

ST ALBANS



GIRLS' SCHOOL

SIXTH FORM

*Learning for
Life in a
Community
where All can Excel*



“Regardless of their different starting points, all students make outstanding progress.” Ofsted

Your Next Step



Welcome to the St. Albans Girls' School Sixth Form.

Making the right choices at Post 16 is crucial to ensure the best possible future prospects. We are very proud of our outstanding learning environment, with our distinctive ethos, highly professional standards and commitment to ensuring a first class education for our Post 16 students. We recognise and value the individual, which our broad range of learning opportunities demonstrates, and we strive for excellence in all that we do.

The Sixth Form is a warm and friendly environment where students are encouraged to attain the highest grades, whilst also being

given leadership opportunities and excellent tutorial support. There is an expectation that each individual student does his or her best and takes an active part in the wider life of the school.

Students become part of the hard working, friendly and supportive learning community of our school. You will receive a personalised education which is both demanding and rewarding, and through the excellent care and guidance offered, you will be given every opportunity to progress towards your future goals and succeed. Furthermore, our Sixth Form facilities provide the ideal environment for success.

We look forward to warmly welcoming you into the Sixth Form and invite you to visit us during the school day.

Margaret Chapman – Headteacher



Whether you have studied with us before or join us from another school, you will find our Sixth Form active, diverse, friendly and welcoming.

We ensure that all of our students quickly settle into life at Post 16 with the different style of studying required and opportunities that this stage in your education brings.

We are very proud of our Sixth Form students – their dedication, enthusiasm, maturity and willingness to take on new challenges makes our Sixth Form what it is.

This is such an important time in a young person's life, when you become an adult and will have to make big decisions about the direction of your future. The Sixth Form team are dedicated in their support of our students providing the guidance, support and expertise which will help you to reach your goals both now and in the future.

Mrs Julia Pipes – Assistant Headteacher Post 16

“Teaching in the sixth form is consistently outstanding, and this is reflected in the students’ high achievements.”

Ofsted



An Emphasis on Excellence

Expectations are high. GCSE success informs Post 16 targets.

We provide a supportive learning community that maximizes academic potential and develops leadership.

Our commitment to you is:

- To provide quality learning opportunities through excellent specialist teaching in diverse environments
- To ensure a wide choice of subjects and courses to meet your individual personalised learning goals
- To give you every opportunity to become a leader of the future
- To provide comprehensive educational guidance and emotional support at this crucial period of your education
- To ensure diverse and stimulating Sixth Form opportunities and experiences where young people work alongside each other
- To arrange a wide variety of opportunities, beyond formal studies, to meet and exchange ideas with other students and adults from the local community
- To support you in your preparations and planning for university entrance and future career opportunities
- To ensure that you are aware of the full range of career and higher education options available to you when you leave St. Albans Girls' School

Variety and Choice

We are proud to offer a very broad Post 16 curriculum.

The wide range of both academic and practical courses enables you to deepen your talents in your chosen subjects, whilst also exploring new courses of interest, thus allowing a huge variety of higher education and careers paths to be followed.

(Please see our curriculum booklet and website for details of individual courses).

“Teachers have high expectations and know their subjects very well. My son is inspired by the quality of engaging teaching.”

Parent





“Guidance and support is superb, not just for the students but also for the parents too!” Year 13 Parent



Supporting Learning

Inspiring and encouraging learners is at the heart of all that we do.

We offer an excellent quality of learning from subject specialists who are highly trained across our breadth of subjects and courses. Each learner is stretched and challenged at every step of their individual learning journey, with aspirational yet achievable targets set for all.

We offer many fantastic opportunities for high achieving students at Post 16, such as visits to Oxbridge and other Russell Group universities, as well as master classes for particular subjects and a range of external speakers. These run alongside our extended super-curricular programme, to ensure that all students are well prepared for application and interview.

We recognise that Post 16 students are maturing into young adults, which is why we involve the student in every stage of their Sixth

Form education. Students meet their teachers at least twice a year for a progress review and together set targets and explore how these can be achieved. In addition, there are form tutor and subject evenings with parents so that progress is monitored and any issues can be quickly remedied. We aim to nurture individuals who are confident, aspirational and proud of who they are, and our positive Post 16 environment encourages this growth.

In addition to their chosen subjects, students also participate in the Progression Programme, which covers a wide range of activities and issues from social, health and citizenship, road safety, resilience and employability skills to personal finance. Personal development is supported by expert form tutors led by a highly experienced pastoral team.

“Teaching in the sixth form is consistently outstanding, and this is reflected in the students’ high achievements.” Ofsted



“My teachers really know me which enables them to tailor their teaching and learning.”

Year 12 Student





Student Life

Students are fortunate to have dedicated Sixth Form social rooms; the Coffee shop serves a vast array of hot and cold food and drinks during the day and provides a place for students to relax and enjoy each other's company.

The Sixth Form study rooms are supervised and enable a silent area dedicated to independent study and supported by the use of ICT resources. There is also a group study room for more flexible learning. All students can have a Chrome book for personal educational use during their time in the Sixth Form. In addition to this, independent studying at the weekend ensures that the highest academic standards are aspired to and met.

