



Welcome Message



Welcome to our second online newsletter for Senior School and Sixth Form. I hope receiving the highlights of events and activities in a timely manner is providing an insight into the busy term your daughter has just experienced, with lots going on to supplement, as well as bring balance to all the learning that takes place at St Gabriel's.

We started the second half term with a visit from the Independent Schools Inspectorate who reported what we already knew, that we are **excellent and outstanding** across all areas of the school. The whole experience was really positive and affirmed we get the balance right, ensuring that our young people are able to develop while being challenged and supported. Everyone who is involved with St Gabriel's should be really proud of the outcome. **Read the full Report.**

At the end of that same week we had the annual PTA Bonfire Night, again a huge success with record numbers in attendance. This was followed by the Christmas Fair, which allowed us all to pick up some beautifully crafted gifts for Christmas. Thank you to all in the PTA for their hard work and support.

We then moved on to an array of other events that you can read about in these pages. The carol services and nativities brought the end of term to a wonderful climax, so it is no surprise that the pupils (and staff!) are ready for a break.

I would like to take this opportunity to wish you all a very Happy Christmas and a wonderful festive period. Thank you for the support that you have given the school this term, and we look forward to seeing pupils back in school on Tuesday 7 January.

Ricki Smith, Principal



Senior Carol Service



The Senior Carol Service was held at St Nicolas Church, Newbury, on Thursday 12 December, with choirs, soloists and the Big Band performing. The orchestra led the congregational carols at this wonderful community event.

The atmosphere was created right from the start of the service, with a beautiful Year 7 and 8 arrangement of Like a Candle Flame, and thereafter readings and music took the congregation through the Christmas story. The standard of music was excellent, and performers are to be congratulated on their dedication and energy at this busy end of the term.

Dr Tebbs, Director of Music

Winter Wonderland Dinner - Monday 9 December 2019



The Winter Wonderland Dinner was a special occasion where Year 11 pupils, Sixth Form students and teaching staff gathered for a celebratory evening on Monday 9 December. Head Girl, Ellie, and Deputy Head Girl Jennifer, chose the winter wonderland theme and organised the event. Everyone enjoyed mixing in a formal yet friendly setting. **Read More**

View Winter Wonderland Picture Gallery

“ It was wonderful to see all the preparation and planning come together to form such a lovely evening. I am so happy that everyone had a really enjoyable time. ”

Ellie, Head Girl

“ Dressed in all our finery, we gathered for drinks and canapés in the Oval Room in front of a roaring fire and continued in the beautifully decorated dining room. It was a superb occasion. ”

Mrs Reseigh, Head of Sixth Form



House Music



St Gabriel's threw itself into the House Music Competition with amazing energy on Wednesday 11 December, with each House performing three songs (one of which had to be a Christmas song).

Musical standards were higher than ever, and it goes without saying that costumes, dance routines and props were very much in evidence as the Houses battled it out to catch the eyes and ears of the judges.

But it was Alban's Sparkle and Shine performance that secured their win, but it was a close competition and all the Houses deserve congratulations, in particular their wonderful Captains and Vice-Captains who motivated their teams so successfully.

View House Galleries - Aidan, Alban, Bede, Chad.

Dr Tebbs, Director of Music

Music Examination Results

Name	Instrument	Grade	Result
Jeremy Ashburner	Piano	Prep Test	Pass
Pippa Barribal	Piano	4	Pass
Rachel Berkley	Music Theory	5	Pass
Anneliese Brown	Cello	7	Pass
Grace Cunliffe	Singing	4	Merit
Selina Day	Flute	1	Merit
Elizabeth Ferneley	Piano	7	Merit
Heidi Francis	Flute	2	Pass
Ismay Gallup	Singing	1	Distinction
Lucy Hambidge	Classical Guitar	6	Pass
Matilda Heywood	Piano	4	Pass
Penny Page	Music Theory	3	Distinction
Penny Page	Violin	4	Distinction

Congratulation to Laura Phillips on reaching the semi-finals of the Berkshire Maestros' Young Singer of The Year. Good luck for the competition in January.

