



8 September 2023



Margaret Chapman, Executive Head Teacher

It gives me great pleasure to welcome new families and those whom we already know to a new academic year at STAGS. I hope that you had an enjoyable break, whether at home or further afield and feel refreshed for the new year ahead. We return in the midst of a September

heatwave and it has been reassuring to see so many students with water bottles and taking a sensible approach to managing the heat, whilst also enjoying catching up, as well as making new friendships. So many have said that they have enjoyed the summer but missed the routine of learning and being in school and I am sure that we all echo this!

Our students have displayed much resilience and fortitude in their achievements this summer and we are so very proud of them. We are delighted with their successes as their achievements are a real tribute to the dedication to their studies and as a result of the support and guidance given both at home and in school.

At GCSE, the Average Total Attainment 8 was 61%. This is significantly above the national average figures and above our own challenging targets. 92% achieved a Standard Pass of grade 4+ in English and 87% achieved grade 5+, which is a 'Strong' Pass. This is a superb achievement for all students and a great springboard to their future lives and opportunities. In Maths, 85% achieved Standard, grade 4+ and 71% Strong 5+, again really excellent individual performances.

The achievements in English and Maths are known as a 'Basics' score which was an impressive 70.1% who gained Grade 5 or above in both. In addition, over 72% of students gained the EBACC suite qualifications, which comprises

SUPPORT TRUST AMBITION GENEROSITY SUCCESS

English, Maths, two Sciences, a Language and Humanity. The subjects remaining are known as 'open subjects' and comprise all other subjects taken by students and again show such superb performances in achievement outcomes.

At A Level 33% students achieved grades A*-A, 70% achieved grades A*-B and 90% grades A*-C. In addition, we are delighted with the outstanding performances of students who took the Extended Project Qualification.

It was such a pleasure on the results days to welcome our students and their families and see the joy, and relief, as they opened their examination results and were richly rewarded for their dedication. Most importantly, every single student achieved a qualification which has enabled them to move on to further education, either at STAGS or beyond. I am sure that you will join me in congratulating all of our students on their superb achievements. The full summary of outcomes is available on our website once examination board remarks once the examination board remarks have been included.

And so to the year ahead. As I delivered our now termly online assembly at the start of the academic year, students were reminded of our four core targets for the forthcoming year, which had been set as a result of a review of our school improvement plan in the summer term, and for which I am grateful to the whole school community who became so actively involved.

We are delighted to confirm that we are fully staffed with an excellent team of teaching and support staff here at STAGS. All teachers are subject specialists and qualified to post graduate standard - something that cannot be taken for granted today!

We welcome new colleagues who join us this term:

Mrs Keat - Geography

Mrs Stevens - Geography

Mr Brown - Curriculum Leader Economics

Mr Markou - Associate Assistant Head leading Timetable and Curriculum

Mr Cole - Curriculum Leader Film & Media

Mrs Chan - Medical Officer



Students were also reminded of their role in ensuring their future success, themes of which were further developed during the form tutor session that followed the assembly for all students on Tuesday.

We start the academic year with Quality First teaching as the Mantra for all.

We have reminded students of our expectations and explained that we want to focus on their learning and achievements, not uniform infringements, attendance or punctuality

issues. I am therefore delighted to see students ready for learning, with fully equipped pencil cases, laptops/tablets ready for action and an enthusiasm for this coming academic year. Thank you to all parents/carers who have ensured the school uniform is correct, skirts of the appropriate length. Any clarification required about our school uniform is on our website.



Our wonderful young people have such superb opportunities, but also great challenges and it is how we work together as the community of STAGS, to help them overcome hurdles that will shape their future pathways.

We continue to refurbish and improve the buildings and facilities across the school. You will have all received our letter of reassurance regarding RAAC, sent to you last week, but upgrades continue with the £1.7 million electrical works which will provide much needed improvements in our wiring across the school and also a new fire alarm system, linked to lesson change bells and emergency evaluation and lockdown systems, new ceilings and upgraded lighting, all of which will ensure a better experience, but much of which will not be seen with beautiful new cabling largely hidden from sight but future proofing the school.

