



Margaret Chapman, Executive Head Teacher

As is usual at STAGS, the themes of assemblies in November have been based on Remembrance and Inclusion with the moving story of the history of the unknown warrior being remembered today as the school fell silent at 11am for two minutes to remember all the fallen in war and conflict. Well done to Thea for playing the Last Post and Reveille so beautifully on the trumpet as part of our two minutes silence.



My thanks to Mr Mitchell who delivered the assemblies and all students who have so actively contributed to the Remembrance 'wall' in the main foyer at STAGS. Pictures on page 5.

It was such a great pleasure this week to welcome Year 11 families to our STAGS Sixth Form Open Evening, where all students considered next stages in their learning journey beyond GCSEs. Many families commented how quickly time flies by when children move through secondary school! I recall seeing so many families some five years ago as we welcomed them all into the STAGS community and whilst much has certainly happened in the intervening period, it is a real privilege to see how our young people mature into wonderful young adults and take their next steps into life beyond the school gates whether to university, apprenticeships or employment.

We were delighted to be at 'standing room only' in the main hall as we welcomed not only our own STAGS students but also many external students and families who so favourably commented on the vast array of wonderful opportunities available in STAGS SIXTH to ensure future success - so very evident from the subject outcomes, presentation speeches and tour guiding of our wonderful Sixth Formers. Some pictures from the evening can be found on page 5.

SUPPORT TRUST AMBITION GENEROSITY SUCCESS

GCSE and A Level mock examinations

GCSE and A Level Mock exams begin next week and we have received new guidance from Ofqual that all exam centres must retain all students' work physically or digitally to ensure the integrity of the examination system. More specific information will be shared with students and families in Years 11 and 13.

PTA and STAGS WINTER FAIR Sunday 10 December 12-3.00pm

PLEASE support our Winter fair - the PTA has put together a wonderful flyer outlining how you can get involved which you can find on page 6. This is a great event where so many of our students are so actively involved with House events led by the House Captains and a real celebration of the STAGS community. The full details are on the flyer but please can you consider:

- Volunteering to help - both planning and on the day
- Donate to the tombola - chocolate, filled jam jars, pre-loved teddies/plushies (clean!) bottles non alcoholic or with alcohol if brought in via an adult
- Donate to the Grand Draw raffle prizes
- Come and join us on the day and support the school

The Winter Fair was a fabulous success last year and we want to ensure even bigger and better success this year - this is only possible with your support and an enormous THANK YOU in advance.

What are we raising funds for?

Each year the money that you donate to the PTA raises funds for activities in school that impact our young people now. Previous fundraising has ensured:

- A new minibus
- New dance studio adjacent to the Sports' Hall
- Refurbishment of the school library
- Lighting and sound system in the Main Hall for use all year round and especially for performances
- Refurbishment of an old computer room to a fabulous Textiles room
- Complete re-organisation of the QUAD from a muddy area to a fabulous space in the centre of the school which can be enjoyed by all
- An open air classroom
- Specific small scale projects requested by departments, such as the Spit Fire Club
- Quiet open space alongside the Student Support Office

This year we are focusing fundraising on:

- A laser cutter which will be located in the Technology department but will be used across the school
- Refurbishment of a science lab - we will match fund this with an application to the Wolfenden Foundation
- New Mac Suite for extending music technology across the school
- Stage extension for use during performances and all presentations - this will negate the need to hire this equipment in the future
- Small scale projects across the school to enhance extra curricular provision such as a Kenwood Multipro Food processor, an IPC signal generator and amplifier to name but a few.

Pre-Loved Uniform Donations

Please can you donate any pre-loved, clean uniform, including any PE kit (no underwear please). It is hugely appreciated as we get ready for the next Uniform sale which is on Saturday 18 November 1.30-3.00pm.

Better Sleep

Please see attached information about a free resource that can help parents and children to learn more about their sleep and develop better bedtime routines. Sleep is essential to brain function, by helping children to sleep better, we can help them to succeed in school.

At any given time up to 40% of adults and 50% of children (this rises to 80% with a SEND diagnosis) have difficulties with their sleep. Yet in a recent survey, almost 60% of adults felt there was a lack of support for sleep issues. Sleep problems can leave people feeling isolated and lonely.

A free helpline run by trained sleep advisors, many of whom are specialists in working with SEND can support families. They can talk to young people directly, or parents (they can also talk to adults, including older people, about their sleep issues).

