GETTING TO KNOW YOU:
CLAUDIA LUSSANA’S TALES FROM SANTIAGO DE CHILE TO SIENA
Welcome

To the 2017 autumn edition of Reunite

The Development Team have been very busy planning and organising the launch of the Activity Centre Capital Campaign which was launched in October.

Members of the Georgian Family were invited to a party to celebrate this launch and they were given the opportunity to discover how this facility will transform our provision for sport, mental performance and wellbeing. Guests were able to walk through the beautiful and innovative building in virtual reality, meet the architects behind the design as they heard from staff, students and guest speakers about how the Centre will enhance the experience of our students now and for generations to follow.

If you are visiting the College, you will be aware of the initial stages of the building work which are now underway. In early December the old sports hall will be demolished as building work starts in earnest to complete the Activity Centre in the 2019/2020 academic year. Follow its progress via the school website and social media sites.

We would like to extend a very warm welcome back to Melanie Gordon-Hughes, who joins us following her time off on maternity leave. Melanie will be enthusiastically working on communicating all aspects of the School with our Old Georgians/ Old Maurians and bringing everyone together in a variety of events and reunions. On this note, we would like to extend a very big thank you to Patrick Kenney (OG ’13) for all his help covering this role over the past ten months and we wish him all the best in the future.

In this issue we celebrate 50 years since girls have joined our Sixth Form. I’m sure for those first few girls it must seem unbelievable that 50 years have flown by so quickly. Earlier this year we welcomed current parents, James Cosmo and Jason Hood who met students to discuss their prospective careers. Fr Martin Ashcroft, School Chaplain and OG ’69 spoke to our students and staff at the start of this term about two very key themes and values that the College will be focussing on this year, which are ‘Inclusiveness’ and ‘Collaboration’, which is taken from our ‘Georgian Family Spirit’.

We hope you will embrace the theme and play an active role in our school community

With our best wishes

Development Team
for those working within the Banking, Finance or Insurance industries

City NETWORKING DRINKS
for those working within the Banking, Finance or Insurance industries

Date: 16th November
Time: 7pm onwards
Venue: Happenstance Bar, 10 Paternoster Square, London, EC4M 7DX
Host: Mr David Bicarregui
Board member and chair of the Finance and Risk Committee for St George’s Weybridge.
All welcome
Complimentary Welcome drink, cash bar
for additional refreshments

Date: 21st December
Time: 7.30pm onwards
Venue: Block and Gasket (formally known as the Slug and Lettuce), Weybridge
Celebrate: The completion of your first term away from St George’s

Date: 19th January
Time: 7.30pm onwards
Venue: Prezzo, 116 St Martins Lane, London, WC2N 4BF
All alumni currently attending University are invited to a complimentary dinner in London

Date: 30th November
Time: 7pm onwards
Venue: St George's College
Celebrate: 20 Year Reunion
Curry buffet and cash bar

Date: 16th November
Time: 7pm onwards
Venue: Happenstance Bar, 10 Paternoster Square, London, EC4M 7DX
Host: Mr David Bicarregui
Board member and chair of the Finance and Risk Committee for St George’s Weybridge.
All welcome
Complimentary Welcome drink, cash bar
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Contact: giving@stgeorgesweybridge.com for any questions

You are welcome to bring your dog to join in on this occasion and of course they must be on a lead! Please join us to run, jog or walk and enjoy our beautiful 100 acre campus. Support our appeal and get active! All proceeds go towards the Celebrate 150 Activity Centre Appeal.

Refreshments will be provided and there will also be a shorter route for younger children.

If you are unable to attend but would still like to donate, please visit www.stgeorgesgiving.com/events where all donations will be very much appreciated.

Coming Soon in 2018:
• April 2018 - Class of 1988 Reunion
• May 2018 - St Maur’s afternoon tea
• 6th June 2018 - Over 60s Lunch
• 24th June 2018 - Annual Reunion

For more details and how to book any of the events below, please visit the Reunite website to complete an online booking form or contact the office by emailing development@stgeorgesweybridge.com
Join us for a day of Georgian sport supporting our 1st Team players and Old Georgians and watch dragons clash in:

**Rugby, Girls’ and Boys’ Hockey, Netball.**

Hog roast lunch and refreshments available. The Clubhouse will be open after all fixtures are completed.

Please RSVP for catering purposes to Development Office:
development@stgeorgesweybridge.com
01932 839352

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**CLASH OF THE DRAGONS**

**SATURDAY 16TH DECEMBER**

10:30am Fixtures starting from 11:00am

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**DATES FOR YOUR DIARY**

**DA TES FOR YOUR DIARY**

Over 60s London Reunion

**Wednesday 6 June 2018**

**NEW VENUE ANNOUNCEMENT**

– Royal Thames Yacht Club, Knightsbridge, London.

**Save the Date:**

Following feedback from Old Georgians we have located a wonderful new venue for 2018. With only a minutes walk away from Knightsbridge tube station, this venue will offer a large bright room, with a view of the changing of the guards at noon, and will allow guests to enjoy a drink in the lounge / terrace after the lunch.

Further information about the event will be sent in the New Year.

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**Class of 1968**

50 Year Celebratory Reunion

19 May 2018

**Venue:** St George’s College

1968 class ambassador, Kevin Cheney, would like to organise a reunion for his classmates and this is his message:

“I would like to try and arrange a reunion of our year group as it is will be 50 years since most of us left the College. I realise there are problems in determining which is our year group due to 4A doing ‘O’ levels in one year and some of you leaving early. However we would like to get our year group together and I think this will mean those who turn 68 in the academic year 2017/2018 give or take a few months. It would be those who started the senior school in 1961 or possibly from Barrow Hills in 1963. It would be those who finished ‘O’ levels in 1966 or who in normal circumstances completed their ‘A’ levels in 1968 but would include those who took them early in 1967.

The plan is to hold a lunch at the College on Saturday 19 May 2018. The school have kindly offered to do this for us on a complimentary basis. There will be a drink on arrival, a tour of the College before lunch, a three course meal and cash bar. Final details will be sent out in good time once we have a better idea of numbers. We intend to invite wives and partners to the reunion and hope that we may have between 50 and 100 of our classmates to the lunch.

If you have any questions or suggestions please do not hesitate to contact either myself on kevinacheney@yahoo.co.uk or Melanie Gordon-Hughes, Alumni Relations Officer at the College at development@stgeorgesweybridge.com as soon as possible so that we can send out the invites to as many of you as possible.
On Thursday 18 May, 40 class mates from the year 1987 celebrated their 30th anniversary since leaving the College.

Piccolino in Heddon Street, London provided an ideal location for the 1987 reunion. Janice and Patrick from the Development Office welcomed the alumni and they thoroughly enjoyed engaging in conversation with them chatting about their time as students and about what they have been up to over the past 30 years. A huge thank you to Simon Henderson for helping to organise this wonderful event.

Attendees
Georgiana Beamand, Ian Boardman-Hirst, Elizabeth Carvalho (nee Aindow), Natalie Cheatin (nee Britschmid), Liam Clogger, Clare Cook (nee Chandler), Sean Cook, Jonathan Creber, Nicholas Crowe, Andrew Dickinson, Jonathan Evans, Philippa Fleming (nee Barwell), Stephen Fleming, Duncan Franklin, Richard Hall, Edward Hazelden, Simon Henderson, Oliver Holder, Daniel Johnson, Gemma Knight, Annick Knutsen (nee Wallace), Mark Kowal, Duncan Lawrence, Clare Limpus, Susanna Lindsey, Jonathan Lytle, Stephen Maloney, Clare Mansfield (nee Doyle), Lynde Marshall, John McDermott, Anna McGuinnes (nee Foreman), Brian McKenna, Nicky Michaelsen, Geoffrey Peters, Diego Sanchez, Joanna Scougall (nee O’Callaghan), Christian Soden, Gerard Thompson and Nynke Van der Ven (nee Van Wyngaarden)

"What a fantastic evening, thanks so much for organising it...quite emotional really, felt very wistful seeing everyone...brought a tear to my eye this morning when I looked back on the night before (although that could have been my hangover)." Dominic Stinton

“Great to see all of you and hear your stories and memories. Thank you to those who organised a great evening. So how will we celebrate our 50th anniversary? Another OG reunion somewhere...?" Oliver Holder

"The Class of 1987"

"Gemma Knight. "Thank you Simon for instigating the reunion and to the Development Office for making it happen - it was, to quote someone far more eloquent than myself, a great interlude to life and a tonic."

The annual Over 60s London Lunch was as always a joyous occasion. 80 Old Georgians joined Headmistress Rachel Owens, Junior School Headmaster Antony Hudson and the Development Team for a three course lunch at the Royal Overseas League in London.

Before the lunch the Old Georgians gathered for a drink and had an opportunity to peruse the attendee list, read the ‘Who’s Who’ booklet and locate their contemporaries. Headmistress, Rachel Owens addressed the alumni and welcomed them, followed by a welcome from Junior School Headmaster, Antony Hudson. Grace was said by Fr Martin, who also made a tribute to those Georgians who have sadly passed away over the past year.

A full attendee list and copy of the Who’s Who biographies can be acquired from the office.

Please note that for 2018 there is a change of venue. On Wednesday 6 June the lunch will be held at the Royal Thames Yacht Club, Knightsbridge. Further information about the event will be sent out in the New Year.

