



## Paul Kershaw, Head of School

The Carol Service and Community Celebration events today at St Albans Cathedral and at school have both been wonderful successes. At the Carol Service, students across all year groups heard Sabrina in Year 12's brilliant solo to introduce Once in Royal David's City and the students in the Flute Choir, Reel Folk Band, Chamber Choir, Show Choice and Brass Ensemble all performed superbly bringing festive cheer to the proceedings. The walk down to the Abbey was pleasantly uneventful and our Student Leadership Team who accompanied students across all year groups ensured that this tradition - which has been going for over 50 years at the school - went swimmingly. Many thanks to Miss Lambert and Mr O'Neill who organised the logistics of the Carol Service wonderfully, as well as to Mrs Buckley who coached and supported student readers. The musical accompaniment overseen and arranged by Mrs Cooper, as well as the Performing Arts Team was of the highest possible quality throughout.

The Diversity Community event at school was equally well implemented and engaging. Joined by enthused colleagues, Mrs Khanum led an afternoon of celebrating traditions which included activities such as bracelet making, holiday postcards and generating a culture board to share with the community in our main reception. Both events were dedicated to our Vice Chair of Governors Sarah Murphy whose family joined governors at the Carol Service; a reflection on the immeasurable impact that Sarah has had on our community written by Mrs Chapman follows on page 3.

The cold temperature this week has not diminished but appears to have further motivated students to sports success over the past seven days. In netball, the Year 10 A group beat Roundwood Park 46-9 and Year 10 B group beat Nicholas Breakspear School with both the Year 10 B and C groups claiming victory over Loreto in their fixtures last week. Congratulations to Orla and Harriet in Year 11, Ella in Year 10 as well as Teagan and Emily in Year 8 for all being selected to join their appropriate age groups' performance pathways. Congratulations also go to the Under 14 Football Team beating Monks Walk School 7-0 to progress to the quarter finals of the cup. We also had wins for the Year 7 B group beating Roundwood Park School 6-1 and the Year 9 B group also winning against Loreto. Well done to all for a brilliant and victorious week! We would also like to extend a huge congratulations to Scarlett in Year 11 who has been signed with St Albans City Football Club on a dual registration with City Youth FC. This is a huge and impressive achievement. Well done Scarlett!

On 7 November, families were invited to join the online workshop led by Brook. This was an extremely informative and well received session about RSE (Relationships and Sex Education) and how you can support your child in regards to a range of topics and areas. Please click [here](#) for the material that was shared following this insightful event.

The PTA Winter Fair on 10 December is only nine days away! As well as the fantastic House Competition stalls and activities designed and run by the students and many other activities and opportunities for gift buying, there will be four fantastic tombolas and the PTA have reiterated the very pertinent correlation that the more donations are received, the better attendees odds are of winning! By Friday 8 December, we would appreciate as many donations as possible of the following: a bottle of alcohol or a luxury non-alcoholic drink, chocolate, an unwanted gift (new), an unwanted teddy or plushie (washed), a jam jar filled with something nice e.g. wrapped sweets, unused makeup samples, hair accessories, stationery items, jewellery etc.

Your child can bring your donation to our main reception in return for 1 House Point per item. Please note that donations of alcohol may not be brought in by your child. These should be delivered by a parent or carer, but the House Point will still be awarded! The PTA are also offering the option of dropping your donation into the Blue Box outside 1 The Limes, AL1 4AT. In addition, if you have any raffle tickets that remain unsold, please can you ask your child to drop them into reception and of course, encourage them to support their House stall in whatever way they can. Any queries or questions can be directed to [stagspta@gmail.com](mailto:stagspta@gmail.com)

As well as the PTA Winter Fair, we also look forward to welcoming you to performances of Elf Jnr on the following week. Although the Christmas break is rapidly approaching, all the very best for the forthcoming long weekend in the meantime with our Occasional Day on Monday - we look forward to welcoming students back on Tuesday morning, 5 December at the normal time. Year 10 Progression Meetings are going amazingly well and thank you so much to our librarians Ms Darbyshire and Mrs Armstrong who organised an insightful afternoon for Year 9 students on Tuesday with author Sarah Naughton. Many thanks to Mrs Rock for a superb Rotary Interact AGM yesterday evening and to Mrs Mathurin for organising the Chaucer themed guided tour of the Cathedral on Wednesday ahead of today's singing, performing and celebrating there today.

All best wishes for a lovely long weekend,







## **Sarah Murphy**

### **Vice Chair of Governors, St Albans Girls' School**

**It is extremely hard to believe that we are talking about Sarah in the past tense. Sarah was an Alumni of STAGS. She always said how much she loved her time at school and became a governor at STAGS over 15 years ago as she 'wanted to give something back to the school that she loved'.**

**On completion of 7 years at STAGS, Sarah graduated with a degree in Psychology and Business Administration which led her into a career in Human Resources. Most recently Sarah excelled in her role as Head of HR in a top accountancy firm, demonstrating her excellent understanding of business and people management, which brought a great strength to our governing body.**

**Governors are volunteers who give of their time so freely. She was an incredible advocate of governance - enthused about the school she undertook her role with great professionalism and wisdom, fully embracing both support and constructive challenge required by good governance in such a large organisation as STAGS.**

**Sarah will be remembered at our Abbey Service and Diversity events today as we come together at this time of the year to celebrate and give thanks for the community of STAGS. Our community is made up of so many people - students, staff both teaching and education support, families and governors.**

**As an 'Old Girl' of STAGS, both Sarah and her sister enjoyed the Abbey Service during their time at STAGS and we welcome her family who are joining us today.**

**Her wisdom, professionalism and great support for our school will always be remembered and I am sure that we will all keep Sarah and her family in our hearts particularly at this time.**



# Diary Dates

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## **Monday 4 December**

Occasional Day - School Closed

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## **Wednesday 6 December**

Year 12 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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## **Wednesday 13 December**

Year 9 Inter House Sport  
Elf Junior Performance, Hall, 7pm

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## **Thursday 14 December**

Year 10 Inter House Sport  
Elf Junior Performance, Hall, 7pm

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## **Tuesday 19 December**

Christmas Lunch & Christmas Jumper Day  
A Level Presentation Evening, 6pm

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## **Thursday 21 December**

Non Uniform Day  
School Closes 12.20pm

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## **Monday 8 January**

School Starts for all Students with Registration  
at 8.35am

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## **Monday 8 - Friday 19 January**

Year 9 Progression meetings

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## **Tuesday 9 January**

Year 9 Options Evening, 6-7pm,  
Online

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# Notices

**Sunday 10 December, 12-3pm**

## **STAGS WINTER FAIR TOMBOLA DONATIONS NEEDED**

We have 4 fantastic Tombolas at the PTA Winter Fair! The more donations we receive, the better your odds of winning!

Please donate by Friday 8th December (but the sooner the better!):

- A bottle of alcohol or a luxury non-alcoholic drink
- Some chocolate
- An unwanted gift (new)
- An unwanted teddy or plushie (washed)
- A jam jar filled with something nice eg wrapped sweets, unused make up samples, hair accessories, stationery items, jewellery

**1 House Point per donation will be awarded!** (NB donations of alcohol must be delivered by an adult, but the House Point will still be given!)

You can also drop your donation to the Blue Box outside 1 The Limes, AL1 4AT. Please put student name and year/form on it to receive a House Point.



*Thank You!*

