



Paul Kershaw, Head of School

Greetings and salutations at the end of what has been a much warmer - though blustery - week. It looks like it will be warmer still next week too! It has been a brilliant and packed week at STAGS. On Wednesday evening, thank you to the parents and carers who joined Mrs Flint in a virtual drop in session to answer questions about Year 10 Work Experience which will take place in the summer term. A range of questions were addressed about how best to search for placements, deadlines and how students can prepare themselves for the workplace. This was followed up with all relevant paperwork being re-shared with parent/carers and students to support the process further. If there are any further questions in relation to the process, please contact the Careers team via careers@stags.herts.sch.uk.

The new electrical work across the school site is progressing through the corridors from our Science department through to our reception area and is ahead of schedule. This is why we have removed ceiling tiles in these areas. When the works are completed, the wiring across the school will all be brand new and there will be a new bell system for lessons as well as fire alarm alert. There will also be the capacity to tannoy messages across the school conjuring memories of Rydell High! The last section of the works will be that the wiring and systems will all be concealed by brand new ceilings across the school. It is a very exciting project that will give the aesthetics of classrooms and corridors a new lease of life.

Last week, Mr Tansley and Miss Fotheringham took 25 Year 11 students to Oaklands College to get an opportunity to complete a campus tour and sample specialist sessions in curriculum areas they are interested in. Today is Year 11 *Futures Day* where we have seen the Year 11 students truly embody the role

of a Sixth Former, experiencing an array of subjects from Health & Social Care to Fashion & Textiles, as well as many more opportunities to speak with subject specialists and get information about next steps. Students have also had the chance to ask current Year 12 students any questions about their learning journey, as well as engaging with all elements of our fantastic leadership opportunities across the Sixth Form. We look forward to welcoming the Year 11 students to our induction days in July as part of their transition into Sixth Form.

The STAGS Alumni Association met this week. If you are interested in joining the Alumni Association, please [find details on our website here](#) or contact [Ms Jarvis](#) for more information. The Association is planning a Afternoon Tea on 5 October 2024 which will be a wonderful opportunity for past students to come together and share their experiences and memories.



Our STAGS' Debate Club were hosts to a Debate Showcase this week, with invited students from The Marlborough Science Academy. Students presented on a range of topics from deforestation to online learning to 'does pineapple belong on pizza?!' They all impressed with their well prepared arguments, confident delivery and use of humour.



The Ocado Code for Life team also came in this week to observe and collect feedback from our GCSE Computer Science students on their educational app 'Kurono'. The online multiplayer game allows students to practice their Python programming skills in a fun and engaging way. Ocado Code for Life aim to work with schools to give everyone the ability to shape technology's future!

It is Children's Mental Health Week on the week commencing 5 February. We will be marking this year's theme 'Our voice matters' during a special Enrichment Friday session in form time on 2 February. We look forward to sharing what students produce in relation to this highly important week. Our student Anti-bullying & Wellbeing Sixth Form Ambassadors and Form Captains, will be selling mental health green ribbon pins from 5 February for a £1 donation in main reception. All proceeds will be donated to the Mental Health Foundation.

Please have a superb and restful weekend. Here are four links to different ways to unwind at the weekend including a live update of which films are showing on terrestrial television - there are lots of classics to catch up on. Our next Parent Book Group is on 13 March at 6pm in our library and the novel is '[Study for Obedience](#)' by Sarah Bernstein. Any parents or carers who have read it or would like to read it before then are very welcome to come along and join in!

- [Article about the '7 types of rest'](#)
- [Mindfulness practices and ideas from Mind](#)
- ['Enjoy St Albans' Activities - Outdoors](#)
- [Films on Television this weekend](#)

All best wishes,



Diary Dates

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

Monday 5 Feb - Monday 4 March

Years 11 & 13 Classroom Mocks

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

Monday 26 February

SEND Parent Group Meeting, 7-8.30pm,
LRC

Tuesday 27 February

Year 11 Parent Revision Evening, Main Hall,
11(A-F) 6-6.50pm, 11(H-S) 7-7.50pm

Wednesday 28 February

Year 10 Malta Netball Tour Parent Information
Evening, 6pm, Hall



Notices

SAVE THE DATE!

FLAIR 2024

**5 & 6
MARCH**

**£6 ADULTS,
£4 CONCESSIONS**

**7-8.15
PM**

TICKETS ON SALE VIA SCHOOL
GATEWAY FROM MONDAY 26
FEBRUARY AT 9AM

STUDENT LED PERFORMANCE WITH DANCERS FROM ALL YEARS





Notices



Join Our National Apprenticeships Week 2024 Information Sessions!

**Are you looking for information on how to use your
apprenticeship funding?**

Would you like to take your career to the next level?

Education and Skills are here to help you, every step of the way!