“I enjoyed it very much and was delighted to meet the new Head of St George’s College and catch up with OG contemporaries and members of the Development Team. I would like to add that the quality of the food was very good this year.” Vincent Champion, (OG ‘69)
The day began with Mass which was officiated by Fr Martin. It was a beautiful service.

Tours of the school were available for Old Georgians to reminisce as they strolled down the corridors, and for current parents to be shown the facilities their children get to enjoy on a daily basis.

Guests were treated to a complimentary hog roast for lunch, with a wide selection of salads and dessert which was followed by an afternoon tea of homemade cakes, scones and sandwiches.

Alumni and their families were also provided with an opportunity to enjoy school memorabilia. The archive display included photographs of sports teams over various decades, school photos, Old Georgian magazines and St Maur’s material.
Michael Findlay and Michael Clark

The Development Team met Michael Clark (OG ’63) at a regional reunion in Bristol. He shared some fabulous St George’s memorabilia with us and recounted memories of his good friend Michael Findlay and told us how he had lost touch with him.

Through great fortune we had been in regular contact with Michael Findlay for many years and were delighted to be able to reunite them with each other.

Michael Findlay:
“Michael Clark and I were both good pals with the late Michael O’Ferrall (OG ’61) with whom I lost touch then found again in Australia after a couple of decades. Michael sent me some photos of Michael Clark when he was at St George’s which I shared with Michael O’Ferrall’s widow (Mike died a few years ago in Perth, he was the Chief curator for Aboriginal Art at the Museum of Western Australia) who shared them with their daughters and grandchildren.

All three of us were on the track team which did very well thanks to Michael’s younger brother Anthony who could run like the wind and our coach, Mr Hubert, an old fellow who exhorted us with language never before heard by Josephite ears. He was a great coach and we did well but all the money went to the then nascent rowing club because if St George’s got visibility in the rowing community it would move St George’s up the ladder in the Public Schools Conference (or so we gossiped, justifying our poor equipment). The older I get the more I remember of my school days”

Michael Clark:
“Michael and I are indeed back in touch with each other only fifty-five-odd years on and I am grateful to the Development Team for facilitating our electronic reunion. We have exchanged some brief reminiscences and filled in a little of what we have each been up to in the intervening decades. I would never have predicted all those years ago that he would be where he is today and doing what he does in his chosen field.”

I would like to think that Michael and I might meet again one day. It’s such a shame that an ocean lies between us.

If there are any classmates who you have lost touch with please get in touch with the Development Office and we shall do our best to try and reconnect you. It would be wonderful to put friends back in touch.

The Athletic Team, circa 1960. Michael Clark (front row fourth from left) and Michael Findlay (second row second from the right). Their coach was George Hubert.
Michael Gelardi (OG ’68)

Michael Gelardi has been a leading figure in the music and entertainment businesses for some 40 years. In his early twenties, Michael, a former professional musician whose family have been in the hotel business for four generations, did his apprenticeship in the entertainment business with the legendary orchestra leader and agent, Geraldo, while at the same time attending a business studies degree course.

In 1974 Michael formed his own entertainment consultancy for the hotel and leisure industries, Pan Leisure, which he developed quite rapidly, and sold in 1978 to the hotel and leisure conglomerate, Trust Houses Forte PLC. He became the youngest executive of his time to report to the Main Board of a Footsie 100 company and creating the entertainment and events division of the Group, which he headed up and built over almost 20 years into the second largest organisation of its kind in the UK. During this time he was also appointed Vice President of the Entertainment Agents’ Association of Great Britain and subsequently Vice President and Treasurer of the European Federation of Performing Arts (the Performing Arts Regulator of the EU), later receiving the coveted honour, Barker of the Variety Club of Great Britain.

On the acquisition of Forte PLC by Granada, Michael formed his own production company, which he later sold onto MICE PLC (Europe’s leading Experiential Marketing Group) and he is presently of Michael Gelardi Associates Ltd. His own entertainment company also heads up Boisdale Entertainment, an arm of the London based Boisdale Group of Companies, and is an associate of The Buell Group, an elite hospitality consultant team.

In his career, Michael has produced over 1,000 concerts, shows, festivals and events, and has worked with many major and legendary artistes from Sammy Davis Jnr. and Bob Hope to Jools Holland and Take That.

“So yes, school life at St George’s has very fond, happy memories for all of us, as well as educating us as best the Josephtes could, in mind, body and soul.”
Geoffrey Gelardi, is the Managing Director of The Lanesborough in London, and was recently voted the top Hotelier of the World in 2011.

Geoffrey Gelardi was born into the business, he was the fifth generation of his family to work in hotels. His grandfather, Commendatore Giulio Gelardi, ran the Savoy and Claridge’s and would go between London and New York with Geoffrey’s father, Albert, during the 1930s to get the Waldorf Astoria Towers off the ground.

Geoffrey was offered the position at the Lanesborough in 1990. Geoffrey is quoted as saying in a special report in the Hoteliers of the World magazine “I love what I do.” The rest of the article goes onto say “It is likely because of his passion for the business and a career filled with success stories that the readers of HOTELS chose him as the 2011 Independent Hotelier of the World.”

Geoffrey is married to Eileen, and has three daughters. His two eldest daughters Piera and Georgina, both attended St George’s College and both are very successfully employed. Piera in the Property Marketing Department of Colliers International as Marketing Manager and Georgina, Marketing & Communications Manager for Victoria’s Secret U.K.

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My time at St George’s was not particularly memorable as I was pretty mediocre both as a student and sportsman. Generally time was passed pleasantly and I suppose the biggest event during my years was when the St Maur’s girls started to attend sixth form classes. They were corralled in the ‘Aviary’ which at that time was at the foot of ‘The Hill’ on the other side of the playground.

I played a reasonable game of tennis and was in the tennis team most of the time meriting an ‘insert’ picture in the tennis team photo for 1969. The other peak of my sporting life at St George’s was being made Captain of the 4ths Rugby team and I have a vivid memory of Fr Christopher (our coach) leaning against the goal posts smoking a cigarette and shouting at us to run faster!!

Most of our friends used to come to Amroth (our home next to the school) during the long break to avoid ‘Games’, which acted like a school common room extension... but without the rules. Mike’s friends would congregate in the Music Room, Geoff’s would be in the Lounge and mine would be found in the Billiard Room playing darts, snooker, drinking coffee (mostly!), having a quiet ‘fag’, while discussing the moral issues of the day and listening to Led Zeppelin, King Crimson or Cream. We also gathered in Amroth to celebrate the occasional birthday.

Academically I was blighted by having a Mathematics teacher as a mother. This was the time when “New Maths” was being introduced and the classical Algebra, Geometry, and Trigonometry was being dropped from the syllabus. Needless to say she drove Fr William, who as head of Mathematics at that time, mad. She would corner him at Parent Teachers gatherings and make her displeasure known. The outcome of this confrontation is that I achieved 4 Maths ‘O’ Level as my mother insisted that I sit both the Traditional and Modern Maths exams.

After leaving St George’s I graduated with a Psychology degree from St Andrews University where, like Prince William, I met my wife Anne. I did my Articles with Price Waterhouse London and qualified as a Chartered Accountant.

Anne and I left the UK in January 1981 for me to take up a post in Jakarta, Indonesia on a two year assignment that eventually turned out to be 17 years, initially working for Beecham Pharmaceuticals and then for Sara Lee Corp.

We then moved to Singapore in 1997 as CFO for Asia for Sara Lee Corp. Since then we have moved back to the UK for a few years, on to Delhi, India; back to Singapore for the second time; then on to Sweden with Electrolux before coming back for the third time to Singapore.

My last corporate role before retiring to Singapore in 2014, was that of Global Business Transformation Director for Electrolux Group based in Stockholm. Now I spend my time in Singapore playing squash, golf, bridge and serve on various committees of the Tanglin Club in Singapore.

None of my children went to St George’s as the school had stopped taking boarders by the time they were ready to come back to the UK for secondary education. My two sons and two granddaughters now live in the UK so we are currently contemplating a return to the UK in the not too distant future.

Paul Gelardi (OG ’70)

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Geoffrey Gelardi (OG ’71)

Geoffrey Gelardi, is the Managing Director of The Lanesborough in London, and was recently voted the top Hotelier of the World in 2011.

Geoffrey Gelardi was born into the business, he was the fifth generation of his family to work in hotels. His grandfather, Commendatore Giulio Gelardi, ran the Savoy and Claridge’s and would go between London and New York with Geoffrey’s father, Albert, during the 1930s to get the Waldorf Astoria Towers off the ground.

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GETTING TO KNOW YOU

Donna Gelardi (OG ‘73)

I arrived from South Africa in 1961 and went to St Maur’s Convent. In 1964 I won a scholarship to Elmhurst Ballet School and transferred there for two years, at which time my mother decided I needed to come back to St Maur’s to get a more rounded education!

I never shined in school sports although I was captain of swimming and captain of gymnastics at various times. But I was doing a lot of 3m Springboard Diving and in 1970 I won a place in the British International Diving Squad and dived in a few international competitions for Team GB.

