



Paul Kershaw, Head of School

The quality of the performances, lighting, sound and every element of the presentation of 'Elf Jr.' this week has been resplendent and spellbinding. As I mentioned after Wednesday evening's performance, I have only just got the songs out of my head from June's 'Seussical Jr.' performances to be replaced with the very catchy tunes from Elf - this has been 100% worth it though. I've also been completely inspired to write my

letter to Santa this weekend and I'm sure all other audience members will be set to do the same! The quality of the production is even more impressive due to the fact that the brilliant Carol Service was only a few weeks ago. A huge congratulations and well done to all of the amazing cast, as well as Mrs Georges, Mrs Cooper and Mrs Wheatley and the rest of the Performing Arts Team, Site Team and Marketing Team for supporting. A huge well done also to the student stage crew, props team and prop designer Sadiya in Year 13 who was responsible for leading the design and team for all of the amazing stage contents - including the transformation of presents into a New York skyline! Everyone who came to watch certainly left with the Christmas spirit. The Performing Arts Team wrote a special thank you to parents and carers for supporting STAGS productions in the programme. Thank you so much to all who have been involved in or supported 'Elf Jr.' by being part of the audiences. Some pictures of the wonderful performances are on page 5.

The Winter Fair was a phenomenal success. Thank you so much to everyone who came and supported on the day and in preparation before - especially the PTA and Mrs Flint. The results for House Board, House stalls and money raised for charity outcomes are included on the following page, as well as images of the day on page 4. Over £1,100 was raised for charity across the eight Houses and nearly £3,000 was raised for the PTA - thank you to everyone for supporting and making the fair such a huge success! Attendees were very lucky to see performances from STAGS musicians throughout the afternoon including songs from 'Elf Jr.!'

SUPPORT TRUST AMBITION GENEROSITY SUCCESS

Overall Winter House Cup Winners - well done to Curie:

CURIE	JOHNSON	HEPWORTH	FRANKLIN	SEACOLE	AUSTEN	PARKS	BRONTE
1st	2nd	3rd	4th*	4th*	6th	7th	8th

This was based on the following three categories:

1) House Boards (Public Vote at the Winter Fair)

CURIE	SEACOLE	AUSTEN	HEPWORTH	JOHNSON	PARKS	BRONTE	FRANKLIN
1st	2nd	3rd*	3rd*	3rd*	6th	7th	8th



2) House Stalls (judges: Mrs Chapman and Mr Kershaw)

CURIE	FRANKLIN	SEACOLE	AUSTEN	JOHNSON	BRONTE	PARKS	HEPWORTH
1st	2nd	3rd	4th	5th	6th	7th	8th

3) Funds Raised

CURIE	HEPWORTH	JOHNSON	FRANKLIN	PARKS	SEACOLE	BRONTE	AUSTEN
1st	2nd	3rd	4th	5th	6th	7th	8th
							
£228.56	£178.90	£170.13	£161.90	£104.85	£98.78	£87.95	£71.50

**received the same number of votes*

For an overview of our PSHE curriculum, please click [here](#)

[This article](#) details former STAGS student Rana Begum's [homecoming exhibition](#) in St Albans City Gallery from now until April 2024. It is wonderful to read about Rana's experiences and for us all to be able to go and see her inspiring artwork!

Hanukkah at STAGS this year was celebrated with all year groups in the Gym, with youth workers joining us from the Union of Jewish Students to engage students with a variety of activities. Students were invited to write their name in Hebrew, take a quiz about Judaism celebrations as well as enjoying delicious Kosher food. Mrs Myers led the event with an array of student volunteers who helped us celebrate. This week's STAGS Talks is focused on 'Hope at Christmas', where students will have the opportunity to discuss their own traditions during this period.

Thank you so much to everyone who attended our Parent Voice Meeting this week and for all of the invaluable ideas and questions raised before or during the meeting. There will be four more Parent Voice opportunities over the rest of the academic year so please look out for invitations.

