



weekly news

# Stagslink



## From the Head Teacher

Dear Parents/Carers

Students in all year groups have participated in the Amnesty International Write for Rights Campaign. Hannah Simmons Hovorka in Year 12 has organised the raising awareness of the plight Annie in Malawi who has albinism. I have read every letter that has been written by over 800 of our students and they are quite exceptional and deeply moving. Hannah is going to take the letters, all anonymised, to the Amnesty Headquarters in London – her dedication and commitment and the enthusiasm for the students to raise awareness of injustice and discrimination has been remarkable.

On Tuesday evening we held our PTA AGM. The superb commitment to the school is evident from all members of the PTA, admirably chaired by Tim Lowe. The team would be delighted to welcome any additional parents to join and bring new ideas for fund raising and activities. Thanks to your donations, we have now received a huge **£70,000** towards the cost of the multi-purpose Dance Studio. Further information about the impact of educational funding changes will be the topic of Stagslink after half term.

It was a great pleasure to see so many parents/carers at the Year 11 Parents' Evening on Wednesday evening, with 92% attendance overall and a number of forms with 100% attendance. All students have a clear pathway for future success and guidance about how to achieve in the summer and beyond. The time for targeted revision is now.

Last night was a resounding success as we hosted another superb Careers Evening entitled Careers In Hertfordshire, in conjunction with Hertfordshire Chamber of Commerce. This event showcased for all students the opportunities for employment within Hertfordshire and included representatives from local businesses, Finance, Law, The Armed Forces and many more. My thanks go to Mrs Nawathe who organised the whole event, supported by Miss McHugh and a team of helpers on the night.

Safer Internet Day was this week and a reminder that if you have any queries in relation to the internet access or online safety, visit the CEOP website or follow on Twitter or Facebook - [@CEOPUK](#) (Twitter) or [ClickCEOP](#) (Facebook).

Congratulations to the Science department, led by Mr Zarrouq as Curriculum Leader for Physics – who successfully bid for the Space Education Quality Mark.

The assessor commented that 'This school obviously has a passion to develop this area of learning for their students'. We look forward to continuing with developing STEM subjects across the curriculum and developing careers access arrangements.

Congratulations to all the runners who represented STAGS at the County Cross Country Championships last Saturday. Special mentions to Keira Stern (1st place) Jess Laitner (4th place), Antonia Jubb (2nd place) and Sara Laitner (10th place) who have all made the National Squad.

The inter and senior swimming teams made the finals at Queen Elizabeth Boys School this week and were one of only two non-private schools to reach this level of competition.

The Year 7 and 8 football teams came 3rd and the Year 9 football team came 2nd in the Level 2 school games football tournaments this week.

Wishing you all a very enjoyable half term break.

*Margaret Chapman*

**10 February 2017**

## UPCOMING EVENTS

### Friday 10 February

Ski trip departs - returning  
Saturday 18 February

## HALF TERM

### Monday 13 February - Friday 17 February

### Monday 20 February

Get Fit Week

Further Additional Science ISA's  
this week (catch-up)

Year 11 Progression meetings

### Tuesday 21 February

First Give Competition, School  
Final - 7.00pm to 9.00pm

### Wednesday 22 February

Year 13 Theatre trip - 7.00pm

### Thursday 23 February

Year 13 Ace Your Exams  
seminar, Main Hall  
(1.50pm to 3.20pm)

### Year 9 Information Evening, Main Hall - 7.00pm

### Friday 24 February

D of E Norway training  
weekend

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

## Word of the Week

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



This week's word is:

### Aggregate

**Definition:**

*An item or group formed by combining several separate elements.*



Try to use it as much as possible this week!

**Mr Kershaw**  
**Assistant Head KS4**

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## Free School Meals

Your child could get a free school meal if you receive any of the following:

- **Income Support**
- **Income-based Jobseekers Allowance**
- **Income-related Employment and Support Allowance**
- **Support under Part VI of the Immigration and Asylum Act 1999**
- **The guaranteed element of State Pension Credit**
- **Child Tax Credit** (as long as you're not also entitled to Working Tax Credit and you don't get more than £16,190 a year)
- **Working Tax Credit run-on** (paid for 4 weeks after you stop qualifying for Working Tax Credit)
- **Universal Credit**

Apply today if you receive any of these benefits. It takes five minutes and, in most cases, they can tell you straightaway if your child can get free meals at school.

Just Google 'free school meals Hertfordshire' and scroll down to the pink button labelled, **Apply for free school meals (Year 3 and older)**

If you have any queries please do not hesitate to contact me.