The helpline is open 5 times a week, Monday, Tuesday, Thursday evenings 7-9pm, and Monday, Wednesday mornings 9-11am. The number is 03303 530 541. You can read more [here](#).

Diwali celebrations

We have really enjoyed sharing Diwali celebrations this week with music, henna and treats in the Main Hall and all profits raised have been donated to Save The Children UK. Miss Haria even took a stint on the dhol, playing along to Bollywood/Bhangra music, picture on front cover. More photos of the event on page 5.

Initial Teacher Training

We are delighted to be delivering our Initial teacher Training at the Alban Teaching School Hub in partnership with the National Institute of Teaching - please see the flyers on page 10, where you will find further information about events. We offer a very broad range of subjects at all levels for anyone interested in training to teach - please also see our website for further details.

Anti Bullying Week



Next week, we begin our raising awareness of Anti Bullying Week with Odd Socks Day on Monday 13 November. Led by our Anti Bullying Ambassadors this is a great opportunity to wear odd socks with the school uniform and draw the line between acceptable and unacceptable language - our theme for this year.



SEND updates

Please see the attached newsletter [here](#) from the SEND Team for your reference.

Careers in Herts

Every few weeks we try to share with you careers updates for not only STAGS but also the wider community links in Hertfordshire. The Herts Careers Opportunities Portal provides a really useful reference for all sectors of employment across Herts - which you can access by clicking [here](#).

Also, we draw your attention to Green Careers Week. Click [here](#) to access the link to a parents guide which supports the presentation which was given to students on Enrichment Friday last week.

Children in Need

We conclude next week with Children in Need activities, which take place between 15-17 November - a busy time as always at STAGS and much for students to be involved with in the full life of the school.

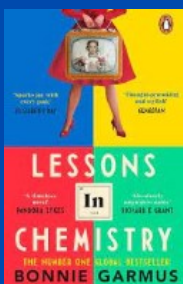
Sporting news

The Year 8A netball team progressed through to the semi-finals of the District Cup beating Beaumont 20-7. The Year 10B netball team also won their first game of the District League against Marlborough 30-19. Well done to all players!

STAGS Librarian recommendations

Our librarians recommend books to staff each month and we thought that you might find this of interest. This month, they are highlighting books which have recently been adapted for television.

First, 'Lessons in Chemistry' by Bonnie Garmus



This novel is set during the 1950s and early 1960s and tells the story of Elizabeth Zott, a brilliant chemist who after being shut out by her male colleagues at the research institute where she works, finds herself the unlikely presenter of a TV cooking show. Elizabeth's unusually scientific approach to cooking ('combine one tablespoon acetic acid with a pinch of sodium chloride' proves revolutionary, not just in TV chef terms but also the impact she has upon the women glued to her unconventional show.

Next, we have 'Daisy Jones & the Six' by Taylor Jenkins Reid



A gripping novel about the whirlwind rise of a fictional 1970s rock group and their lead singer. Very much inspired by Fleetwood Mac, Reid's debut is a 'nostalgia-fuelled trip into the hedonistic world of 70's L.A and the stratospheric rise and fall of a band whose sound defined an era.' (Waterstones)

'I devoured DAISY JONES AND THE SIX in a day, falling head over heels for it. Taylor Jenkins Reid transported me into the magic of the 70's music scene in a way I'll never forget.' (Reese Witherspoon)

