



weekly news

Stagslink



From the Head Teacher

Dear Parents/Carers

As we move into December, a reminder please of safety to and from school. We speak to the students about road safety and awareness of surroundings especially with shorter days, if headphones are used, then it is in one ear only and eyes front not down on phones the whole of the time, as well as going to and from school with a group of students as far as possible! We have had one near miss this year where a student walked across the road with eyes glued to the phone - thankfully the car braked in time to avert a collision. A reminder please that coats, scarfs etc are ideal for inclement weather but hoodies are not acceptable.

Congratulations to the PE department who were nominated for an award at the Hertfordshire Service to Sports Awards, which is an Award broadened to every sector involved in sports, not just schools. We achieved third place, which is a superb outcome and demonstrates the variety of sports in which students can so actively participate at STAGS.

Also Miss Cripps took the junior cross country team to Sevenoaks, qualifying for the National Finals. Congratulations to Antonia Jubb, Sara Laitner, Orla Foley, Eve Gamsby, Georgia Pritchard and Annabel Hedge.

You may have read in the news this week that Ofqual has identified a breach of the GCSE computing assessment and so undertaking a national review to gain responses about how to proceed. Examples of the assessment to be used for the examination, have been posted online! It is likely that any school based assessment will not count towards the final examination, but the skills required for the internal assessment will need to be evidenced to prove that the students are competent and proficient. For those taking Computer Science, we will update you when we received more information.



Congratulations to Miss Miles who attended the House of Lords last week in a ceremony to mark her role as a National Subject Leader for WW1. She has been offered the opportunity to go to the Battlefields and install the Belgian equivalent of the Tower of London Poppies art installation 'Coming World Remember me'. There is also the opportunity to take a number of students to support this venture.

Students are gathering themselves for the Christmas fair alongside many other enjoyable activities which make the school the community which enables all of our young people to develop and flourish.

Your support for all of these events is hugely appreciated.

With all good wishes.

Margaret Chapman

1 December

EVENTS NEXT WEEK

Monday 4 December

GCSE and A Level mock exams continue

Tuesday 5 December

Student Voice - 1.05pm

Wednesday 6 December

Anti-Bullying Concert - 1.15pm, Main Hall

Thursday 7 December

GLP Network Twilight - 4.00pm, Innovation Centre

Friday 8 December

Sixth Form lecture - 11.00am, St Albans High School

GCSE and A Level mock exams end

Sunday 10 December

Winter Fair - 12.00pm to 3.00pm

UPCOMING EVENTS

Monday 11 December

Post 16 Applications deadline

Wednesday 13 December

Christmas lunch

Christmas Jumper Day

Please park in the tennis courts through the blue gates for all evening events

STAGS Achieve Impressive Success in English Schools' Cross Country Cup Final



On Saturday 25th November, STAGS Junior Cross Country Team travelled to Sevenoaks School to take part in the English Schools' Cross Country Cup Final. After qualifying as one of the top 28 teams from across the country, STAGS team now faced a tough 2.3k course.

Nervous and excited competitors, Year 8 students: Antonia Jubb, Sara Laitner, Orla Foley, Georgia Pritchard, Eve Gamsby and Year 7 student Annabel Hedge waited anxiously in their starting pen for the final race of the season to begin. After a tense start amongst approximately 170 runners, STAGS were off!

Throughout the entire race, the dedicated Junior Team supported and helped each other to succeed with fantastic results. In the end, despite a very hilly woodland course and biting cold wintry conditions, STAGS team came in a very respectable 13th overall in the country! The STAGS team also had four high scoring runners who were all in the top 90! A special mention must also be given to the impressive performance given by Antonia Jubb who came in 11th place overall out of the 170 competitors!

Well done to all the girls who took part and for their spectacular finish to what has been a great season overall for STAGS Cross Country.

Miss Cripps, Director of Learning for Post 16

Under 14 Basketball Tournament



On Wednesday 22nd November the STAGS Basketball Team had the opportunity to go to Oaklands College to participate in a U14's Basketball Tournament. Despite the fact that the Year 8s were against Year 9s, they still played tremendously well. With their positive attitude, they won two games, drew one game and lost three.

