and learning how to navigate everyday situations with increasing resilience and maturity.

In class, students have been studying the book *You Are Awesome*, exploring themes of confidence, self-belief, and embracing change. This text has opened up thoughtful conversations about perseverance and the power of a positive mindset—skills that are especially important as our pupils prepare for the years ahead. Watching them reflect, discuss, and encourage one another has been truly heart-warming.

Another real strength of KS4 this term has been teamwork. Whether working in groups, supporting each other through challenges, or celebrating successes together, our students have shown what can be achieved when everyone pulls together. This further demonstrates how our students are developing our school values of aspiration, respect, perseverance and independence.

As we head into the festive season, I want to wish all our students, families, and staff a very Merry Christmas and a peaceful break. Thank you for your continued support and for making this first term such a memorable one.

We are already looking forward to the spring term, where KS4 will continue to flourish, grow, and shine in all they do.

Warm wishes



Lorna Battista
Key Stage 4 Lead
St George's School

The View

Please note that **The View will be closed** for essential staff training on **Monday the 2nd of February and Monday the 9th of February 2026**. Many thanks for your understanding.

As part of our sixth form options, our students have had a lovely term working with the local residents at Solent Grange and are now looking forward to their next venture after a little break. They have all worked so well singing carols, hosting a quiz, colouring, playing games and so much more.



Our Christmas tree, as part of the Brighstone Christmas tree festival, is at the Isle of Wight Pearl. Our theme this year was 'Our hands, our hearts'. This tree celebrates the idea that every member of our school contributes with both hands (creativity, action) and hearts (kindness, care).



The Studio

As we come to the end of a busy and joyful term, I would like to take a moment to reflect on some of the wonderful moments we have shared as a school community.

Our students have shown great aspiration and creativity in making beautiful tree decorations for the Christmas Fayre. Their care, imagination and pride in their work were a real highlight and helped create such a warm and festive atmosphere.

We also enjoyed a truly special Christmas dinner, lovingly prepared by our students. This was a wonderful example of independence and teamwork, and sitting together to share the meal felt very much like being one big family. The respect shown for one another during this time made it an especially meaningful occasion.

I would also like to commend our Year 11 students, who completed their exams last week. They approached this challenge with maturity, excellent behaviour and real perseverance. We are very proud of the way they conducted themselves.

Thank you, as always, for your continued support throughout the term. I would like to wish you and your families a restful break and a happy festive season. We look forward to seeing everyone again in January and continuing to build on these shared values together.

Michelle Barnes
Head of School
St George's Studio School
Grange Rd, East Cowes PO32 6EA

A Wonderful Gift from the Isle of Wight Radio Toy Appeal

We have been incredibly fortunate to receive a very generous donation of toys from the Isle of Wight Radio Toy Appeal. Aspire kindly nominated our school, and on Friday we were delighted to collect six large boxes filled with wonderful toys.

The toys have since been carefully sorted and distributed to each class in festive Santa sacks, including The Studio School. We are extremely grateful for this kindness and generosity, and we know that our young people will take great pleasure in enjoying these gifts.

A heartfelt thank you to the Isle of Wight Radio Toy Appeal and Aspire for helping to bring so much joy to our school community



Community News and Events



Family Friendly Festive Weekend at the Isle of Wight Donkey Sanctuary - Saturday 20 and Sunday 21 December

Celebrate Christmas with magical, affordable fun at the Isle of Wight Donkey Sanctuary! Meet over 100 donkeys and ponies and enjoy a unique Santa's Grotto experience inside our barn.

Find out more on the [Isle of Wight Donkey Sanctuary website](https://www.isleofwightdonkey.org.uk/)



The Isle of Wight Story Festival is back for 2026, with a wonderful new programme of events for Island children and families this coming February half-term.

We've **attached below** our **digital newsletter**.

There is a veritable host of wonderfully exciting Island creatives; hit storytellers, best-selling authors, dazzling artists and all out local theatre performances. And of course, back by popular request the Island's own Kieran Larwood!

www.iwstoryfestival.com

Let's keep this going for all the people who are going through a tough time.

For anyone who needs some support right now. ❤️

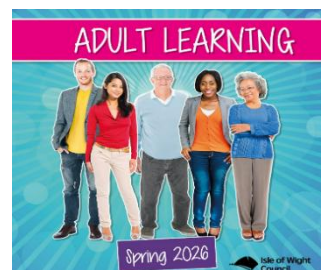
CALM - 0800585858
Mind - 03001233393
No Panic - 08449674848
Bereavement - 08088081677
PAPYRUS - 08000684141
Samaritans - 116 123
SHOUT - Text SHOUT to 85258
Abuse - 0808 2000 247
Refuge - 020 7395 7700

Stay safe this Christmas.



Adult Community Learning are delighted to share their new programme of workshops and courses, for adults 19+ years. Whether it is ICT, English or maths, art, craft, health and wellbeing or careers advice, we have something for

everyone. Check out what's on offer and book at www.iow.gov.uk/ACLcourses, or call us on 817280. Come and learn something new in a relaxed and informal setting, at The Learning Centre, Westridge, Ryde.





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New for 2025

We're excited to offer a special **Quiet Time with Santa** on Saturday 20 December, 10.00 to 10.30am.

If your child would love to meet Santa but would prefer a calmer, more relaxed experience, this is the session just for them!

From £5 per person, including a festive goodie bag.

Spaces are limited and must be [booked in advance online](#).

