

STAGSLINK





Paul Kershaw, Head of School

There was a brilliant and celebratory atmosphere on Monday when Rachel cut the ribbon to open the new STAGS Sixth Cafe in our Sixth Form Centre. The development of the cafe area over the summer break has expanded the space students have to prepare

for A Levels and collaborate with peers. Photo on page 3.

Following last week's Year 8 Information Evening, we welcomed Year 11 parents and carers into the hall yesterday evening to explore preparation for mocks and GCSEs as well as next steps and Post 16 transition. We look forward to seeing you next week at the Year 12 Information Evening on Tuesday and the Year 10 Information Evening next Wednesday. A key element of these evenings is the opportunity to come and ask questions at the end which we encourage you to do.

On Tuesday, over thirty of the Year 7 students successfully completed the district Cross-Country Mob Race. Miss Stephens and Miss Long were incredibly impressed by all the students' efforts and perseverance in the 2.5km race in rainy conditions. I am delighted to announce that overall, the students placed first in the district! Grace placed fourth overall individually and this team photograph shows the enthusiasm the students competed with on the day.

On Saturday, Bella in Year 8 represented the East region in the Inter Regional Triathlon Championships. She placed fourth overall. This is a phenomenal achievement - many congratulations on this impressive feat! Photos on page 3.

SUPPORT

TRUST AMBITION

GENEROSITY

SUCCESS







On Tuesday, we celebrated long standing colleagues with governors and new members of staff. Congratulations go to Mrs Buckley for 30 years as a member of the STAGS teaching community, as well as Mrs Glanvill for 20 years, Miss Savage for 17 years with Mrs Benekou, Mrs Habib and Miss Lambert for 10 years. Many thanks to these and all long serving colleagues for everything they have done for STAGS and students past and present!

I would like to draw your attention to an amazing poem that Mr Zarrouq has written drawing attention to the aftermath of the Earthquake in Morocco which was shared with families yesterday, along with information about STAGS Talks next week including Morocco's Earthquake and flooding in Libya.

This week has seen the launch of our 2023-2024 enrichment opportunities, with students taking part in a wide range of clubs both at lunchtime and after school ranging from STAGS Does Shakespeare to Fashion Club, taking in some netball and badminton on the way! Today, students in Years 7-11 have heard from the Senior Student Leadership Team about the value of being a student leader and what they have gained from their experience. The full range of student leadership roles has been shared with students as well and we hope that lots of them take the plunge and get involved to build their own skills and to have a voice in the way the school works and develops. Full details of our Enrichment Offer for this year, including a club list and student leadership opportunities can be found on our website.

In assemblies this fortnight, I have been speaking to students about the importance of time management and what it is useful to spend time doing - and perhaps with equal importance - what it is not useful to spend time doing! This is exemplified by the Maya Angelou quote 'all great achievements require time'. With this in mind, I highly recommend James Clear's 'Atomic Habits' about incremental change to result in positive outcomes across a range of targets and goals. Whilst recommending books, it seems pertinent to announce that the book for the next Parents' Book Group will be Dr Julie Smith's 'Why Has Nobody Told Me This Before?'. I will outline a date and invite parents and carers to come into school to discuss this book in a future Stagslink.

Year 7 devices have been distributed successfully to students this morning, so Blended Learning will begin from Monday for the year group. This means that we will have a full Blended Learning programme across all year groups for the very first time. In addition, Year 7 CAT Tests are taking place today. Thank you to all staff involved in this. We will speak to parents more about reporting and assessment for Year 7 at the Information Evening on 11 October. With devices in every classroom and bags, online safety has never been more important at the school and there will be guidance in Computing, PSHE, form time, assemblies and other opportunities for students over the academic year. As part of current assemblies for all year groups, I have shared a short clip outlining the importance of keeping passwords and logins safe for students. In the clip, a young woman is asked what her passwords are for her computer. She says that they are 'her dog's name and the year she finished school'. 'Oh, how interesting', says the interviewer, 'what kind of dog do you have and what is its name?', then 'where did you go to school and what year did you finish?'. The young woman replies with all of this information! Please save the date for our online parent workshop on 30 October delivered by Smoothwall for more information about keeping students, ourselves and our community safe online.

Click <u>here</u> to sign into the National Online Safety site to view what parents and carers need to know about sharing photos online, or click here to view the PDF.

Please have an amazing weekend and I look forward to continuing to welcome you all onsite for our Information Evenings. Very best wishes,

MODEL



Monday's opening of the new STAGS Sixth Cafe in our Sixth Form Centre





Bella in Year 8 represented the East region in the Inter Regional Triathlon Championships.



Diary Dates

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

Wednesday 27 September

Year 9 information Evening, Hall, 6pm

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

Wednesday 18 October

Year 13 Information Evening, Hall, 6pm

Thursday 19 October

Parent Voice, Library Resource Centre, 6-7pm



Careers



SKILLS BOOTCAMPS IN HERTFORDSHIRE

Hundreds of people in Hertfordshire will benefit from Skills Bootcamps, which are free and flexible courses that help people aged 19 or older gain the necessary skills to secure or progress in a job, in sectors where there is a shortage of workers or skills gaps within the industry.

The courses last up to 16 weeks and those who take part are guaranteed to be offered a job interview after they've completed the training or will be supported to progress in the workplace and utilise the new skills they have developed.

Please click <u>here</u> to go to the HOP website for more information.





Notices



Hertfordshire County Council Services for Young People

Consultation about our future priorities

For parents/carers and professionals who work with young people



Share your views on how we support young people.

We are going to have less money to support young people from 2024.

Please scan the QR code and complete the survey to let us know what is most important for the young people you know.

Closing date 9 October 2023



