

Year 13

Information Evening

Wednesday 18 October

Mr P Kershaw

Head of School



Welcome to
St Albans Girls' School

www.stags.herts.sch.uk

Reception



Welcome to 2023-2024

'All Great Achievements Require Time'





NEW YORK TIMES BESTSELLER

**Tiny Changes,
Remarkable Results**

**Atomic
Habits**

An Easy & Proven Way to
Build Good Habits & Break Bad Ones

James Clear

Year 13 Information Evening



Mrs Chapman
Executive
Headteacher



Mr Kershaw
Head of School



Miss Lambert
Deputy
Headteacher



Ms Taylor
Assistant
Headteacher
Key Stage 5



Mrs Lambert
Director of
Learning
Key Stage 5



Mr James
Director of
Learning
Key Stage 5
& Blended
Learning Lead



Mrs Birkett
Curriculum Leader
for Psychology &
Post 16 Teaching &
Learning Lead

Ms S Taylor

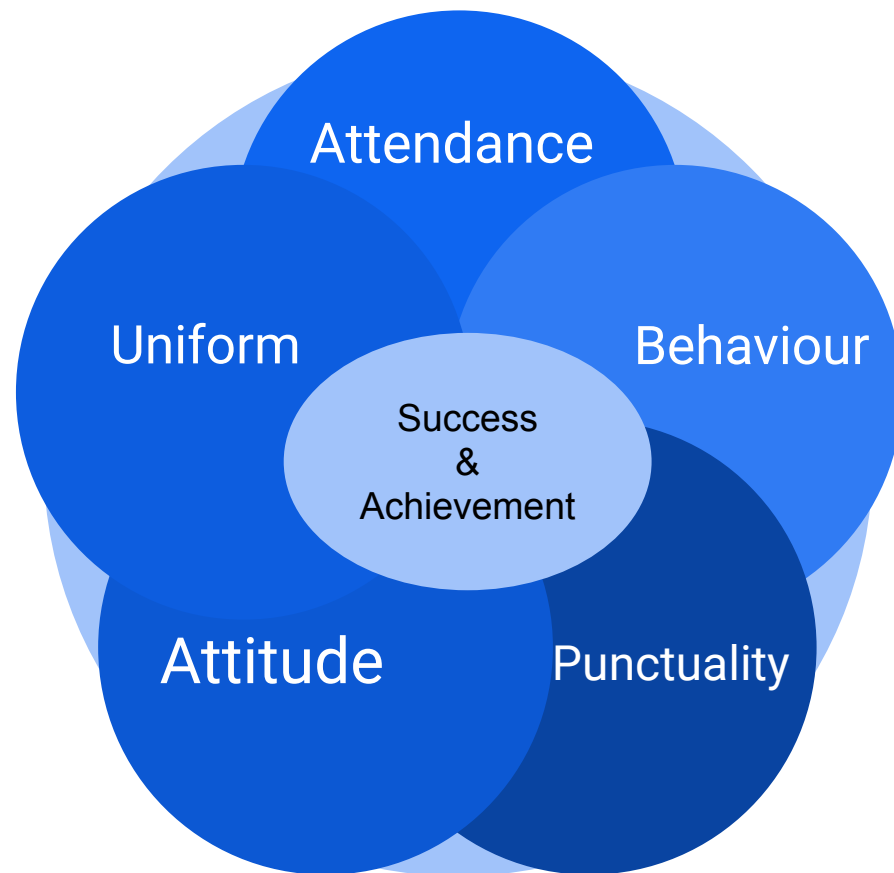
Assistant Headteacher

Key Stage 5

Welcome to STAGS Sixth!



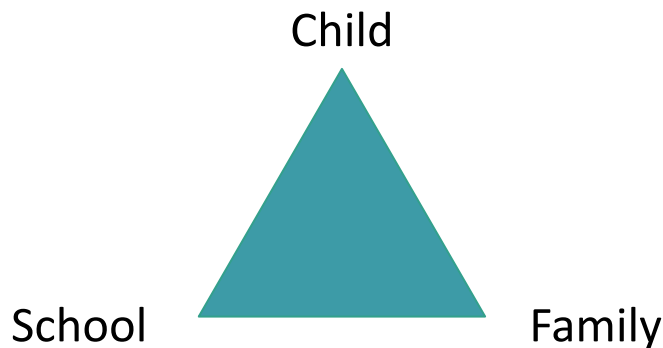
School & Student Targets



Context, Support & Expectations



- Our role is to support and guide students as they embark on their adult learning pathway
- Students need to adopt a positive attitude in class and organise their home learning effectively
- They are also expected to think for themselves and ask questions
- The capacity to understand, explain, interpret and evaluate is much more important
- These skills can only be developed if students show an interest in their work and a determination to succeed



Vision



- Blended form groups to encourage support, team building and engagement in the whole school community
- Ready for next steps - especially this term
- In Year 13, our students become more independent learners and take responsibility for their own progress
- Preparing for life Post 18 - it is our job to empower our young people to take charge of their future studies in a competitive world
- Enabling students to leave Sixth Form with the qualifications, skills and knowledge necessary for their next steps
- Taking charge of their future to be the change they wish to see in the world

Next Steps - What have we done?



