



## Paul Kershaw, Head of School

This week started off brilliantly on World Kindness Day at the start of Anti-Bullying Week with Odd Socks Day. The day was extremely successful with students taking to the catwalk in the main hall at lunchtime. Thank you so much to Mrs Jarvis for organising. Today, we mark the conclusion of Anti-Bullying Week with students across year groups visiting The Adeyfield Academy for the ATLAS Anti-Bullying Conference. We look forward to hearing about the positive collaboration that will take place there today.

There have been Children In Need fundraising events on Wednesday, Thursday and today this week which have been designed and run by our new Charity Captains Team with the support of Mrs Flint. During lunchtimes, the hall has been packed full of supporters for our 1000 Bearpee Challenge - 900 have been achieved so far! Thank you to all students who came and took part and to all of those who supported too. Students have also been able to guess the name of a very cute plush cockapoo which a lucky entrant will be taking home this afternoon. We will let you know how much we raised next week.

On Wednesday evening, four teams from Year 9 to 12 competed in the prestigious Rotary Youth Speaks Debate competition against local schools at St Stephen's Church. Congratulations to our Senior Team of Zoe, Henna and Sabrina who won their division and are now through to the District finals (picture above). They argued: 'This House believes that dictatorships are an ineffective form of governing.' All students impressed the judges with their confident, engaging speeches on weighty topics. Many thanks go to all involved, including Mrs Sharp and Mrs Mathurin for organising and supporting so brilliantly. More pictures on next page.

**SUPPORT TRUST AMBITION GENEROSITY SUCCESS**

A few weeks ago, we mentioned that Alexandra spoke on Youth Volunteering as part of TEDxSt Albans. The video of this has been released - click [here](#) to watch her amazing insight into this important topic. It is a phenomenal and inspiring achievement. Well done Alexandra!

On Wednesday Evening, our Parent Book Group was a very positive experience where parents of students across different year groups discussed 'Why Has Nobody Told Me This Before'. This book invites readers to consider actionable advice and strategies for a range of daily challenges which can turn into barriers. Many thanks to parents who came and shared their perspective and reflections. Next, we will be looking at a novel and when the group has decided upon the read, we will share the title here so that new parents and carers can become involved if they would like.

Hertfordshire Constabulary is currently completing a week of action on knife crime until 20 November. As part of their drive to reduce knife related crime and educate people about the dangers of carrying a knife, they are keen to hear views from the community on this subject. They invite us to take part in their short survey with an objective of collaboration towards tackling knife crime by clicking [here](#).

I would like to draw your attention to the [SEND Newsletter](#) included as part of last week's Staglink and remind you that in addition to the other information shared, the next SEND Parent Support Group is on Monday evening from 7pm and that SEND scheduled surgeries are available over the academic year by emailing [SENDsupport@stags.herts.sch.uk](mailto:SENDsupport@stags.herts.sch.uk)

On Monday to Thursday lunchtimes next week there will be guide dogs in the school hall! There will be guide dog merchandise too, so please let your child know to bring in a small amount of money if they would like to purchase anything and contribute to the Guide Dogs for the Blind Association.

STAGS will be supporting the St Albans & District Foodbank Appeal this Christmas with their Reverse Advent Calendar, which starts on Tuesday 21 November. Please see their flyer on page 6.

Tickets for our festive whole school musical 'Elf JR' go on sale at 9am on Monday 20 November via School Gateway, and please remember that our PTA Pre Loved Uniform sale is taking place tomorrow.

Have an amazing weekend and make sure to keep warm! Very best wishes,

*Alison*

#### ROTARY YOUTH SPEAKS DEBATE COMPETITION





# FUNDRAISING 2023

Macmillan Coffee Morning, Wear It Pink Day, continuing donations for Libyan Floods and the Morocco Earthquake. Rotary Wrap Up coat collection and the Poppy Appeal for the Royal British Legion.

