



Welcome Message



Welcome to our new digital newsletter. Following parent feedback, we are introducing a bi-termly Senior School and Sixth Form newsletter to highlight the wealth of events and activities that take place each half term.

The term is racing by, and as I look back at the first 8 weeks of the school year I am amazed by just how much has been achieved. Building on the success of last summer's record examination results, inspirational teaching continues both in the classroom and beyond.

What pleases me most is the love of learning that you will see in these pages, which comes from a balanced and natural education; one that allows all to thrive and develop appropriately.

I would like to draw your attention to the upcoming PTA events featured on page 5, our annual Bonfire Night and Christmas Fair, worthy community events that we can look forward to as 2019 draws to a close.

I wish your daughters a most happy and welcome half-term.

Ricki Smith, Principal



Prize Giving Celebrates a Year of Exceptional Achievement



The ceremony, held on Monday 14 October, recognised our pupils outstanding academic attainments and wider achievements over the last year.

Kristine Scott, Partner at Harrison, Clark Rickerbys Limited, presented the awards.

“My advice to the girls here tonight is to be brave, work hard and learn to negotiate.”

Kristine Scott, Solicitor

Head Girl, Ellie Cowan, also gave an excellent vote of thanks. **Read more.**



Year 7 created unforgettable memories during a weekend team building trip to Calshot in October. Lots of high rise activities kept the girls entertained. Thanks to the staff involved for making the visit to Calshot the best one yet.

View gallery of images



Hengistbury Head

Year 8 pupils visited Hengistbury Head in Christchurch, Dorset, on the 2 October. The trip was to support their study of coastal processes in action and it proved to be a worthwhile field trip.

Read more

Kevin Gaskell Visited St Gabriel's with his Boat

On Thursday 26 September St Gabriel's welcomed Kevin Gaskell, a member of the Ocean 5 team, to school to talk about their plans to row 3,000 miles, unaided across the Atlantic Ocean.

Ocean 5 are dedicated to protecting the world's five oceans, their expedition will support the Plastic Soup Foundation and their fight against the biggest environmental crisis of our times.

We hope to hear more from the Ocean 5 team. As they plan to connect with us in Assembly, live from their boat, during their expedition in January.

Read more



Autumn Senior Music Concert



On Tuesday, 22 October the senior autumn concert was a delightful showcase of the wide range of music currently being studied at St Gabriel's and included performances from the mid-17th Century up to the present day.

Solo cello, violin, voice, clarinet and flute pieces, the rock band, jazz band and big band, the orchestra and St Gabriel's Singers (their second outing, after an outstanding performance at senior Prize Giving) all showed their talent, hard work and ambition, even at this early stage in the term.

Congratulations to all our performers (and the audience for such excellent timing when joining in with the big band on 'Tequila').



Harvest Festival Celebration



Harvest Festival on Monday, 7 October saw the whole school come together in assembly. Prayers were read by Sophie, Year 11, with Head Girl Ellie, reading from Luke's Gospel.

Thank you to our community for your kind generosity. We supported the West Berkshire Foodbank with 302.3kg of much needed items.

Read more

Story Wall

Connect with us on social; it's a window to our world. Not only will see the latest happenings around school, you can interact with us too.

For highlights across our social platforms view our **storywall**

Featured Twitter Account

 **@StGabsScience**

Follow us for the latest classroom activities and science stories.



Charity Cake Sale Events

Thank you to all our parents, staff and pupils for supporting the World's Biggest Coffee Morning charity event on Friday, 27 September. Creative delights inspired by our 90th Birthday proved a popular choice and we raised a total of £637.

Read More

Charity Cake sales continued with 11G, holding a Doughnut Drive-Thru, raising £178 for MIND and 10G held a Halloween themed cake sale raising £115 for Above Water on 21 October.



Australian Exchange



Welcome to Bella from St Hilda's School, Gold Coast, Queensland, Australia, who is on a 6-week exchange programme, staying with Pippa, Year 10, who flies to Australia in the Spring Term.

Bella has enjoyed several adventures including a visit to Stonehenge and is a keen fan of Downton Abbey.

Read more

Ada Lovelace Arduino Challenge

A team of Year 8 pupils were given the task of landing a craft safely on the surface of Mars.

Read more



Veterinarian Talk



On 9 October pupils attended a lunchtime talk by Veterinary Practitioner Elizabeth Willcocks. She provided guidance to those interested in pursuing a Veterinary career.

Read more

Confirmation

Congratulations to St Gabriel's girls who celebrated their confirmation at St Mary's Church, Shaw, Newbury on Thursday, 17 October. The service was conducted by the Bishop of Buckinghamshire, The Reverend Dr Alan Wilson. It was a very special occasion enjoyed by the girls and their families.