**Mrs Newman, Deputy Head**  
[menmaths@stags.herts.sch.uk](mailto:menmaths@stags.herts.sch.uk)

## First Give Programme - The School Final

**Tuesday 21 February, 7.00pm – 9.00pm**

During PSHCE/Citizenship lessons, students have been taking part in the First Give Programme, in which they have been thinking about social issues in our area and learning about the charities that work to address them. The Year 9 students have then gone out into the communities to meet these charities and have put together inspirational presentations in which they champion a particular charity and the work they do.

These presentations have been judged in classes and the winning teams will be competing in a School Final for up to £1,000 for their chosen charity. The School Final will also be an opportunity for the students, school and wider community to celebrate all the hard work that the students have done over the last few weeks. It will be a very special occasion and we would be so pleased if you could come to share the experience.

If you have any questions regarding The School Final or the First Give Programme then please do contact us via either of our e-mails (see below).

If you wish to attend **please e-mail us by the end of half term (Friday 17 February)** indicating the number of people attending.

**Mrs Wheatley, PSHCE Curriculum Leader** -  
[perw@stags.herts.sch.uk](mailto:perw@stags.herts.sch.uk)  
**Mrs Fox, PSHCE Teacher**  
- [pshemf@stags.herts.sch.uk](mailto:pshemf@stags.herts.sch.uk)



## Author Camilla Chester Wows STAGS Rotary Interact Club With Her Words

Children's author Camilla Chester visited STAGS Rotary Interact group on Wednesday 1 February as part of the Rotarians National Centenary Celebrations. Along with other local celebrities around the UK, Camilla was asked to make her own artistic statement, by decorating a model figure of Gromit which she kindly donated to the club. In May 2017 all specially decorated Gromits and Shaun the Sheep models will be sold at auction on line to raise money for a children's home in Bristol .

Camilla's model of the famous dog delighted members of the STAGS Rotary Club. They were very happy to introduce him to their own Gromit which they recently decorated with club members coloured finger prints. The author said, "I chose to decorate my Gromit by covering him in 'wow' words that jumped out at me from the pages of my latest book. Jarred dreams." She went on to say, "He has become like a member of the family, I shall miss him."

Camilla's debut novel entitled 'Jarred Dreams' was shortlisted in the 2015 for the NLT new authors prize. Her

second book 'EATS' will be published later this spring. A third book is also planned for 2018 entitled 'Thirteenth wish'.

STAGS community would like to sincerely thank Camilla for coming to help our Rotary Interact Club and support this worthy charitable cause. We very much look forward to her return visit which will be on Monday 27 February at the start of World Book Week.

The entertaining stages of the crafty process in which Camilla documents the decorating of her celebrity Gromit is covered in her blogspot and it mentions STAGS - <http://www.camillachester.com/blog>

For more information on Rotary celebrations please go to: [http://rotary1260conference.org.uk/shaun\\_gromit.html](http://rotary1260conference.org.uk/shaun_gromit.html)

For more information on the children's appeal please visit: [www.grandappeal.org.uk/](http://www.grandappeal.org.uk/)

**Mrs Johnson Smith, PR & Marketing Co-ordinator**

## Year 10 Student Becomes Captain of St Albans U16 Hockey



Congratulations to Year 10 student Hannah Rossi who has recently been appointed Junior Captain of her U16 hockey club at Oaklands College. This dedicated athlete developed a passion for hockey three years ago and plays at least four times a week. In addition to this she enjoys coaching the St Albans U12 hockey team on a Sunday morning, which she finds extremely rewarding.

Hannah is seen in the picture above with incredible GB hockey player Dr Hannah McLeod MBE, who won an Olympic Bronze medal in 2012 and a Gold medal in 2016. Dedicated and talented student, Hannah Rossi, said 'I have seen her a number of times at the club. She comes to train and watch the matches. Its really exciting and inspiring to see her there.'

Well done Hannah! STAGS Community is very proud of your achievement and we wish you every continued success in the future as Captain of the St Albans U16.

**Mrs Johnson Smith, PR & Marketing Co-ordinator**

## Dragons Team Elite Become Focus of BBC 3 Counties 'Treasure Quest'

Early on Saturday 28 January members of Dragons apprentice team 'Elite' were serving coffee and cake in Cornelia's café at St Nicholas Church in Harpenden when, a roving BBC radio reporter appeared and put team leader Sarah Hill firmly on the spot! The researcher had seen the team's advert on the Hertfordshire 'what's on' page and had tracked down the team to see if they would like to be on the JVS show. Sarah was quick to accept this golden opportunity to promote the event.

