



weekly news

Stagslink

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From the Head Teacher

Dear Parents/Carers

It was a great pleasure to see so many parents once again at the recent Year 12 parents' evening, with 92% attendance. The partnership between home and school is so important to ensure the best possible future opportunities for our young people. This was also evident at last night's Careers evening. Our now biannual Careers events, organised by Miss McHugh, enable our students to gain a valuable insight into the vast array of different career opportunities. The exhibitors attend at their own cost and so at times the participants do change at the last minute, but nonetheless, all commented that as they know that our students will attend these events, they are happy to support the school in sharing the great range of career opportunities that are available to be explored. Last night we welcomed nearly 200 STAGS students and their families, with additional family members and friends welcomed for the evening too.

On Monday we held our annual PTA AGM. My thanks go to Nick Short who has managed the School Fund for many years and has been such an active member and supporter of the PTA. My thanks also go to Tim Lowe who has been Chair of the PTA for five years, acting as bridge between the previous committee and developing the new committee to ensure continuity of parents support and participation in so many school events. Although he has stood down as Chair, he will continue with his very active support on the PTA. Congratulations to Helen Buck who was appointed as Chair of the PTA and to all parents who continue to represent the school so admirably.

The next PTA event is the Uniform sale on Saturday 24 February from 10.00-11.30 in the library. Your donations of 'too small uniform' are hugely appreciated to the main office please.

Last week we welcomed all members of our governing body to our now annual Governor Day immersion into the life of the school. Governors met with their Curriculum Leader links for each subject area, undertook learning walks and book scans, talking to the students about their learning experiences. In addition, there was an opportunity to participate in updates on the new Careers Strategy, all elements of safeguarding, health and safety and focus on how student performance is monitored and tracked. The day concluded with a full governing body meeting, where updates were provided related to the conversion to a Multi Academy Trust.

Congratulation to Mrs Warner, who is acting Curriculum Leader for PE. She submitted a bid to the CAMHS mental health project to support fitness in schools and I am delighted that the 'Feeling Good Week' bid has been successful.

Congratulations to Anouk Denton in Year 10 who has been selected for the England U15 Fixture Camp in Switzerland from 12 – 16 February 2018.

My thanks go to Mrs Tolley who led a hugely enjoyable trip to the Houses of Parliament and Supreme Court yesterday, the date of which coincided with the first vote being given to women in 1918.

Congratulations also to all who participated so actively in the Scholars Programme and graduated today at St Anne's College, Oxford. Well done to Magda Belcheva, Mahjabeen Choudhury, Teyah Goldie, Lara Horne, Amelia Kinghorn, Erina Frankland, Lucy Jordan-Caws, Chelsea Stitson, Mia Thomas and Myla Comiskey

Wishing you all an enjoyable half term break.

With all good wishes

Margaret Chapman

9 February 2018

UPCOMING EVENTS

Monday 19 February

School starts 8.20am

Spring Chamber Concert -
7.00pm, Main Hall

Wednesday 21 February

35th Anniversary of Hearing

Dogs for Deaf Service -
6.30pm

Memory Mnemonics Year 13

- 1.50pm - Dance Studio

A Level Drama Practical -

4.00pm to 7.00pm

Thursday 22 February

Year 10 Parents' Evening -

4.30pm, Main Hall

Friday 23 February

Battlefields School Trip from

23 to 24 February

Saturday 24 February

PTA Nearly New Uniform Sale

- 10.00am to 11.30am

Peace Building Conference

(Rotary) - Year 8 to Year 13,

7.30am to 7.30pm

Tuesday 27 February

Year 11 Food Prep and

Nutrition GCSE Practical

Exam

Full Governing Body Meeting

- 7.00pm, Library

Tuesday 27 March

Year 9 immunisations for

Diphtheria / Tetanus / Polio

Meningitis - Date change

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

Year 7A Valentine 'Sweet Treats' Raise Money for Women's Refuge



On Monday 5 February, members of 7A organised a charity stall selling 'Sweet Treats' for Valentine's day in the main foyer at lunch time. Year 7 Student Mabilia Boksh gives us her account of the event:

'We planned to run our stall for three days. However, all the sweet packages were sold out within one hour on the first day! Each package, at 50p each, was going one by one as students queued excitedly to buy a bag for their family and friends. In total, a tremendous £55 was raised which will go towards the Austen House charity, Women's' Refuge.'

7A would like say a big thank you to all those students who bought the sweet treats and to all members of 7A who worked hard for several days to make it work. They put in their own money and a lot of effort in preparing the sweet packages, creating the poster and helping out on the stall. The money we made for Women's' Refuge will hopefully contribute towards positive impact on the lives of women and children who are seeking refuge.

Mabilia Boksh, 12.2

For more information on this charity visit: <http://stalbandsandhertsmere womensrefuge.org.uk>



Word of the Week

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



This week's word is:

Prosper



Definition:

To succeed in an enterprise or activity; especially : to achieve economic success

Try to use it as much as possible this week!