I was accepted as a volunteer with VSO and, in 2001, I was sent to Nepal for 2.5 years to work with communities and the Nepal Tourism Board to help the poorest people in the country benefit from tourism. This was a life changing experience! I came back to the UK in 2003 but could not settle doing what now seemed like meaningless work just to make money to spend on things that no-one needed. So, I became a serial VSO volunteer and did further placements in Kiribati, Vanuatu, Ethiopia, Indonesia, Uganda and Tajikistan.

While working in Indonesia, I fell in love with a little island off Bali and bought some land on Nusa Lembongan in 2008. Today, I live there. It could be called ‘retirement’ but....................I now:

1) managing a rental villa (Villa Nusa),
2) work with people with disabilities groups and the Bali Hotel Association running a training program and employment register,
3) run Paws for a Cause on Nusa Lembongan which works with the local people to manage the animal population and provide treatment to all the dogs and cats on the island.

I also spend a lot of time underwater around the island where there is some of the best diving in the world!

Once this was achieved, I felt that I needed a new challenge and to use my experience to benefit others in some way.

My career has been very varied, starting in the Wine trade and going on to work in the Hotel and catering business in four continents. Then in 1993, I joined Historic Royal Palaces (including Hampton Court, Tower of London and Kensington Palace), working as the Head of Marketing and Commercial Development to take the Palaces from a part of the British heritage that was heavily subsidised by the tax payer to a self-funding Charity. As part of a great team, we managed to achieve this goal by 1998.

I have always been notoriously bad at making decisions, particularly when I was at St George’s. Anybody who has ever taught me can tell you that.

One minute I would be thinking about studying English Literature at university, and then the next minute you would find me frantically preparing a portfolio for art school. By the time my friends were receiving their offers from universities; I had drafted five different personal statements and was still deliberating over which one to send.

I did, however, decide on art school. I felt I would always regret if I never gave it a go. Therefore, shortly after leaving the College I found myself completing a Foundation Diploma in Art and Design at the University of Creative Arts, Epsom. However, it seemed that I wasn’t quite ready to cut my ties with St George’s. During this time I was also invited back to the College to work part-time for the Art Department as their new art technician. I absolutely loved my time working at the College, despite the rather turbulent relationship I developed with the photocopying machine! Similarly, my time at art school allowed me to flourish and develop a keen interest in conceptual practice, which resulted in me compiling together a collection of 100 hand-stitched booklets of my own experimental poetry as part of my final major project. However, my time at UCA also made me realise another underlying passion of mine: a passion for language and writing.

Claudia Lussana (OG ’12)

From Santiago de Chile to Siena

“In 1971, I came to do Sixth Form at St George’s College and left with 3 ‘A’ levels in 1973. In 1974 I went to University and got a BA Business Studies and went on studying throughout my career getting an MA in Marketing in 1991 and another MA in Responsible Tourism in 2007.”

Epsom. However, it seemed that I wasn’t quite ready to cut my ties with St George’s. During this time I was also invited back to the College to work part-time for the Art Department as their new art technician. I absolutely loved my time working at the College, despite the rather turbulent relationship I developed with the photocopying machine! Similarly, my time at art school allowed me to flourish and develop a keen interest in conceptual practice, which resulted in me compiling together a collection of 100 hand-stitched booklets of my own experimental poetry as part of my final major project. However, my time at UCA also made me realise another underlying passion of mine: a passion for language and writing.

I loved my time at school, although I never took it too seriously and always did just enough to pass the exams! But I think my experience at St Maur’s and St George’s taught me a lot more than academics and I made many friends that I still keep in touch with and try to see when I get back to London.
“It was time to try something new. The following year I found myself studying Hispanic and Italian Studies at the University of Warwick, and four years later, I have just graduated with a first class honours and distinctions in both Spanish and Italian.”

If you had told me whilst at St George’s that I would have ended up as a graduate of Modern Languages, I would never have believed you. What’s more, had you told me that after just one year at university, at the tender age of twenty I would find myself on the other side of the Atlantic, 20kg suitcase in hand, alone, and in search of a place to live in a continent I would be calling home for the next six months of my life, I would have told you that you were mad.

Nevertheless, that’s exactly where I found myself. As a joint honours student of a newly established Hispanic Studies department at Warwick, I was lucky enough to be their very first student to study at Pontificia Universidad Católica de Chile in Santiago de Chile.

Despite the hugely stressful experience of finding myself accommodation and getting ill – what I like to call my ‘extreme case of Chilean freshers’ flu’, which saw me hospitalised within a few weeks of arriving – and despite the fact that central heating simply doesn’t exist in Chile, meaning I had to regularly sleep wearing my coat and gloves – I soon began to establish a comfortable life for myself in this fascinating slice of South America. I endured the daily challenge of adapting to ‘Chilean Spanish’ – a variant of Spanish delivered at 100mph and very different to that taught to us by Mr Deive at school.

During my very first week at Warwick, I became a Student Blogger for the university and during my year abroad documented my adventures around the globe. Nearly every week I found myself somewhere new: from cycling through the arid landscape of the Atacama Desert, to road-tripping through the salt flats of Bolivia, wandering through the vibrant barrios of Buenos Aires, trekking to the heights of Machu Picchu, and of course exploring every inch of Chile itself. From sand boarding, to climbing active volcanoes, and galloping through sand dunes on horseback.

The memories and experiences I encountered during my time there will stay with me forever. Before long, the sweltering summer heat of Santiago descended and my blogging landed me a job writing for an online Latin American magazine. Time soon began to fly by and after having sat (and miraculously passed) all of my exams alongside my Chilean classmates, Christmas approached and I found myself bidding farewell to this rather surreal chapter of my life and continuing my way west to New Zealand where I was reunited with my family. However, it was not for long, and within a few weeks of my return to the UK in January, I was off on the second leg of my journey... albeit a little closer to home this time.

For the next six months I had secured a place to study at L’Università degli studi di Siena in Italy. Having fallen in love with this unique and medieval city during an A-level art trip to the region, I couldn’t have chosen a more diverse place to spend the remainder of my year. Whilst in Chile daily life was characterised by relentless car alarms, the groaning of traffic, city smog, and crowds of commuters, my life in Italy was one of endless macchiatos, aperitivos and food to die for amongst the rolling hills of Tuscany. From living amongst a population of 6.3 million, I went to living in one of just 52,774. The mayhem of Santiago’s metro had been replaced by the uneven cobbles of Siena’s historic streets; the organisation and structure of South America’s top university had been replaced with a truly chaotic one; and the Chilean “po” had been replaced by the Italian “boh.”

Within three weeks of living in Siena, it had become almost impossible to walk anywhere within the city walls without bumping into someone you knew and stopping for a lengthy chiacchierata.
Whilst you were either awoken by the chimes of Siena’s spectacular cathedral or daily drumming practise of the city’s 17 contrade, any minor ailment could be cured by a €1 shot of espresso, and tardiness was not only an expectation, but almost an obligation.

During lectures, I would find it hard to refrain myself from getting distracted by the spectacular frescos that would surround us in the various churches and buildings we would find ourselves sat in, and upon opening my front door, I would frequently be swept away in Palio by processions lead by horses and groups of patriotic, flag-waving Sieneese fashioning medieval pantaloons. What’s more, living with six other Italians in the eaves of a fourteenth century building, a mere stone’s throw from the famous Piazza del Campo, I felt completely immersed in a wealth of extraordinary history and tradition that was unlike anything I had experienced before.

Upon my return home, adjusting to the realities of university life and the grey drizzle of the Warwickshire Midlands was very hard. Not only did my time abroad see me returning to England with a newfound obsession with alpacas, an addiction to coffee, and an abundance of anecdotes which still reduce me to both laughter and tears of nostalgia, but more importantly, I returned home a very different person to the individual who only 12 months prior, had tentatively made the 7,253 mile journey to Chile.

After having effectively set up a life for myself in two different countries, attended university in two foreign languages, and having trekked the length and breadth of South America and Italy all in the space of a year, not only had I improved my language skills and acquired an invaluable knowledge and understanding of Italian and Hispanic culture, but I had become a stronger and more capable individual. Despite being unquestionably one of the most incredible years of my life, it was equally at times the hardest. Yet it was a year that I feel has set me up for life. Having experienced and overcome some of the obstacles that I encountered, I really do feel that I am now able to tackle anything that comes my way in the near future.

It was particularly my time spent travelling around South America that made me realise not only the importance of education, but how a chance at success, and achieving one’s dreams in life should never be denied to those who cannot afford a good education. Consequently, this summer, I will be making my way to Soweto, South Africa, where for six weeks I will be volunteering as a Student Teacher of English with Warwick in Africa; an incredible program that helps both students and their teachers across 27 partner schools in Africa.

Having worked hard fundraising the £1000 required of each of us in preparation for my trip alongside completing my finals, I have made it my mission to try and enable students in some of Africa’s most deprived areas escape poverty and transform their lives by enhancing their education through the invaluable skills provided to me by St George’s.

As for when I return home, I have no immediate plans yet. However, my time spent abroad since leaving St George’s has made me realise that sometimes it’s best to embrace the unknown and let life surprise you.
Anthony Watson (OG'12)

Lions Tour

Back in April it was announced that Old Georgian Anthony Watson had been selected as part of the original 41 man squad that would comprise the British and Irish Lions for their tour of New Zealand.

