



SIXTH *form* @STAGS

Welcome to the Sixth Form Newsletter as we come to the end of the first half term of 2018. It certainly seems to have been a very quick and busy half term with both Year 12s and 13s involved in many activities and trips, both academic and extra curricular. Following the first set of mocks, all of our subject areas have in place a number of interventions and support sessions to help students. The next set of mocks will be starting week commencing Monday 5 March and for our Year 13s this will be the last formal set of mock examinations before the start of the public examinations in May.

Many congratulations to the students who have been offered places at Oxford and Cambridge. This is a very rigorous process and we are very proud of how all our candidates prepared and conducted themselves during the application process. Our successful students are Ella Bettison who has been offered a place at Pembroke College, Cambridge to study Computer Science, Katya Alban to study English Literature and German at St John's College, Oxford and Nikita Kamath to study Engineering at St Catherine's College, Cambridge. Our Medicine candidates are currently attending their own challenging interviews at a broad range of medical schools. We wish them every success over the next few weeks and we are confident that all of their hard work and preparation will pay off. As the Year 13s complete the process our Year 12 students are commencing their preparation and our thanks go to Dr Hamilton who is running the medicine discussion group as well as Mrs Birkett for her work on higher thinking skills and the Progression Plus Programme. My thanks also go to the many teachers who have supported our students with their expertise and guidance this year; including Mrs Shawkat, Mr Pittard, Mrs Birkett, Mr Markou, Mrs Liasis and Mrs Chapman.

We also received our EPQ results in January and we congratulate the 13 students who gained the EPQ qualification with excellent grades. Well done to all the girls; Naailah Ahmed, Mary Ahsan, Katya Alban, Tonya Alban, Danielle Cawley, Grace Clark, Zoe Davey, Amy Harris, Lucy Hunt, Kirsty Moane, Catriona Moss, Macy Usher and Lilly Whitefield.

Earlier in January, our Year 12 students, through the Progression Programme, were extremely privileged to be able to hear Eva Schloss speak. Eva is a Holocaust survivor and shared the story of her life including her incarceration in Birkenau/Auschwitz. It was a very powerful talk that had a profound impact on us all with her message for the future.

The Progression Programme in late January and February has been looking at the topic of planning finances and our Year 12s have been learning about the different types of bank account, picking the best deal, the perils of credit cards, understanding a payslip and savings and borrowings. Certainly a topic which will help students prepare for life after school.

I wish everyone an enjoyable and relaxing half term and we are looking forward to all that the next half term brings us.

Julia Pipes
Assistant Head Post 16

“Being challenged in life is inevitable, but I believe that being defeated is optional.”

Henry Fraser

Henry was 17 years old when a tragic accident severely crushed his spinal cord and paralysed him from the shoulders down. He has conquered unimaginable difficulties to embrace life and a new way of living. His story epitomizes the idea of a Growth Mindset, but if nothing else his story is inspirational.



Henry was coming to the end of his 1st year of A Levels in 2009. He and his friends had planned a holiday to Praia da Luz in Portugal.

“It was a nightmare holiday from the very first day after I had reached the boarding gate at the airport to find my passport was two months expired. This meant I had to travel up to Liverpool the next day to get a new passport and pay for an extra flight, a good £200 well spent.”

On the fifth day, the boys were enjoying another day on the beach. Henry ran into the sea, as he had done hundreds of times before. Henry crashed his head on the seabed. His head was face down in the water - he couldn't breathe and he couldn't move. He managed to turn his head to call for help - this one turn of his head saved his life but irreversibly changed his life forever.

The accident left Henry unable to breathe, eat and paralysed from the neck down. At 17 years old this news was totally devastating. This is when Henry decided that being defeated was optional.

Henry went through hours and weeks of grueling physio. He fought against other people's expectations, including medical experts. He learnt to breathe by himself again. He learnt to eat again. He wanted to be in a wheelchair that didn't require head and neck support and so spent hours strengthening the muscles in his neck.

Through sheer determination Henry was able to return home to live with his parents in Harpenden. He went back to school and completed his A Levels. He went on to write match reports for Saracens Rugby club.

This achievement was not enough for Henry. He wanted a new challenge, so he experimented with an app on his iPad and using his mouth he started to paint. He has gone on to hold exhibitions and he now regularly completes commissions for a growing customer base. Henry has also written a book about his remarkable journey - 'The Little Big Things.'

What Henry's story tells us is that achieving success is hard work. Unless you are told Henry's story, you wouldn't know the effort behind his success. His art work looks effortless.



