



Margaret Chapman, Executive Head Teacher

Yesterday we held our annual Open Evening for prospective Year 7 parents. It was wonderful to welcome new families onto our school site. The evening was spectacular because of the fantastic support of so many of our students as guides and subject advocates and to witness the whole school community working so well together. We had literally hundreds of students of all ages acting as guides, working in departments, presenting displays and meeting and greeting prospective families. They are a huge credit to you - the comments from prospective parents were wonderful.

Many prospective parents undertake the whole round of open evenings in all schools and were so complimentary about our students and staff and their great enthusiasm towards their school, as well as being extremely impressed with the presentations and the atmosphere of the school and the way that they were welcomed into all departments. Congratulations to Summer in Year 8 and Maleeha in Year 12 who spoke so passionately to a packed Main Hall and gallery about their experiences at STAGS.

We are grateful for the continuing support of the governing body, with many attending the evening and especially our teaching and support colleagues who enthuse about our school community and are invaluable in ensuring our success.

Upwards of 1000 cars were parked on the school field and my thanks go also to the fantastic members of the PTA who greeted all parents and, with our Site Team, ensured that the car parking was superbly organised. There are few schools that are fortunate enough to have such an active group of parents, governors, staff and students who support the school so admirably.

SUPPORT TRUST AMBITION GENEROSITY SUCCESS

Yesterday was also National Poetry Day with the theme of refuge. Miss Keogh provided a superb range of both audio and visual resources for use to stimulate thinking about refuge and suggested writing a Haiku poem. This is something that you may wish to discuss at home with our students, as many of the poems, discussions and written comments were extremely poignant.

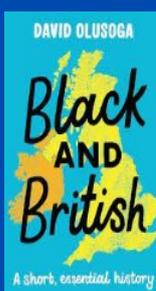
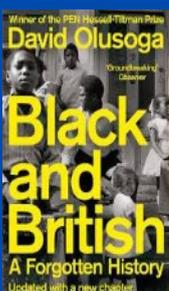
Earlier this week, we had the great pleasure of interviewing prospective Head Students to ensure that the full Student Leadership Team is up and running for this academic year. Congratulations to all who were interviewed and we are delighted to welcome our new Head Students, Anya and Temi and Deputy Head Students Eliza, Lily, Madison and Maleeha. Additionally, with such a strong field of applicants for senior student roles congratulations to Agnes who is appointed as Subject Prefect Lead and to Sabrina who is Head House Captain.

Another great week for sport at STAGS this week. Last Saturday, a squad of Year 10 and Year 11 netballers (photo on page 1) attended the first round of the school's National Netball Tournament, which is host to some of the best state and private schools in the county, so the standard was very high! There were 17 schools in their age group and they placed 3rd overall which is an amazing achievement. So congratulations to all of the team! Year 9A and 9B netball teams both participated in their district tournament - both placed really well with the B team placing 3rd overall. Year 10A netball team won their district cup knock-out stage 42-12 against Sandringham. In football news, the U14's team played Knights Templar School winning 7-1 and are progressing to the next round of the cup. Congratulations to all involved.

Each year, as part of the transition process Year 7 students are set a challenge to encapsulate the STAGS Values in different ways. Please see the wonderful array of entries on the next page, with such active participation by so many of our Year 7 students, it was a joy to see and almost impossible to judge!

'The Big Ambition' has been launched by Dame Rachel De Souza, Children's Commissioner. It is a new campaign to hear directly from children and young people across the country about what they need to make their lives better. The Children's Commissioner is keen to build momentum on this and as we approach the General Election, now is a crucial moment to take children and young people's voices to policymakers, Government and decision makers, to make sure they are heard. Please click [here](#) to visit 'The Big Ambition' website for more information, and [here](#) to complete the survey. The survey is open to everyone aged 18 and under.

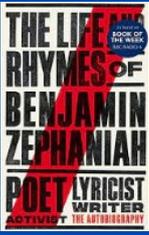
We are extremely fortunate to have such a well placed library located in the heart of the school, led by our great librarians who ensure that this is a vibrant space for young people and which was refurbished during the summer from funds raised by our wonderful PTA. Each month books are highlighted and for October, as we mark Black History Month, their suggested texts are shared for your interest and enjoyment below.



First, David Olusoga's essential 'Black and British' is available at the LRC in its original format and also the younger readers edition.