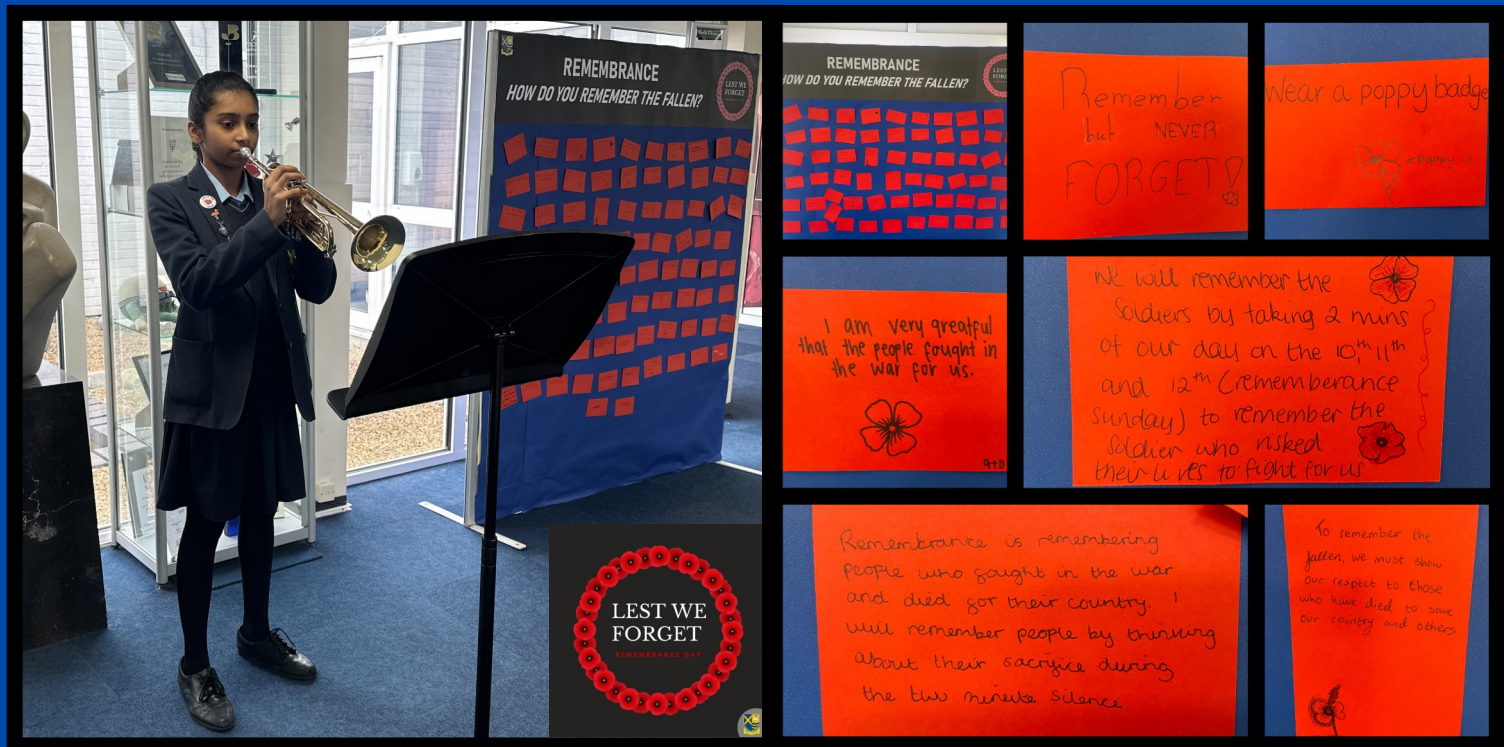
Also, an adaptation of one of their previous recommendations, 'All the Light we Cannot See' by Anthony Doerr has just arrived on Netflix and is still available to borrow from the Library, or as an ebook on our ePlaform.

Click [here](#) to sign into the National Online Safety site to view 'What Parents & Carers Need to Know about X' or click [here](#) to view the PDF.

Thank you for your continued support.

Alcaig





Thea playing the trumpet during our 2 minutes silence, alongside our Remembrance display in the Main Foyer



Sixth Form Open Evening

Diwali Celebration

THE PTA GUIDE to the **STAGS WINTER FAIR**

SUNDAY 10th DECEMBER 12pm to 3pm

Here's everything you need to know about the STAGS Winter Fair and how you can help make it a success!

Donate to the Tombolas

We have 4 fantastic Tombolas at the Fair and the more donations we receive, the better the odds of winning!

Donate:

- A bottle of alcohol or a luxury non-alcoholic drink
- Some chocolate or a gift (new/unopened)
- An unwanted teddy/plushie (washed please)
- A filled Jam Jar (wrapped sweets, make up samples, stationery, hair accessories)
- By Friday 8 December

How?

- Drop off to school Reception between 8am and 4pm (NB only adults can drop off alcohol)
- Bring to the pre-loved uniform sale on 18 November 1.30-3pm
- Drop off to 1 The Limes, AL1 4AT (blue box)

Volunteer to help with planning

We are looking for support with the following:

- Sourcing (begging for!) Grand Draw prizes
- Buying food/drink and delivering to school
- Transporting tombola donations
- Booking and liaising with entertainment supplier

Buy Grand Draw raffle tickets

With your help, our Grand Draw will have lots of fantastic prizes. Please support the PTA by buying books of Grand Draw tickets!

