



weekly news

Stagslink



From the Head Teacher

Dear Parents/Carers

This has been a wonderful final week of term. On Monday, House Challenge was a real triumph, with students of all ages working together in their Houses with the theme this year, based on famous authors that the Houses had chosen themselves and ensured that the true STAGS spirit shone through. Judging was again such a challenge as students undertook varied activities across all subjects, culminating in the final presentations, which were wonderfully displayed in the Main Hall. The quality was superb – Congratulations to **Franklin** who won the Inter House Challenge.

Sport's Day was such an enjoyable event in the afternoon - the team spirit was alive and evident throughout the whole day with students of all ages working together to rise to the challenges of the House Competition and supporting each other so admirably on the sports field. My thanks go to Miss McHugh and the PE department who organised these events and Mrs Sarah Maguire, Governor and STAGS Alumni, who presented the awards. **Franklin** were Sport's day winner for Years 7, **Hepworth** for Year 8, **Seacole** for Year 9 and **Seacole** for Year 10. The overall Sports day winners were **Seacole** – congratulations to all participants.

On Tuesday, we enjoyed a superb evening of entertainment organised by our students of all ages, with our 'award winning' STAGS in Colours. Our guest speakers were Bethany Nichols, STAGS Alumni continued her academic journey firstly at the University of Leicester and now at Royal Holloway, undertaking a PhD and Jenny Owen who gave up a prestigious role as a solicitor in the City to pursue charitable work and founded the St Albans and District Food Bank supporting the local community. My thanks go to Mrs Elliot Brown for organising this superb event, now in its fifth year and the team of colleagues who supported the evening so admirably, working alongside Radio Verulam, who aired the whole performance. With the theme of 'Live, Breathe, Community' this was truly a superb evening of celebration of the rich diversity and culture within our school.

The House Challenge winners were announced in a whole school assembly, held in the Sports Hall. Points were totalled for the whole year with House points awarded to individuals, the Christmas Fair, Spring House Cup, Inter-House sports competitions, Sports Day and House Challenge. Congratulations to all Houses who are superbly led by the House Captains. The winners of the Valerie Booth House Cup 2017 are **Austen**. Austin House enjoyed a superb afternoon 'pool party' on Thursday with music, food and the pool to keep cool! My thanks go all colleagues who supported the celebration.

Thank you also to our wonderful PTA who ensure refreshments at events during the school year and support our school so admirably with fund raising and other activities. I would encourage you to further engage in the school community into the next academic year, if at all possible. Our Going Green attendance and punctuality campaigns continue to ensure a sharp focus and attendance for the whole school is 96.2% this year. There has also been a significant decrease in the request for holiday absence during term time, as we continue to learn throughout the year until the end of term.

As the term draws to a close we are saying goodbye to a number of our colleagues who are retiring or leaving us for pastures new – Mrs Newman, Mr Lerwill, Mrs Marques and Mr Oxley are all retiring; Mrs Nawathe is moving into the University of London as Careers Consultant, Mr Norton, Mrs Holmes, Mrs Goldup, Mrs Pannell, Miss Baker and Mrs Beatham are relocating and Mrs Martin, Mrs Penfold, Miss Bensal and Miss Sherman are moving on to new ventures. Finally, Miss Butcher is returning to Heathlands School - we wish them all every success in their future endeavours.

Please ensure that you encourage your daughter/son to read, keep healthy and safe. I very much look forward to seeing all students rested and ready for the new school year which starts at 8.20am on Tuesday 5th September, with lessons commencing at 8.35am. A reminder please that all students should be fully equipped and wearing full and correct school uniform, with skirts purchased at the appropriate length, detailed guidance for which is available in the student planner and on our website.

Included within this bulletin is a summary of the form groups and locations of form rooms for the next academic year.

I WISH YOU ALL A VERY HAPPY AND SAFE HOLIDAY AND THANK YOU FOR YOUR CONTINUED SUPPORT

With all good wishes.