- **Autumn 2022** Spring 2023: Introduction to next steps through Step-Up
- Spring - Autumn 2023 One-to-one meetings with form tutor for guidance & support
- **Summer 2023** Next Steps event: bespoke 3 day event including personal statement tutorials, multiple workshops for support for University, apprenticeship & employment
- **Summer 2023** training for subject teachers on the new UCAS referencing system
- **Summer 2023** Subject references completed by subject teachers
- **Google Classroom** sharing of free courses, advice, support & guidance
- **Step-Up** ongoing personal statement support & use of the platform
- **VESPA** form time support & guidance

Next Steps - What is left to do?



- **Personal statement draft 1:** 29 September to form tutor
- **Personal statement draft 2:** Subject specialist
- **Personal statement draft 3:** 3 November to Sixth Form Team
- **Personal statement draft 4:** Ms Taylor
- **UCAS:** Registered, with all accurate personal details completed
- **Careers Fair:** 1 November 2023
- **UCAS deadline:** 19 January 2024
- **February 2024:** Apprenticeship tool is live on the Government website
- **Step Up Lessons:** Apprenticeship focus & next steps
- **March 2024:** One-to-one meetings with form tutor regarding next steps
- **Leavers Day:** Fancy dress & celebrate!

It is normal to have 10 drafts! Don't worry!

Top Tips For Success



- Encourage your child to manage their time - make use of study support periods
- Ask to see their UCAS dashboard - how does it look?
- Encourage your child to ask for help - seek support where needed
- Study support groups - they really work
- Explore all the options available: degree apprenticeship, apprenticeship, University, employment...
- Create SMART targets
- Ensure work-life balance especially this term
- Encourage your child to use Google Classroom, it has so many useful resources!

An Important Time



Subject review - a one-to-one meeting between student & teacher to discuss progress

Mocks - pivotal to prepare for the public examinations, with a focus on exam skills & self-reflection for revision strategies

Next-Steps - embedded throughout form time, speaker programme, events, Step-Up & trips/visits

Communication - regular contact with parents, students and staff to ensure transparency

Attendance - correlates with available support from the Sixth Form team

Study support - timetabled to encourage greater work-life balance

Key Dates



Subject Review

9 - 20 October 2023

Mock Exams

13 - 24 November 2023

Report 1

21 December 2023

Parents' Evening

17 January 2024

BTEC Exam

15 January 2024

UCAS deadline

19 January 2024

Mock Exams (in class)

5 February - 4 March 2024

Subject Review 2

18 - 22 March 2024

Report 2

28 March 2024

Public Examinations

9 May - 25 June 2024

Miss T Lambert

Deputy Headteacher

STAGS STANDARDS



Attendance

EDUCATION + ATTENDANCE + EFFORT = ENDLESS POSSIBILITIES

FACT: More time in school means more time to learn, develop, grow and time to become the **very best you!**

FACT: Low attendance means drastically reducing life chances!

96-100%

EXCELLENT ATTENDANCE

On target for achieving **EXCELLENT ATTENDANCE**

Action: Daily Attendance and Absence monitoring

93-95%

50 MISSED LESSONS

Form Tutor review and discussion and Director of Learning attendance monitoring

Action: Letter 1 sent to parents/carers about attendance concerns

Attendance

90-93%

100

MISSED LESSONS

Director of Learning attendance meeting and Head of Key Stage attendance monitoring

Action: Letters 1 & 2 sent to parents/carers informing of attendance meeting. Letter 3 sent outlining actions from meeting. Student meeting with Director of Learning or Assistant Director of Learning outlining targets

85-89%

150

MISSED LESSONS

Local Authority **Monitoring**

Action: Head of Key Stage attendance meeting with parents/carers and Letter 4 summary of agreed actions to improve attendance and potential fine

BELOW
85%

200

MISSED LESSONS

Local Authority **ACTION.** Attendance Officer involvement

Action: Letter 5 sent to parents/carers warning of Fixed Penalty Notice following 15 sessions of absence. Once reached, a Fixed Penalty Notice will be issued to the Local Authority

Y13 Mocks and Exam Wellbeing



Mocks: w/c 13 November -24 November

- Every subject your child studies there will be at least x1 mock undertaken in exam conditions (for each unit/teacher)
- They will be full papers to give students the best experience
- Students will receive individual exam timetables prior to this period
- Results will be shared in class direct to students but a full report will be published on 21 December

Exam Wellbeing:

- Assemblies run prior to the mock period and formal examination period
- Exam boards have exam wellbeing information on their website. We recommend [Pearson- Exam Wellbeing Portal](#) , Mind , Childline and Youngminds all have exam anxiety information on their websites too
- Students will be offered the opportunity to attend Exam Wellbeing sessions lead by Wellbeing advisors at STAGS



Mrs E Lambert

Director of Learning

Sixth Form

Step Up Programme



Step Up is part of all year 12 and 13 students learning, in addition to the A Level curriculum.