STAGS Sixth Form dress code offers students the flexibility of personal choice within a framework which upholds the professional standards expected in a focused working environment. We encourage smart, stylish dress which promotes self-confidence, commitment and pride, setting a positive example to younger learners.

“The Sixth Form here at STAGS is an exciting place to be: lots to do and lots to learn!” Year 13 Student





Taking on Responsibilities

We believe that being a Sixth Former is about more than achieving academic success.

We want you to develop self-confidence, independence and vital life skills such as leadership, communication, team working, and management of your own learning.

We offer many sporting activities; from membership of sports teams and leading clubs for younger students to the study of Level 3 Sports Leadership. There is the opportunity to fully participate in the Duke of Edinburgh Award, and many of our Post 16 students take part in the expeditions and visits that we run annually to foreign climes.

Alongside our sports, we are very proud of the range of extracurricular and expressive arts opportunities that are available

for our Sixth Formers, including many different orchestras and choirs, Dance and Drama productions. Involvement in the Young Engineers Scheme, achieving the Gold Crest Award, participating in Young Enterprise and the Dragons Apprentice Scheme offer extensive opportunities to flourish. There are so many varied extra-curricular activities to inspire and aid students to support their chosen career paths.

For those who enjoy a more literate hobby, a student-run Debating Society is enjoyed by students and staff alike; and there is also a team of Post 16 students producing the Sixth Form magazine.

Contributing to the Community

We encourage all of our students to make contributions to the local, national and international communities and as a result they are regarded as leaders by younger people in the school.

All students are encouraged to take on positions of responsibility and become actively involved in whole school events from Open Evening to supporting clubs and extra-curricular activities, from charity fund raising to volunteering, our students are always active and fully embrace the ethos of the STAGS community.

As young adults, the students choose how to reach their own leadership goals: they may choose to be a House prefect, House Captain or Head student, at the pinnacle of student leadership. There are many other roles across the school; for example many students mentor younger people. They can choose to be a youth counsellor in our Hear4U programme; mentor a student who is suffering from emotional, social or behavioural difficulties, or support a student in lessons.

In addition, Sixth Formers lead Student Voice and are actively involved in fundraising, making their own decisions and develop the confidence to take responsibility in a variety of situations and local community events. We are very proud of the various charities that our Post 16 students choose and support every year, as their contributions are always significant.

“I left my old school for STAGS. I’m so glad I made the leap! Nice teachers, great lessons and I have made lots of friends too.”

Year 12 Student



“The students leave the school extremely well prepared for later life.”

Ofsted



Developing Confidence for Future Success

All students are encouraged to meet their full potential. We have outstanding support and advice to offer our students, from the highly effective Post 16 team.

We work closely with Universities, Apprenticeship and Careers providers and maintain our strong local and national links with a variety of businesses to ensure access to a range of advice and experiences throughout the year. We encourage students to volunteer in their spare time and fully participate in work experience opportunities. We believe that it is vital to educate young people about the challenges and expectations of employment today in an innovative and rapidly changing global economy.

Our Careers/Higher Education week is an enjoyable and exciting educational journey through the various options open to students. All avenues are explored: university graduates visit the school;

entrepreneurs and professionals offer their advice; businesses offering apprenticeships visit us, and volunteers and travel experts explain the nature of these other options too. Students visit a UCAS fair to learn about the University system, which is followed by a day focused solely on university application and writing personal statements if this is the chosen pathway. A parents' information forum provides a valuable insight into the university experience.

We offer targeted, specialist support and guidance for students applying to study medicine, dentistry, vet science, law and for those applying to Oxford or Cambridge, as the application process is different to other courses. Specialist colleagues and external experts meet students and help with their applications, prepare them for interview and offer support and advice as needed.

Life as a STAGS student is varied, stimulating and utterly unforgettable. Consequently, we have a thriving Alumni which meets regularly to share fond memories, network and support the school, also ensuring a ready supply of guest speakers.

“Careers / Higher Education week really helped me. Not only did I decide what I wanted to do, but I understood how to get there.” Year 13 student, Alumni



Joining Us

We welcome applications from both internal and external students to join our mixed Sixth Form.

Students already attending STAGS are interviewed to discuss their Sixth Form options as part of their Year 11 progress monitoring. We also encourage students unfamiliar with STAGS to visit to explore our facilities and discuss their course choices.

If you wish to join STAGS Sixth Form, please complete an application form, available on the website or from the Sixth Form Team. Successful applicants will be offered places conditional upon GCSE results. Applicants are invited to Induction Days in June to speak to their subject teachers, collect summer tasks and to meet other students. After examination results are published, final course choices are confirmed at enrolment day.

We welcome visits to our school throughout the year, in advance of applications to our Sixth Form from October. Please feel free to contact us and arrange a visit; we are always proud to show our Post 16 learning community in action.

“The sixth form is outstanding.”

Ofsted



St Albans Girls' School

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