



Paul Kershaw, Head of School

Thank you so much to all the parents and carers who joined us on Wednesday for the Year 7 Information Evening. It was delightful to get to speak with you all and for you to meet with members of our PTA after the event. You were all such good sports after our 'assembly' when you went to your form rooms with your child's form teacher! The slides for this - and all of our Information Evenings this term - can be found on our website in the 'Learning' section. Please consider contributing to the PTA School Fund. The details of how to do this, as well as more information about STAGS PTA can be found on this page of our website.

We were extremely lucky this week to be visited by author Holly Bourne who appears in the picture above. A book signing event was extremely popular, followed by an inspiring talk to Year 10 students about Holly's new novel 'You Could Be So Pretty' and the themes the novel explores.

Mrs Jarvis led on World Mental Health Day this week including the promotion of 'choosing kindness' at STAGS because kindness is empathetic, inclusive, sees suffering, reflects kindly and is beautiful. Discussions and activities have been undertaken during form time including the 'ITV Britain Get Talking' initiative to great effect and impact.

We have had a really busy, brilliant and successful week in the PE department this week. Miss Stephens described it as a 'fantastic week of sport at STAGS' with 'lots of success and students who have been so impressive!' After 6 years of dedicated training, Lyla in Year 9 has achieved her Black Belt in Taekwondo! This is a prestigious belt that is very difficult to gain - especially at such a young age. Congratulations to Lyla on this impressive feat!

SUPPORT TRUST AMBITION GENEROSITY SUCCESS

Charlotte, Constance and Harriet in Year 7 played for the Old Albanian Under 12 Team and won all their pool matches, topping their group in a rugby tournament this weekend! They went on to finish an impressive fourth overall - out of 16 teams - and were the first placed team in Herts. A fantastic achievement! Last week lots of our amazing gymnasts participated in a trampet and tumbling competition. Eight medals were won by the students that attended (photo attached on page 4). In football this week, the Under 13 Team won against LevenThorpe School 9-0 in the county cup to progress through to the next round. A brilliant outcome!

We had our final cross-country race of the season on Thursday at Westminster Lodge. It was an especially tough course with a big inclined hill towards the end. Despite this, congratulations to Bella in Year 8 who placed second in the junior girls competition. It has also been an amazing week for netball. The Year 10A team placed second in the district A league tournament, winning 6 out of 7 of their fixtures. The Year 10B team won the district B league tournament. What an impressive achievement for all involved! (photo attached on page 4). The Year 8A and B teams also both won their league fixtures against Beaumont this week. Congratulations to all of our sporting superstars and all those who have supported and celebrated their achievements!

Writing of celebrations, 45 students from across all year groups joined Mrs Chapman and myself - as well as our two new Head Students Anya and Temi - for a Celebration Lunch yesterday. It was a fantastic and celebratory atmosphere with students who have been nominated by their Directors of Learning and form teachers for this opportunity. The context behind nominations ranged from supporting Open Evening last week and being supportive of peers, to winning the Maltings Art Competition, showing resilience as well as a positive attitude and demonstrating kindness and inclusivity. There will be further Celebration Lunches over the academic year where we look forward to speaking with and commending more members of the STAGS Community.

As mentioned in our message home on Wednesday, STAGS Talks this week was a superb opportunity to witness the thoughtfulness, benevolence and cohesive attitude of all students who attended - representing year groups across the whole school. There were so many ideas and contributions to hear that the topic of the Middle Eastern Conflict since last weekend will be continued next Wednesday in Room G3 at lunchtime. Students in attendance were describing how fortunate they felt to have a safe space to voice their views, ask questions about and feel heard in relation to global events and how they impact us as individuals and our community. A perspective shared by all was that all students at STAGS deserve the right to feel and be safe. It was wonderful to hear voices unite in a collaborative effort to be respectful and thoughtful to all peers. As expressed in the Open Evening speeches last Thursday, students at STAGS are ethical, creative and compassionate members of society and our community is united in its rigorous learning culture with an emphasis on the strength of diversity. Thank you again to all families for ensuring that the STAGS community is a safe and welcoming environment for all.

As part of our Black History Month celebrations, notices have been posted on teachers' doors linking to this year's theme of 'celebrating pioneering black women' depicting a 'shero' of their choice. This contributes to our great celebration of diversity in Britain, as well as in our own community and coincides with assemblies to all year groups, updating students on how we have been increasing the diversity of our curriculum across all subjects.