Students will undertake the following:

- One hour per week
- Develop Social awareness, wellbeing & personal awareness, study skills and RSE
- Research and prepare for P18 Next Steps, including UCAS and Apprenticeship preparations
- Meet representatives and speakers from outside organisations



P18 Next Steps So Far...

- Unifrog - an online database dedicated to career and HE education.
- Summer 2023 UCAS Fair Bedford June
- Summer 2023 Higher Education, Employers and Apprenticeship workshops and seminars here at STAGS
- 1:1 consultations
- Students registered with UCAS



Unifrog - Online Platform



Quizzes. Career Profiles

Interests profile

✓ Quiz last taken 28 Apr 20; R and E and C

Start >

Personality profile

✗ Quiz not taken

Start >

Work environments profile

✗ Quiz not taken

Start >

Skills profile

✗ Quiz not taken

Start >

University Shortlisting

UK universities (3 shortlists)

Start >

US universities (0 shortlists)

Start >

Oxbridge (0 shortlists)

Start >

Apprenticeships (0 shortlists)

Start >

Post 18 - Choices, Choices

Students compare the pathways available to them after school / college at the age of 18, including university, employment, apprenticeships, college, and gap years.

Part of the Series: [Making great choices](#)

Term	Autumn	PSHE	(not applicable)
Skills	Critical thinking Planning / Aiming high	Logistics	Where to study
Benchmarks	1. Stable careers programme 2. Learning from career info + LMI 3. Addressing needs of each pupil 7. Further + Higher ed encounters	Audience	Students
CDI Framework	Explore possibilities	Ages	16-18

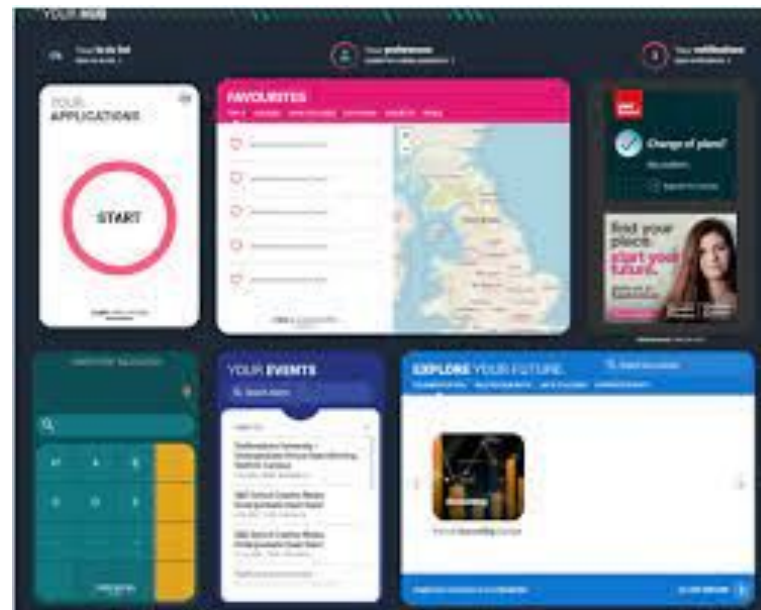


Personal Statement

- Launched during P18 Next Steps - June 2023
- Continued during Step Up
- Ongoing (unless early entry applicant)



Students signed up during P18 Next Steps Fair in June
Apply > Track > Confirm



UCAS and STAGS Timeline



02
OCT

2 October 2023 18:00 (UK time)

Application deadline for conservatoire music applications. Applications for dance, drama, and musical theatre courses may have a different deadline – check conservatoires' websites for information.

16
OCT

16 October 2023 18:00 (UK time)

Deadline for applications to the universities of Oxford and Cambridge, and for most courses in medicine, dentistry, and veterinary medicine/science. Application can be sent after this, but universities and colleges concerned cannot guarantee they'll give it equal consideration.

31
JAN

31 January 2024 18:00 (UK time)

Deadline for most undergraduate courses and most conservatoire undergraduate dance, drama, or musical theatre courses. Applications can be sent after this, but providers cannot guarantee they'll give it equal consideration.

