



weekly news

Stagslink



From the Head Teacher

Dear Parents/Carers

We were delighted to receive a letter from Nick Gibb, MP, Minister of State for School Standards to congratulate the students and staff on ensuring high standards of achievement. The letter also draws to our attention that our school is amongst the top state-funded schools in England for the achievement of core academic subjects, including the English Baccalaureate. These subjects are seen as vital to ensure the best start in life and ensuring that young people have the widest opportunities available to them. This is a real privilege to once again receive such high praise from the Education Minister, but we are now busy focusing on our current students to ensure that they too gain the best possible outcomes for their future success. Please see the school website for the full letter.

We have celebrated Science Week this week with activities within Science to further raise awareness of the value of Science. We started this last week with Mr Zarrouq arranging for the Moon rocks to visit the school. Under heavy security throughout the week, all students could see and touch the moon rocks and meteor samples. Our Science awareness has culminated with the Year 9 STEM Enterprise Day yesterday.

On Tuesday we celebrated all things Pi with Maths Days in which Year 7 students undertook investigations and problem solving challenges.

This week we have become the custodians of an actual child's Iron Lung, loaned to us by the Rotary Interact Club. The aim has been to draw attention to the impact of polio with assemblies led by Caroline Ellis and Mr Kershaw who spoke about the Polio immunisation programme and the iron lung. Today, students have worn an item of purple with their uniform as a symbol of the focus on polio immunisation and the ultimate goal of eradication. I have been so impressed with the quality of conversations and interest which our students have demonstrated during this week in relation to polio.

Our school had been invited to send representatives to the Commonwealth Service at Westminster Abbey this week. With limited numbers, Miss Miles and Miss Cardani were accompanied by Zoe Davey and Trin Owhe in Year 12, Lauren King and Rachel Walsh in Year 10 and Anna King, Tayiba Khan, Alice Humphries and Tilly Braden in Year 9, all of whom represented themselves and the school admirably.

We were delighted once again to participate so actively in the BBC News Report yesterday. The students involved included Molly Smith, Alice Smith, Frankie Raudnitz, Naree Svasti-Salee, Amelia Ostrowska, Juliana Ronsisvalle, Alice Oliver-Bell, Keira Stern and Sairah Zaman and are to be congratulated on the quality of their research and final presentation, which was submitted to the BBC at the end of the day. The group devised their own ideas and this year there were two reports; one investigating 'cat calling', and one focusing on women in politics.

Congratulations to all who participated in World Book Day - the quality of work submitted was wonderful! It was very close between forms for 'Writes of Passage' with 7F crowned the winners. Congratulations also to the winners of the book cover/blurb; Amy Westlake in 7F achieved Gold, Georgia Pritchard in 7J achieved Silver and Lina Fettouh-Jamar in 7F achieved Bronze Awards.

Finally, congratulations to all students who performed so superbly in the Spring Chamber Concert last night – such a joyful evening. My thanks go to all peripatetic teachers and Mrs Warren, Miss Glover and Miss Foster who accompanied and supported the performers so admirably.

With all good wishes.

Margaret Chapman

17 March 2017

EVENTS NEXT WEEK

Monday 20 March

Year 10, 11 & 12 Politics and Economics trip to Parliament

Tuesday 21 March

Year 7-13 Choral Workshop with Nick Shaw - 11.00am to 1.15pm

Year 7 Tenner Trade Fair, 1.05pm

Wednesday 22 March

WE Day

Year 9 Parents' Evening - 4.30pm to 7.00pm

Thursday 23 March

Year 13 GSK visit, Stevenage

Soup for Super Saplings event - 1.05pm

Friday 24 March

Comic Relief Day

PTA Quiz Night - 7.30pm

Silver D of E Practise Expedition departs - returns Sunday 26 March

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:

Disparity

Definition:

A great difference

Try to use it as much as possible this week!

English Department



Herts Young Mariners Base

Herts Young Mariners Base offers a fun and healthy way to learn a new skill. The Base run both after school clubs and Saturday adventure clubs.

Activities include:

- stand up paddle boarding
- canoeing
- sailing
- climbing
- caving
- archery
- adventure games, and much more

Call 01992 628403 or visit www.HYMB.com for more information.