So how does Henry's story relate to you? Headline figures that celebrate exam success do not tell the true story behind that success. People only see the finished product, the tip of the iceberg. How will you overcome any challenges you are facing with your studies to achieve the exam results you are striving for? The only way is to foster a Growth Mindset. Set yourself smaller targets to reach bigger goals. Remember the importance of the word "yet". Often students give up because they think they are not good at something. However you must remember "yet" - you are not good at something "yet". This small word is so important in achieving your goals. Understanding the importance of "yet" is key to a Growth Mindset.

Jo Tolley

Assistant Director of Learning Post 16

YEAR 12

Eva Schloss, Holocaust Survivor Visit



Recently, Year 12 were lucky enough to have been given the opportunity to hear the amazing Eva Schloss talk about her life as a Holocaust survivor, leading up to Holocaust Memorial Day. It was an incredibly moving talk and she gave us an insight into her life during and beyond the atrocities of the Holocaust. We were then given the chance to buy her books and ask her any questions which she was willing to answer.

After this extremely powerful talk, a group of us were taken to Dame Alice Owen's School where we joined numerous other schools in taking part in a Holocaust Commemoration Event where many schools had produced speeches and small dance productions in order to show the horrors of the Holocaust and many other Genocides which are still happening today. This event also included an incredibly moving candlelighting along with a talk from Holocaust survivor, Zigi Shipper. Afterwards we were all given time to reflect on this emotional experience and ensure, as the next generation, that nothing like this will ever happen again.

Kezia Blakeley
Year 12

Dragon's Apprentice News

Since the launch in October we have been raising money for Citizens Advice, a charity dedicated to helping people and giving them advice whenever they have a problem such as a difficult financial situation. Over the last couple of months we have learnt many skills such as marketing, selling to the public and managing a team.

Team Accord have been dedicated to raising as much money as we can to increase the training of volunteers in the non-profit charity by hosting a number of events such as a quiz night, multiple movie nights and school discos. The quiz night was a straight success with our first sell out event. Our movie nights held in the Pudding Stop were always popular featuring the classic movie, popcorn and of course pudding! Our Year 7 Disco sold out very quickly and was an enjoyable event which was attended by over 200 students from STAGS and Verulam School. We could not have achieved as much as we have done without the help of our business mentors from the Pudding Stop. They advised us and gave us so much help with selling and loaning us use of their Pudmobile which we used every Saturday to sell to the general public of St Albans and was an instant hit. Through all this fundraising we were able to raise over £4000!

Team Accord

... *Dragon's Apprentice News*

This year we took part in the Dragons' Apprentice Challenge for Year 12 students where we try and turn £100 into £1000.

I am a member of Team Unity, which consists of 8 team members. We were partnered up with Lynne Minser and her self-run charity 'Small Acts of Kindness'. They are a charity which aims to provide winter essentials, such as blankets and hot drinks, to elderly people who cannot afford to buy these themselves. We also worked with Peter Hubble, a Product Design Manager at the company FL1 Digital, who was our dragon and mentor throughout this whole process.



Over the last few months, we organised multiple events inside and outside of school, to try and raise as much money as possible for 'Small Acts of Kindness'. Our first event took place in the early stages of the challenge, where we organised a 'Pizza Night' for the Year 7s. We sold Domino's Pizza and showed the much loved film 'Moana', whilst also serving treats and drinks during the night. Although it was our first event, we managed to have a very successful night with smiles all around.

After our 'Pizza Night' we set up a few smaller events or ways to raise money for our charity; we attracted the attention of public businesses and set up a 'Christmas Jumper Day' where they had to take their best photos in their Christmas jumpers and the winning business would get a prize. We had many entries and donations and it was lovely to see so many of them supporting us and the charity.

The STAGS Winter Fair had come around where we were meant to sell Krispy Kreme Doughnuts and Cupcakes. Unfortunately due to the snow, it was cancelled but we were able to overcome this problem and successfully sell them to members of the public and the rescheduled Winter Fair allowed us to sell some donated cupcakes and cookies.

The St Albans Christmas Market proved to be a very cold day but that didn't stop us! Our team were still able to sell a variety of products such as hand warmers and bubbles, making it a highly profitable event.

One of our most successful events was our 'Greek Night' at Anastasia where we invited members of the public to come and enjoy some delicious Greek food and entertainment, as well as taking part in an auction. This was one of the most enjoyable events as we really worked well as a team.

As the challenge started to draw to a close, we decided to do some smaller events. Cookies are very popular at STAGS, so we sold 'Millies Cookies' to the whole school and lastly, we did a 'Pizza Lunch' for the Year 8s where we sold Domino's Pizza, candy floss and drinks. This was a nice way to end the challenge as we were all fully involved, helping out at different stations.