We are grateful to Marcia Wadham from St Nicolas' Church, Newbury who led the confirmation classes and supported the girls on the day.

There will be a new series of classes beginning next September for anyone considering confirmation.

Welcome New Staff



Verity Brazendale

Welcome to Mrs Verity Brazendale, who is our Head of Senior School Physical Education and Games.

Mrs Brazendale was brought up in Inkpen and has competed in both athletics and netball for Newbury and Berkshire. She has a passion for championing women in sport and celebrating individual achievement and is delighted to be here.



Jennifer Wellard-Hughes

Welcome to Mrs Jennifer Wellard-Hughes, who joins St Gabriel's as Head of English. Not surprisingly she has always loved reading and was a huge Harry Potter fan as a child.

Mrs Wellard-Hughes is enjoying getting to know our pupils and finding her way around our beautiful grounds.

Read more



Meet the Catering Team

St Gabriel's has appointed a new Head Chef, Nick Price and a Second Chef, Stacey Willetts. Heading up the new team is Michelle Graham as Catering Manager.

Michelle, Nick and the team are already making their culinary mark having changed the breakfast menu to include homemade vegan options. They have more ideas they are looking to implement during the academic year.

Read more | View menus



Follow us on twitter @StGabrielsSport

U13 Netball Team



Well done to our under 13 Netball Team who won 23 - 9 against Trinity School on 3 October.

U18 Netball Team



Congratulations on the Netball Court continued with a 20 - 2 win against St Bartholomew's on 8 October making our girls worthy Silver Medalists.

Hockey



Great play from our U18 Hockey Team who drew 2 - 2 on 16 October against The Downs School.

Evie and Kirsten, Year 11 played for Wiltshire Junior Academy Centre at Millfield School on 20 October. The girls competed for two full hours against Avon and Somerset winning both hockey matches. Well done girls.

Player of the Match



Tilly, Year 7, was recognised in the Under 12 Netball Team as player of the match, beating Willink School 22 - 3 on Tuesday 15 October.

October Results

| Date | Sport | Age Group | Details | Result |
|------------|----------|-------------|---------------------------|--------------------------|
| 1 October | Netball | UI2 A and B | The Downs | Cancelled due to weather |
| 2 October | Netball | UI2 A | Downe House | Won 14 - 7 |
| 2 October | Netball | UI2 B | Downe House | Lost 10 - 0 |
| 3 October | Netball | UI3 | Trinity | Won 23 - 9 |
| 3 October | Netball | UI4 | Trinity | Lost 7 - 17 |
| 8 October | Netball | UI2 A | St Bartholomew's | Won 20 - 2 |
| 8 October | Netball | UI2 B | St Bartholomew's | Drew 5 - 5 |
| 8 October | Football | UI8 | West Berkshire Tournament | Silver Medalists |
| 9 October | Hockey | UI5 | Downe House | Lost 0 - 4 |
| 10 October | Netball | UI5 | St Bartholomew's | Lost 5 - 15 |
| 10 October | Netball | UI6 | St Bartholomew's | Lost 5 - 19 |
| 15 October | Netball | UI2 | Willink | Won 22 - 3 |
| 15 October | Netball | UI8 | St Bartholomew's | Won 20 - 16 |
| 16 October | Hockey | UI8 | The Downs | Drew 2 - 2 |
| 17 October | Netball | UI3 | Theale | Cancelled due to weather |
| 17 October | Netball | UI4 | Theale | Cancelled due to weather |
| 22 October | Netball | UI2 A | Kennet | Won 26 - 0 |
| 22 October | Netball | UI2 B | Kennet | Lost 6 - 3 |



Fixtures looking ahead (Any changes and cancellation to matches will be notified to parents by the school secretary as soon as possible).

| Date | Time | Sport | Age Group | Details | Location |
|-------------|-----------------|----------|-------------|------------------------|--------------------|
| 5 November | 3.45pm - 5.30pm | Hockey | U15 | Trinity | Away at Trinity |
| 5 November | 3.45pm - 5.30pm | Netball | U12A | Little Heath & Theale | Away at Park House |
| 6 November | 3.45pm - 5.30pm | Hockey | U15 | Kennet | Away at Henwick |
| 7 November | 3.45pm - 5.30pm | Netball | U13 | Park House | Away at Park House |
| 12 November | 3.45pm - 5.30pm | Netball | U12A | John O’Gaunt | Away at Park house |
| 14 November | 3.45pm - 5.30pm | Netball | U13 and U14 | Kennet | Away at Kennet |
| 19 November | 3.45pm - 5.30pm | Netball | U12 A and B | Trinity | Away at Trinity |
| 19 November | 3.45pm - 5.30pm | Football | U14 | West Berkshire Schools | Away at Park House |
| 21 November | 3.45pm - 5.30pm | Netball | U13 and U14 | Willink | Away at Park House |
| 26 November | 3.45pm - 5.30pm | Netball | U12 A and B | Park House | Away at Park House |
| 26 November | 3.45pm - 5.30pm | Football | U13 | West Berkshire Schools | Away at Park House |
| 28 November | 3.45pm - 5.30pm | Netball | U14 | West Berkshire Schools | Away at Kennet |
| 5 December | 3.45pm - 5.30pm | Netball | U13 | West Berkshire Schools | Away at Theale |
| 10 December | 3.45pm - 5.30pm | Netball | U12 | West Berkshire Schools | Away at Theale |

