



Dear Parents,

I am pleased to welcome back parents and pupils after the long, hot summer break and a special welcome to the new parents and pupils that joined St George's last week.

We also welcome ten new members of staff across the three schools; Ms. Judith Adams and Mr Robert Mc McGregor join the junior school at Nomentana (SGN), Ms. Louise Sexton and Ms. Sue Bowden at the La Storta junior school and in the senior school Ms. Victoria Crisp (English and Drama), Ms. Jennifer Horay (Chemistry), Ms. Derarca Lynch (Mathematics), Ms. Petrina McGregor (English), Ms. Emily Talbot (English) and Ms. Sarah Gott (Maths, Physics). Last but not least Ms. Stephanie Ameri returns following her maternity leave.

Last years examination results arrived during July and August, and the hard work from staff and pupils have resulted in a positive and well deserved set of results. The National Curriculum tests, taken by Years 6 and 9, are pleasing and will provide us with useful base line data to measure progress in the future. The IB results were the first to arrive in early July with the students achieving results in line with predictions. The head line figures were an average diploma pass of 33 points and 90% of the students achieved an IB Diploma. The results initiated students contacting Universities worldwide and I am grateful to the staff that supported the process during the holidays. The (IGCSE) results were published during the third week in August and the student achievement was simply outstanding. 57% of the results were awarded either A or A\*, 97% of the students gained 5 or more GCSE's at C or better and the average number of passes per student was over 9! One week after the results were published a number of letters arrived at school from the London Examination Board (Edexcel), announcing that some of our students had received marks placing them in the top ten worldwide of all International students in their respective subjects. I wish to extend my congratulations to each and every one of them.

On a different note a group of 15 teachers and students from St George's visited the Serenje orphanage, in Zambia during the first two weeks in July. The trip was clearly a huge success and numerous projects were completed. More information about ZOA (Zambian Orphans Appeal) may be found at the website [www.zoaonline.org](http://www.zoaonline.org).

During the summer break considerable improvements to the three schools have taken place. At SGN the refurbishment of the third façade, a new classroom and play area improvements have been completed. The Library is now on the ground floor which is an enhancement on the previous provision in terms of access, books available and size. At La Storta the junior school play area has been significantly improved and in the senior school the Art/Design Technology area has been totally redesigned and upgraded. The end result is impressive and worth seeing.

Last academic year, as part of the school's strategic planning process, parents were invited to participate in a SWOT analysis. Meetings were held to identify their perceptions of the strengths and weaknesses of the school; the opportunities open to it and any external threats to its success.

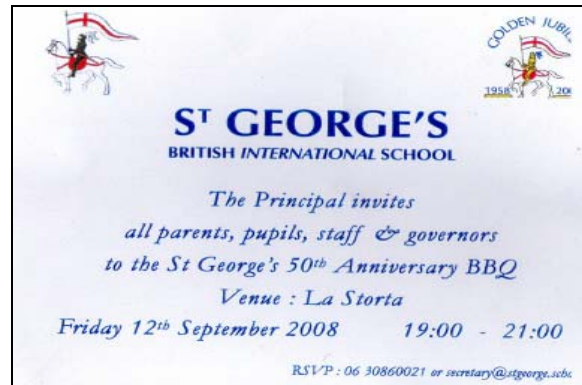
Over 100 parents attended the meetings and a comprehensive report was produced; giving the Board and SMT a wealth of information. The report has already helped inform changes that have taken place this summer and will continue to highlight those issues, which are clearly of importance to parents. I would like to thank all the people involved in this process; not only the members of the Communications Group who made this happen, but also all those parents who took the opportunity to have their voices heard. The School Management Team (SMT) continues to value and acknowledge the importance of parental input into the home/school partnership.

Regards

Martyn Hales

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## Forthcoming events and notices



This is just a brief note to remind you of the school BBQ, this Friday at 19:00, to which you and your children are warmly invited. The event is intended to be informal, and is designed as a social event to help bring our community together, and to 'bond' new parents to the school.

**New families, International Community Contacts.** The FSG now have a list of people who speak other languages. New and existing families in St. George's can contact people from the wide variety of cultural groups in our international community. The benefits of such a list include advice for settling in to Rome and the school, language help, shopping tips, babysitting, home language book exchanges and social events. If you would like to contact someone or put yourself forward as an international community contact person please email [alexmackenzie1@mac.com](mailto:alexmackenzie1@mac.com). Alex Mackenzie

Message from the Music Department: At 18:00 this Friday in the Music room, A1, there will be a presentation from the Visiting Instrumental Teachers (VIT's) introducing the instrumental program to everyone who might be curious or interested.

Our traditional ZOA Key Stage 3 'Lock-in' (or sleepover) is on Friday night, 19 September 2008. There will be about 80 students from years 7 to 9. This is ZOA's biggest annual fundraiser, traditionally yielding about a quarter of the funds needed to run the Serenjie orphanage each year (If you are new to the school, please take a look at our website [www.zoaonline.org](http://www.zoaonline.org) )

Friday 19<sup>th</sup> September, the FSGN are holding an International Evening here at Nomentana. Further details will come to you soon.

Professional Development is a difficult issue in International schools. St. George's have addressed this by teaming up with Oxford Brooke's University to become a centre for their MA in Education course.

A second cohort is due to start at the end of October. Any parent interested in joining the 2 year distance learning MA in Education is encouraged to contact the school or Oxford Brookes direct.

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<http://www.brookes.ac.uk/schools/education/cpd.html>