



## Margaret Chapman, Executive Head Teacher

It is hard to believe how quickly this half term has flown by! Students have become engaged once again so actively in the life of the school. From participation in lessons and learning, sporting events, to rehearsals underway for the Musical, as well as welcoming authors and being so actively involved in leadership at all levels.

It has been a great privilege to conduct so many working day visits for prospective Year 7 families. We already have well over 650 applicants for our 240 places and the deadline hasn't as yet been reached. Regular comments and feedback include the range of teaching styles and the enthusiasm and engagement of staff and students alike in the varied lessons visited during the day.

Yesterday, it was a great pleasure to welcome the new Senior Students into their roles as part of the Student Senior Leadership Team (SSLT) of the school, as shown in the main picture above. The SSLT Conference - which included both the outgoing and new incumbents enabled an opportunity for Post 16 students, to consider their roles and responsibilities, reflect upon leadership training and leadership styles and consider their own personal development. All are displaying their roles with such great maturity it was a pleasure to see and hear their discussions - more pictures overleaf.

This week, we have held our first Student Parliament across all year groups and reflected upon the importance of Student Voice within our school community, not least instilling within our students a sense of understanding, respect and tolerance for all.

**SUPPORT TRUST AMBITION GENEROSITY SUCCESS**



It was also great to see so many students once again at STAGS Talks, including some new faces with students from the younger year groups - all united in their views about the positivity and safety they felt about our school community. These open weekly discussion groups support the very positive ethos of community within our school.

Today is a Personal Development Day, information for which has already been shared with you. So much of the content is already embedded within our pastoral curriculum. The focus is on wellbeing with workshops and activities tailored to each year group. The level of engagement and enthusiasm for these activities is very high and coupled with the non uniform day, so many students have added an item of pink to their clothing to raise awareness of 'Wear it Pink' and Breast Cancer Now.

A reminder that the parent/carer online safety workshop is on Monday 30 October at 6.00pm - please do sign in with the link [here](#) - more detail is in the diary dates section.

Congratulations to Thea in Year 8 who has been hugely successful in gaining a place on the England Fencing Sabre squad and has been selected to compete in the upcoming International European Fencing Championship in Sofia, Bulgaria scheduled for 17 November. Wonderful news and we wish her every success in the Championships.

Enjoy a relaxing half term break and we look forward to seeing you for the new term ahead on Monday 30 October.

With all good wishes,

*Alcaig*





# Diary Dates

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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**

Governor Day  
Careers Fair, 4.30-6.30pm, Hall

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**Thursday 2 November**

PTA AGM, 7pm, LRC

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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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**Thursday 9 November**

School starts with Period 2 at 10am  
Diwali Celebrations

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**Monday 13 November**

Odd Socks for Anti-Bullying Week

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**Monday 13 - Friday 24 November**

Year 11 and Year 13 Mocks

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**Wednesday 15 November**

Parent Book Group, 6pm, LRC

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**Friday 17 November**

Children in Need

\*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

## Food Insecurity Local Level Survey

Hertfordshire County Council is inviting one adult from every household to complete a 15-minute, anonymous survey that will help them to understand how access to food, for financial or other reasons, is being affected and where support needs to be directed to help residents. The survey will close on Sunday 5 November. Please click [here](#) to access the survey.

Help Hertfordshire County Council find out about access to food, local services, and the impacts of rising living costs in Hertfordshire.



We are asking one adult from each household in Hertfordshire to complete our 15 minute, anonymous questionnaire by Sunday 5 November.

Please scan the QR code, or visit [https://melresearch.co.uk/hertsfoodsurvey\\_O](https://melresearch.co.uk/hertsfoodsurvey_O) to complete the questionnaire online.



To complete the questionnaire by telephone or paper copy, please call: 0800 073 0348





# 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](http://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