Year 12 student Sarah gives us her exciting account of this amazing media journey with BBC 3 Counties Radio:

*"The story began on 21 January when I was on BBC 3 Counties Radio playing the '30 second challenge'. I was given just 30 seconds to promote our event. This was very tricky and quite nerve wracking. However, I did plan it all out before hand and even managed to finish with 4 seconds to spare!*

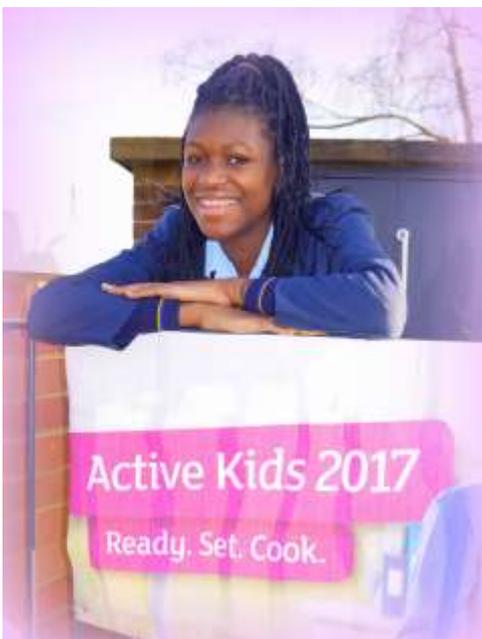
*Then, on 28 January BBC 3 Counties Radio came to interview us at Cornelia's Cafe. They were running the part of the JVS show known as the 'treasure quest'. This is when the public are given four clues and three hours to find the hidden treasure in Beds, Herts and Bucks. When the reporter arrived I was very nervous. He handed over his head set to me and asked me to say hello to BBC 3 presenter Johnathon Vernon-Smith who was live on air back in the studio. I managed to stay calm and give him clear answers to the questions he asked about our event. It was all very exciting, my voice was a bit shaky, but I think it sounded alright in the end."*



Congratulations to all members of Team Elite namely, Year 12 students Eleanor Bogush, Alex Brown, Hafsa Khan, Zahrah Khodadin, Hannah Sears-Black, Sarah Hill, Libby Blencowe who have successfully raised over £500 from their fund raising events for Rennie Grove Hospice. This includes the famous coffee mornings in January, a fashion show, several confectionary sales and running a henna painting stall during lunch times at school! Well done ladies!

**Mrs Johnson Smith, PR & Marketing Co-ordinator**  
**Sarah Hill, Year 12**

## STAGS Would Love to Receive Your Sainsbury's Active Kids Vouchers!



Please help STAGS by collecting Sainsbury's Active Kids Vouchers if you can. Sainsbury's shoppers will receive one voucher for every £5 spent in a smaller local Sainsbury's outlet. If you spend at the larger super market or on-line you get one voucher for every £10 you spend.

In 2016 both STAGS PE and Food department directly benefited financially from the vouchers you collected for us. With the extra money the PE Department purchased new badminton rackets and basket balls and the Food Department bought new mixing bowls and graters.

Please do encourage all your family to help us collect as many as possible and pop them in our collection box which is located at Student Reception. We would be very grateful.

Thanks for your help!

**Mrs Johnson Smith, PR & Marketing Co-ordinator**

For more information please visit: <https://activekids.sainsburys.co.uk/>  
or email at: [consumer.services@sainsburysactivekids.co.uk](mailto:consumer.services@sainsburysactivekids.co.uk) or call 0800 276 1111

