



Paul Kershaw, Head of School

Welcome to 2024 at STAGS! We have had a superb first week back and hope that you all enjoyed the break and had lots of wonderful adventures over the past fortnight. Many thanks to families who were able to join us on Tuesday evening for our Year 9 Online Options Evening. Materials have been shared in addition to [this page from our website](#) which has a short video from each department. We look forward to collecting all Options Forms from Year 9s on or before 14 February 2024. Currently, Year 9 students are attending Progression Meetings with senior colleagues which are progressing extremely well - if you will excuse the pun! Please contact Mr Tansley or Miss Ward with any questions about this integral process.

Students in Years 11 and 13 have been completing Non-Examined Elements of their GCSE and A Level courses respectively this week in Media Studies, Film Studies, Dance, Health & Social Care. Very good luck to all students involved, including for other subjects taking place over the next few weeks.



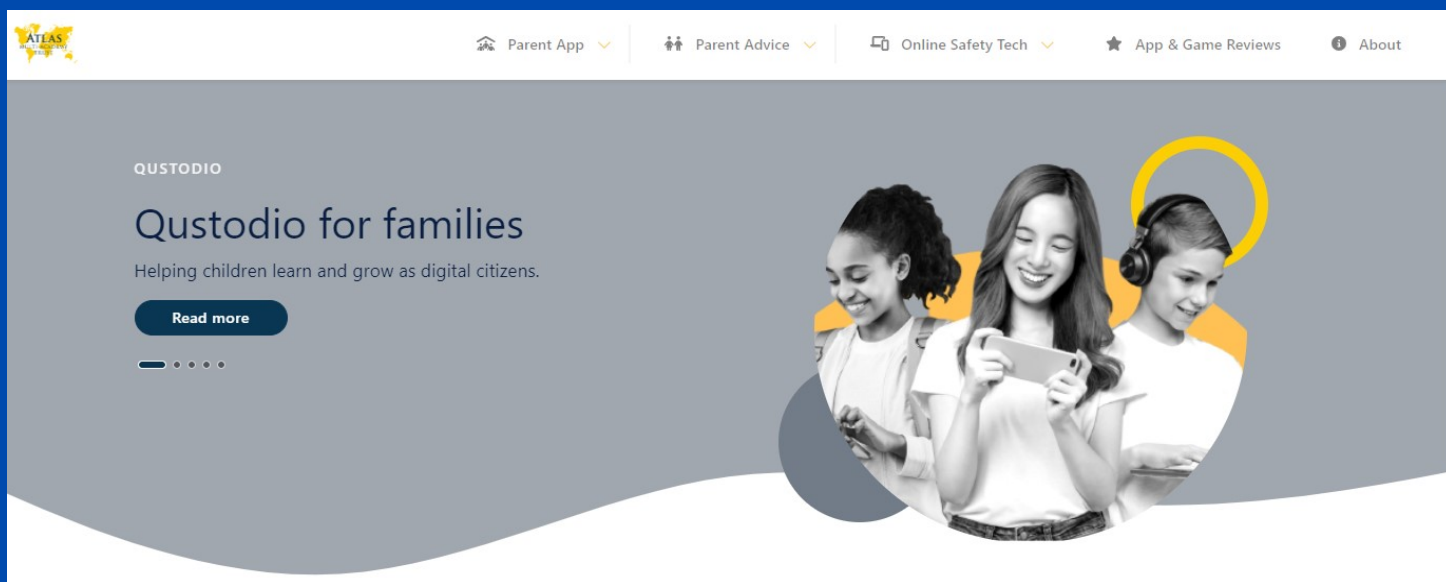
On Wednesday, Emma, Catherine, Ayelet and Yasmin in Years 9-11 took part in the Royal Society of Chemistry's 'Top of the Bench' competition. They were challenged to determine the degree of fermentation of kombucha using a titrimetric method, as well as having their Chemistry knowledge put to the test with some challenging general knowledge activities. They acquitted themselves exceptionally well, showing great skill and professionalism throughout. We are eagerly awaiting the results, but in the meantime, congratulations to the team for their achievement! Many thanks to Mr Bowyer for organising and overseeing this superb opportunity.

SUPPORT TRUST AMBITION GENEROSITY SUCCESS

To complement future path focused lessons in PSHE this and last term for Year 9, 10 and 11, we welcomed external providers this week in our assemblies. On Wednesday, Oaklands College and West Herts College came in to talk to Year 10 and Year 11 respectively, to provide information about the various qualification and training options at Post 16. On Thursday, Elstree Screen Arts Academy joined Year 9 for an assembly exploring the options for a future in the creative industries. There was an opportunity during each assembly for students to ask questions and to explore their options. These will be further developed during ongoing PSHE lessons and/or progression meetings.



A gentle reminder that you can now access the Online Safety Hub for lots of expert advice and guidance to help you manage your child's screen time, understanding the latest gaming platforms, what they mean for your child's safety and lots more. Simply follow [this link](#). You can also create your free Qustodio account to protect your children's devices [here](#). Please contact Mrs Jarvis with any queries in relation to either forum.



Plus, click [here](#) to sign into the National Online Safety site to view 'Top Tips for Managing Screen Time' or click [here](#) to view the PDF.

If you have started 2024 with resolutions of exercise and wellbeing, please follow [this link for a range of local opportunities and suggestions](#) or [this link to January events](#) in St Albans and the surrounding area to help you achieve this aspiration. Whether you are braving the outdoor weather this weekend or keeping warm indoors, have a superb time.

We look forward to seeing Year 13 families at Parents' Evening next Wednesday.

Please may I also draw the attention of Year 11 parents and carers to guidance from Mrs Flint about Year 11 Interview Day next Thursday.

All best wishes,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Mrs Flint".



Diary Dates

Monday 15 - Friday 19 January

Year 9 Progression meetings

Tuesday 16 January

Sixth Form Open Morning

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

Friday 26 January

Year 11 Futures Day

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

Friday 9 February

Year 10 Reports to Parents

Wednesday 14 February

School closes for students at 12.20pm

Form Tutor Parents' Afternoon, 12.30-4pm

Year 9 Options Deadline

Thursday 15 - Friday 16 February

School is closed to Students

Monday 19 - Friday 23 February

Half Term



Notices

Get the right help at the right time



early help, brighter futures

Need advice and support for your family?

- | | |
|--|---|
|  Relationship support |  Money advice |
|  Parenting Advice & Courses |  Services for Young People |
|  Emotional & Mental Health |  SEND Local Offer |
|  Staying healthy |  Search local services |
|  School attendance/anxiety |  and much more |



SCAN



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