English Department

Signing and Singing for the 35th Celebratory Concert for Hearing Dogs at St Albans Cathedral



STAGS' Music Department were delighted to welcome the choir from Heathlands Primary School for the deaf on Monday 5 February. They joined voices together with STAGS choir members to rehearse songs in unison. STAGS choirs sang the notes and the Heathlands choir signed the words. The lunchtime rehearsal was held in preparation for a celebratory concert at the St Albans Abbey which will be held on Wednesday 21 February, 7pm – 9pm. The service is being organised to celebrate the 35th Anniversary of Hearing Dogs and to give thanks to all involved in the work of the Charity. STAGS choirs and Heathlands students will be joined by the Quorum Singers of St.

Albans, and Welwyn Garden City Male Voice Choir. There will also be a dog demonstration team showcasing the work of the wonderful hearing dogs who give independence to those people who are deaf and hard of hearing.

This event is free to attend but **tickets should be booked in advance** and will not be available on the door. Tea and coffee will be served afterwards. This special concert will be broadcast live on Radio Verulam 92.6FM. For more information, and to book tickets, please see the website:

www.hearingdogs.org.uk/support/events/stalbans35/

We hope you will join us in supporting this event!



Old £1 coins and old paper £5 & £10 notes

As you may know, the old £1 coins and £5 paper notes have now ceased to be legal tender and the paper £10 will be ceasing on 1 March 2018.

Old £1 coins and £5 notes can no longer be accepted as payment for school trips and events nor by Aspens for payment of dinner money. The old £10 note will continue to be accepted until Wednesday 21 February 2018 so that we can arrange for them to be banked before the 1 March deadline.

Any old coins or notes received in the finance office after this time will be returned to you and we will request an alternative method of payment. Please note that your trip or event etc will not be marked as fully paid until a replacement payment has been received.

Our preferred method of payment, for all school activities and dinner money etc, is online via School Gateway (<https://login.schoolgateway.com/0/auth/login>). If you have not yet created a login, please follow the link above.

If you have any queries or need any assistance with setting up your Gateway access, please contact the finance office.

Thank You

Stefanie Dale, Finance Manager

STAGS STUDENT GET FIT WEEK

Monday 19th February - Friday 23rd February

	SPORTS HALL	GYM	STUDIO
MONDAY	XLR8 Diva Fit (all over dance workout) 3.30pm-4.30pm		
TUESDAY	POUND (a class inspired by drumming! Drumsticks provided) 3.30pm-4.15pm		
WEDNESDAY	Clubbercise (Glow sticks provided!) 3.30pm-4.15pm	XLR8 Cheerleading 3.30pm-4.30pm	Ballet 1.15-1.45pm
THURSDAY	Herts Zone Fitness Boxercise 3.30pm-4.30pm	XLR8 Pilates 3.30pm-4.30pm	
FRIDAY	Trampolining 1.15pm-1.45pm Herts Zone Fitness Circuits 3.30pm-4.30pm		FREE!

If you would like to reserve a space in any of the activities above please email Mrs Warner pekn@stags.herts.sch.uk by Wednesday 14th February with:

- Student name
- Form
- Activity (ies)

Many activities have limited numbers so if you are lucky enough to be allocated a space please commit to attending. You will receive a notification via email.



GRAMMAR GURU

GRAMMAR TIP OF THE WEEK

compliment or complement?

compliment means an expression of praise.

complement means to go well with; to complete; to enhance the features of something.

I would like to **compliment** you on your new haircut.

Your new haircut will **complement** your eyes.



Remember the difference!

Understanding and Managing Anger in Children - Talk

Summary



Anger and assertiveness can be a healthy reaction and normal bid for independence and self protection. But when it becomes excessive, it harms those around the individual and themselves, since it may indicate poor ability to regulate emotions and unhappiness. Signs can range from arguments and tantrums, to excessive refusal to carry out everyday tasks, shouting, verbal and physical aggression, and a tendency to blame everybody else. This talk will cover the roots of difficult behaviour and share the considerable recent advances in understanding how best to manage it in a very practical way. This is mainly via what

the triggers are and then having a calm plan in place to overcome them; also the underlying positive aspects of the parent-child relationship may need attention to promote secure attachment. All approaches to be described are useful with all children to help their self-confidence and security, and indeed academic attainments.

Who is this event for?

The approach described is relevant for all children, not just those who are excessively angry or cross; whilst the talk will primarily be for parents of children aged 2 to 10, similar approaches apply with teenagers.

What parents will gain from this talk

- An understanding of what triggers anger, and then what makes it more likely to happen again
- How to improve the relationship with the child, so that angry outbursts are less likely
- How to cope calmly with child anger and not get sucked into angry cycles
- Practical moment to moment advice on how to deal with the child, both when being disruptive and the rest of the time
- Ways to promote resilience and self-confidence, both socially and with school work

Booking is essential. Book NOW

Event Details

Date: Thu 1st March 2018

Time: 19.30-21.15

Location: The Maltings Theatre, St Albans

Cost: £18pp

About our speaker



Professor Stephen Scott CBE is Professor of Child Health and Behaviour at The Institute of Psychiatry, Psychology and Neuroscience Kings College London. He is Director of The National Academy for Parenting Research, and Consultant Child and Adolescent Psychiatrist who works with families of children who can be difficult. He has carried out a number of trials to discover what works best with both younger children and adolescents to improve their anger and mood. He is the author of the bestselling textbook "Child and Adolescent Psychiatry" with Professor Robert Goodman. He is about to launch an online program to help parents.