28 Feb 2024

Extra opens. If your child has used all five choices and is not holding an offer, they can add another choice using Extra.

18 October 2023	Year 13 information evening - 6:00 until 8:00pm in the Main Hall
21 October 2023	Final draft of personal statement to Sixth Form team Final draft of letter of application for apprenticeships to Sixth Form team
October	Application form filled out on UCAS and final draft of personal statement attached to application. Copy and paste into one large paragraph.
October	Applications will start to be sent off from mid October subject to application and reference checks by SLT
1 November 2023	Careers fair 4:30 - 6:30pm
13 -24 November 2023	Internal Mock Exams
November 2023	Subject teachers or Curriculum Leader personal statement checks
December 2023	Final personal statement checks from Sixth Form team
19 January 2024	Final STAGS deadline for applications
31 January 2024	Final UCAS undergraduate application deadline (any application sent on this day may not be cleared through the UCAS system)
February - March 2024	New apprenticeships released on Government website
March 2024	Check in with form tutor for next steps & preparation

UCAS Application Journey



Journey of an application

1. Apply online

The **UCAS Hub** is designed to help your child explore all their post-18 options in one central place. They can research subjects there and find courses in the search tool, where they can check entry requirements and application deadlines. They need to register and apply in the UCAS Hub.

2. Wait to hear back

Universities or colleges will decide whether to make your child an offer. It'll be:

- **unconditional** – if they've already met the entry requirements
- **conditional** – if the offer's based on exam results

3. Reply to offers

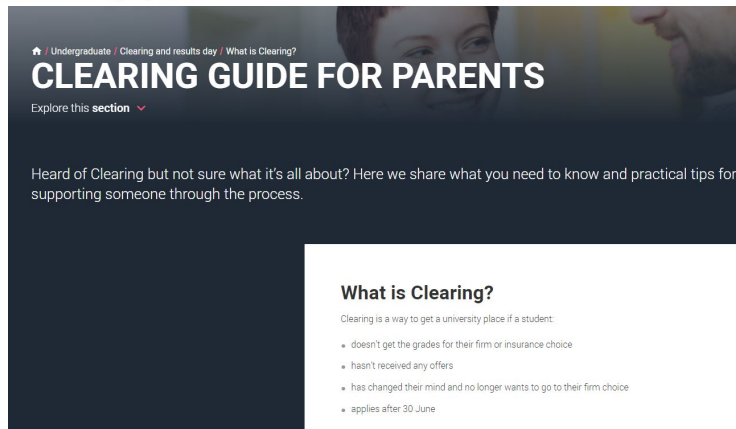
Once all the decisions are in, your child has to reply to their offers by a specific deadline.

- **Select a firm choice** – this is the first choice.
- If the firm choice is conditional, your child can select an **insurance choice** too, if they want – this is a back-up.
- Decline any other offers.

4. Find out if they've got a place

Your child will see in their application if their place is confirmed.

- **If the firm choice is unconditional**, the place is theirs.
- **If the place is conditional**, the university or college will update your child's status when they have their exam results, or other evidence they've met the conditions.
- **If they don't meet the conditions they may be unsuccessful** – in this case, they can use **Clearing** to apply for more courses.
- **If your child changes their mind** and no longer wants their firm choice, they can use the 'decline my place' button in their application to use Clearing to find another place. [More about declining a place.](#)



Student Finance

Most students will have two costs to cover:

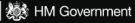
- Tuition fees
- Living costs

Click here to
follow the link

 **GOV.UK**

Student can apply for:

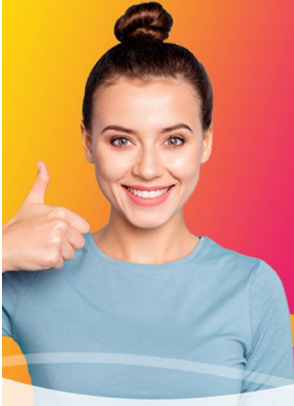
- Tuition Fee Loan
- Maintenance Loan
- Extra help



GET YOUR STUDENT FINANCE SORTED! sfe

You can use your **online account** to:

- Upload evidence
- Make changes to your application
- Track the progress of your application and more!



Alternative Pathways

Employment

indeed

HOP

HERTFORDSHIRE OPPORTUNITIES PORTAL

Higher Degree
Apprenticeship


Amazing
Apprenticeships

Gap Year

gapFORCE
SINCE 1989 

Apprenticeships on UCAS

Smart alerts can be set up in the user profile. Preferences can be set and the **student** can match to existing live vacancies. Alerts are sent directly to the user when a match is made.

🏠 / Apprenticeships

DEGREE APPRENTICESHIPS

A degree apprenticeship gives you the opportunity to gain a paid-for degree while getting industry experience and earning a salary.