Dr Tebbs, Director of Music

Charity Christmas Hampers

Congratulations to everyone who participated in the Christmas Hamper Competition. Special mention to Year 8S who won first place with their fireplace design and well done to Year 10G as runner-up.

Thank you to everyone who brought in donations, 123kg of food was very gratefully received by West Berkshire Foodbank.



A Christmas Carol



This year the Sixth Form end of term play was an adaptation of Dickens' 'A Christmas Carol'. Both Year 12 and Year 13 (and a few Year 7) threw themselves with huge enthusiasm into a dramatised reading of Dickens' novella. Ghosts appeared, Victorian dancers waltzed and Scrooge was redeemed; a wonderful time was had by all as Tiny Tim joined the whole cast in saying 'God Bless Us, Every One!'

We felt that Dickens' Christmas warning to society through Scrooge was something that we should remember at this wonderful time of year; a time when we all have so much, and many people have so very little. It was a wonderful way to remind us of the true message of Christmas.

Mrs Archer, English Teacher

Christmas Lunch



It was certainly beginning to feel a lot like Christmas on Wednesday 11 December when staff and pupils enjoyed Christmas lunch, with all the trimmings.



Drama

Play in a Day

Well done to Year 7 who created a 'Play in a Day' on Tuesday 12 November.

The play told the story of the Elves and the Christmas Chaos and protecting the magic snow globe.

The production proved to be a great collaboration of Drama, Music and Dance. **Read More**



Digital Theatre +

Exclusive to St Gabriel's pupils, the Drama Department is delighted to offer you access to Digital Theatre+, with more than 300 classic, contemporary and international productions. Why not enjoy the theatre from the comfort of your own home. Happy Watching!

Visit: www.digitaltheatreplus.com/user and enter the log in details sent to parents via letter.

Mrs Chaplin, Head of Drama



Scholars Update



This term our Academic Scholars in Years 7-11 have had the opportunity to attend a number of talks and debates which have given them the chance to extend their learning beyond the curriculum.

Breakfast debates in Mr Smith's office have proved as popular as ever with discussions on current affairs over hot chocolate and pastries. This year we have also introduced lunchtime seminars into all year groups with

talks covering The Rosetta Stone, The Italian Mafia, How to Catch a Criminal and the opportunity to look at what it takes to get a Chemistry PhD.

These talks have been thoroughly enjoyed and generated many thought-provoking discussions. Thanks to Miss Halstead, Miss Ferretti, Ms Hammett and Dr Tate for their input into these sessions.

Christine Rollier Talks Vaccines



Christine Rollier, Senior Research Scientist in Vaccinology at the Oxford Vaccine Group came in to talk about her career in vaccine immunology. **Read More.**

Mandarin Fashion Show



Year 9 Mandarin beginners enjoyed a fashion show, with environmental protection in mind. **Read More**

Royal Ballet Trip

On Tuesday 5 November Dance Scholars took a trip to see The Royal Ballet perform their latest triple bill programme.

Performed live at The Royal Opera House, Covent Garden, the production was streamed to local cinemas across the UK, including Newbury's Vue Cinema.

The three major works were Concerto by Sir Kenneth Macmillan, Enigma Variations by Sir Frederick Ashton and Raymonda Act III by Rudolf Nureyev.



The girls were treated to a magical evening of two traditional ballet pieces alongside a contemporary work. Darcey Bussell introduced the performance and gave a short synopsis of each work before the curtain finally opened on a thrilling mixture of ethereal dancing, sparkling costumes and music.

Mrs Hastings, Head of Dance



Rotary Young Chef Competition

Selina, Year 9, and Charlotte and Mollie, Year 8, competed in the West Berkshire Rotary Young Chef Competition held at Newbury College on the 16 November. The girls cooked to a professional standard with Selina gaining first place. **Read more**



“I am really pleased to have won Rotary this year as I came third, then second in previous years. Now, I have finally reached my goal! I am looking forward to the next round in February!”
Selina, Year 9

English - Year 10



Year 10 is studying 'A Christmas Carol' for their GCSE English Literature course. The class discussed ways in which they could develop an effective revision plan, and decided to design and create board games which would test their knowledge of plot, character, context and literary techniques.