A huge honour for Anthony and thoroughly deserved on the back of a successful six Nations campaign with England. The Development team caught up with Anthony for a quick Q&A on the experience and Anthony had this to say:

**How did it feel to be selected for the lions?**

It was obviously a massively proud moment for myself, my family and everyone who has helped me get this far. For me I always wanted to be part of the playing squad, so that was only the start of it for me. I wanted to get out there and prove a point and play against New Zealand. I was fortunate enough to do that, so it’s only really on reflection that I was really able to let soak it all in.

**Congratulations on opening the try scoring for the Lions, how did it compare to others you have scored?**

At the time it felt like I’d just scored another try, but on reflection I guess to kick-off my first game with the Lions with a try was pretty special.

**Your family flew out to New Zealand to visit you; what did it mean to you having them there to cheer you on and did you have a chance to spend much time with them?**

It meant a lot for me that they were willing to fly all that way to support me. To be able to play in the tests and have them there was a huge moment for them and for myself.

**What was the atmosphere like amongst the squad?**

It was good throughout – the boys were coming in at different points at the start, but everyone bought into the ethos and everyone got on really well. They rotated the roommates so it was good to share with people you wouldn’t necessarily share with. You got to know a lot of people, which was one of the coolest things about the tour.

**Aspirations and goals for the upcoming season?**

I think it would be an injustice not to have some sort of success with a great club like Bath. You spend so much time with the guys here, pretty much 365 days a year. To not go out there and win something with a great bunch of lads we’ve got here would be a bit disappointing.

**Congratulations to Anthony with Bath for a successful Lions Tour, the end result saw both teams win one test and the final ending in a draw. All the best to Anthony with Bath for the rest of the season.**

Jukka Hertzog (OG '13)

**After leaving St George’s in 2013, I started a degree in Electrical and Electronic Engineering at Imperial.**

At the start of my first year at university, I was looking for something new and different to get involved in, and while looking at the various clubs and societies that I could join, the Imperial Devils Ice Hockey Club caught my eye. Despite knowing nothing about ice hockey and not being able to ice skate, I signed up, and within a week, I was having my first skating lesson with the other beginners. Ice hockey is a difficult sport and it took a few months before I was any good at it, but the process was very rewarding.

In my second year, I started playing competitively with the B team. The Imperial Devils teams play in leagues organised by the British Universities Ice Hockey Association (BUIHA), and every other weekend we would have a fixture against another university team. Sometimes this meant driving to Cardiff or Coventry for a match starting at midnight, and getting back to bed at 5am on a Monday before 9am lectures, but the fun had on the ice always outweighed any drawbacks.

In my third year, I moved up to playing for the A team. The biggest change in moving to the A team was that they play in a ‘checking’ league, which means that other players are allowed to ram into you at high speed. After getting the wind knocked out of me in my first game with the team, I quickly learned to pay more attention to my surroundings on the ice!

Halfway through my third year, I started playing in goal. The role of the goalie is completely different to that of the rest of the team, so it felt like I was starting again from scratch. While the rest of the players use speed and strength to succeed, the goalie relies on reflexes, endurance, and precise technique. Nevertheless, I immediately loved playing in goal, and served as the B team’s goalie in my fourth year in addition to playing with the A team. I also took over as President of the club in my third and fourth years, and greatly enjoyed running the organisation.

**The highlight of my time at university was beating our rivals at UCL to win the 2017 London Ice Varsity in front of a crowd of hundreds, including friends and family from St George’s.**

I’ve had many great experiences playing ice hockey at Imperial, and I plan to continue playing now that I’ve graduated. Although the sport is quite rare in the UK, I would greatly recommend it to anyone who has a chance to get involved.
Will Percival (OG '12)

Earlier this year Will Percival set about peddling his way from the Pacific Coast of America to the Atlantic Coast. Will made the journey in memory of a fellow classmate, George to raise money for the mental health charity Mind.

Below is an extract from Will’s blog which he updated daily about his experiences and progress.

“After 4,499.8 miles of cycling, I reached my final destination, the Atlantic Ocean. The day didn’t run quite as smoothly as I may have hoped and I soon discovered why the Adventure Cycling Association had decided to end their route in an estuary rather than the actual coast. I started by backtracking over 20 miles that I had ridden the day before, then had to hop on a ferry to cross the James River and then rode half way to North Carolina to avoid busy roads, but still ended up on a highway that felt like cycling along the M25.

But as soon as my wheels touched the ocean, none of that mattered anymore. I had completed what I’d set out to do and had made the dream that I’d borrowed from my friend George a reality. I can only hope that wherever he is now, he’s looking down proud on how far I’ve come over the past 64 days.

This has certainly been an adventure to tell the grandkids about and one that I will look back on with many fond memories. I set off with a great deal of naivety about how physically challenging it would be, but also about how mentally draining it is to be on the road for so long, having to constantly plan where your next meal is going to come from and where you can next find to sleep. Had I not been so naive, however, I think I possibly would have been too scared to undertake such a journey and so I owe a great deal of gratitude to the naivety of youth. Not least because of all the anecdotes the trip has given me which should have my dinner party conversation covered for the next decade.

The life of a touring cyclist is a strange one and there are certainly some things which I’m looking forward to returning to normal. Firstly there’s my little finger which I haven’t been able to feel since week one because of the handlebar vibrations. Then there’s the fast food fuelled and sugar dependent diet, the dreadful tan lines, the dubious levels of personal hygiene, nights sleeping in the weirdest of places... The list goes on but these are all things which pale into insignificance compared to all the wonderful memories I have created along the way.”

To read Will’s complete account of his journey you can visit his blog site at: https://percypedalsamerica.wordpress.com/author/percypedalsamerica/
Headstart Careers Lunches

The objective of these lunches is to provide College students with an opportunity to talk face to face with members of the Georgian family about their career related interests.

A group of 10 – 15 students meet with an Old Georgian or parent over an informal lunch setting during which the guest speaker shares information about their job, industry and organisation whilst students gain inside information and inspiration from someone who can provide an experienced viewpoint.

If you would like to participate and share your expertise with our students please do get in touch so we can put you in contact with the schools Careers office.

Emma Cross (OG ‘07)

On Thursday 16 March we welcomed Dr Emma Cross back to the College as a guest speaker at a Head Start Lunch on Marine Biology.

Emma attended the lunch to share her experiences with the students about each step of her career, from completing her BSc and MSc at the University of Southampton in Marine Biology and Oceanography to undertaking academic research with the British Antarctic Survey right up to finishing her PhD in August 2016.

Jason Hood (Current Parent)

On Tuesday 21 March, 14 College students from Fifth Year to Upper Sixth were invited to join former Strategy Director for Coca-Cola Enterprises Jason Hood for a talk on the world of Fast Moving Consumer Goods (FMCG) over lunch.

Jason has enjoyed a career of 20 years in the world of FMCG and brought all his expertise with him when talking to the students. Jason also engaged with the students through a selection of drinks he brought and asked them to rank them in varying criteria. The students responded enthusiastically to the task and drew some very poignant observations from the interaction.

Jason then discussed with them the psychology behind marketing soft drinks and explained the success and popularity of varying brands, much to the fascination of the students.

The students benefitted hugely from Jason’s insight into the world of Sales and Marketing and particularly enjoyed being able to engage in conversation with him.
On Thursday 23 March, 14 students from Third Year to Upper Sixth were invited to join actor extraordinaire James Cosmo for a very special careers lunch.

Over the course of the lunch, hosted in the College’s Walter Munton Room, James discussed many aspects of his acting career, including his humble beginnings gate crashing his father’s film set aged 15 (his father was also an actor) and by chance landing a job on the same film. When asked by the students whether he preferred theatre or film, James immediately replied that his first love and where he feels most comfortable is on film and in front of the camera.

All of the students benefitted hugely from the lunch, giving those considering study in the field a valuable insight. James encouraged all students to pursue acting if that was their passion and said that sometimes it was down to luck and being in the right place at the right time that secured a role. Mrs Owens, came to listen to James speak and was able to see the impact he made on the students.

James has had a vast and varied career in acting and shared many experiences, stories and tips with the students, including details about some of his favourite directors such as Danny Boyle. He talked about how brilliant the British talent in the technical side of film making and acting is and that we are renowned for these skills all over the world. When asked by the students whether he preferred theatre or film, James immediately replied that his first love and where he feels most comfortable is on film and in front of the camera.

James is known for his roles in:
- Braveheart
- Trainspotting
- The Chronicles of Narnia, the lion, the witch and the wardrobe
- As well as some popular television series such as; Game of Thrones and Sons of Anarchy

On the 10 June, the Josephites living in England went across to West Wickham for a celebratory Mass and lunch with the Daughters of Mary and Joseph, the sister congregation to the Josephites, who were also founded in 1817 by Canon Constant Van Crombrugghe.

On the 14 July, Josephites from all over the world came together in the chapel where Constant van Crombrugghe is buried in Grammont, Belgium for the funeral of Fr Willibord, a Belgian Josephite, who had spent his whole life as a Josephite supporting the work of the Josephites in Africa, first as a missionary and then through his work as the Bursar General of the Congregation.

Later that day, Gerardo and Romualdo, both young Josephites from our American Region, renewed their vows and commitment to the Josephites. The following day they and Fr Ludo, the Regional Superior of America, travelled to England to visit the College before returning back to California.