Margaret Chapman

21 July 2017

UPCOMING EVENTS

Thursday 17 August

A Level Results Day, Main Hall – 8.00am to 10.30am

Thursday 24 August

GCSE Results Day, Main Hall – 8.00am to 10.30am

Wednesday 30 August

Post 16 Enrolment

Autumn Term Begins

Tuesday 5 September

School starts at 8.35am

Thursday 7 September

PTA Meeting – 7.30pm to 9.00pm

Monday 11 September

OGA Alumni Meeting – 7.15pm to 8.45pm

Tuesday 12 September

Mob Race – 3.30pm

Wednesday 13 September

Year 12 ALPS Targets to Parents

Year 13 ALPS Targets and Predicted grades to Parents

Year 7 Information Evening – Main Hall, 7.00pm to 10.00pm

Thursday 14 September

Year 11 Information Evening, Main Hall – 7.00pm to 8.30pm

Friday 15 September

Year 7 Extra Curricular Fair – 1.05pm to 1.35pm

Sunday 17 September

PTA Year 7 Welcome BBQ. – 1.00pm to 3.00pm

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:

Obtrude

Definition:

Impose or force something on someone

Try to use it as much as possible this week!

English Department



Curie Wins Eco Council Inter-House Sunflower Competition!



Curie house was crowned champion of the sunflowers this week bringing the Inter-house sunflower competition to a close. Students in Years 7 – 10 have nurtured their sunflowers from seeds, then subsequently in the raised beds, since the competition was launched in April. Impressively students in Curie had 18 sunflowers growing from the 20 seeds they were given, the tallest sunflower at 2.02 metres and the biggest cumulative height of 22 m 98cm.



In winning the competition the house received 200 house points, with all houses receiving house points for their efforts. A special mention also goes to Johnson who created a unique 6 headed sunflower!

It has been wonderful seeing the Eco garden come alive with students and attracting wildlife, such as bees and butterflies. A huge thank you to Mrs Hewit for her support with this competition and congratulations girls on your achievements!

Mrs Nottage
Co-leader Eco Council

Another Successful Year of Model Building at STAGS



The last of some 25 model aircraft made Year 7 and 8 students over the academic year were completed last week. Two Year 7 students - Wissal El Amrouchi [7F] and Hannah Burman [7H] both made two models over the course of the year.

This year's subject matter focused on US Aircraft from WWII. Typified by the model of a P51D Mustang of the legendary Tuskegee Airmen shown in the picture. This model - made by Chloe Harrison, 7F illustrates the time and care the students put into their work.

The model club is supported by STAGS PTA and run by Mr Blades.

Coming next year is the return of Spitfire Club .

Mr Blades
Science Teacher

STAGS Win Gold, Silver and Bronze Medals in UKMT Junior Maths Challenge

Earlier this year in April, a total of 69 Year 7 and 8 students from STAGS took part in the UKMT Junior Maths Challenge competition. This event encouraged the pupils to enjoy solving problems by applying and developing their mathematical knowledge.

This year STAGS students achieved results which far exceeded those nationally with 33 of our students gaining gold, silver or bronze awards.

Srushti Khedekar in 7F and Amelia Kinghorn in 8J did exceptionally well and were invited to take part in further competitions.

As one of the top 25% in 5,700 entrants, Amelia gained a certificate of merit in the Kangaroo competition. Srushti was one of only 1,200 students taking part in the Junior Olympiad. Her problem solving expertise led to a certificate of merit which is a fantastic achievement.

Well done Srushti and Amelia.!

Mrs Moore
Maths Teacher

A Day at Wimbledon



On Saturday 8th July, 9 Students were given the privilege of going to Wimbledon due to their involvement in tennis and sport during the school year.

It was an amazing day that I think we will always remember.

Let alone seeing two matches on Court 1, Mrs Stevenson was incredibly kind and allowed us to use her Centre Court tickets. This meant everyone saw Novak Djokovich- mesmerising!

As well as soaking up the incredible atmosphere, tennis etiquette and beautiful summer sunshine, we learnt so much too. Seeing the players in real life, instead of on a screen, enabled us to realise the true determination, talent and sportsmanship they portray.

Finally, we would all like to say a huge thank you to Miss Rose for organising this trip and making it so fun for everyone.

It was something that we will never forget, a real once in a lifetime experience.

Thank you

Anna Lofts, 9H

STAGS Heated Swimming Pool Available to Non-Member's for Pool Parties In 2017



The STAGS Swimming pool continues to open during the school holidays and throughout September. The pool association would like to make parents aware that you do not have to be a member of the swimming association to book a pool party. If you would like to book one please contact Becky at: sspapoolparties@gmail.com - For August bookings please make contact by 23rd July at the latest. Bookings may also be taken for pool parties in September throughout the summer.