Knitting and Stitching Show



On Thursday 10 October, Year 9 Art pupils and Year 10 - 11 Art Textiles pupils were treated to the creative delights of the prestigious Knitting and Stitching Show, held each year at Alexander Palace in London.

Whilst there, pupils interviewed the exhibiting artists, attended practical demonstrations of textile techniques and viewed a wide array of innovative textile works in the galleries section. It was a wonderful, educational day out and the girls were impeccably behaved.

Pupils will now take inspiration from the visit, to use in their classwork, after half term.

Classics - Year 9

In a recent Classics Lesson on learning about the myth of the ancient Greek Goddess Artemis, Year 9 took inspiration from Andy Goldsworthy in creating a display made from golden autumn leaves to represent her golden hair.



National Portrait gallery



On Tuesday 1 October, GCSE and A-level art and photography students took a trip to the National Portrait Gallery and Saatchi Gallery in London.

“ We started the day by attending a talk from Giselle on the topic of image and identity in both old and modern portraiture. This included how the composition, focal point and perspective affects the viewer’s interpretation of the artwork.

We looked around the BP National Portrait Awards exhibition which was an eye-opening experience. Seeing all the different artworks and how much detail and effort went into each one was very motivating and inspiring for our coursework.

Finally, we then had a look around the rest of the galleries, which ranged from the 18th century period to modern day contemporary artwork, before heading back to a school. ”

Milly D and Phoebe A Year 11



Extra Curricular Activities



Within school we run a wide range of extra curricular clubs and subject clinics. From football to chess, Maths to Jazz Band, debating and curriculum clinics. There is plenty for all of our pupils to explore at lunchtime as well as before and after school.

More details can be found in our Activities Booklet and timetables on the different clinics and clubs is also available to download.
Learn more

90th Birthday Photo Gallery



On Saturday 14 September the sun shone for 600 guests, who celebrated St Gabriel's 90th Birthday Party in the school grounds.

A hot air balloon on the front lawn proved popular, providing a unique aerial view of the School and our Capability Brown landscaped grounds. **View Images**

Open Morning October 2019



On Saturday, 5 October, we opened our doors for our annual open morning. With a record crowd in attendance, our visitors saw our school in all its glory, including the newly decorated Oval Room and Library. Thanks to all our tour guides for delivering professional tours to our visitors.

Looking Ahead

Term Dates 2019 - 2020

Autumn Term 2019

| | |
|-----------------|---|
| Term Begins | Thursday 5 September |
| Half Term | Thursday 24 October - Friday 1 November (inclusive) |
| Dame Betty Day | Friday 29 November (school closed) |
| Term Ends | Friday 13 December |
| Nursery Closure | Tuesday 24 December - Wednesday 1 January (inclusive) |

Spring Term 2020

| | |
|-------------|---|
| Staff Inset | Monday 6 January |
| Term Begins | Tuesday 7 January |
| Half Term | Monday 17 February - Friday 21 February |
| Term Ends | Friday 3 April |

Summer Term 2020

| | |
|------------------|---|
| Staff Inset | Tuesday 21 April |
| Term Begins | Wednesday 22 April |
| May Bank Holiday | Friday 8 May (school closed) |
| Half Term | Monday 25 May – Friday 29 May |
| Term Ends | Friday 3 July |
| Nursery Closure | Monday 3 August - Friday 7 August (inclusive) |

Open Morning
Senior School
& Sixth Form
Friday 13 March 2020

Year 7 Play in the Day



Tuesday 12 November
7.00pm - 8.00pm

Senior Carol Service



St Nicolas Church
Thursday 12 December
7.00pm - 8.30pm

Parents Association Events

St Gabriel's PTA

Christmas Fair

24 November 2019
10.30am – 3pm

Adults £1 | Concession £1
Children FREE
(Tickets can be purchased upon arrival)

Santa's Grotto

Tombola

Mulled Wine & Food

Professional Face Painting

Activities & Games

Free Parking

Over 40 Gift Stalls

ST GABRIEL'S PTA

BONFIRE NIGHT
& FIREWORKS DISPLAY

8 November 2019