Intelligent Mobility and Smart Technologies Graduate Scheme

Atkins

📍 Nationwide

Apprenticeship level
England - Degree
Apprenticeship - Level 7

Start date	Duration
04/12/2023	Undisclosed
Date posted	Closing date
07/09/2023	04/12/2023
Salary	
£29,000 - £32,750	



Systems Engineering Graduate Scheme

Atkins

📍 Nationwide

Apprenticeship level
England - Degree
Apprenticeship - Level 7

Start date	Duration
04/12/2023	Undisclosed
Date posted	Closing date
07/09/2023	04/12/2023
Salary	
£29,000 - £32,750	



Waste Management Graduate Scheme

Atkins

📍 Nationwide

Apprenticeship level
England - Degree
Apprenticeship - Level 7

Start date	Duration
04/12/2023	Undisclosed
Date posted	Closing date
07/09/2023	04/12/2023
Salary	
£29,000 - £32,750	



Digital and Technology Graduate Scheme

Atkins

📍 Nationwide

Apprenticeship level
England - Degree
Apprenticeship - Level 7

Start date	Duration
04/12/2023	Undisclosed
Date posted	Closing date
07/09/2023	04/12/2023
Salary	
£29,000 - £32,750	

What are degree apprenticeships?

A degree apprenticeship enables you to gain a full undergraduate or master's degree while you work. Degree apprenticeships take three to six years to complete, depending on the course level.

You'll spend most of your time working and you'll also study part-time at university. For example, you might go to university one or two days per week, or in short blocks, such as a week at a time. Overall, you spend about 20% of your time studying vs. 80% of your time working.

Degree apprenticeships work differently across the UK:

- **England and Wales** both offer degree apprenticeships, with the most options currently available in England.
- In **Scotland**, degree apprenticeships are known as **Graduate Apprenticeships**.
- **Northern Ireland** offers higher level apprenticeships (HLAs) that offer you qualifications up to Level 7 which is the equivalent of a master's degree. However, the majority are at Level 5 which is equivalent to a foundation degree.

Learning Beyond the Curriculum



Wider reading	Online Courses - Future Learn	Shadowing
Podcast / Audio Books	Documentaries	Journals
Exhibitions	Museums	Ted Talks

Mrs K Birkett

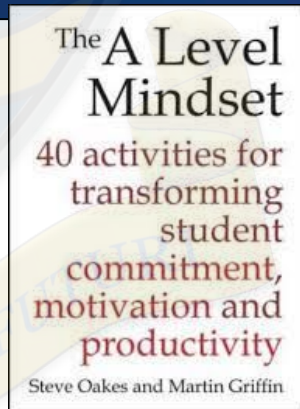
Post 16 Teaching and Learning Lead

VESPA

Study Skills Toolkit

Learner Voice

RA FUTURI



- At the **start of any academic year** it is important that **Year 13 students focus on vision** and start **looking towards the end and their next steps**.
- Following on from student feedback, we have purchased a VESPA login specifically for sixth form students to use throughout the year as a **formal part of Form Time to complement other resources such as Unifrog, Massolit, MOOCs, Future Learn etc**
- The **whole point of VESPA** is to **provide students with the tools to maximise their potential, reflecting on their own individual needs, and working towards a more positive outcome in the future**.
- The makers of VESPA, Steve Oakes and Martin Griffin, wrote the book **‘The A Level Mindset’** (which is amazing!) and the VESPA Portal is very popular in many Sixth Forms across Hertfordshire as well as in the UK.

What does it stand for?

VISION, EFFORT, SYSTEMS, PRACTICE & ATTITUDE

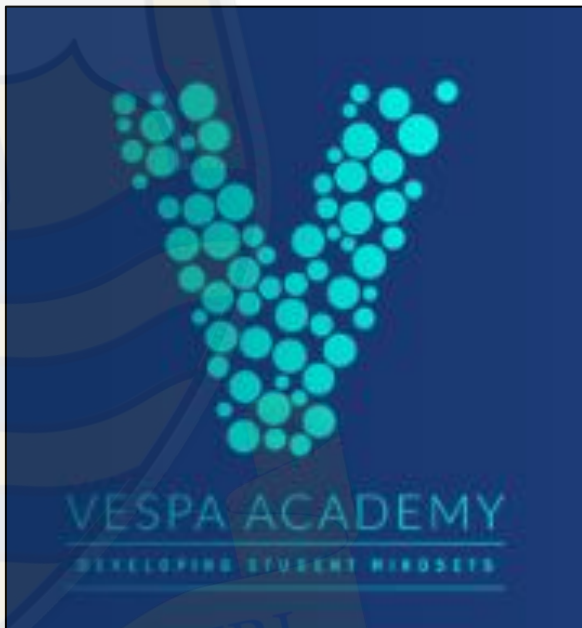
What does it entail? A programme of bespoke activities based on pedagogical and psychological research