Also, throughout the challenge, we set up an online shop where we sold multiple items such as Bathrobes and T-Shirts, as well as setting up a voucher donation where people can buy vouchers so that the money can be used towards buying the items for the gift bags SAOK distribute.

We were presented with wonderful opportunities to raise awareness of our partnered charity, Small Acts of Kindness. For example, two members of our team were given the chance to be live on air on Radio Verulam to promote our charity events and talk about Small Acts of Kindness.

I would recommend this challenge to the younger years as it has been a huge learning experience for our team members. We have learnt to be more organised, to negotiate well, how to work within a team, and many other business skills that will hopefully help us in the future.

Team Unity

Level 2 Sports Leadership

PE....running, netball, swimming and many more but do you ever think about how much planning goes into these sessions? Or what it takes to be able to lead them?

Being a leader is not just about having the confidence to speak in front of an audience but also having the passion and enthusiasm to encourage others around you. These essential skills are brought out in the qualification of Sports Leadership.

As a group we have planned multiple sessions for all ages, even year one from Garden Fields who were very enthusiastic! Many leaders have also been involved in the planning and leading of Year 7 lessons to try and see what makes a good leader. It is great fun trying to think of new and fun ideas to engage the younger years in physical activity.

This process involves thinking of a warm up, a main activity and a cool down with a reflection. Then an evaluation of our own session and how to improve. It is amazing to see how quickly you can learn and pick up these skills and by observing others, think about how we might do it differently next time.

There is also a great opportunity to get involved in not only running your own club but also being involved in the charity side of sports like sports relief. Many leaders have been allocated a lunchtime slot in the week beginning the 19th of March to run multiple inter-house competitions with the great reward of helping our community.

Lucy Hawker, Cerys Dawson and Zoe Lewis
Year 12

Year 12 Professional Placement Week

Monday 9 July-Friday 13 July 2018

During July all students in Year 12 are provided with one week off timetable to participate in Work Experience or Work Shadowing for their Professional Placement Week. This will take place from Monday 9 July until Friday 13 July 2018.

A recent survey showed two thirds of employers look for employees with relevant work experience because it helps them prepare for work and develop general business awareness. Importantly, one third of employers felt that applicants did not have a satisfactory level of knowledge about their chosen career or job.

To gain a better understanding of a career, it is worthwhile for students to use this opportunity to organise some work experience or a work shadowing placement with an employer. Whilst it may not give students a large amount of time to develop job-specific skills, it can give them the insight into the work involved. It also shows to future employers that they have motivation and commitment.

Students have already received guidance from Miss McHugh during their Progression Programme lessons on how to apply for these placements. Additionally students can also search and apply for placements using S4S:NextGen <http://www.s4snextgen.org/students/SignUp>.

Students need to register their placement by Friday 23 March 2018 to allow for the necessary health and safety checks to take place.

Ellen McHugh
Assistant Head

Year 12 Rainbow Raffle Nominations

Art/Art Textiles	Maleehah Oozeerally	History	Lucy Hawker	
	Lauren Godding		Zoe Lewis	
	Grace Bishop		Kathryn Mee	
	Martha MacKay		Olivia Wright	
	Natalie Ornstin		Natasha Holt	
	Katie Franklin		Hannah Fox	
Biology	Francesca Bookham	Maths	Yasmeen Diranieh	
	Yasmeen Diranieh		Tehmina Sepai	
	Keira McGovern		Helen Jenkins	
	Maleehah Oozeerally		Freya Bowker-Howell	
	Freya Bowker-Howell		Niamh Haynes	
Business	Phoebe Goff	Media/Film Studies	Beth Walker	
	Amberley Smith	Photography	Amber Patel	
	Zoe Hughes		Amber Patel	
	Rachel Kennedy		Charlotte Binstead	
	Rachel Kennedy		Holly Weisfeld	
	Tatler Manalili			
Chemistry	Cerys Dawson	Physics	Benaz Aladin	
	Rebecca Osborn		Fatima Tahir	
	Robyn Smith		Tehmina Sepai	
	Jeamima Khan		Matt Tester-Wilson	
	Raechel Morales		Matt Tester-Wilson	
Classical Civilisation	Lucy Hawker	Politics	Lilian Ahmed	
	Aimee Bartman		Georgia Bookham	
	Lara Hall		Tanzima Begum	
	Zoe Lewis		Lilian Ahmed	
	Hannah Fox		Tanzima Begum	
Economics	Ambreen Gill	Psychology	Emily Frangiskou-Hemming	
	Aria Braden		Izzy Bilsborough	
	Ambreen Gill		Shazia Jaufarally	
	Ambreen Gill		Lauren Galloway	
	Emily Davies		Forsha Santiago	
English Literature	Eleanor Carr	REP	Lilian Ahmed	
	Aria Braden		Hannah Fox	
	Livia Cockerell		Natasha Peiris	
	Eleanor Carr		Lillian Ahmed	
	Niamh Haynes		Lucy Hawker	
Film Studies	Georgia Hazell	Sociology	Georgia Bookham	
	Jessica Dormer		Ines Bravo-Chapman	
	Fahima Ahmed		Eliza Jones	
French	Kezia Blakeley			Georgia Hazell
Further Maths	Yasmeen Diranieh		Spanish	Kristie Taylor
	Freya Bowker-Howell	Emily Niven		
	Tehmina Sepai	Charlotte Banks		
	Freya Bowker-Howell	Ana-Maria Brezeanu		
	Yasmeen Diranieh	Charlotte Banks		
Geography	Harriet Page	Sports Leadership	Anisah Miah	
	Davina Ramjeet		Lucy Hawker	
	Jackira Begum		Georgia Hazell	
	Phoebe Goff		Lilian Ahmed	
	Harriet Page		Olivia Sharp	
			Zoe Lewis	