The only major change for the Josephites living in England, since the last edition of Reunite, is that Fr Andrew (who in his nineties) is now living at Sunbury Nursing Homes as his legs are no longer able to support him.
Rachel and Antony’s Q&A

September marked the start of Rachel’s second year as Headmistress of the College. The Development Team caught up with herself and Antony to see how everything was going and what plans lay ahead.

What has been the highlight of this first year working together?

“In general terms, working together very effectively from the outset so that Rachel and I could begin strengthening the ties between the Junior School & College – particularly through Rachel’s transparency and approachability to Junior School parents which has been hugely appreciated; more specifically, a very successful Regulatory Compliance Inspection at both Schools in February and preparation for the forthcoming Section 48 Diocesan Inspection, anticipated sometime next year.”

“I totally agree; we were both determined that it would be an effective partnership from the beginning, and I have been very lucky to find such a collaborative and open individual in Antony. His knowledge of the whole of St George’s Weybridge, and its quirks (!) has been invaluable. And being fully compliant in the ISI Inspection was indeed a highlight, and a credit to staff at both schools.”

You refer to your ‘special relationship’, how are you developing the ‘one school’ ethos?

“Rachel has hosted a number of Parent Fora at the College during the past year which many JS parents have attended, helping to alleviate any relevant concerns. A very successful Year 5 Parents’ Evening was held in late June at the Junior School which Rachel and I co-hosted, ensuring that the reality of the links between the College and Junior School are stronger than ever by presenting a united and approachable front, full of clarity, warmth and humour!”

“I am also keen that the new Assistant Head College Entry, Luigi Chu, will build on the work of Sally Hall in cementing this relationship. We plan to further the links between our respective Heads of Department next year, too.”

What are your views on education? We believe these to be very similar

“Rachel will often refer to her vision of wanting every child to be the best version of themselves, which I heartily concur with! I would also like to add that as a Josephite school, we are preparing our children to do so within a faith perspective – being open to an encounter with God wherever their life journeys may take them, in order that they are fully equipped to make a difference for the good, spiritually, intellectually, physically and socially, underpinned by a genuine kindness.”

“Yes, being the best version of yourself is my key aspiration – for students and staff. And being happy; happy children will always do well.”
What are you doing to secure the future of St George’s Weybridge?

“Marketing the highest quality of our holistic educational provision in all its facets is critical to our future: the continued recruitment of top quality teachers, working within first rate facilities where the vast majority of Junior School parents and pupils will see the continuum between Junior School and College as the most natural step to take at 11+.”

What are your aspirations for the school?

“To be perfectly balanced, co-educational, 3–18 and Josephite, and to inspire all in our Josephite, Georgian Family to be the very best version of themselves!”

Rachel - What changes have you made within the last year?

“I am delighted that we have employed an additional 10 teachers in the College from September 2017 I firmly believe that good teachers are the single most important asset of any school.”

What are your aspirations for the school?

“Although I stated that the first year would be about listening rather than action, I am afraid I am too impatient not to act when I believe it necessary! So I have made some changes; most notably in increasing the staffing levels. I’ve also increased the number of tutors – pastoral care is vitally important – which is why I have also introduced the position of Assistant Head Pastoral. I also plan to develop the House system over the coming year.”

Antony – Are there any significant changes to the JS?

“The last year has seen The Ark in full operation for a full school year, which has been making a huge statement about the importance of Early Years Education in the life of a child; the new land has also come into full operation since Easter, with Orchard Field & Broadwater Field being used for rounders & cricket practice & fixtures for the first time in the Summer Term.

We have re-structured the senior management of the Junior School so that with effect from September 2017, I will have a Senior Leadership Team, consisting of myself, the Bursar and three Deputies (Pastoral, Academic & Lower Years), supported by a Senior Management Team of two Assistant Heads (Academic & Staffing). The aim of this is to enhance the quality of our pastoral and academic provision, and try to ensure that every child’s talents & achievements are fully recognised, underpinned by a thorough and robust system of pastoral care to ensure that every child is happy at school each day.”
What are your plans to mark the 150th Anniversary and who will help you put these into action?

The emphasis will be on joint College/Junior School activities, held on the College site with the opening of the Activity Centre as the highlight during the Academic Year 2019–20.

I have an ambition to celebrate with a huge outdoor Mass for the whole community – influenced by John Paul II’s visit to Manchester in 1982!

Besides running both schools, what other events or duties as Heads do you have to take part in?

I attend all the Governors’ Committee Meetings, Parents’ Association Meetings & Events, the annual Old Georgians’ Day and most recently the annual Over 60s lunch for alumni. I am also the Treasurer of CISC (Catholic Independent Schools Conference) which involves attending termly committee meetings and planning the annual conference, and I am a Governor to two Catholic Prep Schools – Barrow Hills (the former Boarding feeder school to St George’s) and Holy Cross, Kingston.

Very similar – though instead of CISC I serve as a Trustee of HMC Projects, a scheme bringing talented young people from Central and Eastern Europe to Sixth Form in the UK. I am a Governor at a Catholic Senior School, and Godstowe Prep School in Buckinghamshire.

What has been the highlight of working together over this past academic year?

Strengthening the ties between the Junior School and College!

Working with a like-minded individual who is such good fun - we smile a lot!

A big thank you to both of our heads. Sounds like a solid foundation to start on the next 150 years of St George’s education.

St George’s celebrates outstanding A-Level results

St George’s takes pride in helping students to become well-rounded individuals and this success is certainly highlighted this year.

Five students are going onto Oxbridge: Tad Adamek is reading Law at St John’s, Cambridge; Finn McIntosh is going to Cambridge to Homerton College to read Natural Sciences; Toby Sanderson is keeping up the family tradition by going up to Oxford to read History; whilst two other historians, Maryam Dorudi and Tom Cryer, are going up to Cambridge to Newnham College and Trinity Hall respectively.

In addition, Jessica De Suza has gained an impressive A*A*A*A*A* and is taking up her place at Stanford University in the United States. Jessica King is also ecstatic with her results as she gained A*A*A* and is looking forward to commencing her Management course at the University of Bath.

Outstanding personal success is also enjoyed by Malcolm Scott-Watson, who is reading Medicine at Glasgow; Ryan Notter, Nafiz Biswas, and Rufus Uttley who all achieved 4 A Levels at A grade or above. Rory Smith is going to Birmingham University to read Mechanical Engineering, whilst continuing his career as a Formula Ford 1600 competitor.

Four students have gained places at prestigious art colleges: Eddie Black, Holly Laidler, Jozefiene Rooman-Downs and Penny Somper all received high praise for their fantastic artwork at a recent exhibition.

Freddie Garnham has been awarded one of a number of limited places on a Dyson apprenticeship scheme. The process for Dyson involved online tests, phone interviews and an assessment day. Freddie will complete a four year course during which he will gain a BEng in Engineering accredited by the University of Warwick. For the most part, he will be working for Dyson as an employee.

Jamie Mark, who is in the fortunate position of being offered two scholarships - one for Choral and the other for Organ, to study Music at Royal Holloway, spent his summer entertaining visitors with his exceptional organ recitals in the Chapel Royal at Hampton Court Palace.

Mrs Rachel Owens, Headmistress, said: “Well done to all our students; I am delighted that they have done so well, and are going on to such a wide range of degree courses at top institutions.”

Overall Pass rate (A2): 99.8%
Percentage of Grade A* - A (A2): 40%
Percentage of Grade A*- C (A2): 92%
St George’s A* GCSE Students prove to be ‘the best version of themselves’

We are delighted to announce that pupils at St George’s College, Weybridge celebrated their best ever set of GCSE results.

45% of our grades were A* – 5 percentage points above last year. 45 pupils achieved straight A*-A Grades, including 18 with at least 10 A’s. 74% of our most able Mathematicians gained A* in Further Maths GCSE. Five students sat GCSEs in the following extra-curricular languages: Chinese, Greek and Turkish, gaining a total of 4 A*s and 1 A grade.

All Year 10 pupils took Religious Studies a year early, with 88% achieving A*-B grades. The whole Year group also sat the IGCSE English Language, a year early, with 85% gaining A*-B grades. Of the 19 pupils who took French a year early, 95% achieved A*. In addition to this, three students sat GCSEs in other languages, with A’s in Chinese and Turkish, and an A in Dutch.

Four of our Year 9 students took some modern languages early: German, French and Italian GCSEs, all achieving A’s, and one Year 12 student took Chinese GCSE, gaining a B grade.

Speaking on results day, GCSE students at St George’s College were asked how they felt, they said:

“I would like to say a great thank you to my teachers for helping me grow as a student.” (Lucy Doble)

“Thank you for all the teachers’ support and dedication, everyone did amazing. I’m happy that I go to such an amazing school.” (Francis Chan Vee Chow)

“I’ve had the best time at St George’s and getting the grades at the end is so rewarding.” (April Lemmon)

“The exams went well and I hope everyone got the grades they wanted.” (Daniel King)

“I’m very overwhelmed and pleasantly surprised. I just want to thank all my teachers for all their help.” (Rayan Zafar)

“Thank you so much St George’s, I can’t wait to go to the Sixth Form.” (Roisin McEvoy)

Rachel Owens, said: “I am delighted with these superb results. The students and their teachers all worked extremely hard to attain this record number of top grades.”

Our congratulations go out to all our students on such an impressive set of results.

