



## Paul Kershaw, Head of School

This morning's Macmillan and Pupil Premium Coffee Mornings have proved a delightful opportunity to catch up with families from across our community. It is always wonderful to be able to meet parents and carers in person. This follows the chance to do this on a large scale during Wednesday's Year 9 Information Evening which was very well attended and signifies the beginning of the Options process for this year group.

It has been brilliant to bring on site and meet with parents in Years 8, 9, 10, 11 and 12 so far. Year 7 Information Evening will be on 11 October and Year 13 Information on 18 October respectively - we look forward to seeing families at both from 6pm in the main hall. Thank you so much for all of the positive comments and messages following the Information Evenings so far.

As has been mentioned at Information Evenings, Parent Voice will be on Thursday 19 October in the Library from 6pm. I look forward to seeing parents and carers there where the topic will be communication. A fortnight ago, I mentioned that the next book for the Parent Book Group is Dr Julie Smith's 'Why Has Nobody Told Me This Before?'. Parents and carers who would like to discuss this book are welcome to do so in the Library on Wednesday 15 November from 6pm. I look forward to seeing you there.

The school is buzzing with excitement ahead of next week's Open Evening event. As we remind the STAGS community that school finishes on Thursday 5 October at 12:20pm and opens again for Period 2 on Friday

**SUPPORT TRUST AMBITION GENEROSITY SUCCESS**

6 October at 10am, we thank everyone for following distributed guidance about collecting guides and subject ambassadors so as to keep the roads near the school quiet and safe. Please consider volunteering to help the PTA with car-parking duties during Open Evening. Many parents and carers will be coming to the school to drop off or pick up our students so this is a great opportunity to help. If you're able to, please sign up [using this link](#). You will then be added to a temporary PTA WhatsApp group, which will be used to distribute further instructions. Alternatively, you can send an email to [stagspta@gmail.com](mailto:stagspta@gmail.com) stating your availability. At least 10 parents are needed to support each time slot so any time you are able to give would be most gratefully received. Working Day Visits begin on Monday - we look forward to welcoming Year 6 families on site to see and hear about our amazing school.

Thank you so much to all who came to support our Year 7 Transition Picnic last Saturday afternoon - this event also celebrated the conclusion of our Year 7 Transition Event which had engaged students brilliantly from the start of school on Friday and was planned and led superbly by Head of Key Stage 3, Miss Holland. Events that the Year 7 students got to enjoy included a quiz, a nail salon, decorating balloons, dancing and singing - as well as a mass sleepover in the Sports Hall! Many thanks to all colleagues who supported and enabled this brilliant addition to our transition programme to take place. Visitors to the picnic were able to enjoy the inflatables, ice-cream van and meet families from across the year group. In addition, the PTA sold refreshments, candyfloss and - of course! - STAGS teddies. If you would like to be involved in the PTA at STAGS and PTA events in the future including the Winter Fair on 10 December, please contact members via [stagspta@gmail.com](mailto:stagspta@gmail.com)

This week, students learned about Cyber Security in special assemblies all day on Wednesday. The day was extremely informative and ways of keeping students and ourselves safe online will continue to be promoted throughout the year. In addition, we have been exploring the PSHE curriculum at our Information Evenings. Directly related to this, we will be sharing content in Stagslink so that you can engage in discussion and research topics with your child based on what they are learning about in PSHE lessons: as a school, we are committed to the PSHE curriculum by providing a comprehensive learning environment for all. If you would like to see an overview of our programme please click [here](#). Please contact Mrs Jarvis with any question in relation to the PSHE curriculum.

Science lessons have been enhanced this week by Mr Zarrouq's organisation of Moon rocks being brought into school under a high level of security. It's amazing to consider how far they have travelled and very timely with space materials being collected this week on the world stage!

The Maltings Arts Awards Evening took place on Wednesday evening and, in the words of Mrs Wakley, STAGS 'swept the board' in that students won every secondary category from over 700 entries as follows: 16-18 years - Jamie Lynn, 14-16 years - Eva, 10-13 years - Olivia. Every one of the nine finalists were awarded a medal but Eva was the overall winner. She won £250 for herself and £1000 for the ADT Department! Keep an eye on the Herts Advertiser for further details. It was a delight to have Olivia's Mum at the Year 9 Information Evening who was able to announce her win live at the end of the event! Well done to all participants on this amazing achievement!

There have been a number of sporting successes this week with the Year 8 netball team winning their first county cup fixture against Chancellors school with a score of 16-13 to progress to the second round. The Year 8 netball team also won their first district cup game against Katherine Warrington School with a final score of 27-4 - they will progress at a district level too so watch this space. The Year 10 netball team won their first round of the country cup against Simon Balle with a score of 65-12 and have moved up to the second round as a result!



