



weekly news

Stagslink

Ofsted
Outstanding
Provider

From the Head Teacher

Dear Parents/Carers

Yesterday we received the 2017 provisional national outcomes for the overall performance measures at GCSE and you will, I am sure be delighted to know that we are well above average, which is the top category of achievement for all secondary schools in the country and within the top three for achieving grade 5 or above in English and Maths and at the top for those achieving the EBacc at Grade 5/C or above in Hertfordshire.

This is an amazing achievement as we remain a non-selective community school with a rich cultural heritage and we are immensely proud of the performance of our students, set against this national context. Our progress score, known as the Progress 8 measure demonstrates that students at STAGS achieve two thirds of a grade above other schools with students of similar ability. Figures above 0 demonstrate the progress a student makes from the end of primary school to the end of Year 11. For STAGS, this is, once again, a significant validation of the quality of teaching and learning.

Following our very successful Open Evening last week where the whole school community supported the event so admirably, we have many follow-up visits planned for the next few weeks. It is always very useful to see a school in action and I am delighted to see so many families join us. This is when the students really shine and are the greatest role models showing great pride in their school community.

Congratulations to all 118 Year 10 students who successfully completed their practice Duke of Edinburgh expedition last weekend – a superb achievement for all and I am sure that there will be a great sense of accomplishment next year when the final expedition is completed.

Last weekend it was a great pleasure to get to know our Year 7 as over 200 students accompanied by 24 members of staff visited PGL in Marchant's Hill, Surrey. The behaviour and attitude was exemplary, from the many varied activities including throwing themselves off high poles (with ropes and safety harnesses!) to problem solving and orienteering in the woods, this trip marks the end of the formal transition process between primary and secondary school and I very much look forward to seeing all students flourish and thrive as they move through STAGS.

Congratulations to Alice Mitchell in Year 11 whom given her excellent musical prowess, has been offered an amazing opportunity to sing in a choir with the MTM Musical Theatre Masterclass at the London Palladium with Collabro who are on tour in the UK.

Congratulations to Aishah Khan who has had her short story published in a schools publication for the whole of the southern region of the UK.

Congratulations also to Nia Boty who has been invited to be part of the ESSKIA team for the World Schools' Skiing Championships in Grenoble. Her selection as a result of superb performances in ESSJIA races, English and British Alpine Championships and other international races.

There is an excellent update from the Alcohol Education Trust which will be shared with parents via Parent Comms.

Please also note the updated guidance sent by parent comms entitled Keeping your Daughter Safe Online. It is invaluable guidance and as always if you have any queries or concerns, please do not hesitate to contact us.

A reminder of the PTA uniform sale tomorrow, Saturday 14h October between 10.00-11.30am in the school library.

I look forward to seeing you at the careers evening next Thursday.

With all good wishes.

Margaret Chapman

13 October

EVENTS NEXT WEEK

Monday 16 October

Year 11 Space day in lessons

Tuesday 17 October

Year 11 into Year 12 Subject Fair - 1.05pm

Wednesday 18 October

Year 12 Green Leaders Training - 1.00pm to 4.00pm

Thursday 19 October

Careers Evening - 7.00pm, Main Hall

Friday 20 October

Wear it Pink Day in aid of Breast Cancer Awareness

Y11 Reports to parents

**Half Term Break
23 to 27 October**

Monday 30 October

School Starts 08.30am

Year 9/10 Brilliant Club Launch trip

Tuesday 31 October

Revision support for parents - 7.00pm, Main Hall

Wednesday 1 November

Readathon Year 7/8 begins

Eco Council Meeting - 1.05pm

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:

Opulence



Definition:

great wealth or luxuriousness

Try to use it as much as possible this week!

English Department

Teacher Recruitment Fair

STAGS is a member of the Alban Federation partnership in the area of teacher training. Each year the Federation trains a large number of adults (53 in 2017/18), either straight from University with their degrees, or people who are changing careers, and places them in a host school for the year to enable them to complete their training and gain Qualified Teacher Status. All applications are submitted through UCAS (the University Admission System) and this is scheduled to open on 26th October 2017 for courses starting in September 2018. Courses are available for both Primary and Secondary programmes, with salaries or bursaries available for suitably qualified candidates in many subjects.