Everyone was really happy with this result and the work they put in paid off in the end. Thank you very much to Mr Barrett for training us and coaching us throughout the matches. Well done to everyone who took part!

*By Millicent Drury 8F and
Ebony Spinks 8F*

Word of the Week

Every week we promote the use of an unusual word across the school.

This week's word is:

Sycophantic

Definition:

(of a person or of behaviour) praising people in authority in a way that is not sincere, usually in order to get some advantage from them

Try to use it as much as possible this week!

English Department



MP Anne Main Encourages Students to Engage and Explore Politics for UK Parliament Week



On Friday 17th November Conservative MP Anne Main came to visit STAGS as part of the UK Parliament Week Campaign. She talked to students across all years about managing the responsibilities of being an MP and answered questions on the benefits of engaging in Politics.

Year 12 politics student and former MYP candidate, Lilian Ahmed asked Anne 'What it was like to be a woman working in Parliament at the present time'? Anne explained that there was now more women in Parliament than when she was first elected in 2005 and she stressed the need to have more women in Government, especially at local level. This was a particularly appropriate response as on the day of the visit it was announced that for the first time in 669 years of Parliamentary history, the first female, Sarah Clarke, been appointed by the Queen to take up the role of Black Rod in the House of Commons. She will take up her post early next year and will be formally known as Lady Usher of the Black Rod.

Many thanks to Mrs Tolley, Curriculum Leader for Politics, for arranging such an informative visit.

For more information please visit:

www.edf.org.uk/uk-parliament-week-campaign-13-19-november-2017/

Year 12 Students Experience a Very Classical Day at The British Museum



On Thursday 9th November Year 12 Classical Civilisations A-level students went to the British Museum to enjoy a study day. Hannah Fox gives us her account of the day:

The day was a mixture of lecture-style talks and tours of certain areas of the museum specifically chosen to complement the A-level syllabus . The day started with a lecture from Lesley Fitton on Homer at the British Museum, who spoke to us about how we should explore Homer in his historical context. In addition to this, she also directed us towards what items of historical interest they have in the museum itself. For example, different types of Bronze Age weapons. This did help to shed some light on the elusive figure of Homer and the historical context of the Iliad and Odyssey.

Prior to lunch, we heard the first of two inspiring gallery talks which covered Greek theatre and women and relationships in Rome. During these talks, we were actually in the gallery observing amazing artefacts, such as vases, masks and busts. This helped us to gain a deeper understanding of the contextual knowledge of each object.

After lunch, we had another lecture, this time on Aurea Saecula: the rise of Aeneas-Augustus by Thorsten Opper. He excellently engaged us in the story of Octavius's political career and life. After that, we had our final gallery talk of the day, which was my personal highlight. This involved taking a closer look at the objects Lecturer Lesley Fitton had showed us earlier. Lecturer Andrew Shapland then gave us a more analytical insight into Homer. This was the best part of the day for me because the Iliad is what we had studied recently during class.

The day was then rounded off with a final lecture-style talk from a group of archaeology students in their third or fourth year at King's college London and University College London. They gave us valuable information about the benefits of studying classics and related subjects at degree level. Overall, it was an inspiring, interesting day which sparked new questions and lead us to consider how we approach the fascinating subject of classics. Many thanks to Classics Head Teacher Mrs Roston for taking us and the British Museum for organising such a thought provoking day.

Hannah Fox, Year 12

STAGS Rotary Interact Club Proudly Reflects On a Glorious Year



On Wednesday 18th October, Mrs Chapman warmly welcomed all the parents, staff and Rotarians to the second STAGS Rotary Interact AGM held in the main hall. At the beginning of the evening, Rotary members made a presentation to show the recent activities of the club and to highlight their fund raising success. Members of the audience were most impressed by the fact that the club had raised in excess of £3,000 over the last 12 months. This year's beneficiaries included:

Three international charities: Red Rubber Ball, Action Aid and Unicef school-in-a-box, three local charities: PHAB, Open Door and Keech Hospice and the Rotary charity fighting to eradicate polio, as well as a huge contribution to the STAGS Dance Studio for school. Much needed funds were raised by running many varied and fun events/activities such as: selling cookies; cakes; Easter eggs, tea and scones; holding discos and movie nights; auctioning Wallace and Gromit statues; collecting shoeboxes; designing Christmas cards; organising a winter fair stall; running a Polio campaign and so much more!