We look forward to seeing families online for Year 8 Parents' Evening on Tuesday 17 October, as well as Year 13 parents and carers for Year 13 Information Evening on Wednesday 18 October. This will be the last in our current series of information evenings across all year groups. It has been wonderful seeing everyone

face to face and having an opportunity to collaborate in regards to your child's education in person which will continue at other events over the academic year, online as well as on site such as Parent Voice on Thursday 19 October.



We also look forward to the excitement of our first Personal Development Day of the year on Friday 20 October just prior to the half term break, which is also 'Wear It Pink' day to raise awareness and money for Breast Cancer Now; students should bring £1 (or more!) on the day to wear their own uniform and this money will go to this amazing charity. Payments can also be made on School Gateway. Information and guidance will be sent home separately today.

Working day visits continue to be a fantastic opportunity to welcome families of prospective Year 6 into 7 students into the school to see a day in the life of STAGS first hand. It was wonderful yesterday to meet over ten students who attended my old primary school, Killigrew. It sounds as though it has changed a lot since my day. One young visitor asked if any of the teachers would remember me. I took it as a compliment as I hate to think of how old they would have to be to do so!

As Mrs Jarvis mentioned in a number of our Information Evening events over the last few weeks, as a school we are committed to the PSHE (Personal, Social, Health and Economic) curriculum by providing a comprehensive learning environment for all. If you would like to see an overview of our programme please click [here](#). As part of our commitment to continual parental engagement with our PSHE and RSHE (Relationships, Sex and Health Education) curriculum. We have arranged for [Brook Learn](#), a charity working with young people, schools and communities to deliver an online RSHE parent workshop. The details are as follows including the learning objectives of the parent workshop and the details if you would like to join the session. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact Mrs Jarvis at pjs@stags.herts.sch.uk

The session will detail:

- Understanding the Department for Education's overall approach to RSE in schools in England
- Knowing what young people are required to learn by the end of each Key Stage
- Knowing ways to support RSE at home
- How to find further information about RSE in England

The session will be on Tuesday 7 November at 6pm and can be joined via Zoom [through this link](#). The Meeting ID is 815 2400 8251 and the Passcode is 989684. We look forward to seeing many of you there.

This week, it is very saddening to read that in the United Kingdom, there are peaks and troughs of violent crime among teenagers. We are currently described as going through a peak, with the perpetrators and victims of gun and knife crime primarily being in the 15-17 year old age bracket. Childline asserts that knife crime is by far the greater danger of these two crimes for school aged young people. Sometimes these offences take place in relation to gang activity, and sometimes the cause cannot be clearly or rationally described by those involved afterwards. For your reference and information, Childline has published [this information focusing on gun and knife crime including what it is and its potential consequences](#).

Have a brilliant and safe weekend. All best wishes,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Mrs Jarvis', with a large, sweeping flourish underneath.





Diary Dates

Tuesday 17 October

Year 8 Parents' Evening, Online, 4-7.30pm
Years 7-11, Flu Vaccinations

Wednesday 18 October

Year 13 Info Evening, Hall, 6pm
Years 7-11, Flu Vaccinations

Thursday 19 October

Parent Voice, Library Resource
Centre, 6-7pm

Friday 20 October

Wear It Pink Day, Non Uniform,
Suggested £1 donation

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

School starts with Period 2 at 10am

*Atlas Multi Academy Trust is fully committed to the digital safety and wellbeing of their students. As part of this, we are running a workshop dedicated to helping parents understand the risks their young people face in their online lives and the practical things parents and carers can do to help. Please join us for this online workshop in which Lyndsey Vaughton, Training Lead for Education and Well-being at Smoothwall, will provide you with lots of valuable insights and tools which will take one hour. Please click [here](#) to join the meeting.



Notices

Can you
donate
your prom
dress?



Do something amazing!

Help a Year 11 student
get to their school prom.

Drop your prom dress (all sizes, clean
and ready to wear) to:

**STAGS School Reception before
March 1st 2024**

All Dressed Up is a not-for-profit project that gifts donated
prom dresses to school students in Herts and Beds that need them.

www.alldressedup.org.uk



CAREERS FAIR

WEDNESDAY 1ST NOVEMBER

4.30 - 6.30 PM

MAIN 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