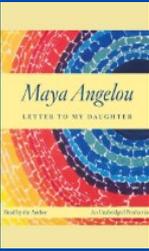
'Black and British reaches back to Roman Britain, the medieval imagination, Elizabethan 'blackamoors' and the global slave-trading empire. It shows that black Britons fought at Trafalgar and in the trenches of both World Wars. Black British history is woven into the cultural and economic histories of the nation. It is not a singular history, but one that belongs to us all.' Waterstones

The BBC TV series is still available on iPlayer and is an excellent watch along with David Olusoga's new series 'Union' which has just started on the BBC.



Next, we have 'The Life and Rhymes of Benjamin Zephaniah'. In his autobiography, Zephaniah speaks about his life, poetry, music and activism, with detours into acting and academia.

'This read not only captures the strength and self-belief of a man but also the true power of art; the spoken word.' Laila Benhaida



Finally on the ePlatform: 'Letters to my Daughter' by Maya Angelou. Part guidebook, memoir and poetry. Here in a collection of short essays are glimpses of the tumultuous life that led Angelou to her place as renowned poet and phenomenal woman.

'My mission in life is not merely to survive, but to thrive; and to do so with some passion, some compassion, some humor, and some style.' M Angelou. Follow [this link](#) for the Audiobook read by Angelou herself.

Finally, a reminder please to be considerate of our neighbours in your parking around the school environment. We have received several complaints about cars parking in front of driveways and your support in ensuring a harmonious and safe environment is, as always, hugely appreciated.

With all good wishes,

M Carey



Open Evening
2023



YEAR 7 TRANSITION
CHALLENGE





Diary Dates

Wednesday 11 October

Year 7 Information Evening, Hall,
6pm

Thursday 12 October

SEND Parent Group Meeting,
6 - 7.30pm, LRC

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

Monday 23 - Friday 27 October

Half Term

Monday 30 October

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

Wednesday 1 November

Careers Fair, 4.30-6.30pm, Hall

Thursday 2 November

PTA AGM, 7pm, LRC

Monday 6 - Friday 17 November

Year 10 Progression Meetings

Tuesday 7 November

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

Wednesday 8 November

Sixth Form Open Evening, 6-8pm

Thursday 9 November

Diwali Celebrations

Monday 13 - Friday 24 November

Year 11 & Year 13 Mocks



Notices

PTA Annual General Meeting (AGM), followed by PTA Open Meeting

We would like to give notice of the AGM of The Friends of St Albans Girls' School (STAGS PTA), to be held on Thursday 2nd November. The evening will start at 7pm with the PTA Annual General Meeting, followed by a PTA Open Meeting in the school library.

The PTA plays a vital part in the school community and all parents and carers, as members of the PTA, are invited to support the AGM. This is your chance to hear and see how the funds you have helped to raise have been used for the benefit of the students at our school.

The AGM is also an opportunity for you to elect the PTA Committee, who represent the association throughout the forthcoming year. Nominations should be sent in advance of the AGM for anyone wishing to stand as an Officer or Ordinary Committee Member, for the first time. Existing committee members wishing to stand for re-election do not have to be nominated again but should inform the PTA of their intention to stay in their role.

If you would like any further information about being a Committee Member, please speak to Liz Guess, Acting Chair. As our PTA is a registered charity, all committee members automatically become Trustees of the Charity. Before submitting your nomination form, please read the Charity Commission publication *'The Essential Trustee – What you need to know (CC3)'*. A copy of the booklet can be found on the Charity Commission website.

Please RVSP as soon as possible, or by October 26th at the latest to stagspta@gmail.com.

We look forward to seeing you on 2nd November



STAGS PTA AGM

Thursday 2 November 2023
7pm School Library

**AGM followed by Open PTA
Meeting**

**Open to all parents & carers with
children at STAGS**



For more information and to RSVP please email
Stagspta@gmail.com





Notices



AUTHOR HOLLY BOURNE VISITING STAGS

HOLLY WILL BE SELLING AND SIGNING HER BOOKS ON WEDNESDAY 11TH OCTOBER AT LUNCHTIME IN THE LIBRARY - **FOR YEARS 9 AND ABOVE ONLY!**

STUDENTS SHOULD BRING MONEY OR A PAYMENT CARD IF THEY WOULD LIKE TO PURCHASE A BOOK



CAREERS FAIR

WEDNESDAY 1ST NOVEMBER

4.30 - 6.30 PM

SPORTS HALL

All year groups and their families welcome



Plus many more companies!

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



WE'RE HIRING!

PART TIME WED - FRI

Student Healthcare Officer

Closing Date: Friday 13 October 2023

For more information and to apply online, visit: stags.herts.sch.uk/workingatstags/currentvacancies