Please note: There is a maximum number of two non- member guests allowed on each family membership at a charge of £3 per person. Please notify one of the life guards on duty at the beginning of the session and offer payment before entering the pool.

STAGS Pool Timetable Changes For Summer Holidays

A notice for STAGS swimming pool members - Please make a note of the following changes to the time table. New Times will be as follows:

Monday	2.00pm to 4.00pm General (<i>no session on Bank holiday Monday 28th August</i>)
Tuesdays	2.00pm to 4.00pm General Swim.
Wednesdays	7.00pm to 9.00pm Adults Only.
Thursdays	2.00pm to 4.00pm General Swim.
Fridays	5.00pm to 7.00pm General Swim and 7-9pm Adults Only.
Saturdays	2.00pm to 4.00pm General Swim
Sundays	10.00am to 12.00pm General Swim with a lane for length swimming for the first half an hour 12.00pm to 1.00pm Length swimming, all ages. 2.00pm to 4.00pm General Swim.

All members of STAGS Swimming Pool Association wish you and your family a happy summer and we hope you enjoy using the pool facilities until the beginning of October.



St Albans Girls' School - Form Tutors 2017 – 18



Where a form is shared between two teachers, both teachers are expected to attend registration periods.

Year 13	L. Cripps - Director of Learning / J. Tolley – Assistant Director of Learning	Room
13-1	G. Reason* + M. Evans*	14
13-2	S. Reason* + H. Moore*	17
13-3	A. Hulme	27A
13-4	E. Warren	Mu2
13-5	H. Savage	15
Year 12	L. Cripps - Director of Learning / J. Tolley – Assistant Director of Learning	
12-1	K. Keogh	V
12-2	B. Brock	35
12-3	M. Hall	21
12-4	K. Birkett* + K. Warner*	32
12-5	J. Blades* + R. Khan*	T2
Year 11	R. Potter - Director of Learning	
11A	H. Fowler* + H. Glanvill*	39
11B	J. Morgan* + H. Rock*	T4/28
11C	Y. Zarrouq	31
11F	H. Glover	25
11H	R. Wheatley* + M. Fox*	CR
11J	D. Buckley	22
11S	H. Bowman	30
Year 10	T. Lambert - Director of Learning	
10A	M. Benekou	M2
10B	S. Pennock	40
10C	J. Curl	L2
10F	R. Sharp	16
10H	H. Al Kamali + E. Tierney*	23
10J	S. Pittard	18
10S	P. Randerson	M1
Year 9	N. Roston - Director of Learning	
9A	D. Bowyer	L10
9B	S. Barrett	L1
9C	R. Cusworth	M4
9F	R. Cardani	29
9H	C. Draper	N1
9J	A. Fotheringham	L9
9S	E. Gil	M6
Year 8	C. Rose - Director of Learning	
8A	K. Lawlor	L8
8B	S. Reinhold + D. Shawkat*	M
8C	A. Hewitt (+ Laura Fulham - SD)	A3
8F	M. Carvahlo + P. Wallis*	24
8H	J. Donachie	20
8J	J. McCallion (+ Chelsea Western - SD)	27
8S	T. Hussain	34
Year 7	A. Whybrow - Director of Learning	
7A	C. Antona + M. Rowlands*	M3
7B	B. Soler + M. Hamilton*	M9
7C	C. Barry + J. Mehta*	M8
7F	M. Ghani + A. Nottage*	M7
7H	A. O'Sullivan + C. Ruddy*	M11
7J	C. Carver + K. Smith*	M12
7S	H. Khanum + L. Mathurin*	M10

Rotary Interact Club of St Albans at STAGS

You may have seen a few articles in the newsletter or seen the letters sent out, but as the term is drawing to a close, it seemed a brilliant opportunity to summarise all that the Interact club has achieved this academic year. When I did this, however, there was enough to make a newsletter on its own, so here are the highlights:

In the autumn term, the club

- hosted the Year 7 disco
- planted crocuses and filled 52 shoe boxes with the help of Year 7
- organised a Christmas card design competition
- sold refreshments at open evening
- collected donations at the St Albans fireworks for the St Albans Priory Rotary club
- had a stall at the Christmas fair

