



weekly news

Stagslink



From the Head Teacher

Dear Parents/Carers

We were delighted to attend the National Award Ceremony, organised by the SSAT earlier this week, during which we received our two awards in recognition of being in the top 10% of all non-selective schools nationally for both student progress and student attainment. We continue to review the opportunities available to our students to ensure that the quality of teaching and learning and breadth of our core curriculum and wider curriculum enables all of our young people to achieve success.

We have reviewed our catering and kitchen facilities over the last few months and on realising that some of the fixtures are the same age as the school, we are about to embark on a complete kitchen refreshment programme. This will start during the half term break and will be concluded by the start of the new term in September. However, service will continue, although with a much more limited menu for the remainder of the summer term. The temporary location for the kitchen will operate from the Food room H2 and all students will have access to hot and cold food both at break and at lunch. The dining room will be out of action for the duration of the refurbishment project and following the appropriate procurement process, the company to undertake this work, costing £350,000 is Newlands Construction.

The lunch menu will include:

- Jacket potato, pasta, baked beans, tomato sauce, tuna mayonnaise, grated cheese
- Sandwiches/baguettes/wraps
- Fruit pots
- Salad pots
- Sweet items such as flapjacks etc.

The lunch box and 'grab and go' will remain in operation and all students will queue and be served from the side entrance to H2, near to the quad.

The break menu will include hot food and a variety of items such as sausage roles, paninis, pretzels etc. as usual.

Margaret Chapman

Ramadan and Exams - Update

It is predicted that Ramadan, the Islamic month of fasting, will start on 27th May, which will coincide with GCSE and A Level exams.

There are many benefits of fasting in Ramadan such as: learning to develop greater self-control, establishing a healthier lifestyle and having greater feelings of peace and tranquillity. This also comes with having spiritual satisfaction, establishing better relationships with self and others and strengthening family and community ties. However, with fasting comes a few challenges which may include tiredness, low energy, dehydration and reduced focus.

It is important to remember that education in Islam is obligatory for everyone as stated in the Qu'ran and by the Prophet Muhammad (PBUH). Islam encourages all Muslims to engage in critical reasoning and to turn to local imams and scholars for further guidance. While there are key principles on which most Muslims agree, such as the importance of fasting and prayers, details vary from one scholar to another. This means that when there are competing views, an individual is at liberty to decide what is best for themselves and their family. Some Muslim scholars give a student, who is sitting important examinations, an exemption from fasting if a student fears that fasting will affect his or her performance adversely. The student should make up the fast later. The school strives to support all the students to do well in exams.

Fasting students will have places other than around the dining room in which to spend their lunch break and a quiet space to rest if needed. Those on free school meals are still entitled to a meal. A food bag can be put together for students to take home.

In terms of PE, the fasting students may do a less strenuous activity or be allowed to sit aside and rest should they be too tired or dehydrated to take part.

We wish you a Happy Ramadan.



19 May 2017

EVENTS NEXT WEEK

Monday 22 May

Evening Theatre trip to see Ugly Lies the Bone - Year 10 & 12 - 5.00pm to 10.30pm

Tuesday 23 May

Premier League Football National Final

Year 8 Parents' Evening - 4.30pm to 7.00pm

Student Voice - 1.15pm, room 27A

Wednesday 24 May

Beijing - China Study Trip, St Albans High School for Girls - 6.00pm

Summer Chamber Concert - 7.00pm to 8.00pm, Refreshments begin at 6.30pm

Friday 26 May

Year 13 Celebration Assembly - 1.55pm

Year 10 reports issued

UPCOMING EVENTS

Half Term

Monday 29 May - Friday 2 May

Sunday 4 June

Futsal Regional Final - 7.15am to 2.00pm

Monday 5 June

Year 13 Study Leave begins

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:

Affinity

Definition:

A natural liking for someone or something.

Try to use it as much as possible this week!

English Department



STAGS PTA BBQ



STAGS Oxfam Youth Ambassadors Successfully Highlight the Inequality Women



STAGS are proud to currently be running a successful youth ambassador group in conjunction with Oxfam. A total of nine Year 10 and 11 students are working hard towards achieving their Youth Ambassador's badge by the end of July. In order to qualify for this award the Oxfam Ambassadors are required to run a total of three campaigns about global issues, each in a different country. Last term the girls covered the inequality of women's pay in the UK. This term they have chosen to raise awareness of the inequality issues women face in Yemen.

Year 11 student Jourdan Garande explains:

"Our group gives us a voice and a platform from which to speak and we think that by working together we can do more and have a bigger impact. This term we have

researched the real lack of independence women experience in Yemen and we want to raise awareness of this at STAGS. We plan to do this by showing a PowerPoint during form times and collecting money at lunchtimes in the foyer for the cause. Our PowerPoint presentation has been designed to highlight some of the most shocking facts. For example:

71% of women in Yemen are illiterate.

Yemeni women are ranked 152nd on the gender inequality index. This IS the bottom of the index.

1 out of every 39 Yemeni women die in childbirth due to poor health care.

There is a total of 300 male MP's in Yemen and just one woman MP.

By raising awareness about this issue we hope STAGS students will begin to recognise just how privileged UK women are and that we should not take our rights for granted. In comparison women in Yemen are not encouraged to have independence of any kind!"