During the AGM, Vice President Year 11 Munthaha Ahmed gave an inspiring talk during which she reflected back over the last twelve months of being a Rotarian. She was happy to share her poignant thoughts and memories with the audience who were eager to listen to her learning journey. She said: 'However, although a shared ambition for the club, it is not ALL about raising as much money as possible for charity. I speak on behalf of the rest of the club when I say that Interact Club has taught us many invaluable skills that we may not have otherwise had the opportunity to develop. For example, taking on responsibility, leadership, working as a member of team, time management, forward planning, dealing with money and project management skills. We learn these when we organise events, and efficiently pull everything together'.

'Personally, Interact club has really boosted my confidence as I can now talk in front of large groups of people without any problem and I can also confidently speak to contacts outside of school. The club has become a community bringing girls together from all year groups with a shared interest and we have made great memories over the past 12 months. For example, the hours spent in rooms filled with cellophane, ribbons and all things shiny wrapping our cookies and Easter eggs and also helping at the fabulous fireworks display in Verulam Park'. She went on to say 'Together we've had a very successful year and have had a great time whilst we were at it. A recognition of our success is the recent award of the Herts Advertiser Charity Champions Award, of which we are extremely proud, and the Rotary International Citation we received for our charitable work'.

STAGS community would like to thank Rotary President Aaliyah Jalil in Year 11, the Interact members and all their families for their continual support. We also formally acknowledge the dedication and constant commitment that comes from Rotary Youth mentors Lavinia Hale, Ken Scott and STAGS Maths Teacher Mrs Rock who give so generously of their own time to make sure everything is a great success throughout the year.

We look forward to another successful 12 months working with an ever growing number of members who wish to be part of the fantastic STAGS Rotary Interact club experience. Well done Ladies!

If you would like to become a new member of STAGS Rotary Club please contact Mrs Rock.

Lost Property

We have a large collection of keys, water bottles, lunch boxes and glasses in Lost Property as well as several pencil cases, umbrellas and items of clothing including coats. Please encourage your daughters/sons to ask at Student Reception if they have lost anything. Lost Property will be on display in Student Reception at lunchtime on Wednesday 6th December. At the end of term, all items will be either used in school; disposed of; or given to charity. All named items are automatically returned to students.



Mr Bowyer Inspires Next Generation of Scientists on Radio Verulam 92.6FM



On the evening of Thursday 23rd November, STAGS Science Teacher Mr Bowyer was invited to Radio Verulam 92.6FM as part of a Science special on the Parents' Show. He gives us his account of his experience:

The presenters Dr Kathy Weston and Lydia El-Khoury were very friendly and put me at ease straight away. We started discussing how to inspire children of all ages to explore and enjoy science. The show began with a Science lecturer from the University of Hertfordshire. This was followed by a primary school student who had a clear passion for Science and then it was my turn. I explained how we capture the imagination of students in Science Club at STAGS, mainly by doing exciting experiments which allow them to have fun whilst learning new things along the way. I also offered ideas on what extra-curricular activities parents can do with their children to get them interested in Science. It was a rewarding experience and I enjoyed exploring this method of promoting Science at the School

Mr Bowyer
Science Teacher

STAGS Community Raises £706.75 for Guide Dogs for the Blind



STAGS warmly welcomed The Guide Dog for the Blind Association every lunch time from Monday 20th November – Thursday 23rd. The Charity visits us each year to raise awareness of the wonderful work that it does in training young puppies to help the visually impaired to become more independent.

The association set up a stall and sold good quality, dog themed merchandise at pocket money prices. They also arranged to bring in two dogs each day with their owners. The aim of this was to encourage the girls to engage in discussion about the life and purpose of a working guide dog.

With your generosity, we are delighted to report that by selling merchandise, running a tombola stall and your kind donations STAGS community raised the fantastic sum of £706.75!