When; Tuesday Form Time

How Often; Once a week

Tracking; Termly Questionnaires

Follow up; Form Tutors in the first instance



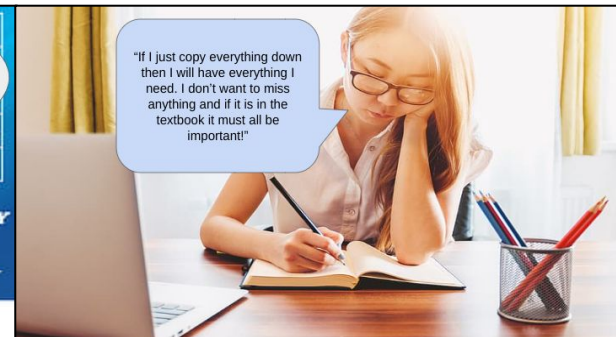
Study Skills Toolkit



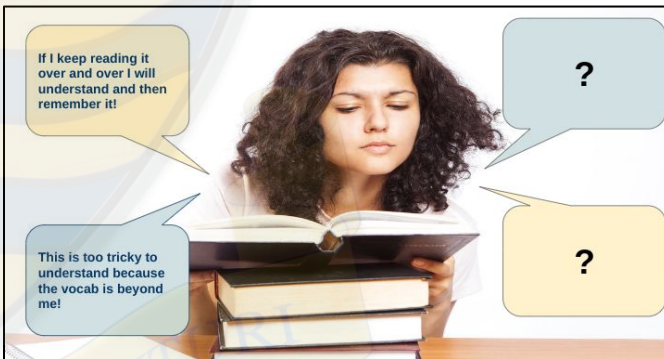
School / Life Balance
How do I manage this?



It doesn't matter how long I spend revising this stuff none of it seems to go in!



"If I just copy everything down then I will have everything I need. I don't want to miss anything and if it is in the textbook it must all be important!"

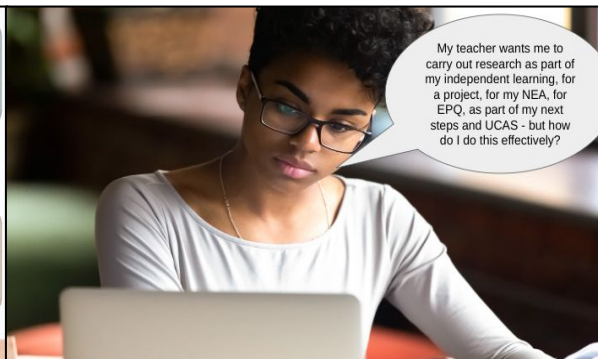


If I keep reading it over and over I will understand and then remember it!

This is too tricky to understand because the vocab is beyond me!

?

?



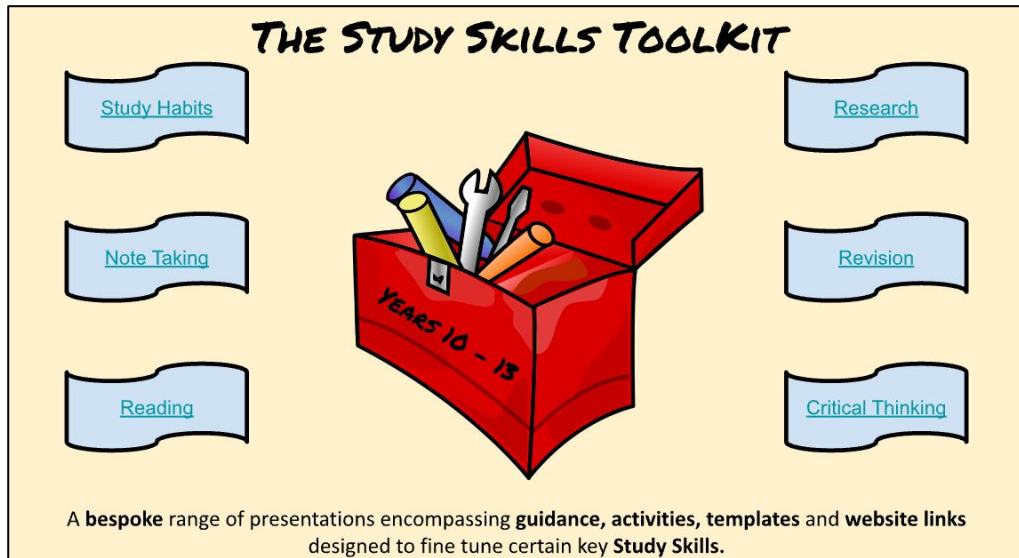
My teacher wants me to carry out research as part of my independent learning, for a project, for my NEA, for EPQ, as part of my next steps and UCAS - but how do I do this effectively?