YEAR 13



Ace Your Exams and Memory Mnemonics



Elevate Education came to STAGS in November to deliver a session to Year 13s called Ace Your Exams. The seminar focused on exam preparation techniques and identifies the key methods of revision to ensure success.

Many students believe that the best way to prepare for exams is by spending most of their time making and rewriting notes, however the seminar identifies the actual process required for success, which means getting note taking completed as soon as possible and moving on to memorising the information with the vast majority of time spent on practice papers and revision questions. Top performing students recognise that an exam is a test of how you use what you remember and therefore these students spend the majority of their time on practice exam questions.

On Wednesday 21 February, Elevate Education will be returning to STAGS to talk to our Year 13 students about memory. The Memory Mnemonics session introduces advanced memory skills that have a much higher recall rate in tests. These skills also significantly reduce the time needed to memorise large volumes of information. By using these skills on a daily basis, students free up countless hours for the application of knowledge (rather than repeatedly needing to rote-learn it), while also reducing stress before exams and tests.

Julia Pipes, Assistant Head Post 16



Year 13 UCAS



Congratulations to everyone who submitted an application to UCAS by Monday 15 January deadline. You are now all receiving your offers and starting to revisit universities on applicant days to decide which University you will go to next year. You should receive all your offers by Saturday 31 March. The deadline for replying is Wednesday 2 May, so use your time wisely to make sure you select the right firm and insurance offers for you.

If you haven't yet visited the university, make sure you do so before accepting any offers. Think carefully – once you accept an offer you are committed to that university. Do come and talk over your choices with a member of the Sixth Form Team if you are unsure. If you still want to go but haven't done an application it's not too late!

Miss Cripps, Director of Learning Post 16



Politics Conference



On Tuesday 7th November our Year 13 Politics class attended the US Politics Today conference in London. This conference contained four sessions, each covering a different area of study and each session was delivered by an expert in that field. The first two sessions were the shape of American Politics after the 2016 election given by professor Philip John Davies and Dr Ross English - outlining the makeup of legislature across the country and how effective that legislature is at passing laws. The third session was given by Dr Andrew Moran who discussed American foreign policy, highlighting global issues such as: climate change, terrorism and relations with North Korea and how Trump's administration plans to deal with these issues. The last two sessions focused more on Donald Trump as an individual and how he interacts with the different branches of government; one focusing on his divisive relationship with the supreme court and one on the effectiveness of his presidency thus far.

The highlight of the conference was the ability to see the dynamics of US politics and the competing ideologies that exist in American society as there were two former congressmen present - Dan Benishek (a Republican from Michigan) and Sam Farr (a Democrat from California). There was a lively debate taking place throughout the conference on the different issues discussed by the speakers. Dan Benishek, the Republican, was elected to Congress thanks to support from the Tea Party movement and, therefore, presented a libertarian ideology in regard to the role government plays in the lives of the American people. Sam Farr was a progressive Democrat who has demonstrated support for an interventionist government and gun control - sparking a debate with Benishek who has close ties with the National Rifle Association (NRA). Listening to two figures in American politics debate, as well as hearing talks from a range of qualified and interesting speakers, provided us with a wealth of knowledge to bring to our lessons and allowed us to witness the dynamics of politics beyond the classroom and was an extremely valuable experience that we all greatly enjoyed.