On behalf of the school, we would like to say thank you to main organiser Jackie Day and her helpers namely Maggie, Fiona, and Edith. In addition, we also thank the puppy walkers, guide dog owners for coming to STAGS and the dogs themselves for being so well behaved, namely: Ele, Bramble, Malty, Lula, Arthur, Lula, Yosie and Colin.

For more information on the association and how to sponsor a guide dog puppy go to :

<http://www.guidedogs.org.uk/>



GRAMMAR GURU

GRAMMAR TIP OF THE WEEK

bought or brought?

BOUGHT IS THE PAST TENSE OF THE VERB 'BUY'.

BROUGHT IS THE PAST TENSE OF THE VERB 'BRING'.

*I **bought** my mum a wonderful birthday gift.
Jane **bought** the latest iPhone for a bargain!*



*Katy **brought** a huge cake to the party.
Emily **brought** the wrong folder to school.*



Remember the difference!

CAROL SERVICE 2017

Friday 15 December is the date of our annual Carol Service in the Abbey. The Carol Service will take place in the afternoon and it is expected to finish at about 3.20pm. All students will be dismissed from the Abbey after the service.

Many girls come to school on school buses and arrangements have been made for these buses as follows:

All girls are reminded that they should make their way **quickly** to the various pick-up points and should aim to arrive by 3.30pm to enable coaches to leave by 3.40pm. The coaches have timetables to adhere to and cannot wait for latecomers.

- **Greenwood/Borehamwood Parents' Association**
- coach will leave from Westminster Lodge
- **Welham Travel coaches to Wheathampstead**
- coach will leave from Westminster Lodge
- Girls who use the **84** or **84A** bus will need to pick this up in the town centre

The Carol Service is an important school occasion and all girls are expected to attend. However, I do appreciate that there are a few families who would prefer their daughters/sons not to attend for religious reasons.

Year 7 form teachers have asked their students to obtain a letter from their parents/carers if the family wish their daughter to be excused.

In any other year group, if parents/carers have previously written to the school asking for their daughter/son to be excused there is no need to write in again.

For those girls who are excused, there will be a diversity event in school for the afternoon with alternative activities. These girls will be dismissed from school at 3.20pm.

It is not possible for us to make additional transport arrangements at that time for this small group of students and parents are asked to take responsibility for their daughters from 3.20pm.

Unfortunately, owing to space we cannot invite **ALL** parents to the service. The only parents invited will be those whose daughters are in the choir or who are reading at the service.

PLEASE ENSURE CORRECT SCHOOL UNIFORM IS WORN AND STUDENTS HAVE AN OUTDOOR COAT WITH THEM.

Mr Phil O'Neill
Business Manager



St Albans Girls' School

Learning for Life in a Community where All can Excel

November 2017



To whom it may concern,

Senior Citizens' Christmas Party: Thursday 14 December 2017, 2.30pm – 4.00pm

I am writing on behalf of St Albans Girls' School to inform you of a festive event we are holding and would love you to attend. On Thursday 14 December we are hosting a Senior Citizens' Christmas party for the local community. It will be an afternoon of music, performances, competitions and a special guest organised by the Sixth Form students. There will also be a cream tea and buffet to get you in the mood for the festive season. It will start at 2.30pm and continue until 4.00pm.

If any of our students have grandparents or great grandparents who would be interested in coming to this free event please contact St Albans Girls' School on 01727 853134. Alternatively, complete and return the slip below to Miss Cripps by Friday 1 December. To avoid disappointment, reserve places as soon as possible!

Yours sincerely

Miss Cripps
Director of Learning Post 16

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Senior Citizens' Christmas Party: Thursday 14 December 2017, 2.30pm – 4.00pm

I / We would like to attend on the Senior Citizens' Christmas Party on Thursday 14 December.

Student: Form:

Contact number:

Number of senior citizens:

Special requirements (allergies, wheelchair access):

.....
.....
.....

Signed: (Parent/Carer) Date:

Please return to Miss Cripps, St Albans Girls' School by Friday 1 December 2017.