Study Skills Toolkit

A bespoke range of presentations found as a **tile** on **Student's RMunify** and as part of the **Step Up** programme.

Encompasses guidance, activities, templates and website links **designed to fine tune certain Study Skills.**



Some of the best advice that we can find on the internet !



The Sixth Form Learner Voice encompasses **the thoughts, views and opinions of students on their KS5 educational journey. ...**

It is an integral part of ensuring that our learners receive an outstanding educational experience and that students feel empowered to be active in either making curriculum or whole Sixth Form changes.

Autumn

Spring

Summer

Lessons learnt from Year 1

- Key content requiring support
- Organisation of folder
- Strengths in Learning

Post November Mocks

- Skills needing support
- Shortfalls in exam preparation

Preparing for the final exams

- Revision
- Exam Technique

Year 13
Termly Focus

Learner Voice - Google Form



Year 13 Learner Voice - Autumn Term 2022

Post November Mocks

1. a) Rate your preparation in the lead up to the November Mock exams ; where 1 is I did not feel prepared and 5 is I felt very prepared.

1.b) When did you start properly and sincerely revising for the November Mock Exams?

1. c) In preparation for the November Mock what revision activities did you prioritise? You may tick up to 5 boxes.

2. a) Rate on a scale of 1 to 5 (where 1 is not very well and 5 is very well) how well you looked after your health and wellbeing during the Mock Exam period.

2. b) What other support either by your teachers or the Sixth Form Team would you like to see put in place to support you during future exam periods?

3. a) What aspects of completing your Mock Exam Papers did you find most challenging?

3. b) What do you feel went well in your November Mock exams eg your organisation, focus, working with peers etc

3. c) Write three resolutions as your next steps for future exam success.

3. c) Write three resolutions as your next steps for future exam success.

Pay attention
on how to
structure
your answers

Don't put all
your efforts into
revising your
most difficult
subject

Vary your
revision
techniques.

Keep away
from the
common
room

Look after
your mental
health - talk
about your
concerns

Stay focused
right to the
end of the
mocks

Don't cram!

Give in
practice
questions and
pay attention
to feedback

Revise the
topics you find
hardest first -
don't put off
your demons.

Do wider
reading for
specific
topics

Read
exemplar
answers

Revise
regularly
through the
year for long
term memory

Read the
question
carefully
before you
start writing

Don't panic -
you won't
think logically.

Do active
recall

Feedback to Form Tutors

Feedback to Subject Teachers

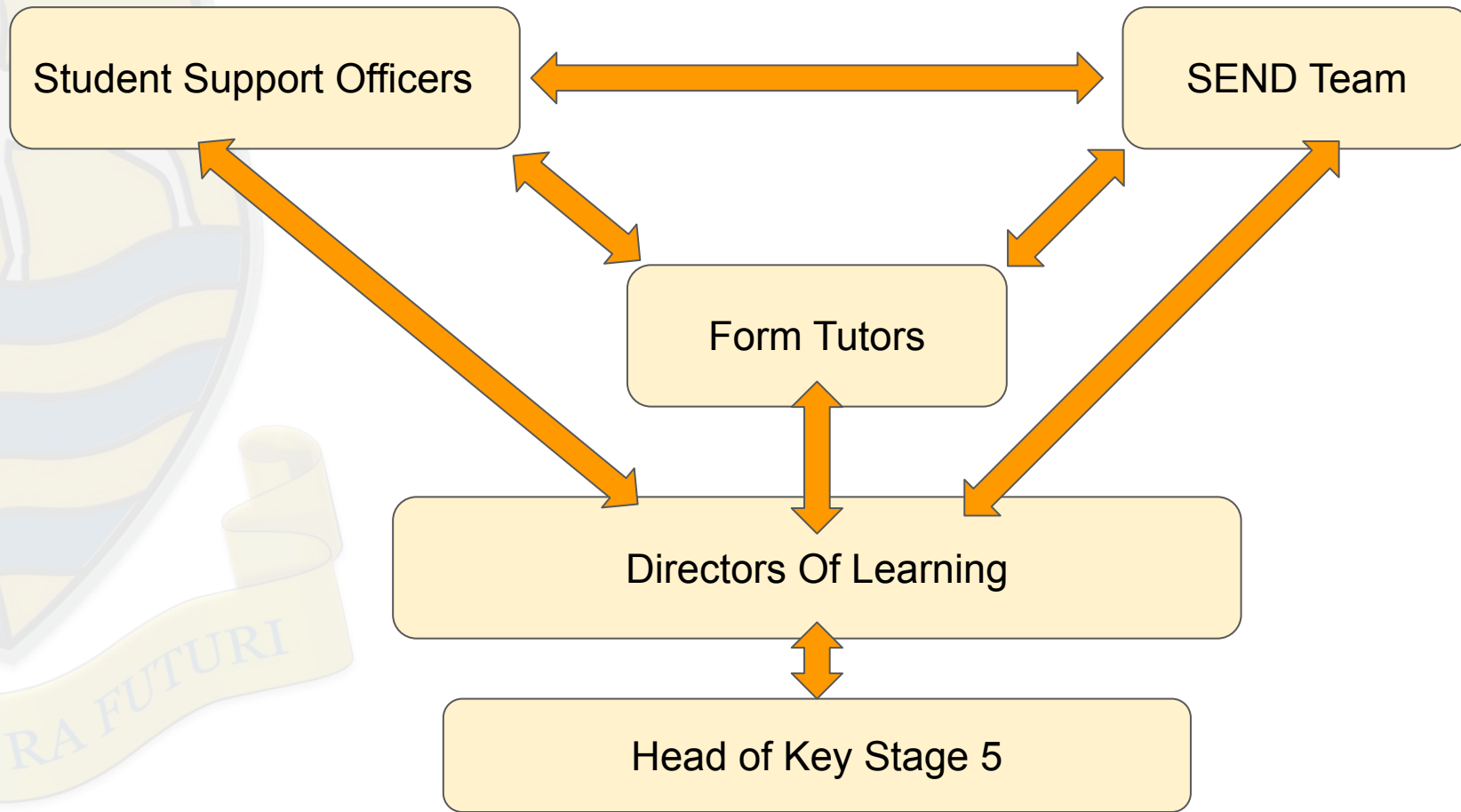
Enhancing the Support of Students and our overall Sixth Form Provision

