



weekly news

Stagslink



From the Head Teacher

Dear Parents/Carers

It was a great pleasure to welcome so many parents and students at our Post 16 Information Evening on Wednesday, with over 80% attendance from our own students and at least 30 external applicants welcomed on the evening to view our facilities and sample our Post 16 subjects. The range of subjects available continues to contribute to the growing number of students in our Sixth Form – over 300 with Consortium students too – yet at the core is the sustained quality of our teaching and learning which has again been evident in the progress of performance of our students and continues to place us within the category of Outstanding provision.

I am very grateful to parents who have provided us with such positive feedback from the evening and urge you to contact us should you have any queries about subject provision, or if you wish to visit the school to sample additional A Level lessons.

As Remembrance Day falls on a Saturday this year, we held our usual two minutes silence today at 11am, as we honoured the fallen from the two World Wars and in all conflicts since this time. We have also held our usual Special assemblies this week, delivered by Miss Cardani, Curriculum Leader for History to all year groups as we commemorate those no longer with us due to war. The respect demonstrated by the whole STAGS community was immensely powerful and as the end of the two minutes silence rang, learning was resumed and we are reminded of the need to make the best possible opportunities of the here and now.

The consistent focus on attendance is to be commended with the current whole school total at 96.6% - Year 7 = 98.7%, Year 8 = 97.2%, Year 9 = 96.6%, Year 10 = 96.4%, Year 11 = 96.6% - Going Green in all form groups continues! When young people are in school they learn and flourish and I am grateful for your continued support in working together to ensure that attendance is such a high priority.

We are delighted to have received an invitation to the Hertfordshire Sports Awards as a result of the whole school service to sports.

We have just received an update of our admission applications for 2018/19, with total applications currently at 943 students, an increase again this year on total numbers and first and second preferences.

Don't forget to order the PTA Christmas and sponge puddings, order form attached.

I look forward to seeing you at the Form Tutor Review Day on Tuesday.

With all good wishes

Margaret Chapman

10 November

EVENTS NEXT WEEK

Monday 13 November

Anti-bullying Week

Children in Need Week

Senior Maths Challenge -
Year 12 and Year 13

GCSE mock orals French and
Spanish this week

DSPL7 SEND Information
Village - 10.00am to
12.00pm, Main Hall

Tuesday 14 November

Form Tutor Review Day

Ski Trip Information Evening
- 7.00pm, Main Hall

Wednesday 15 November

Promoting Reading in the
Digital Age - 08.45am to
2.00pm, Library

Year 13 Ace Your Exams -
1.50pm, Main Hall

Year 12/13 History trip -
3.30pm

Parent Voice - 7.00pm,
Main Hall

Thursday 16 November

Year 12 Film Studies Trip -
10.30am

Oxbridge Information
Evening - 7.00pm. Main Hall

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

Year 7 Netball vs Beaumont

This was our third Year 7 match this year and we played away at Beaumont. All of the girls played very well. STAGS made a great start winning the first quarter 2-1. We continued well in the second quarter pulling ahead to 6-2. However, Beaumont came fighting back in the third quarter scoring several goals. The final quarter both teams were evenly placed and the score was level until the last minute of the game when Beaumont shot the last goal to give them the win 10-9. It was a hard defeat as STAGS had led most of the match. It was a good team effort with some great attacking play by Thisbe and Sienna; great defence by Lola, Sophie and Pippa and goals from Georgia, Xanthe and Charlotte. Player of the match went to Charlotte Davies, 7S. Thank you to Mrs Pennock for giving up her time to take us to the game and umpire.

Charlotte Davies 7S

Word of the Week

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

This week's word is:

Zealous

Definition:

Having or showing zeal

Try to use it as much as possible this week!