The result was superbly designed games, as shown above, which were also a great deal of fun. Each board game is unique with a board, sets of cards, counters and rules. The class decided that the games had greatly increased their knowledge and enjoyment of the text. They will return to the games before their summer examinations as a revision aid.

Textiles Workshop with Artist Kate Findlay

In November Year 8 enjoyed an E-Textiles workshop, where they made a flashing star, using LED lights, when special visitor Kate Findlay came into school.



Textile Artist, Kate Findlay also spent time with Year 10 and 11 Textile students, showing some new techniques including applique. **Read more.**



Head of Department Spotlight

Mrs Rachel Dadds - Psychology



After studying Anthropology at University College London, Mrs Dadds spent a short while travelling and working in advertising before pursuing her teaching qualifications.

She enjoys seeing both the academic and personal growth Sixth Form students achieve during their studies.

“Psychology A level opened up a whole new world of ideas for me and I knew that I wanted to explore the subject beyond what I studied at school from an early stage. If you are keen to understand all aspects of human behaviour from a scientific perspective, actively participate in your own psychological investigations and gain a fascinating insight into the mind, then Psychology A level is the perfect place to start.”



Read the full interview to learn more and find out what careers Psychology typically leads to and the universities our students have gone on to study at over the last five years. **Read More**

Mrs Rebecca Harvey - Geography



Our Head of Geography, Mrs Rebecca Harvey is a St Gabriel's alumnae who always knew she wanted to pursue a geography focused career.

After completing her PGCE and a year of travelling she became a Geography teacher, a career she has enjoyed performing for the last 14 years.

“Since I joined St Gabriel's three years ago, a number of pupils have gone on to read Geography at university, including Leeds, Newcastle, Birmingham and Aberystwyth.

Geography can lead into a wide range of careers in areas such as hazard management, the environment, policy and government, travel and tourism and international charity work.”



Read the full interview to learn more about Mrs Harvey's natural interest in the world and joy of teaching. **Read More**

 Follow us on twitter @StGabrielsSport

Winning Netball Teams



Congratulations to the Year 8 Netball Team who were real superstars winning the West Berkshire Schools Netball Tournament on 5 December.



Well done to our Under 12A Netball Team who beat Kennet School 26-0 on 22 October.

12 Days of Christmas

Over the festive period the St Gabriel's Sports Department ran a 12 Days of Christmas campaign. To see the diverse sporting activities and festive postings visit us on Twitter @StGabsSport



Izzi competes for Great Britain



Congratulations to Izzi, Year 13, who competed for Great Britain at the CES Valencia Autumn Tour 2019 and gained third place in the 140 Grand Prix event.

Fun Run

The annual fun run at the end of the Autumn Term began with a memorable Japanese YMCA warm up. Pupils and staff set off to sprint the course with huge enthusiasm, dressed in all manner of Christmas attire. Thanks to all participants who enjoyed the festive fun run.

View gallery of images





November & December Results

Date	Sport	Age Group	Details	Result
5 November	Hockey	U15	Trinity	2 - 2 Drew
5 November	Netball	U12A	Little Heath & Theale	17 - 1 Won
6 November	Hockey	U15	Kennet	0 - 0 Drew
7 November	Netball	U13	Park House	23 - 7 Won
12 November	Netball	U12A	John O’Gaunt	Cancelled
14 November	Netball	U13	Kennet	5 - 19 Lost
14 November	Netball	U14	Kennet	13 - 12 Won
19 November	Netball	U12 A	Trinity	22 - 4 Won
19 November	Netball	U12 B	Trinity	8 - 4 Won
19 November	Football	U13	West Berkshire Schools	Quarter Finalists
20 November	Hockey	U15	Park House	Cancelled by Park House
21 November	Netball	U13	Willink	12 - 9 Won
21 November	Netball	U14	Willink	25 - 0 Won
26 November	Netball	U12 A and B	Park House	34 - 2 Won
26 November	Football	U13	West Berkshire Schools	Won
27 November	Hockey	U18	Park House	Cancelled by Park House
27 November	Netball	U18	Downe House	14 - 39 Lost
28 November	Netball	U14	West Berkshire Schools	Runners up
3 December	Netball	U12A	Theale	29 - 2 Won
4 December	Hockey	U18	Downe House	0 - 0 Drew
5 December	Netball	U13	West Berkshire Schools	Won
10 December	Netball	U12	West Berkshire Schools	Cancelled