St George’s College 2017 GCSE results summary:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Overall Pass rate (A2):</th>
<th>143</th>
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<tr>
<td>% gaining 5+ A*-C grades:</td>
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<tr>
<td>% gaining A*/A grades:</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>% gaining A*-B grades:</td>
<td>90</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

Fr Martin Ashcroft, College Chaplain and (OG ‘69)

There are three other charities which the College students support each year through sponsorship events and you can read about these on our Reunite website.
Marta Rolon, Junior School Chaplain

There are many charities the Junior School staff and pupils support, a few of which are listed below.

Carol services donations
Our families are invited to leave donations for three charities after our Years 3, 4, 5 and 6 Carol Services. Our nominated charities were HCPT (Hosanna House and Children’s Pilgrimage Trust); SJAA (St Joseph African Aid) and Parishes for Peace (to help Refugees in the Jordan). During our last services the donations were divided equally between the three charities.

Action Against Cancer
After the loss of our dear friend and colleague Kim Roberts who worked for many years as a teaching assistant in Reception years, the Staff again put together a cake sale in her memory where we managed to raise an amazing £256.

Delight Charity
(Charity that helps to provide good quality second hand books to children in Surrey)
In conjunction with our Literacy festival, the children were asked to donate some used books for this charity. Ten big boxes full of second hand books were sent to the Charity.

Macmillan Coffee Morning
Cakes are brought in by staff and cakes can be purchased by leaving a donation.
Last September 2016 we raised over £85.

Harvest Festival (Donations for the Walton and Hersham Foodbank)
The foodbank normally sends us a ‘wish list’ of items (food or toiletries) that we allocate per class and the children bring them in for our Harvest celebrations.
On the last collection in October 2017 we managed to donate 446kg of food on behalf of the Junior School.

Shoebox Appeal (Operation Christmas Child)
This is a tradition in the Junior School. The families are invited to prepare a box containing presents for boys and girls of different ages and they are later sent to underprivileged children abroad.
On the last collection the Junior School collected over 300 boxes that went to Kazakhstan.

Kindness Counts (Help to our sister Schools in the Congo)
Classes were shown in assembly over two weeks how different the life of our sister schools in the Congo are compared to ours. The children fundraised money to provide new desks for all the classrooms. The desks are being made locally to also help their community. The final cheque handed to Father Robert Hamilton was over £5000. We also sent a lot of sports equipment donated by our families.
Cricket

Playing cricket at St George's is a never ending delight. All Old Georgians, friends and visitors, express their pleasure at doing so and in sharing the privilege of playing on the flawless turf. The matches this year have more than exemplified cricket's uncertainty. With many ups and downs, and some not so glorious moments!

Another memorable day of the season shared by Old Georgians and friends was Tim O’Gorman’s 50th birthday match. Those taking part included some test and first class players who paid compliments to the lustre and excellence of the facilities. High praise from players of such calibre. May there be many more such joyful events for all members of the Georgian family to enjoy in the years ahead.

Brian O’Gorman (OG ‘54)
(OGA President and OGA Hon. Cricket Secretary)

A special occasion as always was President’s Day with the annual fixture against the Sussex Martlets, a fixture that has been played by the Old Georgians since 1953.

The Martlets were rallied by a century from their captain following an early collapse. This second wind from the Martlets set a challenging total for the Old Georgians, who in impressive fashion managed to chase down with the loss of only 4 wickets. A wonderful day of cricket enjoyed by many visitors and friends who relished the cut and thrust.

OGRFC are eagerly anticipating the 2017/18 season; their second in Surrey 1. With a new coach (ex-England international Ben Johnston) and an influx of youthful talented players from the recent College leavers (undefeated in their last season at the College), confidence is building within the squad.

After last year’s crazy season of two halves, the club feel that they are now better equipped to deal with the challenges of Surrey 1 and hope for more consistency in the upcoming season. We are all too aware of the necessity to start the season strongly before Christmas, as this was where we struggled last time round. Hopefully we have learnt our lesson and can get off to a quick start.

Over the summer OGRFC were extremely delighted to have appointed Ben Johnston, who joined the College from Championship rugby side Nottingham RFC in September 2016, as their new head coach replacing Peter Synnott who has moved back home to Ireland. With a wealth of technical nous and a northern background to toughen any Surrey team up, we hope that he can help guide the team to new heights.

As always, we are extremely grateful to the College for their continued support, our sponsor Trailfinders, our newest sponsor Roberts Radio and of course the amazing fan base who come wind, rain or shine to support the team. We hope that we can continue to entertain on the pitch and look forward to seeing you all soon.

As the 2017/18 season draws closer, I am delighted to be able to share with you a short video documenting OGRFC’s successful campaign last season. Al Roberts (OG ‘11) is a freelance photographer and I am sure you will share my views in that it is a fantastic piece and really captures all that is good about OGRFC. To view the video please visit the following link:

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=LNxGIRRUlU8

Thanks for all your continued support!

All the best

Ali Stanley (OG ‘11)
– Club Captain

Alex Willis (OG ‘06)
– OGRFC Chairman

Chris Harrison (OG 11)
1st XV Captain
Old Georgians RFC

Tom Sutton (OG ‘08)
President Old Georgians RFC

Chris Hanson (OG ‘11)
1st XV Captain
Old Georgians RFC

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– Club Captain

Alex Willis (OG ‘06)
– OGRFC Chairman

Chris Harrison (OG 11)
1st XV Captain
Old Georgians RFC

Tom Sutton (OG ‘08)
President Old Georgians RFC

OGA SPORTS NEWS
Ed Fry and Tim Lovegrove managed to take two slim victories against a more than capable Georgian’s team with Tim in particular frustrating the youngsters with his signature lobs. Daniel Boden and Tom Nair showed their quality and strength as a past Georgian’s first pair by exhibiting great grass court skills. Their match against younger sibling Jamie Boden and partner proved particularly entertaining as sibling rivalry took a grip producing dives and serves more akin to the body line tactic more appropriate in cricket circles. A really entertaining afternoon of tennis full of good humour finished with the OG’s winning 3-1.

The OGHC is your Hockey Club. It is continuing to be an awesome success.

As your Hockey Club, each team is captained by an OG:

Mens 1s: Thomas Doran (OG ’04)
Mens 2s: Andrew “Sully” O’Sullivan (OG ’01)
Mens 3s: Ryan Jardine (OG ’12)
Mens 4s: Noel Doran (OG parent)
Ladies: Emma Kramer (OG ’08)
Vets: Sean Cooke (OG ’87)

“The Mens 1s received excellent news some months ago, by being moved into the East National League. This means little travelling. More good news, Soma Singh joined as our 1st team coach. Soma played in the Olympics and coached Premier teams. Our new recruits this season includes 2 international: with James Tindall (2001) and the current England Goalkeeper already in the squad, our plans to become a Premier League team are looking good” Thomas.

“The Ladies1s team got promoted last year. We just played the first league game this season and won 5:1, so off to a good start! We are delighted to welcome many of the older College students into our squad; keeping youth players in the OGHC is vital to its success.”

“At University, I played Rugby. However, my passion is Hockey, so I joined the OGHC last year. This season I am Captain of one of the Men’s teams. Pressure is on my shoulders already!” Ryan.

“Playing hockey clears my mind and exercises my limbs, so by Monday morning I am refreshed for work. All my Vets’ players have been mates for years, and many go back to St George’s College days. We play in the London Vets Premier league, so man marking an ex GB player in the opponent’s team is normal on Saturdays.” Sean

Tennis

A warm summer afternoon on the sublime grass courts of St George’s welcomed the annual Old Georgian’s v’s Georgians tennis fixture on the 25 June.

Ed Fry and Tim Lovegrove managed to take two slim victories against a more than capable Georgian’s team with Tim in particular frustrating the youngsters with his signature lobs. Daniel Boden and Tom Nair showed their quality and strength as a past Georgian’s first pair by exhibiting great grass court skills. Their match against younger sibling Jamie Boden and partner proved particularly entertaining as sibling rivalry took a grip producing dives and serves more akin to the body line tactic more appropriate in cricket circles. A really entertaining afternoon of tennis full of good humour finished with the OG’s winning 3-1.

The OG team consisted of: Ed Fry (Former SGC Staff OG ’08) & Tim Lovegrove (OG ’10), Daniel Boden (OG ’16) and Tom Nair (OG ’16).
As we begin to celebrate the launch of the Activity Centre we are pleased to share with you some fantastic sporting statistics. These stats are displayed along the Red House corridor.

Artwork produced by Callum Howarth

RU
JOIN THE CELEBRATION

GOALS SCORED IN BASKETBALL CLUB EVERY WEEK

ARTWORK PRODUCED BY CALLUM HOWARTH

GROW

LEAF FOR LIFE

By supporting our future, you become part of our history

We have commissioned two bespoke sculptured trees to reflect our beautiful campuses. We are offering all Georgians the opportunity to buy a leaf on one of the Giving Trees which are located at the College and the Junior School.

Each leaf costs £250 and your personalised inscription will be inscribed on your leaf and added to the tree.

Why is the Leaf for Life appeal being created?

At St George’s talent is nurtured and young minds are encouraged to shine. By making a £250 donation for your Leaf for Life, it is a chance to come together with the rest of the Georgian Family, leave a lasting legacy and continue to make St George’s the unique and exciting place it is today.