STAGS WINTER FAIR RAFFLE

YOUR CHANCE TO WIN SOME AMAZING PRIZES

**2X ED SHEERAN TICKETS
FOR SUMMER 2018**

DONATED BY ANON PARENT



**2 EUROSTAR RETURN TICKETS
TO LILLE, PARIS OR BRUSSELS
AT A DATE OF YOUR CHOICE**

DONATED BY RICHARD DUNNE



40" WIDE SCREEN TV

DONATED BY CHRIS DONNELL



£100 JOHN LEWIS VOUCHER

DONATED BY COLLECT+

OTHER AMAZING PRIZES

CERIMONIA - £130 EQUIV BESPOKE TAILORED TSHIRT

£25 NEW LOOK GIFT VOUCHER

KIDDIES TRYKE BIKE

RIVERFORD ORGANICS VEG BOX!

AND MANY MORE

WE WOULD LIKE TO TAKE THIS OPPORTUNITY TO THANK ALL OUR CONTRIBUTORS AND APOLOGISE IF WE DID NOT MENTION YOU ALL.



STAGS Christmas Lunch 2017

Wednesday 13th December

*Traditional Two course Christmas lunch
or a Vegetarian option
including cracker & a drink*

£ 3.15 for students

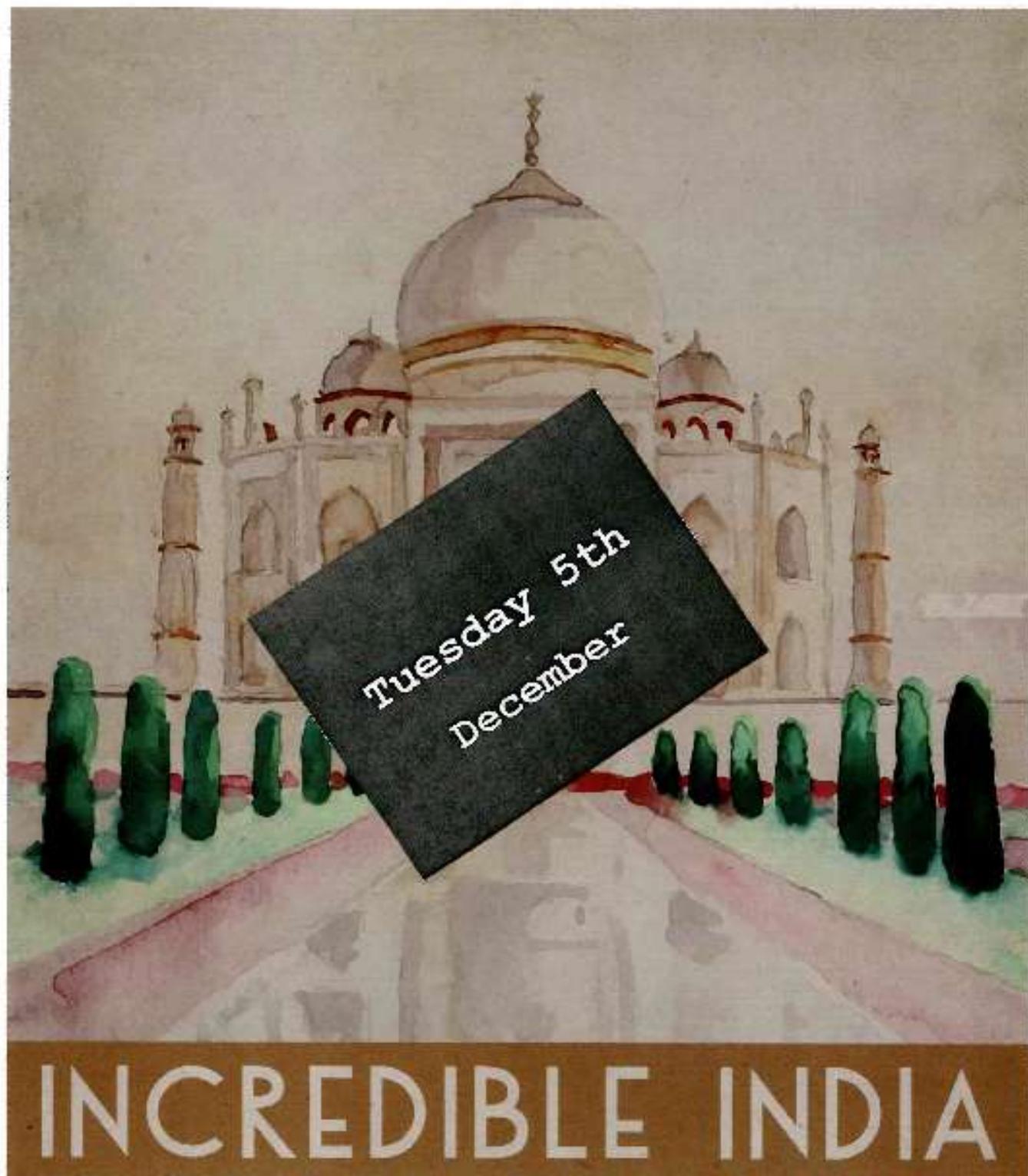
£ 3.80 for staff



Tickets now available

*Tickets can be purchased
in the Restaurant & Café Aspens*





Tuesday 5th
December

INCREDIBLE INDIA

Take your taste buds on a journey with our great Indian recipes.

Aspens



www.aspens-service.co.uk



St Albans Girls' School

Specialist Business and Enterprise Academy

FINANCE OFFICER

Salary: £17,403-£20,958 per annum*

37 hours per week

Term time, plus three weeks

We require a Finance Officer to support the Finance Manager and our busy finance team.

The successful candidate must be computer literate, numerate, methodical and able to take responsibility for the management of the purchase ledger, assist the Payroll Officer and maintain accurate records. You will need to be flexible and able to work to deadlines. Previous experience of using FMS would be an advantage, however training will be provided.

There is a Health Care cash plan available to all staff.

St Albans Girls' School, age range 11 – 18 is an Outstanding school (Ofsted February 2013) with over 1250 students. We are a highly regarded, oversubscribed and friendly all-ability school. GCSE results place us in the top 100 secondary schools in the country and the top 2% nationally for student progress.

The school has an excellent reputation within the local community with strong support from Governors, Parents, Students and a dedicated and highly motivated team of staff.

