Dear Upper School Students and Parents,

As I begin my fourth year as Head of Upper School at Saint George's, it is impossible to ignore the extraordinary moment the world of education is facing.

We live in a time of unprecedented technological change. Artificial intelligence is transforming nearly every profession and every discipline. It is reshaping how we work, create, communicate, and solve problems. Our responsibility as educators is not to ignore these changes, nor to fear them, but to prepare students to navigate them with wisdom, confidence, and discernment.

At Saint George's, we believe the future belongs not simply to those who know how to use AI, but to those who possess the distinctly human qualities that no technology can replace.

Curiosity. Character. Judgement. Creativity. Empathy. Courage. Purpose.

These qualities are cultivated through lived experience.

They are developed on athletic fields where teammates rely on one another. They are strengthened on stage, where students learn vulnerability, confidence, and collaboration. They grow in our visual arts studios, where imagination becomes tangible. They emerge in robotics labs through innovation and perseverance. They are shaped during Outdoor Program expeditions where students confront challenge, uncertainty, and develop a deep appreciation for the natural world. They flourish through clubs, leadership opportunities, and service projects where students discover that their talents exist not only for themselves, but for their communities.

These experiences remain at the heart of a Saint George's education because they develop the whole person.

Over the past year, our AI Dragon Team—which includes educators, parents, students, and university partners—has worked together to develop a thoughtful approach to artificial intelligence across our school. Their work has resulted in a philosophy that reflects who we are and who we aspire to become:

Saint George's School is committed to cultivating an AI-literate community grounded in ethical judgement, human connection, and intellectual curiosity. We recognize that artificial intelligence is a powerful tool with the potential to enhance learning, creativity, and critical thinking—never replacing the essential role of human insight and interpersonal relationships. Through developmentally appropriate integration across our K–12 program, SGS prepares students and educators to engage with emerging technologies thoughtfully, responsibly, and with confidence, empowering them to lead with discernment and wisdom in a rapidly evolving world.

This philosophy is not about technology alone. It is about education.

As we continue to strengthen our International Baccalaureate Programme, I am also pleased to welcome **Jamie Billings** as our new Upper School IB Coordinator. Jamie brings nearly a decade of experience as an IB educator, has served as an IB examiner, led academic departments, and most recently coordinated our successful accreditation process. She is an exceptional educator whose organizational leadership, deep pedagogical knowledge, and unwavering commitment to students have already benefited our community in countless ways. Jamie has earned the trust and respect of both students and colleagues through her thoughtful leadership and genuine care for others. I am excited to see her guide the continued growth of our IB programme and know she will serve our community exceptionally well in this important role.

In the year ahead, one of our central themes will be the cultivation of **Explorers**.

We want students who are deeply engaged with the world around them—students who pursue authentic human experiences informed by the knowledge they gain in the classroom. Learning should not end with understanding concepts; it should inspire action, curiosity, and meaningful engagement.

Saint George's is uniquely positioned to do this.

We are deeply local.

Our campus, forests, river, and surrounding landscape are not simply beautiful—they are classrooms. They remind students that learning happens in places, through relationships, and within communities.

At the same time, we are profoundly global.

As an International Baccalaureate World School, our students learn alongside an international community committed to intercultural understanding, multilingualism, and service. They study diverse histories, languages, perspectives, and cultures while recognizing their shared responsibility for creating a better world. Our growing international student body enriches this experience every day, bringing perspectives and friendships that prepare all of our students to thrive in an increasingly interconnected world.

This combination of local roots and global perspective gives our students something increasingly rare: perspective.

We want our graduates to think globally while acting locally. We want them to confront challenges in their own communities while understanding their connection to larger global issues. We believe that one of the greatest antidotes to anxiety is efficacy—the confidence that comes from knowing you can contribute, solve problems, and make a meaningful difference.

As Dragons, we embrace challenge. We value integrity. We care deeply for one another. We celebrate excellence not only because of what our students accomplish, but because of who they become along the way.

As we prepare to begin another remarkable year together, I am grateful for the faculty who continually refine their craft, the parents who partner with us in raising extraordinary young people, and the students who inspire us every day through their curiosity, resilience, and humanity.

The years ahead will undoubtedly bring technologies we cannot yet imagine. Our commitment, however, remains unchanged.

We will continue to prepare students not merely for college, nor simply for careers, but for thoughtful lives of purpose, leadership, service, and lifelong exploration.

That is what it means to be a Dragon.

And that is what makes a Saint George's education so distinctive.

Enjoy these remaining weeks of summer with family and friends. Rest well, seek adventure, and return ready to explore. We cannot wait to welcome you back to campus for another exceptional year in the Little Spokane River Valley.

Please never hesitate to reach out with questions, ideas, or concerns.

Go Dragons!

Warmly,

Nathan Lill
Head of Upper School
Saint George's School