STAGS Year 7 Language Students Receive Letters from New Spanish Pen Pals



Last week, STAGS Year 7 Language students received letters from their Spanish pen pals. The boys and girls who wrote to our students are 11 year olds who live in Valladolid, a historical town close to Madrid. These students attend the Catholic School "Jesus y María", one of the most prestigious schools in the town, where they learn English from the age of 6. Year 7 STAGS student Isabella Hammond explains how she felt about receiving a letter:

"When I opened my Spanish pen pal letter I felt a wave of joy rushing over me! I had been waiting for this letter for a long time and it was finally here! It was really interesting to find out about my pen pal who is called Marta. We had more in common than I expected, and her English was quite a bit better

than my Spanish! It made me want to pick up a pen and write back to her straight away to answer her questions about my life. I hope we will stay in touch for a long time."

STAGS student Thabia Chowdhury in 7A also gives us her personal response:

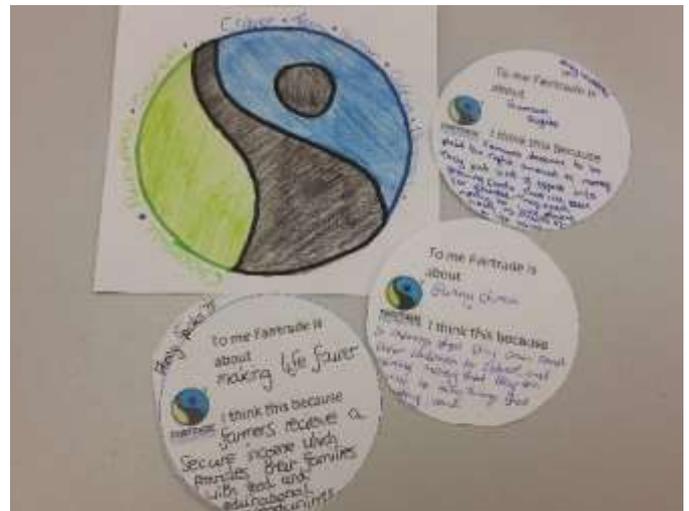
"On Wednesday 8 March, I felt very excited due to the arrival of a letter I received from my Spanish Pen pal. We sent our letters a while ago, and the reply really did make my heart buzz with exhilaration! Just opening the envelope made my hands shake and my mind was in a million different places! My pen pal – Beatriz Blanco - seemed very nice, although we are quite opposite to each other."

Writing to her - and getting a response - is definitely a learning experience, not just for me, but for everybody who wrote and received a letter. We learn more about culture in Spain, and we discover differences (and similarities) between our lifestyle and theirs. She told me that Spain is a wonderful place. Reading about her country makes me want to visit - I think, now hearing all the great things about this foreign country, I might visit, if I could!"

Many thanks to Spanish Teacher Miss Gil for arranging this wonderful opportunity to encourage Year 7 students to write to a pen pal in Spain. We hope they all continue to enjoy writing to each other and to have fun in doing so!

**Thabia Chowdhury & Isabella Hammond , Year 7
Miss Gil, Spanish Teacher**

Fairtrade Fortnight Comes to STAGS



Eco Council raised awareness of our individual connections with farmers and workers in less developed countries and the concept of fairer trade through a number of activities held across the school during Fairtrade Fortnight leading to STAGS being certified as a FairAware School by the Fairtrade Foundation.

Student representatives from Eco Council in Year 10 did a fantastic job over the two weeks of selling Fairtrade biscuits, Divine chocolate, Geobars and gifts such as sparkly button pens and mirrors. Their enthusiasm and responsibility of the stall meant that they raised £90 which will be split between Action Aid and invested in future Eco Council projects. Well done and huge thanks to India Muschamp 10J, Ellice Jeanes 10J, Emily Bonfield 10S, Emily Zaman 10H, Hannah Martin 10H and Ella-Ann Ovenden 10J.

All students at Key Stage 3 were asked in their Geography lessons to consider whether the idea of Fairtrade is a positive way of helping farmers get a fairer deal. They discussed the way Fairtrade works and the challenges faced not only by the farmers themselves through a game of 'breaks and ladders' but of Fairtrade as a tool for development. The students really engaged with these activities and were asked to choose a few words that they felt best summarised what Fairtrade is. Many chose 'making life fairer' and 'human rights' showing their compassion with others, something our STAGS students do so well.

In addition, Form Tutors in Key Stages 4 and 5 were provided with a form time activity which aimed to facilitate further discussion on Fairtrade and GeoExplorers club showed and discussed a documentary called 'Fairtrade matters' during a lunchtime. Not to be left out, coffee lovers within the staff were treated to Fairtrade coffee kindly supplied by Starbucks which raised a wonderful £32 for Action Aid through voluntary donations.