Thank you again to parents who came and supported the November Parent Book Group, as well as for sharing insight and reflections. The next Parent Book Group will be on 13 March 2024 and the book is 'Study for Obedience' by Sarah Bernstein. It will be amazing to see as many parents and carers there as possible. Please save the date!

This week, Year 7 to 10 have been competing in the first inter-house sports of the year. Year 7 & 8 competed in football, tag rugby and badminton whilst Year 9 & 10 competed in table tennis, basketball and volleyball. All students showed incredible effort levels, sportsmanship and enthusiasm throughout the week. After lots of games and competition over the past five days, points were added to find our overall year group winners and overall House winners for autumn inter-house sports as follows:

Year 7: Hepworth; Year 8: Hepworth; Year 9: Austen; Year 10: Bronte; overall House winners: Hepworth

All staff and students had an exciting and fun week earning lots of House points doing so!

HEPWORTH	BRONTE	AUSTEN	JOHNSON	FRANKLIN	SEACOLE	CURIE	PARKS
1st	2nd	3rd	4th	5th	6th	7th	8th

Thank you to all our STAGS families and community for your support and generous donations to the St Albans and District Food Bank's Reverse Advent Calendar drive. Our Charity Leaders have been busy sorting the donations ready for today's collection. Please also see the [attached details](#) in relation to the opening times of the distribution centres over the winter festive period should you need to access this service. The Verso Vineyard Church is hosting a Christmas Day meal for anyone who will be on their own this Christmas - please pass this information on to anyone who might like to access this. Full details can be accessed via [their website](#).

Click [here](#) to sign into the National Online Safety site to view '12 Top Tips for Children and Young People to Enjoy a Tech-Free Christmas' or click [here](#) to view the PDF. Plus, click [here](#) to access our online safety hub for 'A Parents' Guide to Screen time' which offers recommendations about how parents can find the right screen time balance.

Have an amazing weekend and can I bring your attention to our distributed end of term guidance for next week including Christmas Lunch and Jumper Day organisation. We look forward to seeing you if you are here for the A Level Presentation Evening on Tuesday!

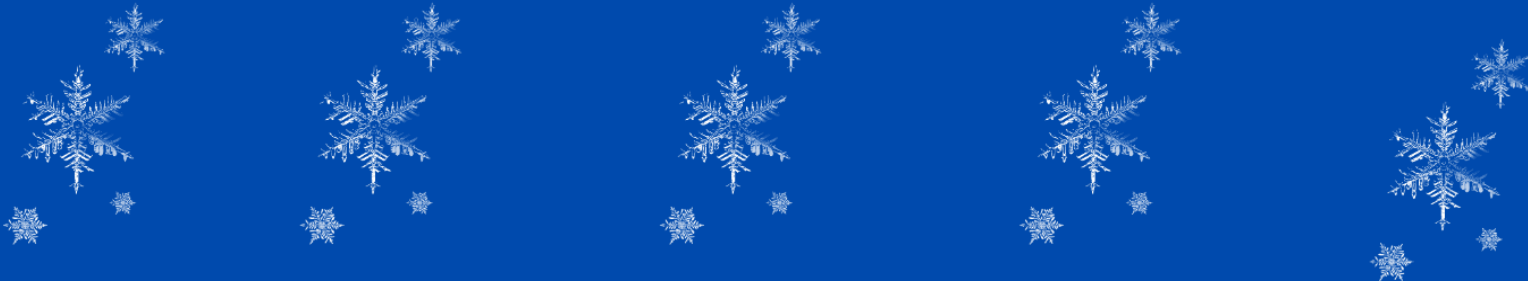
All best wishes,





ELF Jr The Musical Performances

Well done to all the performers in our whole school festive musical - everyone did so well and we are incredibly proud of you!



STAGS Elf on the Shelf

Our very own elf has been back causing havoc around school this week. Has anyone seen the elf? Keep an eye out and let the Head Students know if you see Elf around school!