If you are interested in becoming a teacher and would like to find out more about how to apply and what is involved, we are holding an **Open Morning on Saturday 14th October 2017** in the Sixth Form Centre at Sandringham School in St Albans. It runs from 9.30am to midday and you are more than welcome to come along and meet current trainees and course tutors. Equally, if you know of anyone who is keen to train to teach, this will be a very useful event for them to attend.

Further details can be obtained from the school by contacting Tessa Miles, Professional Learning Mentor or direct from Alban Federation team via afgtpenquiries@sandringham.herts.sch.uk

STAGS Community Raises Awareness of Mental Health Issues



In celebration of World Mental Health day on Tuesday 10th October STAGS community has been raising awareness of this important topic via films and discussions during form times throughout the week. Year 13 student Sanyha Akthar STAGS ambassador for teenage mental health, was proud to be invited to

attend a very special conference on mental health in education at the Priory School in Hitchin this week. The annual event, now in its second year, offered insightful talks by experienced speakers such as, Dr Kate Middleton; who discussed the subject of understanding the teenage brain. She explained how teenagers perceive and manage many areas of their life. It covered current studies about personal identity, self-esteem, risk taking and how teenagers handle relationships and their emotions. Her focus was on the subject of resilience and pushing through tough situations.

Sanyha (AKA, Sanz) passes on some valuable tips and feedback from the conference in her blog entitled Sanz.Shares. This is her current advice for any teenager out there experiencing difficulties with mental health issues:

Please do not think that you are alone, please don't feel like you should be isolated or ashamed if you are struggling and please, speak out and talk to someone. It won't be easy by any means, but I encourage you all to start up conversations about mental health because it is an increasing topic affecting many of you. If we all can help end the stigma and discrimination towards mental health then we could really be saving lives!

***Stay kind to yourselves and stay kind to others.**

To read more interesting news from Sanz on beauty, fashion, lifestyle and the subject of well - being visit her blog spot : <http://sanzshares.blogspot.co.uk/>



For more useful information visit:

www.mind.org.uk/information-support/helplines/

Home Languages



We would like to inform you that we are able to offer bilingual students the opportunity to sit a range of home language exams at STAGS.

Students must be in Year 9 or above to set a GCSE or in Year 12/13 to sit a GCE Level. In addition, students need to be competent in all four language skills: listening, speaking, reading and writing.

If you daughter/son speaks another language at home and wishes to gain an additional qualification, please contact the Exams Office to find out about the languages available and for details of examination entry costs.

Email: exams@stags.herts.sch.uk / Tel: 01727 853134 Ext: 260

STAGS Year 11 Netball District League Match



Wednesday afternoon saw STAGS Year 11 netballers take on Samuel Ryder Academy in a District League match at home. The game started closely with both teams physically testing each other and assessing their strengths and weaknesses. The end of the first quarter saw STAGS step in front with a 3-2 lead. In the second quarter, STAGS settled and moved the ball beautifully down the court with both Keira Stern and Katya Rees excelling in this aspect. Calm play and outstanding shooting from Ellie Slaughter saw STAGS extend the lead to 10-2.

Going into the third quarter, the focus was to further increase the lead by perfecting the timing and accuracy of movement and passes. Every player on the team stepped up to the plate and Gemma Hanson demonstrated her excellent knowledge of the game to support and feed the ball to Grace Moule who consistently found the net. Defensively, we were impressive, numerous interceptions and forced errors gave us the chance to increase our lead further and deny SRA any goals. The end of the third quarter finished 15-2. A few changes were made at quarter time to balance challenge players in different positions and once again, the team demonstrated their versatility. Lizzie Cattermole dominated SRA's shooting circle and Katie Knowlden stepped in to the centre position to illustrate her superb attacking ability too.

The end of the game was physically demanding with SRA frustrated, despite this, STAGS continued to display first class sportsmanship, sitting nicely with their 22-2 victory. Player of the match was awarded to Grace Moule for her calm and accurate shooting. Coach's Player of the Match was awarded to Katie Knowlden for excelling in multiple positions. Well done to all players on an emphatic win. We look forward to the Year 11 District Netball Tournament on Monday 9th October at STAGS.