Sincere thanks to Government and Politics Curriculum Leader Mrs Tolley for all her support in helping these students to succeed as Oxfam Youth Ambassadors.

To find out more about the Oxfam youth ambassadors programme visit:

org.uk/get-involved/opportunities-for-young-people/youth-ambassadors

Scholastic Book Club Orders

A reminder that during this half term we are running a Scholastic Book Club giving you the opportunity to purchase a book for your daughter. Students have been given a leaflet with details of the books available to purchase. If you wish to purchase a book from there, you can place an order via the website which is <https://shop.scholastic.co.uk/schools/st-albans-girls>. Alternatively you can order by filling in the order slip on the leaflet and returning it to school with payment, cheques should be made out to Scholastic Ltd. Orders will be delivered, free of P&P, directly to school ready for your daughter to collect. For every £1 you spend through this Book Club, our school will earn 20p in Scholastic Rewards. If you'd like to place an order, please do so by **Wednesday 24 May 2017**.

Library Resource Centre

Curriculum Enrichment Week 2017

A reminder that all payments for Curriculum Enrichment Week 2017 need to be received by **Friday 26 May 2017** please.

If there are any medical or contact detail changes to your annual parental consent form before the trip date, please ensure you make us aware of these as soon as possible. It is vital we have the correct current information prior to Curriculum Enrichment Week.

Miss McHugh, Assistant Head

STAGS Rotary Interact Club Manages Delicious Cake Sale at St Albans Charity Cycle Ride (SACCR)



On Sunday 14 May STAGS Rotary Interact Club attended the St Albans Charity Cycle Ride to hold a cake sale at Oakland's College to raise money for their local charities: PHAB, Open Door and Keech Cottage. Year 10 President Aaliyah Jalil gives an account of the day:

The St Albans Cycle event was amazing and we were lucky with the weather because it was warm and sunny. With two car loads of donations we were able to offer a very wide variety of delicious cakes. During the day everyone who came to the stall was friendly and many of them came back for seconds. By the end of the day we were very pleased to have raised £286.53 from the sale of cakes and we raised a further £73.96 by selling purple crocus badges for the 'End Polio Now' campaign.

Huge thanks go to all the Year 7 students for cake donations. We also would like to thank Maths Teacher Mrs Rock and Rotary Youth Leaders Ken Scott and Caroline Ellis.

If you would still like to bid for a charity Gromit statue on line there is still time - The Rotary Gromit auction ends Saturday 20th May. For details please follow the link below for details.

<http://www.rotary1260conference.org.uk/auction.php>

STAGS Rounders

On Tuesday 16 May two Year 7 Rounders teams went to play a friendly match against Roundwood School. Each team played two matches and came away with some good results for their first real rounders experience.

"The first game was very close with both teams doing great fielding and batting but Roundwood just managed to beat STAGS with the final score being 2 1/2 to 4 1/2. The next match STAGS had a strong start but Roundwood was very strong too. The end score was a draw with 5 rounders each."

Millicent Drury, 7F

"In the other match both teams were strong and had very good fielding skills, we played two matches drawing both! In the first match we scored 3 1/2 rounders and on the second we scored five."

Emma Nicholls, 7A

Year 7 Rounders Club is on a Tuesday lunchtime and is open to all students. Teams are not set in stone and students will be selected for matches based upon a combination of attendance and ability.

Mrs Warner

PE Teacher

Spectrum Basketball



Spectrum Basketball is coached to help young adults develop the life skills of successful innovators, entrepreneurs, adventurers.

If there is one certainty about being on / looking after someone on the autistic spectrum it is... that life will be uncertain, exhilarating, demanding, challenging adventurer into the unknown.

Spectrum basketball is coached in a way that helps players learn how to cooperate as they share a journey into the unknown... while laughing a lot.

**Wednesdays
5 - 6pm**

For more information,
Please email moirahutton@everyoneactive.com
Westminster Lodge Leisure Centre 01727 736080

SPECIAL PURCHASE

EXAM STATIONERY KIT

*THE ONLY EQUIPMENT YOU WILL NEED FOR
YOUR EXAMS!*

ONLY **£2**

(while stocks last)

clear pencil case, 9 piece
maths kit & 2 black biros



Available every break and lunchtime from the Finance Office

CLEAR PENCIL CASE 50p MATHS KIT £1 BLACK BIRO PENS 50p

Communication and Autism Team

~~Advice Line~~

01707 320697

If you would like to discuss an issue or query about a child or young person with autism, speech, language or communication needs, please call the number above.

The **Advice Line** will run on two days a week between 1.30pm - 4pm during school term-time.

Details for Summer Term 2017 are shown below:

DAY	DATE	DAY	DATE
TUESDAY	25 April	WEDNESDAY	26 April
TUESDAY	2 May	WEDNESDAY	3 May
TUESDAY	9 May	WEDNESDAY	10 May
TUESDAY	16 May	WEDNESDAY	17 May
TUESDAY	23 May	WEDNESDAY	24 May
TUESDAY	6 June	WEDNESDAY	7 June
TUESDAY	13 June	WEDNESDAY	14 June
TUESDAY	20 June	WEDNESDAY	21 June
TUESDAY	27 June	WEDNESDAY	28 June
TUESDAY	4 July	WEDNESDAY	5 July
TUESDAY	11 July	WEDNESDAY	12 July

Visit www.hertfordshire.gov.uk/localoffer
for services for children/young people with SEND