Mr J James

Director of Learning

Sixth Form

Pastoral Structure



Form Tutors



Form	Tutor	Contact Information
Austen	D Buckley	dzblang@stags.herts.sch.uk
Bronte	M Brown	mbn@stags.herts.sch.uk
Curie	R Wheatley	perw@stags.herts.sch.uk
Franklin	T Cooper	tcr@stags.herts.sch.uk
Hepworth	K Keogh	engkk@stags.herts.sch.uk
Johnson	B Soler	bss@stags.herts.sch.uk
Seacole	D Bowyer	scidb@stags.herts.sch.uk

Form Time



	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
What	STAGS Talks	Y12 VESPA Next Steps	Wellbeing	KS5 Assembly	Next Steps
Why	Time where we celebrate events such as Black History Month, International Women's Day and cultural festivals. Developing students global knowledge and place in the world	VESPA (Vision, Effort, System, Practice and Attitude) A programme to provide you with the tools to maximise your potential	An opportunity for students to reflect, connect with peers and step back from academia, building student tutor rapport	Dissemination of whole school information as well as an opportunity to hear guest speakers and meet as a cohort	1:1 consultation with form tutors and preparation for next steps Next Steps Friday!

Blended Learning

Blended Learning allows A Level students and teachers to make the most of every minute in the classroom.

Purpose:

- ★ Allow students to research within lessons
- ★ Completion of BTEC, NEA, Coursework efficiently, minimising the need to login into various devices
- ★ Analysis of class material within lessons, such as graphs, figures and text
- ★ Allow students to seamlessly link classwork to independent study

Deployment:

- ★ All students must have a personal device with them, ready to use in any of their lesson
- ★ Any device capable of running Google Chrome is applicable



Study Time



Students are timetabled 'supported study' as part of their compulsory lessons:

Purpose:

- ★ We aim to build a disciplined environment where students complete work during the school day, increasing freetime and work life balance outside of the classroom
- ★ Allows students to utilise school resources, such as the library and IT services
- ★ Allows subjects to develop learning without overpressuring students with additional home learning

Careers Fair - Wednesday 1 November



Our annual careers fair is a fantastic opportunity for students to gain a valuable insight into a range of employment options which can arise as a result of their academic achievements. Whether you are deciding to go to university, apprenticeship or straight into the workplace, the careers fair is very useful.

Date: Wednesday 1 November

Time: 4:30-6:30

Location: Main Hall



Assessment & Reporting 2023-2024



- ★ 3 reports over the course of the academic year
- ★ **Attitude to Learning** grade 1 - 5
- ★ **MLO A Level/BTEC grade** A*- E or D*-P
- ★ **Praise** comment
- ★ **Progress** comment
- ★ Form Tutor comment once a year just before parents' evening
- ★ DOL Year Group summary comment on each report

Year 13	Report 1 UCAS Grades	Mock Examinations	Report 2	Parents' Evening	Report 3
	September 2023	13 - 24 November	8 December 2023	17 January 2024	28 March 2024

Q&A