Fixtures looking ahead 2020 (Parents will be notified immediately of any changes or cancellation to matches).

Date	Time	Sport	Age Group	Location	Details
15 January	3.45pm - 5.30pm	Netball	U18	Park House	Away
16 January	3.45pm - 5.30pm	Netball	U15 and U16	St Bartholomew’s	Away
22 January	3.45pm - 5.30pm	Netball	U18	Willink	Away
23 January	3.45pm - 5.30pm	Netball	U15 and U16	Theale	Away
29 January	3.45pm - 5.30pm	Netball	U18	Kennet	Away
30 January	3.45pm - 5.30pm	Netball	U15 and U16	Park House	Away
5 February	3.45pm - 5.30pm	Netball	U18	Little Heath	Away
6 February	3.45pm - 5.30pm	Netball	U15 and U16	Kennet	Away
12 February	3.45pm - 5.30pm	Netball	U18	Kennet	Away
13 February	3.45pm - 5.30pm	Netball	U15	Kennet	Away
26 February	3.45pm - 5.30pm	Netball	U18	Theale	Away
27 February	3.45pm - 5.30pm	Netball	U15 and U16	The Downs	Away
4 March	3.45pm - 5.30pm	Netball	U18	St Bartholomew’s	Away
5 March	3.45pm - 5.30pm	Netball	U15 and U16	Little Heath	Away
11 March	3.45pm - 5.30pm	Netball	U18	Tournament	Away
12 March	3.45pm - 5.30pm	Netball	U15 and U16	Willink	Away
19 March	3.45pm - 5.30pm	Netball	U15 and U16	Trinity	Away
25 March	3.45pm - 5.30pm	Netball	U15	Tournament	Away
26 March	3.45pm - 5.30pm	Netball	U16	Tournament	Away

Hockey Fixtures are being set and will be published at the start of Spring Term 2020.



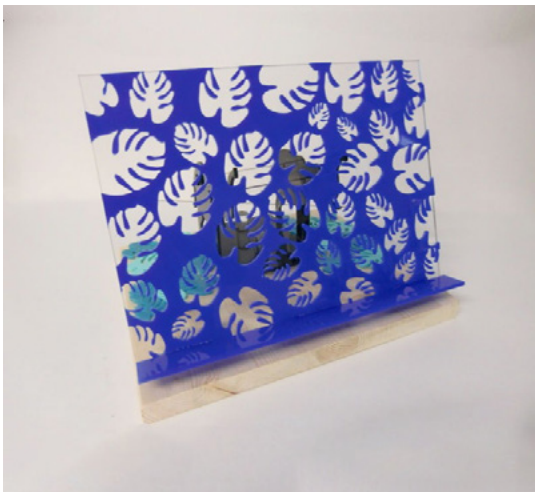
Music Concert - Photo Gallery



On Tuesday 19 November, a lunchtime concert provided the opportunity for all pupils learning instruments to perform to parents in an informal setting. Participants offered a diverse range of music from a flute version of the Can Can to the title track from Fame on the cello.

[View Images](#)

Technology Storage Devices



Year 8 students recently unveiled their tilting device storage pieces. A wealth of creativity and craftsmanship went into their storage devices for their ipad or iphone.