Billie Bowbrick, Year 13

Year 13 Rainbow Raffle Nominations

Art/Art Textiles	Georgia Tominey-Smith	Geography	Thaneya Akhtar
	Elise France		Danielle Cawley
	Ruby Tompkins		Hope Morris
	Hope Morris		Yolisa Shumba
	Elise France		Rebecca Harding
	Elise France		Catriona Moss
	Chiara Macdonald		Rose Noden
Biology	Macy Usher	History	Gabbi Goldman
	Lorna Harper		Gabbi Goldman
	Clara Noden		Catriona Moss
	Lorna Harper	Maths	Tamsin Jack
	Tamsin Jack		Nikita Kamath
	Lorna Harper		Ella Bettison
Business	Erin Jackson	Media/Film Studies	Lucy Hunt
	Hajar Fettouh-Jamar		Alex Brown
	Hafsah Khan		Rebecca Harding
	Oma Onerhime		Natasha Coogan
	Sean Reed		Photography
Chemistry	Yolisa Shumba	Physics	Anastasia Bondareva
	Hannah Coleman		Amy Stephen
	Catriona Lowe		Dara Jeckells
	Annabelle Dale		Georgia Smith
	Ranya El Mansouri		Lucia Davighi
Classical Civilisation	Katie Parish	Politics	Tasnim Nunhuck
	Katie Parish		Zuzanna Gos
	Katie Parish		Billie Bowbrick
	Lilly Whitefield		Billie Bowbrick
	Katie Parish		Tasnim Nunhuck
Drama & Theatre Studies	Katya Alban	Psychology	Natasha Robin
	Trin Owhe		Natasha Coogan
	Trin Owhe		Abbie Smith
	Natasha Coogan		Abby Durrant
	Jemma Davidge		Natasha Robin
Economics	Sophie Mort	REP	Dara Jeckells
	Amy Harris		Eleanor Pickersgill
	Amy Harris		Thaneya Akhtar
	Sophie Mort		Dara Jeckells
English Literature	Hannah Nicholas	Sociology	Malika Khan
	Rebecca Harding		Layla Hussain
	Rebecca Harding		Millie Ryder
	Zoe Davey		Hope Morris
Film Studies	Katya Alban	Sociology	Hope Morris
	Mary Ahsan		Olivia Simpson-Ferdinand
French	Hannah Nicholas	Spanish	Ranya El Mansouri
	Hannah Nicholas		Eleanor Pickersgill
	Catriona Moss		Erin Jackson
	Hannah Matthews		Hafsah Khan
Further Maths	Ella Bettison	Further Maths	Eleanor Pickersgill
	Ella Bettison		
	Nikita Kamath		
	Katie Dale		
	Sarah Hill		

Key Dates - Spring Term 2018

Thursday 8 February	Professional Development Day - SCHOOL CLOSED
Friday 9 February	
Monday 12 February - Friday 16 February	HALF TERM
Sunday 18 February	Year 10-13 Dance Regional Platform
Week commencing Monday 19 February	Get Fit week
Monday 19 February	Spring Chamber Concert, 7.00pm
Wednesday 21 February	Year 13 Memory Mnemonics in the Main Hall, 1.50pm-3.20pm A Level Drama Practical, 4.00pm-7.00pm
Tuesday 27 February	Flair, 7.00pm
Wednesday 28 February	
Saturday 3 March	Gold Duke of Edinburgh Training, 9.00am-3.00pm
Wednesday 7 March	Eco Council meeting at lunchtime WE Day
Sunday 11 March	Year 10-13 Gala Concert at the Royal Albert Hall
Wednesday 14 March	Year 12 Classics trip
Thursday 15 March	Year 13 History conference BBC News report Parent Voice, 7.00pm-8.00pm
Week commencing Monday 19 March	Physics Olympiad this week Year 12 & 13 Subject Review Week
Monday 19 March	Dragons awards evening at University of Hertfordshire, 5.00pm-8.00pm
Wednesday 21 March	Year 12 & 13 Psychology conference
Thursday 22 March	Careers Evening
Friday 23 March	Year 12 & 13 Business and Economics conference Year 13 reports issued PTA Quiz night
Tuesday 27 March	Spring Concert, 7.00pm
Thursday 29 March	Non Uniform day Year 12 reports issued LAST DAY OF TERM - SCHOOL ENDS AT 3.20PM
Friday 30 March - Friday 13 April	EASTER HOLIDAYS

Sixth Form Team:

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Miss Lauren Cripps	Director of Learning Post 16	pelc@stags.herts.sch.uk
Mrs Joanna Tolley	Assistant Director of Learning Post 16	jtolley@stags.herts.sch.uk