English Department



STAGS Year 10 Netball Match vs Sandringham



On Wednesday, the STAGS A Team took on Sandringham in a tense yet thrilling match. In the first quarter, STAGS managed to take the lead, both shooters scoring one goal each. The Sandringham attack could not overrun the STAGS defence, leaving the score as 2:0 at the end of the quarter. As both teams eased into the game, the play became more rapid, with both sides feeling the pressure. Entering the third quarter with a 4:2 lead, the STAGS team adjusted their positions, which impacted the play. Despite both the STAGS attack and defense making mistakes, STAGS still managed to keep their heads high, scoring 2 goals, with the score being 9:6 to Sandringham when time was called. However, in the final quarter, with positions reversed, STAGS managed to score 4 goals, with Sandringham only scoring 1, to leave the final score as a 10:10 draw. The STAGS team was mostly happy with their performance, as the Sandringham netball team is one they had previously lost to. Grace Moule (GS) was awarded Player of the match for her excellent shooting skills and her ability to circulate the ball around the D.

Written by Lottie Peterkin's, 10S

'It was fantastic to see how much this awesome team have grown and improved over the last four years. Although it wasn't a win, it was a tough fight and we really showed them how far we've come. I'm very proud of these girls'

Charlotte Rose, PE Teacher

STAGS Year 9 Netball vs Loretto College

On Tuesday 7th November, the Year 9 Netball A Team played their 4th match against Loretto. We started strong, winning the first two quarters 6-3 as our marking was strong and we were able to intercept a lot of their passes. In the third quarter, Loretto played strong and were able to intercept many of our passes and capitalised on this to level the score at 6-6. As a team going into the fourth quarter we really wanted a win and this helped us, as we were all determined to get a win. Focus and determination improved, the ball rarely got to Loretto's circle, leading us to a win of 9 goals to 7. We all worked really hard and worked well together and deserved the win. The player of the match was given to Ellie Holliss, 9H. It was a great games, well done girls.

Ellie Holliss, 9H

Science Students Inspired By Marvellous 'Chemistry in Action Experience'



On Monday 6th November, 28 STAGS chemistry enthusiasts from Year 12 and 13 visited a Chemistry in Action day held at The Friends' House, Euston, London. Over 800 students enjoyed a day packed full of new scientific information. Year 12 student Tehmina Sepai, gives us her account of the day:

Throughout the day, the talks covered subjects ranging from the effects of deadly cosmetic fashions of men and women in history (before the element lead was discovered to be toxic) to the chemistry of quantum mechanics! We explored breakthroughs in medicine, finding cures for genetic diseases such as Cystic Fibrosis and took part in beguiling interactive online games, such as a 'Kahoot!' quiz. We were also delighted to be given the opportunity to soak up useful tips in a session on how to answer A Level exam questions successfully.

Towards the end, the speaker asked for six volunteers from the audience, of which I was one. We were told to form a benzene ring, which contains six atoms of carbon in a hexagonal shape. We then demonstrated the heating effect on bonds in such a structure by sharing Christmas crackers with our neighbours and shaking the 'bonds' between us. This showed that heating bonds finally causes an explosion!

Overall, the trip was wonderful, and we would all love to repeat the experience! Many thanks to Mrs Reason for organising it. Chemistry is truly a marvellous science; I would highly recommend studying it as it opens doors to the unfathomable!

Tehmina Sepai, 12.1

STAGS Community Wear Their Poppies With Pride



Poppies have been sold at lunchtimes at STAGS throughout the last two weeks to help raise money for the Royal British Legion Charity. Wearing a poppy is a symbol that we remember the fallen service men and women and that we honour those who sacrificed their lives in combat. STAGS students and staff will be respectfully observing two minutes silence on Friday 10th November to remember those who died. The proceeds of the poppy appeal go towards providing vital funds for the Armed Forces Community. The UK population will mark remembrance this Sunday on November 12th. There will be a two minute silence at the eleventh hour of the eleventh day of the eleventh month.

We will remember them.

For more information visit:

<http://www.britishlegion.org.uk/poppy-appeal-2017>

Philosophy and Film Club Review - Zootropolis

'Zootropolis' is a great Disney film capturing the adventure of Officer Judy Hopps with local law-breaker Nick Wilde trying to solve a case about missing mammals that has not been solved in weeks. I believe it is a really inspirational film about those who do not stop their dreams because of what others say. The fact that 'prey' and 'predator' live in harmony, yet there is still fear amongst them, highlights the importance of the case and how the two animals solved it.'