Miss Rose
Curriculum Leader PE Teacher

Year 8 Netball Match Against Beaumont School

On Tuesday the 10th October, the squad of 8 girls in Year 8 played against Beaumont for our 3rd match of the season.

A couple of our players had just arrived back at school after running the tough first round of the school's National cross country, but despite this, we had a good start and all were playing brilliantly. We scored three goals while Beaumont scored one in the first quarter! There was some great defending by Tara Doran and Amber Lacon.

Beaumont found their form in the second quarter and by half-time it was 4:4. In the third quarter, we all tried playing a different position but despite this, we kept in the lead with a score of 6:5. Miss Rose gave us a tactics talk at the end of the third quarter to make sure we kept the lead!

The final score was 7:6 to STAGS. Ebony Spinks, Olivia Watson and Caitlin Hartley were our shooters scoring a phenomenal amount of goals. Player of the match (voted by Beaumont players) was awarded to Sara Laitner. Well played girls!

Sara Laitner, 8A

Year 8 Netball

On Tuesday 3rd of October, STAGS A Team played against Sir John Lawes. We started with a good first quarter, leading 6-1 with strong ambition attack and defence. Carrying on with the good play, we ended the second quarter 12-3. Securing our win the third quarter finished 16-5. Still playing well we ended the match on a high winning 20-7. It was a good result winning our first match of the year. Orla Foley was awarded player of the match.

Orla Foley, 8H

Year 9 Netball

On Tuesday 10th October, the Year 9 A Team played their first league match against Marlborough. We started strongly, and won the first quarter 3-1. Our defence was strong and we achieved many interceptions. The second quarter was again quite successful making the score 5-2 to STAGS. The quality of playing in the third quarter was slightly lower, due to our rushed passing, but we still held the lead with 5-3. The final quarter was very exciting, and we concluded the match with a 6-4 win. Player of the match went to Maddie Bye for consistent interceptions and great defending.

Maddie Bye, 9H

STAGS Achieve Brilliant Success in English Schools Cross Country Cup.



On Tuesday 10th October, STAGS students across four year groups took part in the county round of the English Schools Cross Country cup at Verulamium Park. The junior team was made up of Year 8's Antonia Jubb, Sara Laitner, Orla Foley, Eve Gamsby, Georgia Pritchard and Year 7 Annabel Hedge. All runners ran fantastically and performed exceptionally well as a team with 4 STAGS runners finishing in the top 10! Then it was the turn of the Inters team which included, Year 9 pupils Isabel Gamsby and Freya Martin and Year 10 students Gemma Hanson and Grace Clinton. All students ran well, on what was a difficult long course in windy conditions, all finishing in the top 30. They did very well and came 5th overall.

The Juniors team also came a brilliant 1st overall and are now through to the regional final in November. Well done to the all the girls that took part!

Miss Cripps
PE Teacher

Year 7 First Netball Match



This was our first match of the season, at home against St George's school.

St George's had the advantage of winning the toss, and took the first centre. There was some great defending by Sophie Sanderson (7S), in the first quarter, with only letting in one goal to St George's. During the second quarter, we pulled back and equalized ending the half time position level.

We had a team talk and agreed to relax for the start of the next quarter to see the opponent's game plan, so we could attack.

In the last quarter it remained close up to the final whistle where we were in the circle poised to shoot, to tie the match. Unfortunately for STAGS, the whistle blew before Charlotte Davies 7S could make the shot. A great first match but pipped at the final whistle 5-6.

Players player went to Thisbee Danford, who played an excellent Centre. Thank you to Mrs Warner for coaching us and umpiring the match.

The team looks forward to the next one...

Lola Smith, 7S

Year 7 Netball Match Against St George's

On Tuesday 10th October 2017, Year 7 netball teams played a match against St George's. We lost the toss so they got first centre pass, but because of this we were more determined to win.

After the first quarter, the score was one-all, with amazing defending of our goal.

The second half started with our centre pass, and ended with the score at three all, after some amazing goals by Lois. At halftime, we talked as a team and all agreed that we needed to let the defenders bring the ball to the shooters so that they could stay back. With this in mind, we started the third quarter with strength and made the score 5 - 3 to us. Because of this score, our confidence levels went up and we focused more on the game, which showed in the final score as it was 6-3 to us.