How?

- Your child will bring home a book of 5 Grand Draw tickets
- Please complete each of the stubs
- Send in an envelope containing the stubs and cash payment with your child, for them to drop off to School Reception by Friday 8 December
- If you would like more tickets, please contact stagspta@gmail.com or buy them at the Winter Fair from the PTA stall! If you have unsold tickets, please return them to School Reception by Friday 8 December

Volunteer to help at the event

We are looking for volunteers for the following:

- Setting up the hall/restaurant (Saturday)
- Setting up the tombolas/grand draw (Saturday)
- Marshalling stall holders (Sunday)
- Manning tombolas, food and drink stall, and Grand Draw stall (Sunday)
- Clearing away (Sunday)

Contact us on stagspta@gmail.com if you can help with any of these

GRAND DRAW PRIZES: Could you, your business, your employer or any contact you have donate a prize for our Grand Draw? Please get in touch!

What will your child be doing at the Winter Fair?

Alongside the PTA fundraising activity, pupils participate in the House Competition in the Gym, raising money for House Charities. Each class designs and runs a games stall, to be decided on during Form time a couple of weeks before the Fair. Some adult help with planning and organising stalls may be needed!

[Image by s.salvador on](#)



Diary Dates

Monday 13 November

Odd Socks for Anti-Bullying Week

Monday 13 - Friday 24 November

Year 11 and Year 13 Mocks

Wednesday 15 November

Parent Book Group, 6pm, LRC

Friday 17 November

Children in Need

Saturday 18 November

PTA Uniform Sale, 1.30-3pm,
School Hall

Monday 20 November

SEND Parent Group Meeting,
7-8.30pm, LRC

Monday 20 November - Friday 1 Dec

Year 10 Progression Meetings Fortnight

Wednesday 22 November

Oxbridge, Med, Vet, Dentist Eve, 6-7pm, LRC
Year 12 & 13, Speak Your Mind Debate

Thursday 23 November

PTA Meeting, LRC, 7-8pm

Monday 27 November

Year 8 First Aid Workshop

Friday 1 December

Carol Service, St Albans Abbey
Diversity Event

Monday 4 December

Occasional Day - School Closed



Careers

Green Careers Week 2023



Green Careers Week is an exciting event that promotes real opportunities to have a career that will genuinely make a difference. Discover careers, jobs, roles, and career pathways that are green careers and develop green skills.

A green career can be any job, role or occupation that contributes to preserving or restoring the environment and our planet.

Click [here](#) to find out more.





Notices



Around 50% of children will have a sleep issue at some point*

WHAT IS THE NATIONAL SLEEP HELPLINE?

In partnership with Furniture Village, The Sleep Charity has launched a brand new National Sleep Helpline to ensure that everyone has access to high quality, evidence-based advice.

HOW CAN THE NATIONAL SLEEP HELPLINE HELP YOU?

- Run by a team of specialist trained sleep advisors
- Offer you some practical strategies and recommend services that could help
- Ensuring you understand how sleep plays an important part in your child's mental health and wellbeing
- Listen without judgement and help you decide what next steps are right for you
- Empower you with sleep knowledge so you can understand why your child might not be sleeping well and how that can change

03303 530 541

Monday, Tuesday & Thursday 7pm - 9pm
Monday & Wednesday 9am - 11am



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*Survey of 2,000 adults by OnePoll, Aug 2021



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

ATTENDANCE OFFICER

Closing Date: Friday 17th November 2023

Immediate start

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



Notices



TRAIN TO TEACH

Alban TSH is pleased to be delivering courses in partnership with the National Institute of Teaching. Applications for September 2024 Initial Teacher Training courses are now open on DfE Apply.

Visit our website for more information
www.albantsh.co.uk/itt-welcome



Initial Teaching Training Information webinar

Friday Nov 10th 2023 at 13:30

This webinar will cover:

The benefits of joining our ITT programme; our application processes; finance options; full and part time training; accreditation; support structures and a range of additional information to ensure you're well-informed on our provision.



Register by clicking [here](#)

Initial Teaching Training Information webinar

Tuesday Nov 14th 2023 at 18:00

This webinar will cover:

The benefits of joining our ITT programme; our application processes; finance options; full and part time training; accreditation; support structures and a range of additional information to ensure you're well-informed on our provision.



Register by clicking [here](#)