For further details and an application form please visit www.stags.herts.sch.uk

Completed application forms and a covering letter should be sent to: personnel@stags.herts.sch.uk

Closing date: Friday 8 December 2017, 9.00am

Interviews to be held: Wednesday 13 December 2017

Please apply early, as the post may be retracted if a suitable candidate found.

Mrs Liz Kilborn – HR & Personnel Manager on 01727 853134.

St Albans Girls' School is an Academy Trust. We are committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children and young people and expects all staff and volunteers to share this commitment. This post is subject to an enhanced DBS check.

*payscale is dependent upon experience.



St Albans Girls' School

Specialist Business and Enterprise Academy

LEARNING SUPERVISOR

37 hours per week (term time only)

Actual Salary: £14,758 per annum

(8.00am – 4.00pm 4 days p/w; 8:00am-3:30pm 1 day)

We require an individual to provide learner support and supervision to whole classes and groups during short-term absence of the class teacher. This role requires a confident individual with good communication skills along with the ability to manage and maintain discipline with a positive approach. You may also be asked to provide in-class support, assist with administration and exam invigilation.

Applicants require a good level of competence in basic skills (Maths and English GCSE, Grade C and above or equivalent).

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There is a Health Care cash plan available to all staff.

For further details and an application form please visit www.stags.herts.sch.uk or www.teachinherts.com

Completed application forms and a covering letter should be sent to: personnel@stags.herts.sch.uk

Closing date for receipt of applications: Thursday 14 December 2017, 9:00am

Interviews to take place: Monday 18 December 2017

We welcome visits from potential applicants.

Mrs Liz Kilborn – HR & Personnel Manager on 01727 853134.

St Albans Girls' School is an Academy Trust. We are committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children and young people and expects all staff and volunteers to share this commitment. This post is subject to an enhanced DBS check.