Our player's player was Alexandra Russell, 7B. We would like to thank Miss Pennock and Mrs Warner for coaching, STAGS for hosting and parents for supporting us.

Alexandra Russell, 7B

STAGS U16 Ski Team win Bronze Medal at English Schools National Finals 2017



Congratulations to the STAGS U16 Ski Team who won a bronze medal at the English Schools' National Ski Finals in Norwich, Norfolk during the weekend of 7th to 8th October. The fantastic four members, Nia Boty, Saoirse Bettison in Year 9 and Katie Barder and Olivia Coombes in Year 10 all skied fabulously on the day.

The ski team arrived at the slope on Saturday around 1pm and after warm up and course inspection, the girls were eager and ready to race. The rainy weather didn't disappoint as this helped with faster skiing on the artificial slope. The team were all focussed on getting the fastest time and after the first run, were in an agonising fourth place. With a medal place in sight, their determination paid off and faster skiing times were recorded on their second run. The team waited anxiously until the official results were published and were so thrilled when they heard their podium place announced. Olivia said 'We were so happy because everyone in the team trains so hard work every week and it has really paid off!'

The races on Sunday were somewhat harder as the girls took part in the Open Championships where you are allowed to enter your best team regardless of age/school year. STAGS entered the same team in both races. In the U16 team event, Nia and Katie came 1st and 6th respectively (in the first race) and Nia came in 3rd place (for the second race).

Finally we are excited to announce that the STAGS U16 team has been invited to ski at the British Championships in Wales this November as one of 12 teams representing their country! This is truly a massive achievement. Well done!

Lisa Barder
Ski Organiser

Philosophy and Film Club



The REP department launched Philosophy and Film Club this year with the film 'Hidden Figures'. The film is based on three inspiring African-American female mathematicians that are part of a NASA space station programme. These women defy all odds to ensure their place in the highest of jobs in NASA in the 1960s.

Sadie-Belle Blakeley 8H said:

I love the movie 'Hidden Figures'. It is really gripping and shows women's rights. From watching this movie, I learnt that black people were completely separated from white people in 1961. Not only this, it shows that women can do anything! I love the idea of watching a meaningful movie with my friends. It's so much fun!

Rabah Mughal 8J wrote:

Hidden Figures is an amazing movie with a strong message of equality and boldly standing against racism, a subject which should be brought up more to raise awareness. It was inspirational how the three black women in the movie, playing Katherine Johnson, Dorothy Vaughan and Mary Jackson stood up for their rights as black women in the 1960s. They proved the quote 'anyone can do anything' and they made the impossible possible. Proving that there is a first to everything from walking to literally travelling to the moon!

Students of all years attend on a Tuesday lunchtime. Although we have now finished this amazing film, we now have two more which started this week; 'Zootropolis' for Key Stage 3 in Room 35 and 'Ex Machina' in Room 33 for Key Stage 4. You can follow the Philosophy and Film Club journey on twitter: [@stagsrs](https://twitter.com/stagsrs)

STAGS PTA Uniform Sale -
Saturday 14th October



10 - 11.30 am
School Library

wear it
pink

Friday 20 October

Add a **PINK** accessory to
your uniform
and donate £1 to

**breast cancer
now**

STAGS Celebrates Black History Month 2017

Throughout October, we have been celebrating the achievements of inspirational black women within our community. The focal point for Black History Month has been the work of Sybil Phoenix OBE. An amazing lady whose fostering programme, which started in the 1960s, has transformed the lives of thousands of vulnerable homeless girls. Sybil's legacy lives on with the Marsha Phoenix Memorial Trust.

The Trust was set up over 30 years ago to provide a stable home for young women who cannot live with their families for one reason or another. The Trust aims to help them to progress to become equal with everyone else in society in terms of education, housing and life chances. It was Sybil's vision to provide a caring safe home with stability and support to help develop these girls from difficult backgrounds into becoming confident, successful young women.