## Catering Assistant

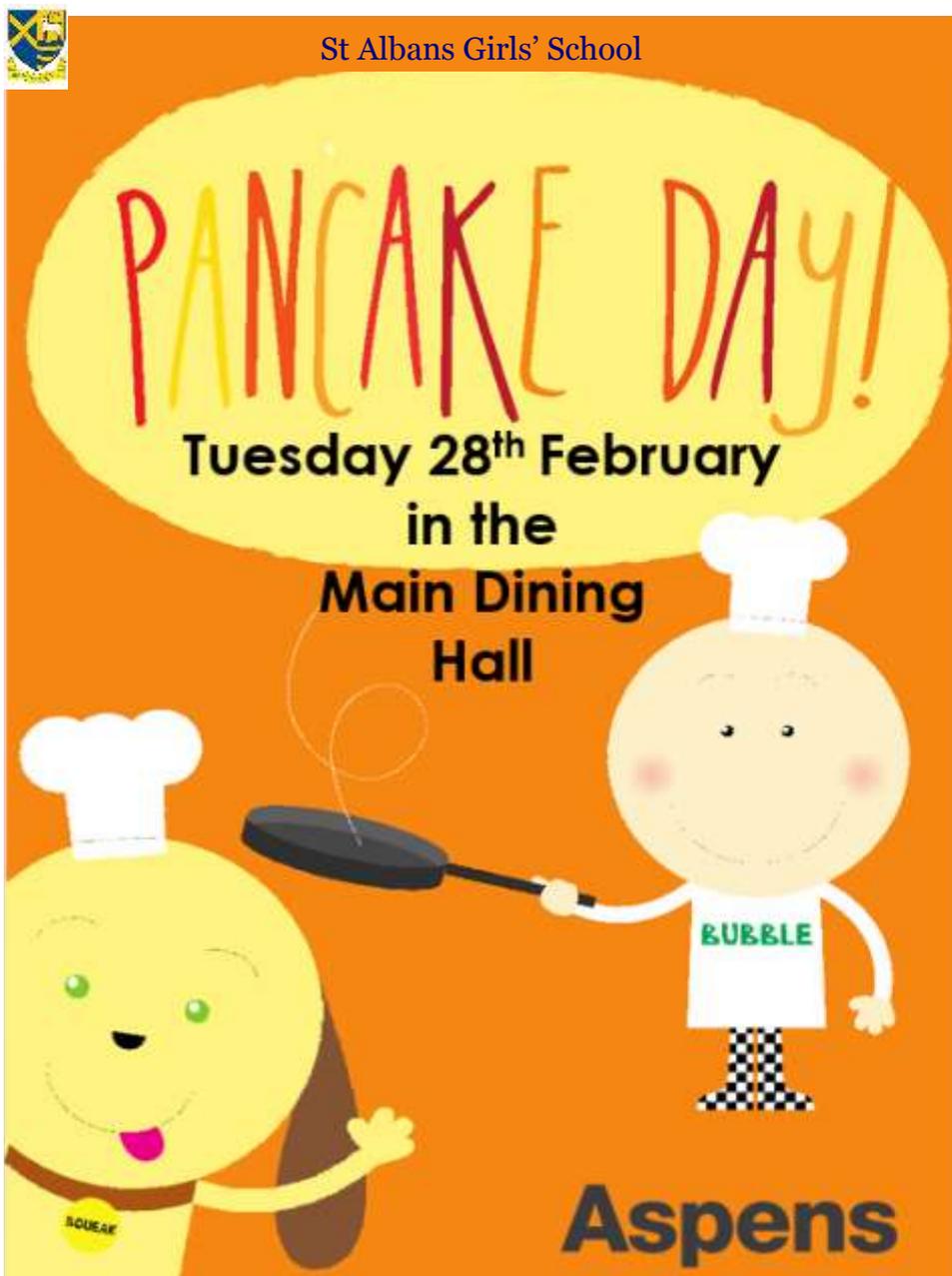
We currently have a vacancy to join our small friendly team for the position of a Catering Assistant to work with Aspens Services here at STAGS. The role advertised is to be responsible for the Grab & Go offer at two service times each day.

The position requires the candidate to have good customer service and organisation skills, with an ability to work independently in a calm, mature and professional manner. This role also requires assistance in the main dining hall with various daily tasks.

In return we are offering 10.30am – 2.30pm (4 hours daily) Monday to Friday during school terms.

Appointment is subject to an enhanced certificate from the DBS.

To apply please contact Aspens Services at STAGS ext 9271 or via e-mail to [Stags@Aspens-Services.com](mailto:Stags@Aspens-Services.com)





**Do your kids like to swim, bike and run?**

## **Triathlon After School Club**

**Where? STAGS**

**When? Wednesdays, 3:30-4:30pm**

**Cost: £4/session for the term or £6 for drop ins**



*Coaching by Aloha Tri ([www.alohatri.com](http://www.alohatri.com))*

Starting after Half Term



# Families in Focus CIC

## *Handling Anger in Your Family for parents caring for children with Autism and/or ADHD*

Proven anger management techniques for *all* the family



This very popular & award winning course offers:

- Understanding of triggers
- Healthy Anger Management strategies for *parents* and *children*
- Calming Techniques
- Creative ways to support children to 'let go' of anger safely
- Effective ways to become a Calm and Assertive Parent
- and much, much more ...

*"Understanding more about why my child with Autism and I get angry and then learning what we can both do to reduce our anger has made such a huge, positive difference to our relationship."*

Fully funded places available by DSPL 7 so FREE for parents caring for children under 11 years old with Autism and/or ADHD and living in DSPL7 areas of St Albans, Harpenden & Villages

Where:

**St Albans Girls' School,  
Sandridgebury Lane  
St Albans  
Hertfordshire  
AL3 6DB**

When:

**Tuesdays  
from 6.45pm to 8.45pm**

**April 25th,**

**May 2nd, 9th, 16th, 23rd.**

**DSPL** | Delivering Special  
Provision Locally  
*Achieving quality outcomes*



Families In Focus CIC

Places are limited and must be booked by contacting  
Lesley & Francine:

Email [info@familiesinfofocus.co.uk](mailto:info@familiesinfofocus.co.uk)

Phone and leave a message: 01442 219720