Having worked hard on raising awareness and connections with others around the world, the next projects by the Eco Council are going to be focused a little closer to home, particularly looking after our school a little more through a 'Keep STAGS Tidy' campaign which we hope students will be equally engaged in.

Mrs Nottage
Eco Council Co-leader



Under 13 Cricket Tournament



On Monday 13 March the under 13 cricket tournament was held at Hertfordshire University. Evie Moule, Sara Laitner, Abby Walsh, Ebony Spinks, Sabrina Chow, Jenny Laird, Emma Afari and Karla Rees represented STAGS. We played to the best of our ability and improved from game to game. We won 2 matches and lost 2 matches.

We were pleased with our performance and we learnt to communicate and work well with each other. By the final match we even managed to put spin into our bowling and Ebony and Karla got 6's.

Evie Moule & Sara Laitner, Year 7

Under 13 Netball Tournament

On Monday 13 March the Year 7 netball team took part in a district netball tournament at Sir John Lawes School.

First, the A team played Sir John Lawes and we won with a great score of 4-1 to us. Then we went on to play Sandringham where we narrowly won. After that we played St Georges where we lost 2-1. Then we played Marlborough where we won. We did really well and got through to the semi finals! It was a close game against Beaumont as both teams desperately wanted to win but sadly STAGS lost. A big thank you to Mrs Pennock and Miss Savage for coaching us and helping us get to this years semi-final.

By Ella Milne



The B's played three games. They had a fantastic win against Sandringham winning 5-2 and then had two close matches against Beaumont and St Georges and despite their hard work and good game play only just lost these matches.

However they showed great sportsmanship both on and off court supporting and encouraging each other and the other STAGS team. All the girls enjoyed their afternoon.

By Tara Doran

St Albans Girls' School PTA has pleasure in inviting you to the annual



QUIZ NIGHT

Friday 24 March 2017

7.30 pm in the School Hall

Ploughman's Platter
(Large Platter per table)
Licensed Bar
Raffle



Adults £10.00
Students (11 years +) £7.50

Please support your school by not bringing your own drinks!

TABLES OF EIGHT - if you can't get a full table, come along and join up with others on the night. Please return slip and payment to school office in an envelope marked 'PTA Quiz' no later than **Tuesday 21 March 2017**.

Platters will be per table, you are welcome to bring additional food, however ticket price includes ploughman's platter (Bread, cheese, salad, pate, pickles etc). (Gluten free and other dietary requirements will be catered for, please indicate on order).

Ticket orders will be acknowledged by email Doors open 7 pm.

STAGS Quiz Night – Friday 24 March 2016 - 7.30 pm



Your Name _____

Student
Form

Email for booking acknowledgement _____

Please print clearly

I would like to buy adult ticket(s) @ £10.00 per person including ploughman's

I would like to buy student ticket(s) @ £7.50 per person including ploughman's

I enclose cash / cheque for £ _____ (cheques payable to "Friends of Stags")

Don't have a table of eight, no problem - tick the box and we will find you a place on a table!

Please detail any specific dietary requirements (and number of people):



Optimal Pathways Towards Success: A Talk for Teens and their Parents

***Tuesday 25th April 7pm-10.00pm
Longdean School, Hemel Hempstead***

Making any decision that affects your future can be understandably difficult for young people. Parents can struggle too, as they help their children decide on which route to take. This can be because they genuinely have no idea what is best for them, little understanding of the exam or school system and even less of an understanding of a job market that seems to change all the time. Unfortunately, we know from a YouGov survey (2013) that over a third of secondary school pupils use television programmes to help them to decide what jobs to do after leaving school. Celebrities are also a popular choice with young people for inspiring decisions about the future.



Aspirational mentor, Dr Kathryn Weston brings you her best evidence-based tips in this exciting talk that covers:

- How to recognise your strengths and use them to shape your future
- How to approach decisions about your education (e.g. GCSE or A-level subject choices)
- Why exams matter and how to approach them
- The purpose of revision and how parents can help
- Factors that may jeopardise your future.

This talk has been specially designed for parents and their teens to attend together. Recommended for ages 14+.

This talk costs £5pp and tickets must be bought in advance:

[BOOK NOW](#)

(https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/optimal-pathways-toward-success-a-talk-for-parents-and-teens-tickets-31411855706?mc_cid=8cade3134c&mc_eid=2e2fa6cf48)

Our mailing address is:

31 Tennyson Road, Harpenden, AL5 4BD.

Book a Keystone Aspire talk at your school by calling us today on 07714 089 858.