Being a teenager is hard enough but the girls in the care of the Trust have little or no possessions of their own. We are currently carrying out a collection for the Trust to help bring a bit of normality and comfort into the lives of these young ladies. If you can we would welcome donations of the following items:

Shower gel, conditioner, shampoo, toothpaste, toothbrushes, body spray, face wash, female hygiene products such as sanitary wear, hairbrushes, hair bobbles, clips, hair pins, deodorant, soap, lip balm, make-up wipes and pocket mirrors.

Our collection is a way of celebrating the life of Sybil Phoenix at the school. The items collected will be donated directly to the Trust and will bring respite to these young girls from all backgrounds, who sadly find themselves in extremely difficult circumstances.



Collection points are located at both main and student reception and other areas within the school.

Mr Sam Barrett, Science Teacher



STAGS Presents

A Careers Evening in:

Creative Arts, Media & Design

**For all Year Groups
Featuring a variety of
Businesses from different
Creative Backgrounds**

THURSDAY 19TH OCTOBER 2017, 7 - 8.30PM

Anxiety in Children & Teens— a Parent's Guide Talk



0-5yrs

6-12yrs

teens

Summary



Anxiety is a normal part of growing up but some children experience ongoing difficulties with anxiety that not only affect their day-to-day lives, but can have a long term negative impact on their social and emotional development. Anxiety is not always easy to identify and it can be expressed in many different ways. Research has shown that children susceptible to anxiety often have a tendency to think and behave in ways that maintain their difficulties. Dr Shafran will also share psychological

treatments to focus on altering these unhelpful patterns and have been proven to be effective. Many of the strategies used by clinicians can be adapted and incorporated into daily family life, with parents taking a lead to help their child overcome their difficulties. In this talk, we will provide information to help parents distinguish between developmentally appropriate anxiety and levels which may benefit from more targeted intervention. We will also share early risk factors which may contribute to later development of anxiety and provide an overview of practical strategies which parents can employ at home to support their children.

Who is this event for?

This talk is suitable for parents of children of all ages, particularly 7-18 years. Most of the strategies our speaker talks about will come from a clinical point of view (i.e. doing therapy).

What parents will gain from the event

- An overview of recent research relating to the development and treatment of childhood and teen anxiety.
- Insight into the various ways that anxiety might manifest in children and teens.
- Practical tips for how best to respond to an anxious child and help them overcome their difficulties.
- An awareness of the resources available to support parents of anxious children and teens.

[CLICK TO BOOK NOW...](#)

Event Details

Date: Thurs 2nd Nov 2017

Time: 19.30 – 21.15

Location: The Maltings Theatre, St Albans,

Cost: £10pp

[This event is sponsored by](#)



Nevess
SOLICITORS

About our speaker

Roz Shafran, PhD, is Professor of Translational Psychology at the UCL Great Ormond Street Institute of Child Health and a Clinical Psychologist. Dr. Shafran's clinical research interests include cognitive-behavioural theories of and treatments for anxiety disorders, eating disorders, obsessive-compulsive disorder, and perfectionism across the age range. She is a recipient of the Award for Distinguished Contributions to Professional Psychology from the British Psychological Society and the 'Making a Difference' award from Positive Practice. With more than 100 peer-reviewed scientific publications, Dr. Shafran is editor of *The Complete CBT Guide To Anxiety* and mother of three children.



LAUNCH EVENT
FAIR FUNDING FOR ALL SCHOOLS (ST ALBANS)

7.30pm, Monday 16th October 2017
Sandpit Theatre, Sandringham School, AL4 9NX

SPEAKERS TO INCLUDE

Kiri Tunks, Vice President of the National Education Union

Alan Gray, Chair of Hertfordshire Schools Forum & Head of Sandringham

Amanda Godfrey, Primary Heads Forum Executive TBC

Matt Dykes, Co-Founder of Fair Funding for All Schools

CALLING ALL PARENTS

Our schools are really up against it. We are facing a funding crisis as a result of government cuts.

Your school could be losing up to 10 per cent of its funding in real terms by 2020.

We are a national parent-led campaign and we want to stop the cuts to our schools.

Please come to our meeting and find out how we can join forces to get our voice heard for Fair Funding for All Schools.

Get more information and join our campaign at:

www.fairfundingforallschools.org

 [facebook.com/fairfundingforallschools](https://www.facebook.com/fairfundingforallschools)  [@fairfundschoo](https://twitter.com/fairfundschoo)