In the spring term, they

- launched the End Polio Campaign with an iron lung on site and assemblies
- elected new Directors, President and Vice President
- ran a valentines 'gift a cookie' stall' and an Easter egg stall
- hosted a guest speaker, Neil Kirby from the Red Rubber Ball Foundation

In the summer term, the club

- were challenged to turn a box of tea and a pot of Jam into £50 – they called it afternoon tea and made £127, which was matched by Chalmers Cursley
- held a cake sale at the St Albans Charity Cycle Ride, kindly donated by our Year 7 and 9 students
- provided refreshments for some concerts, information evenings, the Year 8 parents evening and STAGS in Colours
- organised a KS3 Pizza night with entertainment.

The charities supported this year are:

International	Local
Unicef School in a box	Keetch Cottage
The Red Rubber Ball Foundation	PHAB
Action Aid	Open Door
End Polio Now	

We would like to thank the whole school community who has supported the bake sales, events and stalls that have been organised, over £3000 was raised, and will be donated to the chosen charities. The club would love to welcome more new members next year to keep the momentum going! Our first two events in our calendar are the Year 7 disco on the 13th of October and or AGM on the 18th of October.

Mrs Rock

Teacher Liaison to the Rotary Interact Club of St Albans



WORKSHOPS FOR PARENTS OF CHILDREN WITH ADDITIONAL NEEDS

Following the success of our 10 week Parenting Programmes we are now running a series of workshops on topics identified by Parents.

Morning workshops 9.30am-12pm

@ Trinity Church, 1 Beaconsfield Road, St Albans AL1 3RD

Thursday 21st September The journey of grief and loss – adjusting to the new normal ©

An opportunity to explore our unique and unplanned journey and the emotions it can bring. Understanding the stages we go through to find our new "normal"

Thursday 28th September Practical information around SEN and working effectively with Professionals and Schools

Realising the full potential of our child by understanding the "ins and outs" of special education from early identification to intervention, the terms and acronyms. Building positive working relationships with professionals.

Thursday 5th October SEN Managing the impact on siblings and relationships

Family life is all about relationships and communication. SEN can bring communication challenges affecting every relationship. How can we balance the needs of all family members?

Thursday 12th October Keeping It Cool© Managing behavior and anger

Everyone experiences anger sometimes. Managing anger more effectively can strengthen our relationships but what happens when a person struggles to verbalise these emotions? How can we respond when mood shifts happen so quickly that there is little time to seek a positive outlet.

Evening workshops 6.30pm-9pm

@ St Albans Girls School, Sandridgebury Lane, AL3 6DB

Wednesday 20th September Safety Net – keeping your children with additional needs safe online

Online safety is important for everyone, but for our children with additional needs we need to be extra vigilant when it comes to cyber safety.

Wednesday 27th September The journey of grief and loss – adjusting to the new normal ©

An opportunity to explore our unique and unplanned journey and the emotions it can bring. Understanding the stages we go through to find our new "normal"

Wednesday 4th October SEN – Managing the impact on siblings and relationships

Family life is all about relationships and communication. SEN can bring communication challenges affecting every relationship. How can we balance the needs of all family members?

Wednesday 11th October Practical information around SEN and working effectively with Professionals and Schools

Realising the full potential of our child by understanding the "ins and outs" of special education from early identification to intervention, the terms and acronyms. Building positive working relationships with professionals.



Places cost £25 per person per workshop.

Group discounts available. To book online:

www.stalbanseps.org/bookings or email stalbanseps@gmail.com

2.5 hour workshops



Resources to take away Refreshments included



Workshops facilitated by Nikki Howes and Sarah Ellis



Friendly and non-judgmental



Peer support



Venues provided by DSPL7



Ellis Potential





St Albans Youth Council

**Are you a young
person.....**

.....who would like to have a voice
for young people in St Albans?

YES!

Then St Albans Youth Council is the
venue for you.



**Weekly meetings
from Monday
11th September 2017
7 – 9 pm at City & District
Council Offices
St Peters Street
St Albans AL1 3JE**

Call Robert Brown on 01442 454070
for more information
www.ychertfordshire.org
yc.stalbans@hertfordshire.gov.uk
 @St AlbansTeam

YC

HERTFORDSHIRE

Enabling young people to succeed