**15-17  
NOV**

**CHILDREN IN NEED BEARPEE  
CHALLENGE AND OTHER ACTIVITIES**

**20-23  
NOV**

**GUIDE DOGS FOR THE BLIND -  
LUNCHTIME VISITS & MERCHANDISE**

**21 NOV -  
15 DEC**

**ST ALBANS & DISTRICT FOODBANK  
REVERSE ADVENT CALENDAR**

**10 DEC**

**PTA WINTER FAIR**

**19 DEC**

**CHRISTMAS JUMPER DAY**



## CAROL SERVICE - FRIDAY 1 DECEMBER 2023



### INFORMATION: Dismissal, Bus Arrangements and Students Excused for Religious Reasons

**Friday 1 December** is the date of our annual Carol Service in the Abbey. The Carol Service will take place in the afternoon and is expected to finish at about 3:10pm. **All students will be dismissed from the Abbey after the service.**

#### **SCHOOL BUSES**

Many students come to school on school buses and arrangements have been made for these buses as follows:

Students who catch any of the buses listed below are reminded that they should make their way **quickly** to Westminster Lodge after the service and should aim to arrive by 3:20pm to enable coaches to leave by 3:30pm. The buses have timetables to adhere to and cannot wait for latecomers.

- **Greenwood Buses - Shenley/Radlett/Borehamwood**
- **E446 - Richard Taylor Travel - Wheathampstead/Kimpton**
- **.84 or 84A**

#### **STUDENTS NOT ATTENDING FOR RELIGIOUS REASONS - YEAR 7**

The Carol Service is an important school occasion and all students are expected to attend. However, we do appreciate that there are families who would prefer their child not to attend for religious reasons.

For students who are excused from attending the Abbey Service, we have an afternoon of diverse community activities at school led by Mrs Khanum and her team. Students will be dismissed from school at the usual time of 3:10pm.

**Please note that students remaining at school will need to organise their own transport home as there will be no access to school buses from STAGS on Friday 1 December.**

**We require an email from parents/carers in Year 7, if the family wishes their child to be excused. If you wish for your child to be excused on religious grounds, please email Rahena Ali via [resrc@stags.herts.sch.uk](mailto:resrc@stags.herts.sch.uk) by Friday 17 November.**

#### **STUDENTS NOT ATTENDING FOR RELIGIOUS REASONS - YEAR 8 -13**

In any other year group, if parents/carers have previously written to the school asking for their child to be excused there is no need to write in again. **However, if you are new to the school, and wish for your child to be excused on religious grounds, please email Rahena Ali via [resrc@stags.herts.sch.uk](mailto:resrc@stags.herts.sch.uk) by Friday 17 November.**

Unfortunately, owing to a lack of space we are unable to invite parents to the service.

Students are required to follow their usual uniform or Sixth Form dress code for this event and are reminded that no bags, no matter what size may be brought to school on Friday 1 December.



# Diary Dates

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## **Saturday 18 November**

PTA Uniform Sale, 1.30-3pm, School Hall

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## **Monday 20 November**

SEND Parent Group Meeting, 7-8.30pm, LRC

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## **Monday 20 Nov - Friday 1 December**

Year 10 Progression Meetings Fortnight

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## **Wednesday 22 November**

Oxbridge, Med, Vet, Dentist Eve, 6-7pm, Main Hall

Year 12 & 13, Speak Your Mind Debate

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## **Thursday 23 November**

PTA Meeting, LRC, 7-8pm

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## **Monday 27 November**

Year 8 First Aid Workshop

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## **Friday 1 December**

Carol Service, St Albans Abbey  
Diversity Event

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## **Monday 4 December**

Occasional Day - School Closed

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## **Wednesday 6 December**

GCSE Celebration Event, 2-3.10pm, Main Hall

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## **Sunday 10 December**

STAGS PTA Winter Fair, 12-3pm

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## **Monday 11 December**

Year 7 Inter House Sports

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## **Tuesday 12 December**

Year 8 Inter House Sports

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# Notices

## St Albans & District Foodbank Christmas Collection

STAGS will be supporting the St Albans & District Foodbank Appeal again this Christmas. For 25 days, **starting on Tuesday 21 November** they are asking for a specific item to be donated on each day, although they will of course welcome any donations. Collection boxes will be in the foyer for students to drop off their items. Thank you in advance for supporting this worthwhile cause.