As well as the Quiet Time session, Santa will be at the sanctuary all weekend from 10.30am to 3pm. Come and meet him in his festive grotto, joined by his elves and our donkeys for a very special Christmas experience.

From £5 per child (includes a festive goodie bag).

[Book online](#) or book on the day (subject to availability)

Other activities on over the weekend include:

- Pony & carriage rides - £5 per person (weather dependant)
- Free reindeer trail – search for the reindeers hidden around our site – everyone gets a sweet treat!
- Seasonal music in the barn
- Mulled wine and festive treats in our café
- Christmas shopping ideas
- Isle of Wight Gin Company tasting – mums, dads and grandparents only!

Come along and step into Christmas with us!

JOIN OUR MILITARY FAMILY COMMUNITY

The Isle of Wight NHS Trust is creating a network to bring the Island's military children together for memory-making events. Come join the adventure and help us build a community where everyone belongs!

Join the community today!
Scan the QR code or [click here](#) to sign up.

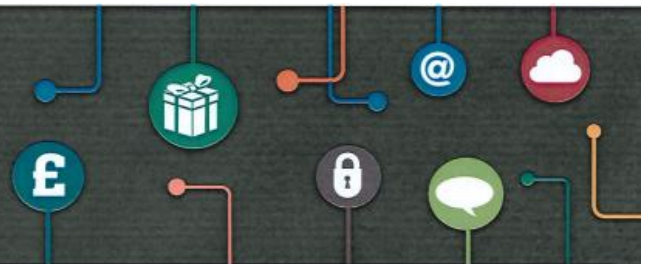
Protect your festive season with a flu vaccine

**Has your child been vaccinated against flu?
If not, it's not too late!**

The HIOW School Aged Immunisation Team are holding Community Clinics before Christmas and in the New Year

Telephone **0300 123 5074** to complete a consent form and book into one of the clinics

Cyberbullying and online harassment



Cyberbullying and online harassment can be extremely distressing. They can be classed as criminal offences but there is lots of help available to support you.

Tips to stay safe online

Think before you post - when posting or commenting on the internet, consider what you say and what effect this may have. **Never** post comments that are abusive or may cause offence to others.

Keep personal information personal - do not say anything or publish pictures that might later cause you or someone else embarrassment. Be aware of what friends post about you, or reply to your posts, particularly about your personal details and activities.

Make the most of privacy settings - keep your profiles closed, allowing access only to your chosen friends and family.

Report cyberbullying to internet service providers - lots of content on social media that is offensive or upsetting is not necessarily a criminal offence. However, cyberbullying often violates the terms and conditions established by social media sites and internet service providers. Report cyberbullying to the social media site so they can take action against users abusing the terms of service.



Social media help sections can show you how to block users and change settings to control who can contact you. You can get advice and support on using the following social media sites including the ability to report content to them.

Facebook - facebook.com
Twitter - twitter.com
Instagram - instagram.com
LinkedIn - linkedin.com
Google+ - google.com
YouTube - youtube.com
Pinterest - pinterest.com
Tumblr - tumblr.com
Snapchat - snapchat.com

If you believe that you are the victim of an offence, always keep a record of the content, by taking a screenshot, for example. If you are worried that your child or a loved one might be the victim of cyberbullying here are some signs to look out for:

- Low self-esteem.
- Withdrawal from family and spending a lot of time alone.
- Reluctance to let parents or other family members anywhere near their mobiles, laptops etc.
- Finding excuses to stay away from school or work including school refusal.

For further signs and advice visit bullying.co.uk

Advice for parents and guardians

The internet can be a valuable resource for children, allowing them to connect with friends and learn new things. But there are also risks when going online, and children can be particularly vulnerable. Talking to your child is one of the best ways to keep them safe online.

By understanding the risks and keeping yourself up-to-date on the latest technology, websites and social networks you can help your child enjoy the internet safely and securely.

For further help and advice, please click on the links to our partners websites, where you will find additional help and support. We are proud to be working alongside a range of charities on this important subject.



Help protect your children online

- Keep computers and games consoles in family rooms where you can monitor activity. Also make sure the games your child plays online are age appropriate.
- Install parental control software or activate parental controls through your internet to prevent access to inappropriate content.
- 'Friend' or 'follow' your child on social networking sites, so you can see how they are using them.
- Check they are old enough to join any websites or social networks with age restrictions.
- Advise your child not to post personal information or any images they wouldn't want everyone to see.
- Avoid using webcams unless talking to close friends or family. Consider covering your webcam when it's not in use.
- Monitor your children's internet usage, and be watchful for any secretive behaviour.
- Encourage your child to be open about what they do online and who they talk to.

Further advice is available for parents and carers of children at gov.uk



Advice for schools

Advice by the Department for Education:

Preventing and tackling bullying

Advice for headteachers, staff and governing bodies can be viewed at gov.uk

Cyberbullying Advice for headteachers and school staff gov.uk

What can the police do?

If we consider a message or post to be potentially criminal, we will take appropriate action. This could involve arresting the person responsible or interviewing them under caution. Cases involving sustained abuse or where someone's life is threatened will be treated seriously.

We will look at all of the circumstances when considering the best response to a report of cyber bullying. We will assess how vulnerable the victim is and what resources are required to trace the offender via social networking sites, which often operate abroad and to different legislation. In certain cases it may be difficult to take action if the offender isn't in the UK.

We will work with the victim to bring about the most suitable and proportionate conclusion. This could include alternative options that include the officer in the case using their discretion and working with the offender to record an apology to the victim.