Diary Dates

Tuesday 19 December

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

Wednesday 20 December

SEND Parent Group Meeting, 7-8.30pm,
LRC

Thursday 21 December

Non Uniform Day
School Closes 12.20pm

Monday 8 January

School Starts for all Students with
Registration at 8.35am

Monday 8 - Friday 19 January

Year 9 Progression meetings

Tuesday 9 January

Year 9 Options Evening, 6-7pm, Online

Wednesday 17 January

Year 13 Parents' Evening, 4-7.30pm, Online

Thursday 18 January

Year 11 Mock Interview Day
SEND Parent Group Meeting, 7-8.30pm, LRC

Monday 22 January

Year 8 HPV Immunisations

Wednesday 31 January

PTA Meeting, 7-8pm, LRC

Thursday 1 February

Year 11 Parents' Evening, 4-7.30pm, Online

Friday 2 February

Year 9 reports to Parents

Thursday 8 February

Year 9 Parents' Evening, 4-7.30pm, Online



Notices

Thursday 21 December

STAGS

Non Uniform Day

£1 donation suggested for
Save the Children UK

Save the Children



Notices

St. Albans Community Pantry

FESTIVE COMMUNITY FEASTS

Join us for a heartwarming community celebration at our Festive Community Lunches, where holiday cheer awaits everyone!

12:30pm - 2:30pm

18th December - Cottonmill Community Centre
19th December - Fleetville Community Centre
20th December - Jubilee Centre
21st December - Jersey Farm Community Centre

Come along for:

- Delicious celebratory dishes from around the globe
- Halal and vegetarian food options
- Live holiday music
- Children's storytelling
- Craft activities
- Winter coats

Accessibility

Our intention is to ensure that these events are inclusive for everyone. If you have any specific accessibility requirements, please reach out to our Event Co-ordinator here: stalbanscommunitypantry@gmail.com

Kindly supported by:



THE BOOT

0808 1753917
www.stalbanscommunitypantry.org
Charity Reg No. 120440

Follow us here



Book your FREE place here



Sign up to volunteer here



Festive Community Feasts Menu

HALAL AND VEGETARIAN OPTIONS PROVIDED

MINCE PIES

TOMATO SHORBA (ARABIC SOUP)

ROAST TURKEY WITH ALL THE TRIMMINGS

BENGALI BRUSSELS SPROUTS CURRY

ALLOTMENT APPLE CRUMBLE

MINI CHRISTMAS PUDS

Masala Chai • Arabic Coffee • Non Alcoholic Mulled Drinks



THESE EVENTS ARE FREE OF CHARGE

If you wish to pay the meal forward we will have donation buckets for your use on the day

St. Albans
Community
Pantry



Notices



The seven questions below each have a one-word answer which can follow 'Christmas'. Use the design of the card to help you to put letters from your answers into the grid below to find the final answer.



These clocks show a four-letter word. Can you work it out?



We've jumbled up our gift tags! Split them into three groups of three and find a word that links each group.

What word links these three link words?



We found a scrap of paper with some bars of music on it which we think are concealing a word.

Next to the music were some 1s and 0s, and the numbers 16,8,4,2,1. Can you work out the hidden word?



Can you solve this riddle?

What breaks but cannot fall,
can leap but never crawl,
can be seized but never gripped,
often present, never skipped?



Each letter represents a different digit:

$MI \times MI = MAA$
 $TI + TI = RA$
 $DO - SO + TI - MI = RE$
 $RE \times RE = ?$



Find the pairs of letters which come next in each sequence:

TH, RD, ND, ??
ET, EL, PM, ??
WU, SQ, OM, ??
WR, AP, PI, ??



Look at this message.
Can you work it out and find the secret 4-letter word?

Agklq ldhum qom ndem.
Gembqgax c 4-hmqmk vdke.
Hddp mumxvomkm.
Ycxim gq'l umkx diugdsl.

Can you solve the final challenge below?



Follow us or scan the QR code to find the answers soon.