By Scarlett Burgess 8J

'We have just finished watching Zootropolis in Philosophy and Film Club. A movie all about changing the world; where prey and predator live in harmony and the lead character, a bunny, is determined to make it as a top cop despite all the odds. This movie's main moral is how anybody small or big can make a difference you just have to believe it to achieve it. In addition, the movie focuses on the dangers of stereotypes. I think Zootropolis breaks that expectation and is an inspirational film for all ages. One of the highlights of my week at School is on Tuesday lunchtime with Philosophy and Film Club and I can't wait to watch the next movie.'



By Safira Gilbert 8J

Philosophy and Film Club takes place every Tuesday Lunchtime in Rooms 33 and 35 for all Key Stages. The films being shown this week are:

KS3: Alice in Wonderland (2010)

KS4-5: Slumdog Millionaire (2008)

For more information please see Miss Brock or the Philosophy and Film Club Year 12 REP Prefects Nicola Clarke, Sonali Peiris and Olivia Sharp.

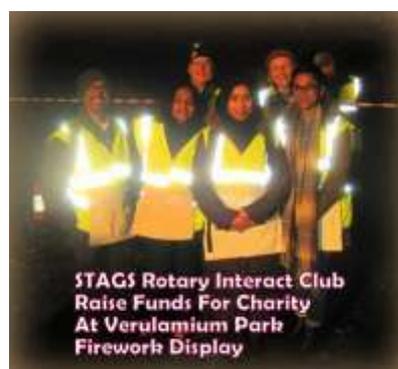


STAGS Welcomes Visitors To Annual SEN Village



STAGS warmly welcomes all visitors to their annual friendly SEN village on Wednesday morning 15th November. The event will be in the main hall from 10am to 12pm. There will be 25 stalls with lots of professional service providers on hand to offer help and useful advice to parents /carers of students who require additional educational support. No booking is required and free parking is available

STAGS Rotary Interact Club raises cash for Charity at St Albans Firework Display



Well done to all the dedicated members of the STAGS Interact Club who collected tickets and cash at the St Albans Fire Works annual display in Verulamium Park on Saturday 4th November. Many thousands of local people attended the well anticipated annual event located close to St Albans Cathedral. Vice-President Year 11 and student Munthaha Ahmed said 'we enjoyed collecting at the Abbey, it was fun and the fireworks were really magnificent'.



Year 9 Student Selected as Finalist in World Class Schools Quality Mark Essay Writing Competition



Congratulations to talented Year 9 student Eide Kenningham Smith who has been selected as one of the top ten UK finalists in the recent World Class Schools Essay Competition. Edie and members of her English class were asked to write an essay of up to 1,500 words in response to the question "Churchill said, 'Democracy is the worst form of government, except for others.' How would you improve the democratic system in this country?"

Mrs Hall, Associate Curriculum Leader for English, was asked to submit three entries and send them to the world class school organisation for consideration. She said on Edie's entry 'I thought Edie's essay displayed great passion and a wide range of political and world knowledge, which was both impressive and mature. It was clear that she genuinely cared about the issues which were raised in her well developed and articulate essay.'

On Wednesday 1st November, the news of her literary success via an email to Mrs Hall was received. Edie's response to the announcement was one of total shock followed by joy she said ' I did not think my essay would be good enough, the news made me feel so happy and so accomplished!' She went on to say 'It helps coming from a political family who encourage me to form my own political views and I enjoy writing essays'.

The Judges at Sir Jonathan North Community College said, 'We were hugely impressed by the quality of the entries. They were an absolute pleasure to read and choosing between them was challenging. We certainly feel that all of the students who participated should be proud of what they have written; if they are producing thoughtful, erudite and well-argued essays of this quality now, they are young people to look out for in the future!'

The UK finalists will meet up at Cambridge University this December, when the overall winner of the competition will be decided. Mrs Hall would also like to highly commend Year 9 students Molly Johnston and Abby Cowan who were also selected by her for submission to the WCSQM. She said their essays were equally impressive in terms of the level of passion, detail and hard work put into them. Well done ladies, World Class indeed!

To find out more about WCSQM visit :



www.worldclass-schools.org





Sandridgebury Lane
St Albans
AL3 6DB

Join us at our
annual event and
get those early
gifts and a
chance to win
many great prizes

“Once upon a time.....”