Additionally, the new sixth form cafe will be open for business into next week and the new Performing Arts centre building is on track for completion prior to half term. The library has received new carpets and reorganisation thanks to the generous support of our PTA. Please do consider joining the PTA, a wonderful group of parents/carers who care passionately about our wonderful school. A really easy way to support the STAGS PTA is to use the [Easyfundraising](#) App. It simply adds an extra click to your online shopping, and by using it you are donating money to the PTA with every item you buy and it costs you nothing! Thank you to everyone who is already using the App.

Thank you to all parents/carers for supporting us in keeping the road area safe immediately outside the front of the school, not parking on the zigzag and yellow lines, ensuring safe passage on the pavement for our 1450 students. A couple of reminder please, with safeguarding of all young people of utmost importance, parents should wait outside the school gates and also, please do speak to your child about road safety following a number of messages from concerned drivers about students crossing roads engrossed in their screens or absentmindedly talking whilst stepping into the road.

It is always such a joy to hear and share the successes of our students - Congratulations to Jessica, Sabrina and Anna, who all attended a book launch in the City of London at The Academy of Real Assets, with their essays published in an anthology. They could write about anything related to the title "If this building could talk." At the launch they enjoyed lectures and met other winners from around the UK. A copy of the book is in the Library so we can all enjoy their work!

Finally, we look forward to seeing you at the forthcoming Information Evenings, following the first successful, but warm meeting last night for Year 8 families.



Mr Kershaw, as Head of School and I will share the writing of Stagslink during this academic year, the aim of which is to ensure that you have a clear communication link with the weekly life of the school.

With all good wishes for a successful year ahead.

Margaret Chapman

A handwritten signature in white ink, appearing to read 'M. Chapman', with a long, sweeping horizontal line extending to the right.



Diary Dates

Tuesday 12 September

Years 7, 10 & 12 Individual Photos

Wednesday 13 September

SEND Parent Support Meeting,
LRC, 7pm

Thursday 14 September

Year 11 Information Evening, Hall,
6pm

Tuesday 19 September

Year 12 Information Evening, Hall,
6pm

Thursday 21 September

Year 10 Information Eve, Hall, 6pm
GCSE/A Level Drama Theatre Trip

Friday 22 September

Year 7 Transition Event and
Sleepover

Saturday 23 September

Year 7 Welcome Picnic, 12-2pm

Tuesday 26 September

Ski Trip Easter Information Evening, Hall,
6.30pm

Thursday 28 September

Year 10 Work Experience Information
Evening, Online, 6pm

Thursday 5 October

School closes 12.20pm
Open Evening 4-7pm

Wednesday 11 October

Year 7 Information Evening, Hall, 6pm

Tuesday 17 October

Year 8 Parents' Evening, Online, 4-7.30pm



Notices



STAGS SEND PARENT SUPPORT GROUP

New Parents Welcome



The STAGS SEND Parent Support Group would love to welcome new members. We are a friendly, confidential, informal group who share advice and support each other. The group is for parents of SEND children or children struggling to access school. Our monthly meetings are run by parents in a similar situation, but with the full backing of the school and with the opportunity to feedback to the school.

Our next meeting will be on **Wednesday 13th of September** and will start at **7pm**. If you would like to attend, please just come along to the school library on the night.

Liz Guess (Parent)



Notices

ROAD CLOSURES - Message from Affinity Water

Harpenden Road and **Avenue Road** will be closed to carry out essential maintenance work on the following dates:

Approx. dates: Saturday 9th September - Friday 27th October

Working hours: All day (Mon-Sun)

Traffic management will be in place from 9th September, there will be a full road closure at the junction of Harpenden Road and Avenue Road. A traffic diversion will be in place around Harpenden Road, Beech Road and Sandridge Road for the duration of the works. This is approved by the Highways Authority and is the safest route for all vehicle types. You may want to allow more time for your journey.

Access to the road: The road will be closed for all vehicle access but there will still be pedestrian access.

Visit [Affinity Water Website](#) for updates on the project.