Reverse

# ADVENT CALENDAR

Christmas Appeal

Christmas can be a difficult time for many, especially for those living on a tight budget. With increased winter fuel bills alongside the seasonal pressures many will find themselves in food crisis.

Can you help someone this year?

For 25 days, **from Tuesday 21st November**, please could you donate an item daily from the list below. Pop it in a box or bag and drop it off to our warehouse by **Friday 15th December**. Your donation will help someone in need and make a really big difference this Christmas.

*And if you want to start earlier please do so!*  
Should you wish to make a cash donation, please pay via our website (see above) or by texting 70085 using STAFBXMAS nn where nn is the amount (texts cost your donation amount plus TWO standard network rate messages)

Thank you!

[www.stalbansdistrict.foodbank.org.uk](http://www.stalbansdistrict.foodbank.org.uk)

**WAREHOUSE OPENING TIME**  
 Tuesday: 12:00 - 15:00  
 Thursday: 11:00 - 13:00  
 Friday: 12:00 - 15:00

**WAREHOUSE ADDRESS**  
 Unit 3 Redbourn Industrial Estate  
 Redbourn  
 AL3 7LG  
[stalbandsdistrict.foodbank.org.uk](http://stalbandsdistrict.foodbank.org.uk)

21 Nov	Custard
22 Nov	Long Life Fruit Juice
23 Nov	Sponge Pudding / Desserts
24 Nov	Festive Biscuit
25 Nov	UHT Milk
26 Nov	Cooking Sauce
27 Nov	Long Life Fruit Juice
28 Nov	Jam or Spread
29 Nov	UHT Milk
30 Nov	Tinned Soup
1 Dec	Long Life Fruit Juice
2 Dec	Cooking Sauce
3 Dec	Nuts
4 Dec	Tinned Rice Pudding
5 Dec	Tinned Peas / Sweetcorn
6 Dec	UHT Milk
7 Dec	Christmas Chocolates / Sweets
8 Dec	Cooking Sauce
9 Dec	Noodles
10 Dec	Long Life Fruit Juice
11 Dec	Tinned Soup
12 Dec	Festive Biscuits/Chocolates
13 Dec	UHT Milk
14 Dec	Cooking Sauce
15 Dec	A non perishable food item of your choice
<b>No mince pies, please! No alcohol</b>	



# Notices

**TICKETS ON SALE!**



**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**







# Notices



DSPL7

Delivering Special  
Provision Locally

## *The Hub*

### **ASC/SEND Coffee Mornings**

Vista St Albans are hosting coffee mornings with a School Family Worker to help support Parents/ Carers of children with Special Educational Needs and Disabilities, diagnosed or not. This is an informal and safe place for Parents/ Carers to share information and chat.

Running alongside our coffee mornings, there will also be the opportunity to pre-book an appointment with a member of staff from the SEND Specialist Advice and Support Service (These sessions are for ASC advice).  
Times available are: 9.30am, 10.00am, 11.00am and 11.30am

**Time:** Coffee Morning starts at **9.15am** until **11.00am**  
(no need to book)

**Venue:** The Hub, Fleetville Junior School, 228 Hatfield Road, St Albans, AL1 4LW  
(The Hub is situated to the right hand side of the School building)

**For more information about this service or to book an appointment  
please call Vista/St Albans Plus on 01727 519128  
Email: [vistastalbans@gmail.com](mailto:vistastalbans@gmail.com)**



**Dates:**

Wednesday 29th November  
Wednesday 31st January 2024  
Wednesday 13th March 2024  
Wednesday 8th May 2024  
Wednesday 26th June 2024



[www.vistastalbans.org.uk](http://www.vistastalbans.org.uk)  
[www.facebook.com/Vistastalbans](https://www.facebook.com/Vistastalbans)