Winter Fair

Sunday December 10th

12:00 – 15:00

Christmas Puddings

Chocolate, Drinks & Teddy Tombola

Special girls JAM JAR tombola

Candy Floss

Awesome food and drink

**Many interesting stall holders from jewellery, gifts
and pet treats**

Great Raffle prizes

Ed Sheeran tickets
Eurostar Return tickets
40" Flat Screen TV
£130 voucher for bespoke
shirt
£100 John Lewis Voucher
New Look vouchers

Many more prizes

**Something for the
whole family**

The STAGS Christmas and Sponge Pudding Fundraiser!



The PTA is delighted to once again offer the STAGS community the **Ultimate Plum Pudding** and a selection of mouth-watering **Sponge Puddings** for you to enjoy this Christmas. They will keep for up to 6 – 8 months. These puddings are made by a small company in Kendal who have been making Christmas puddings for nearly 30 years; they produce for Harvey Nichols & Fortnum and Masons.

454g Christmas pudding – *light, sweet and totally scrumptious* (serves 4) **£5.80**

454g Gluten Free Christmas pudding (serves 4) **£5.80**

908g Christmas pudding (serves 8 - 10) **£10.00**

300g Sponge puddings (serves 3 - 4) **£5.40**

A choice of:

Triple Chocolate – real Belgian Chocolate, brandy & crème de cacao

Sticky Toffee Pudding – date sponge with perfectly balanced salted caramel sauce and a luscious squidgy top

Triple Ginger Pudding – chunks of ginger in a ginger sponge and laced with ginger wine

Luscious Lemon Pudding – fresh lemon zest mellowed by velvety lemon curd in a buttery sponge

How to order and collect your puddings

Please order your puddings by completing the form below and hand it in to the **Admin Post box** by **Wednesday 15 November**. Payment can be cash, cheque or direct bank transfer. Please also drop me a quick email at nicola_gardiner@hotmail.co.uk to confirm what you are ordering and your method of payment so I can expect your order.

The puddings will be ready for collection at the Winter Fair on **Sunday 10 December** or from school reception w/c 11 December.

CHRISTMAS PUDDING ORDER FORM

454g Christmas Plum Pudding @ £5.80	908g Christmas Plum Pudding @ £10.00
454g Gluten Free Christmas Pudding @ £5.80	290g Triple Choc Pudding @ £5.40
315g Sticky Toffee Pudding @ £5.40	290g Triple Ginger Pudding @ £5.40
290g Luscious Lemon Pudding @ £5.40	

Bank details:

Please include the reference – **PUD** Sort code: 20-74-09 Account number: 60391255

Or I enclose a cheque/cash made payable to "Friends of STAGS" for £ _____

Name _____ Daughter's name & form _____

Tel _____ Email _____



GUIDE DOGS MERCHANDISE FOR SALE PLUS VISITING GUIDE DOG PUPPIES!!

During The School Lunchtime

Starting on Monday, 20th November

www.guidedogs.org.uk

A charity registered in England and Wales (209617) and Scotland (SC038979). 7750 11/14

Staying safe online: the truth about Cyberstalking

*a fascinating evening with Psychologist
Dr Emma Short, a prominent expert in
this field*



Mon 27 Nov 2017, [Maltings Arts Theatre St Albans](#),
7.30pm to 9.30pm, £5 (booking details below)

This event will be recorded live by [Radio Verulam 92.6FM](#)

All proceeds for ticket sales will be shared by the [St Albans & Hertsmere Women's Refuge](#) and the [Welwyn Hatfield Women's Refuge](#)

This event marks the UN [16 Days of Activism against Gender-Based Violence](#)

For more information please see www.sigbi.org/st-albans/cyberstalking

This talk is kindly sponsored by [EP Productions](#)



ep productions
Helping your business online



Price £5 please book online via Eventbrite

www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/staying-safe-online-the-truth-about-cyberstalking-tickets-38936541243

Email: sistalbans@hotmail.com Tel: 07714089858

Web: www.sigbi.org/st-albans/cyberstalking

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Twitter: @SISAlbans