Your leaf can be ordered online at: www.stgeorgesgrow.com or alternatively please contact the Development Office: Telephone: 01932 839352 Email: giving@stgeorgesweybridge.com

Registered Educational Charity no. 1017853
The Future of Activity and Sport at St George’s is about to change!

As we look to the future, St George’s is going to celebrate 150 years of Georgian education in 2019 with an exciting new architectural development for the College.

It’s a development that will transform our current sports facilities and leave a lasting legacy for both current and future generations of Georgians. The Activity Centre forms part of our 20 year plans for our Schools, following on from the overwhelmingly successful completion of a new Lower Years building The Ark at the Junior School in 2015, and to be followed by major new teaching spaces at the College.

Built in 1981, when St George’s was a smaller, predominantly boys’ school, the existing sports hall is a simple, functional building providing basic facilities to deliver the curriculum.

The Activity Centre will align our indoor sporting provision for our much larger, co-educational school. It will inspire our students and the community to engage in physical activity, whilst also developing elite athletes in line with our national profile.

The stunningly designed Activity Centre will connect the athletics track and fields with the main campus and will vastly improve the aesthetics of that part of the school.

Unparalleled opportunities to learn, play, socialise and thrive.

This ambitious building has been designed to provide several flexible and varied environments to cater for many different types of activity, now and into the future.

It will also be a precious space for the whole College to gather for school social occasions. We warmly invite you to join us in this endeavour! For more details about the building, the opportunities it will provide and how you can contribute please visit www.stgeorgesgiving.com

Great facilities will inspire staff and children to be the best versions of themselves.
Celebrations

Peter (Bobby) Burns (OG ’55)

On the 24 June Bobby celebrated his 80th birthday. He celebrated with a party held at his golf club, where many representatives from various parts of his life were present.

Brian O’Gorman (OG ’54) and Chris Hennen (OG ’55) from St George’s College attended together with many friends from Richmond Rugby, business friends, members of Lee on the Solent Golf Club, neighbours and his four children, and their other halves, all helped him to celebrate.

The week before he shared a party in Cobham with his Cousin Carolyn Ezekiel, in her garden, for all their joint family. Carolyn taught the Sixth Form at St Maur’s several years back.

Weddings

Ben Williams (OG ’03) & Antonia Peulevé (OG ’03)

Ben and Antonia got married on 15 July at Castello Vicchiomaggio in the Chianti region of Tuscany.

They had 120 guests from the UK and Hong Kong (where they are currently living), as well as a lot of Old Georgians (listed below). The Catholic wedding ceremony took place in the Chapel at the vineyard, followed by an alfresco dinner and reception.

Attendees

Ben and Antonia pictured at the Annual Over 60s Lunch

Good friends Mike Gooley (OG ’54) and Bobby Burns (OG ’55)
Anthony Adolph (OG ’86)

Anthony Adolph was married to his long term partner Scott Crowley on the 28 July this year in Shoreham, Kent.

Emily Chester (OG ’07) and Mark Prentice (OG ’07)

Emily and Mark were married on 21 July 2017 in the College Chapel before having the reception at Great Fosters in Egham.

Father Martin celebrated the service. The couple met while at St George’s together. All the six bridesmaids and one of the two best men were members of the Class of 2007 and Emily’s two brothers who were ushers were leavers in 2001 and 2004, so a truly Georgian wedding all round!

James Pierson (OG ’05)

James was married to Clare Woodcock on the 5 August in the College Chapel.

James and Claire met at King’s College London where they both studied Geography. In a strange act of coincidence, Clare’s local priest in London, Father Jim Spencer, is an Old Georgian himself, and he got to return to the College to officiate the ceremony. James would like to thank Fr Martin, Fr Adrian and Zoe and Sophie for all their help in arranging the wedding.

“...we would also like to mention the businesses we used for the wedding, all local to Weybridge, who were all fantastic, Hannah Martin Flowers, Surrey Brides and Glitterati hair and beauty salon.”

James Kenney (OG ’91)

James was married to Trang Nguyen on the 8 July 2017 in the College Chapel and the reception was held in a marquee to the side of the 1st XI cricket pitch.

The day was celebrated by many Old Georgians, Old Maurians and current and past teaching staff.
Tabitha married James Christensen on the 4 February this year at Kilconquhar Castle – a location special to Tabitha as the family would visit annually while growing up.

The couple met while Tabitha was studying Theology in Australia. Congratulations to the couple and all the best for the future.

Tabitha Foley (OG ’13)

Robert Soden (OG ’81)

On the 4 August Robert Soden paid the College a visit while on holiday from Hong Kong and also managed to squeeze in a quick reunion with a former housemaster of his.

“I had my wife and seven year old son Andre in tow with me – and we decided to take a drive to see St George’s College. We enquired at reception on the off chance that my housemaster and legendary table tennis coach Fr Adrian was around (not expecting him to be there) we were pleasantly surprised to find out he was! And lo and behold – the photo is attached to prove our meeting up again! It was indeed super to see him again, especially so as Fr Adrian also performed my marriage ceremony.”

The Boulos Sisters

The Boulos sisters enjoyed a visit to the College on a sunny day in February. They had a wonderful time reminiscing about their years at St Maur’s and St George’s, and were amazed at the many changes on campus. Mary, Lizzie, Peggy, and Suzie are all currently living in New York, and Katie is based in Philadelphia. They would love to hear from any former classmates who visit the United States.

Visits to the College

The Development Office always encourages any member of the Georgian family to come back to St George’s Weybridge and visit. It is the perfect way to share with your family an important part of your past and relive your memories. The tours can be adapted to what you would like to see.

You are welcome to visit any time of the year (Monday – Friday). We recommend you contact the office beforehand, to ensure one of the team is available to meet with you.
Announcements

Eva Sereny (St Maur’s OG ’53)

Eva and her partner Frank visited the Junior School, which was formerly St Maur’s Convent on Friday 29 September.

Many emotions and memories were experienced by Eva while she walked around; especially walking down the main corridor and seeing the floor tiles she remembers so well from her childhood. Eva told us how proud she is to have been a St Maur’s pupil and her time turned out to be one of the happiest souvenirs of her youth. Eva wrote to us saying to top everything off St Maur’s had become unexpectedly the continuation of an extremely innovative and exciting St George’s Weybridge.

Jon (OG ’67) and Dr Mark (OG ’73) Blackwell

On the 19 September, Jon and his brother Mark visited the College. Jon has been residing for many years in Australia and has recently been visiting family. The brothers had a lovely trip down memory lane, managing to identify their former classrooms, and chat about their ‘good old days’ with Melanie. Jon was able to view photographs of himself in the Rugby XV team album.

Anton Croft (OG ’81)

Anton sadly died earlier this year on the 11th February, aged 54. Anton had three brothers who are Old Georgians Ashley (1969), Robin (1973) and Quentin (1978) and two sisters who attended St Maur’s, Penny (1969) and Anita (1975). He was hugely loved, and will be missed by many of his school friends.

Donal Walsh (OG ’57)

Prof. Donal Walsh died on the 9 April aged 77 in Davis, California.

Donal is survived by his wife of 33 years, Linda; his children, Colin Walsh of Davis, and Denise Sanford, of Santa Cruz; his stepchildren, Catherine Bailey, Michael Burke, both of Woodland, and Patrick Burke of Vacaville; 11 grandchildren and five great-grandchildren.

Donal was born in London, England and immigrated to the United States to pursue his graduate education at the University of Wisconsin and postgraduate work at the University of Washington.

Donal was a faculty member at the University of California Davis for 47 years. For 30 of these, in the School of Medicine, he conducted a well-funded, 28 year NIH research program on the study of hormonal signal transduction.
One of his major accomplishments was his discovery of the cAMP-dependent protein kinase, the first discovered of the now known 500+ protein kinases that are one of the very major cellular regulation signals throughout the body.

While in the School of Medicine, he taught graduate nutrition, endocrinology and biochemistry to medical students. For 18 of these years, he also served as Associate Dean for Curricular Affairs for the School of Medicine MD program, with responsibility to oversee programs to implement and to ensure the excellence of the MD program.

In 2000, he joined the faculty of the School of Veterinary Medicine to pursue his interest in broadening his perspectives in Health Sciences Education. He undertook a 3 year intensive evaluation of the required clinical training program for all veterinary students at UC Davis, reviewed and evaluated veterinary education in Europe and South America. He also served as the Editor of the Journal of Veterinary Medical Education (JVME), Editorial Boards of the Journal of Biological Chemistry, Biochemistry, and the Biochemical Archives, and served extensively in Grant Reviews for the NIH.

He participated extensively in the Ph.D. graduate education, particularly Nutrition and Molecular Endocrinology. He was an active student advocate, advising students on how to best use their talents and skills.

Donal’s personal passions included woodworking, restoration of antique musical instruments and a horse carriage. Above all, he loved the game of rugby, which he played while a young man in England. He referred, coached and promoted United States rugby.

**His accomplishments include:**
- First Chairman of the USA Laws Committee
- Designed and developed a format for the Laws of the game that included a handbook for USA Rugby
- Notes, penalties and annotations were placed within the pertinent Law; using color-coded sections. This original format, was soon copied and used universally.
- He served enthusiastically as the faculty advisor for the UC Davis Men’s team for over 40 years, and for the Women’s team for almost 20 years, and he was one of the first coaches for the UC Davis Rugby Team in 1972.
- Donal was in regular contact with the Development Office and we were always delighted to see him at the College during his visits to Europe as well as enjoying his attendance at the Over 60s lunch.