[View Gallery](#)

Kevin Gaskell - Ocean 5



Kevin Gaskell and the Ocean 5 team are currently rowing across the Atlantic competing in the 2019 Talisker Atlantic Challenge, raising money for The Plastic Soup Foundation. We are excited for the planned live link up in assembly on Wednesday 15 January.

Environmental Spotlight

Eco Club



Head Girl, Ellie, started a St Gabriel's Eco Club in September, with the aim of finding ways to support environmental sustainability within school. The team meet weekly to discuss ideas.

They have carried out an audit of the paper recycling bins in the Senior School and are excited to work on future plans, including our own school vegetable patch. **[Read more](#)**

Year 11 S



Year 11S raised over £100 at a cake sale on 15 November for a great environmental cause, they will buy an acre of Rainforest, from the World Land Trust, whose mission is to protect and sustainably manage natural ecosystems globally.

Well done girls.

Sixth Form Taster Day



On Thursday 26 November, Year 11 experienced a full day of Sixth Form lessons, to provide them with a glimpse of life in the Sixth Form. It enabled pupils to try various subjects of interest to help support their decisions on what A levels to study in the future. **[View images](#)**



Library Reading Lists



The refurbished Senior School Library is providing a popular setting for Senior School pupils to study and read.

Recommended reading lists, covering a diverse range of subjects, are now downloadable below and on our **website**. With more than 4,000 resources in the library, pupils have an extensive range of options available to choose from.

Year 7 Reading List

Year 8 Reading List

Year 9 Reading List





Digital Safety



Year 7 and 8 enjoying a game of Uno. It is good to see them complying with our no mobile phone policy during break and lunch time.

Staying safe online and age appropriate e-safety training is also an important feature of PSHE. Our resource hub provides access to a range of useful information for parents. [Read more.](#)

Safe Drive Workshop



Sixth Form students attended a Safe Drive Stay Alive event on 18 November. It is a vital subject in the curriculum throughout the Thames Valley and Hampshire to raise awareness and influence driving behaviours on the roads.

Drama Workshop



Year 13 A level Theatre Studies students and Drama Scholars benefited from a visit by Katie Lusby from Punchdrunk, a British Theatre company who pioneer “immersive” theatre. [Read more](#)

Parents’ Teacher Association News

Bonfire Night



Thanks to everyone who contributed to our fantastic 90th Birthday Bonfire Night event, the firework display certainly lit up the sky. Your support with matched funding raised an impressive £1,727.40

90th Birthday Ball 2020

St Gabriel's

90

Years



90th Birthday Ball
Saturday 20 June 2020

Tickets: ball@stgabrielspta.co.uk

The PTA would like to draw your attention to their biggest event in 2020. They are hosting a 90th Birthday Ball on Saturday 20 June, at Donnington Grove Hotel.

The theme is a **Brideshead Revisited Garden Party**, with guests welcome to attend in 1920s-1930s garden party attire or black tie.

Further details and tickets are available from the PTA.

Connect with the PTA on Social  

Christmas Fair



It was great to see enterprising pupils following their passions and run their own stalls at the Christmas Fair. Thanks to everyone’s support, with match funding we raised over £9,000. Special mention goes to Year 8 with the highest earning class stall raising £335.50.

School Uniform Shop



Second Hand Uniform Shop (on site)
Open every Thursday (term time)
2.30pm - 5.00pm

Looking Ahead

Term Dates 2019 - 2020	
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 (12.30pm finish)
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 (12.30pm finish)
Autumn Term 2020	
Term Begins	Monday 7 September
Half Term	Thursday 22 October - Friday 30 October (inclusive)
Dame Betty Day	Friday 27 November (school closed)
Term Ends	Friday 11 December (12.30pm finish)

THE

ADDAMS

FAMILY

GUARANTEED TO BE A FRIGHTFUL NIGHT

Arlington Arts
3 and 4 March 2020

Open Morning

Senior School & Sixth Form

Friday 13 March 2020

9.30 - 12.00

admissions@stgabriels.co.uk