



# St Albans Girls' School

Learning for Life in a Community where All can Excel

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18 April 2022

Dear Parents/Carers

As we return to the final term of this academic year, it is useful to remind our whole school community of our core expectations to enable all of our students to enjoy school and achieve their potential. We are committed to promoting high levels of care for one another, personal responsibility, attendance, uniform and behaviour, enabling all students to take full advantage of the educational opportunities available to them and improve their future life chances. Whilst we are incredibly proud of the way that our young people have coped with the challenges of the past two years, we are now very much focused on the future and the ingredients for success.

## **Wellbeing and Resilience**

We are keenly aware that the last two years have impacted on students' experiences of school and the wider community. All teaching staff are very excited to be able to fully use all practical and collaborative approaches to learning and teaching again. It has been a real pleasure to see so many of the wonderful enrichment activities return to STAGS over the last few weeks of the spring term. We have enjoyed Inter-house sports, Red Nose Day activities, an exciting spring concert, Enterprise Days, Visitors for Inspiring Women's Day, an amazing careers event, Diversity and Culture Day, an extensive range of extra-curricular activities and so much more.

Our dedicated pastoral team and teaching staff are, as ever, working hard to support students, building resilience and providing guidance to build positive coping strategies when things are challenging. Our website also provides information about a variety of external services that can support children and families.

## **Attendance and Punctuality**

Good attendance at school is of utmost importance and has been one of the biggest challenges over the last two years. We wish to extend our thanks to you all as you have supported your child's education when isolating and kept us informed of absences. Please note that as parents/carers, you cannot choose to isolate your child due to Covid-19 unless there is a positive test. From this term, students who test positive for Covid-19 can return to school after 3 full days of isolation, as long as they feel well enough. Any additional days of absence will be unauthorised and in line with the DFE guidance for promoting attendance. Online google meets can only be provided if your child has Covid-19.

Parents/carers are responsible by law for ensuring that their children attend the school at which they are registered, regularly, punctually and ready to learn. STAGS is an onsite provision and, unless there is medical evidence, the expectation is that students will attend school to receive their education. We know that this is challenging for some students, and we are always happy to work with you on a bespoke reintegration programme.

The school will follow up lateness, unauthorised absence and students with low levels of attendance (unrelated to testing positive for Covid-19). Ongoing poor attendance and/or punctuality may result in the school making a request to the Local Authority for a Penalty Notice (unauthorised absence of 15 or more sessions across the current and/or previous term).

If your child is absent from school, please contact us on each day of the absence by emailing [absence@stags.herts.sch.uk](mailto:absence@stags.herts.sch.uk), and provide the reason.

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As you are aware, we are changing our Management Information System, MIS, from SIMS to Arbor, during the Easter break and so Edulink will no longer be in service. Details of the new Arbor app will be available in the first week of the summer term.

We very much appreciate all of your support in ensuring that students are at school on time each day, as this ensures a calm and focused start to the day. It is important to keep an eye out for any upcoming roadworks that might mean journeys need to start earlier. Students should enter the building in the morning via the Student Entrance or the doors by Student Support. In the summer term, the entrance via the restaurant will be shut, as we return to pre-Covid arrangements.

### **Behaviour for Learning**

High levels of personal responsibility are expected of all students at STAGS. In a recent assembly students were reminded that their behaviour reflects on them but impacts on others. We regularly issue achievement points to students in recognition of excellent effort, focus, kindness and contribution to school life. There are thousands that have been issued this year, all of which are being kept safe as we move to Arbor.

When behaviour standards fail to meet those expected by the STAGS community, consequences are issued. Due to the pandemic, detentions for C3 (1 hour) and C4 (2 hour) detentions were moved to lunchtimes. However, we now return to our usual pattern as per our Behaviour Policy, with C3/C4 detentions being held on Friday afternoons at 3.30pm. We appreciate this can cause inconvenience to parents/carers, especially if your child takes a dedicated school bus, therefore please ensure you discuss the importance of focusing on achievements and successes rather than the negative consequences of inappropriate actions. Parents will be informed of the time and date of a detention by email at least 24 hours beforehand.

### **Uniform**

A uniform binds us together as a community and allows us all to relate to one another on a similar level. It signals a formal learning environment and reminds us of the high expectations we aspire to. Students at STAGS are proud to wear the uniform that represents their school and visitors often comment on how well our students are presented. Our outward presentation reflects the reputation of the school and this impacts on everyone. During Covid-19, there were adaptations to the uniform code which are now no longer necessary, e.g. coats in lessons, additional layers. The uniform code, available on the school website [St Albans Girls' School - Uniform \(stags.herts.sch.uk\)](https://stags.herts.sch.uk), has been updated and returned to the pre-pandemic expectations, and is very clear for all students to follow.

All uniform must be worn correctly with no adaptations or additions, and as the manufacturer intended, for example: skirts must not be rolled at the waistband. Consequences are given to students who chose not to follow the uniform code. This may include internal isolation if a student fails to remove items not permitted. It is always a shame when students put fashion above their education, and we ask for your support in impressing on your child that a person's individuality comes from within, rather than being established by what they wear.

As always, it is our pleasure to guide our students through their learning journey and want to ensure that we expect the very best from them.

Yours sincerely



Mrs M Chapman  
Head Teacher