**Anthony Wilson (OG ’53)**

Anthony died on the 17th June.

**Simon Pinks (OG ’73)**

Simon died on the 29 June aged 62. A service was held for him at in the College Chapel on the 27 July.

**Mark Collin (OG ’94)**

We were very sad to hear that Mark Collin, 1994, sadly passed away on the 19th of August 2017.

**Michael Foster (OG ’50)**

We sadly heard form Michael’s widow Fay that Michael died on 13 September aged 84. Michael joined St George’s during the war and then went onto Kingston Art School where he qualified as an Architect.

After national service he joined a London firm of architects and, having risen to be a senior partner, finally retired in 1994. On retirement he was elected to Haslemere Town Council where he served for 16 years and was Mayor in 2003-4. He has also been an involved parishioner at Our Lady of Lourdes, Haslemere, for 56 years, serving on the church parish council with a stint as Chairman, and also sang in the choir.

Mark was a widely respected and much-loved son, husband, father, brother, friend and teammate. The funeral was very well attended with many of Mark’s former classmates including Jonny Stephens (1994), Martin Twist (1994), Miles Nicholson (1994), Giles Henderson (1994), Lester Fernando (1994), Ricardo Silva (1994), Simon Maynard (1994), Dr Edward Barden (1994) and Dan McLoughlin (1994). David Axten (1994) gave a very touching and funny eulogy. Old Georgians from other years were also present including; Andrew Crow (1997), Gregg Kovic (1996), Paul Burgess (1997), and former members of staff Jeremy Axten and Brian O’Gorman (1954 & OGA President).
A PIECE OF HISTORY

St George’s celebrates 50 years since girls entered the Sixth Form.

When girl meets boy

The ancient Greek philosopher, Plato, said that Co-education creates a feeling of comradeship. He advocated teaching of both the male and females sexes in the same institution without showing any discrimination in imparting education.

With over 383 girls and 526 boys on the School roll, the number of girls is now at its highest since the College changed from single sex to co-educational almost twenty years ago. And we are now celebrating 50 years since St Maur’s Convent girls arrived at the College to do their A-Levels.

Thinking of St George’s now as we enter the 2017 / 2018 academic year it’s very difficult to imagine a school with no girls. We now consider it to be the norm to see boys and girls at St George’s, in both the classrooms, sports fields, theatre and music rooms – all fully integrated in their daily school life with one another. Never in their wildest dreams would they have ever thought the two could have been segregated.

But prior to 1967 St George’s was an all boys’ boarding school, while St Maur’s Convent in Weybridge was mainly a girls’ school.

On speech day in 1967, the Headmaster, Rev. Peter Murtough, announced plans that there would be a link-up between St George’s and St Maur’s. During the 1967/1968 school year, 19 Sixth Form girls from the Convent would be doing their A Level courses at the College. Peter Murtough is quoted as saying in the Georgian Issue No. 205 “That this is only the start. We can see fully integrated co-educational Sixth Forms and the idea is not only sensible on economic grounds but also from the standpoint of social manners and graces.” How visionary Fr Peter was now delighted he would have been to experience not only a fully co-educational school but he was also correct in thinking that it would be the right decision for St George’s both economically and importantly to provide a perfectly balanced education.

In the Georgian Magazine, Issue 206, dated January 1968 there is a fascinating article written by SA Allen about the arrival of the girls at St George’s. We would like to share with you a few extracts:

“The first thought when the girls of St Maur’s Convent entered the school, was that it would surely be a very daunting experience for them, just nineteen young women varying in age from 15 to 18 surrounded by 500 boys.

In fact it seemed they very quickly overcame their initial qualms, and soon settled down to their new form of scholastic existence. Instead, the greatest effect of this experiment in co-education was found to be among the boys. When the girls worked in the library, the number of boys studying there rose astonishingly; boys from their cubicles now found it pleasanter to work in the library.

Girls were invited to attend and speak at the various Saturday morning Debating Societies; also a joint Debating Society between the two schools was set up to meet a few times each term. To help further in this direction came the School Play in which both boys and girls acted, and which was viewed by both schools. Girls were encouraged to support the school rugby matches, and boys attended St Maur’s for such things as discussions with parents on social problems and the SVP Community Service.

It is probable that the introduction of girls into the school had benefits in the educative as well as in the social field. First, it meant the presence of new minds in discussion. Secondly, it meant, in many cases, not just new minds, but completely new points of view based on a feminine approach to life. This was probably most true on the Arts side, for example, in literature and the social sciences. Girls, therefore made valuable contributions both in and outside class. Thirdly, there is the possibility too that the presence of the girls introduced a bit of healthy competition into the work.”

Nowadays at St George’s we firmly believe that friendships develop in a very natural way in our co-educational environment. This happens as we offer such a wide variety of activities, societies and clubs, in which both girls and boys take part. Friendships develop naturally because they are so accustomed to mixing amongst each other from a very young age.
Felicity Light (St Maur's)

We contacted Felicity and asked her to look back at her time joining the Sixth Form at St George's during the autumn term of 1967.

In the Autumn Term of 1967, three pupils from St Maur's were the first girls to become part of St George's College Sixth Form. I was lucky enough to be one of the three, the other two being Joanna Jacques & Marion McDonald. We had all taken our A levels in the Summer Term, but two of us deferred taking Physics and elected to take it at St George's College. We were also sitting Cambridge entrance examinations.

We entered the College with trepidation but were made to feel welcome, being given our own common room on arrival. The boys were very friendly towards us, although I think some regarded us with suspicion, as did some of the masters!

We became involved in the social life of the College and made many good friends. I applied for university!

We were privileged to be a part of this new scheme, albeit for only one term. It certainly re-shaped my life.

Marion McDonald (St Maur's)

As I remember it there were four of us: Joanna Jacques, Felicity Light, Anna Paula Hartry and myself. I think we were very brave as St George's was pretty much a typical boys school and girls were another species altogether!

I now live in County Wicklow in Ireland, but I visit family in the UK from time to time. I'm retired now, but have had a varied career. I attended Trinity College Dublin where I studied Modern Languages (Eng. & French) I received a prize in English, the Robert Henry Wallace Exhibition and graduated with a 2.1 degree in 1972.

Following that I attended University College Dublin where I did an M.A. in English & American Literature with a thesis on Sensibility in Virginia Woolf. In 1975 I did a Higher Diploma in Education in Trinity College Dublin and received a 2.1 with distinction in teaching.

I worked as a secondary school teacher for a number of years, teaching in a Comprehensive school in Dublin, (one of the first comprehensive schools to open here), and subsequently went to North Africa where for a few years I taught English, Language and Literature, as well as African Studies in Oran University, Oran, Algeria.

On my return I worked in language teaching in the Language Centre of Ireland for a number of years, training teachers and also running the RSA Diploma in Teaching English to Adults. Subsequently I worked in the Language Services Section in Dublin City University.

I was married in 1972 and have two children and five grandchildren. We moved to Ealing in 1982. Some twenty years later I went to a 50th birthday party and was introduced to David Stirzaker! He went on to teach Physics at St Benedict's School in Ealing.

We were privileged to be a part of this new scheme, albeit for only one term. It certainly re-shaped my life.

I have three children from my first marriage who have produced six adorable grandchildren ranging in age from eight months to 12 years. I consider myself very fortunate.

Looking back...

I was a year or two younger than my classmates as I had been fast tracked from primary school, had been a boarder in St Maur’s and had no brothers! Boys were a different and unknown species altogether! Attending a boys school was an absolutely terrifying experience at first, and certainly on day one the prospect of running the gauntlet of what seemed like thousands of curious stares was daunting. But we soon became a three day wonder, there was work to do, I was taking Arts, and the boys seemed to be far ahead of us academically, or was it just that they were more confident and articulate. Certainly they had been trained to think for themselves, something that we had not been. (I remember that when I had sat my biology O Levels, a subject I was very interested in as I had hoped to study science, the class results were disappointing and the highest grade no better than a C... the comment from the examiners being that given our lack of knowledge about sexual anatomy... the question had been on the human male reproductive system and the girls had either extrapolated wildly from their imagination or from what they had been instructed in the anatomy of the male rabbit, that it was obvious the candidates had come from a sheltered convent background!)

The kindness and firmness of Father Peter, the Principal, remains with me, as do memories of the mind sharpening, exciting English Literature classes held by Father Christopher on sunny afternoons in his highly masculine, book lined study. We were encouraged to read widely, fight our corner and to debate. It was a whole new experience to lock horns with young men who were out to win!

And of course there were the romantic relationships which inevitably arose; I have fond memories of one particularly kind and interesting young man with whom I went out with during those months, I’m sad to say with the callousness of youth I was not as kind to him as he to me.

One of the worst times was when Father Christopher dreamed up a rousing debate! Women should be kept pregnant barefoot and in the kitchen! Anna Paula Hartrey and I were asked to rebut this extraordinary assertion which the boys defended with ferocious passion. But gentleness and not, I believe, debating skills, won out in the end.

All in all a good place to sharpen our teeth for university!
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