We have also had another successful week in cross-country: Bella in Year 8 and Lily in Year 9 have both placed second in their age categories! A special mention goes to Emily, Eva and Teagan in Year 8, as well as Alice and Megan in Year 10 who wonderfully have all been selected to join the London Pulse performance netball pathways. Many congratulations to all on these brilliant sporting achievements.

There is a very exciting event coming soon for Alexandra who is one of our Deputy Head Students in Year 13 and is giving a TEDx Talk on 26 October! We will send more details about this fantastic opportunity and achievement in due course. Well done and very good luck to Alexandra!

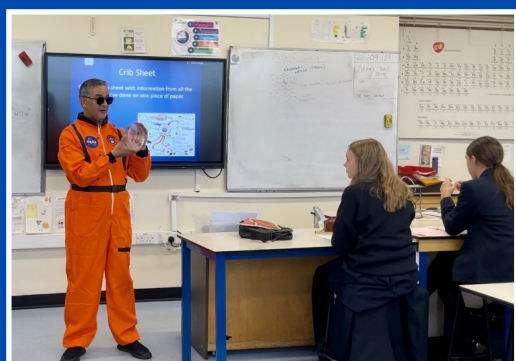
Following hustings this week, Head Student interviews will take place on Monday. Very good luck to all of the applicants. There will be opportunities to support the school for all participants in leadership roles and programmes. There is an extremely strong field and in the words of one of the applicants 'everyone here wins because all of these students want to support the STAGS Community'. How extremely insightful and accurate.

As we prepare to celebrate and learn about Black history as part of Black History Month - throughout October - I am delighted to share my favourite quote by poet and writer Ysra Daley-Ward. The quote is taken from her collection 'Bone' which I highly recommend. The quote exemplifies my encouragement for everyone in our community to travel whenever they have the opportunity as follows: 'Everytime I travel, I meet myself a little more'.

The theme of this year's Black History Month is 'Saluting Our Sisters' and highlights the crucial role that black women have played in shaping history, inspiring change and building communities - more information on Black History Month 2023 [can be found here](#). There is a poetry competition on their website which can be accessed [here](#) and entries can be submitted up until 15 November. We have a huge number of talented writers who could win the opportunity to have a poem included and published in a collection. At school, staff will be displaying door signage relating to their own 'sheroes' to honour this year's Black History Month theme.

Have a superb weekend and see you on Thursday if you are coming to tour or support our exciting Open Evening event. Have a wonderful weekend.

All best wishes,



*Mr Zarruq sharing the Moon rocks with Year 10 Science class*



**Year 7  
Transition Event**





# Diary Dates

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**Thursday 5 October**

School closes 12.20pm  
Open Evening 4-7pm

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**Friday 6 October**

School starts with Period 2 at 10am

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**Wednesday 11 October**

Year 7 Information Evening,  
Hall, 6pm

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**Tuesday 17 October**

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

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**Wednesday 18 October**

Year 13 Information Evening, Hall,  
6pm

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**Thursday 19 October**

Parent Voice, Library Resource  
Centre, 6-7pm

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**Monday 23 - Friday 27 October**

Half Term

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**Monday 30 October**

Online Safety Hub Parent/Carers  
Workshop, Online, 6-7pm

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**Wednesday 1 November**

Careers Fair, 4.30-6.30pm, Hall

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**Monday 6 - Friday 17 November**

Year 10 Progression Meetings

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**Tuesday 7 November**

Parent Workshop on Relationships  
and Sex Education, 6pm, Online

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**Wednesday 8 November**

Sixth Form Open Evening, 6-8pm

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# Notices

## STAGS OPEN EVENING 2023 - Changes to School Opening Times / Bus Services

Please note that school will close at 12:20pm on Thursday 5 October 2023 to allow for preparations for Open Evening, and starts with Period 2 at 10am on Friday 6 October.

### BUS SERVICE ON THURSDAY 5 OCTOBER, 2023

The school buses including the 84 bus will collect students at this time, all public buses will retain their usual timetable.

All other students will be expected to make their own way home.

On Friday 6 October 2023, school starts with period 2 at 10:00am.

### BUS SERVICE ON FRIDAY 6 OCTOBER, 2023

The Greenwood buses and the E446 will collect students from their usual pick up points one hour later than usual.

The 84 bus will collect all students one hour and ten minutes later than usual.

Other students will be expected to make their own arrangements to arrive at school in time for a 10:00am start.

Many thanks in advance for all of your support with our Open Evening event.

SAVE THE DATE!



**WEDNESDAY 13TH & THURSDAY 14TH DECEMBER AT 7PM**

TICKETS WILL GO ON SALE VIA SCHOOL GATEWAY ON MONDAY  
20TH NOVEMBER AT 9AM.

ADULTS £8, CONCESSIONS & STUDENTS £5



St Albans Girls' School



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