BOOK ONE OF OUR ONLINE, INFORMATION SESSIONS

[CLICK HERE](#)

**Alternatively, you can speak with someone sooner by calling us on
01302 80 22 20 - OPTION 5**



Notices



Register Today!



Championing Apprenticeships

Tuesday, the 6th of February | 6pm | Virtual

You're invited to Warner Bros. Discovery's Championing Apprenticeship Virtual Event!

Warner Bros. Discovery's Early Talent Team is hosting a virtual event - Championing Apprenticeships - on [Tuesday 6th February at 6:00PM GMT](#) in support of **National Apprenticeship Week** and we would love to invite you to attend!

Through this conversation, attendees will get the opportunity to hear from our current apprentices and how the different projects they have worked on has provided them with the #SkillsforLife. We are so proud of all that our apprentices have accomplished, and we're excited to share with you more information about the programme we have built.

Don't miss out and learn how an apprenticeship can make an impact on what's next for you!

[**REGISTER TODAY**](#)

Notices

Parenting SEN children when separated online programme



A 6-session programme, specifically tailored to help separated parents navigate the complexities of co-parenting and provide the best possible support for their SEND child. This is a valuable opportunity to enhance co-parenting skills, support children's development and build a strong foundation for the future.

Who should attend?

- Separated parents raising children with SEND.
- Parents seeking guidance, support, and strategies for co-parenting SEN children more consistently.
- Parents wanting to create a positive and supportive environment for their child's development.



Three courses will be delivered by MS Teams, from 7pm to 9pm, over 6 sessions, on the following dates:

- Thursdays: 11, 18 & 25 January and 1, 8 & 15 February 2024
- Mondays: 29 January, 5, 12 & 26 February and 4 & 11 March 2024
- Mondays & Wednesdays: 29, 31 January & 5, 7, 12, 14 February 2024

For more information or to make a referral, scan the QR code, email services@familylives.org.uk or call 0204 522 8700 or 0204 522 8699



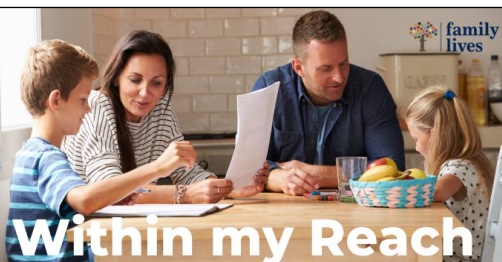
We build better family lives together

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Family Lives is registered as a company limited by guarantee in England and Wales No. 3817762. Registered charity No 1077722. Registered address: 15-17 The Broadway, Hatfield, Hertfordshire, AL9 5HZ.



Within my Reach

An online programme for parents of neurodiverse children who are living together or apart

This programme is designed specifically for parents living together or apart, who are facing conflicts and struggling to find common ground in raising their neurodiverse child. This is a valuable opportunity to enhance relationships, strengthen parenting skills and create a more harmonious home environment.

Who should attend?

- Parents who are experiencing conflicts and challenges due to the neurodiversity of their child
- Parents who want to improve communication and build stronger partnership in parenting and co-parenting their neurodiverse child.
- Parents seeking guidance, support, and practical strategies to navigate the unique challenges of raising a neurodiverse child.



These 2 courses will be delivered by MS Teams, over 8 sessions, on the following dates/times:

- Tuesdays & Thursdays from 27th February to 21 March 2024, 7:00pm to 9:00pm
- Wednesdays & Saturdays from 28th February to 23 March 2024, (Wednesday 7:00pm to 9:00pm & Saturday 10am -12pm)

For more information or to make a referral, scan the QR code, email services@familylives.org.uk or call 0204 522 8700 or 0204 522 8699



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Are you struggling to support a relative who is thinking about, or attempted, suicide?



Yes? A new Carers' Support Group may offer you help!

Carers in Hertfordshire and Hector's House, a suicide prevention and mental health charity, are working together to run this new group.

The group is for anyone looking after someone close to them who has suicidal thoughts or has tried to take their own life.

The first meeting is on Thursday 25th January 2024, 10.30am - 12pm noon, at the South Hill Centre in Hemel Hempstead.

The group will meet monthly, alternating between in person and online (more details are on the back).

To book a place at any meeting please contact Carers in Hertfordshire:
Email: contact@carersinherts.org.uk
Call: 01992 58 69 69

If you need help with travel expenses to attend a face to face meeting please discuss this with us.



This service has been funded by Hertfordshire County Council

Meeting dates 2024

Face to Face Meetings 10.30am - 12pm noon. At The South Hill Centre, Cemetery Hill, Hemel Hempstead, Herts, HP1 1JF.	Online on Zoom, 7.30pm - 9pm
Thursday 25th January 2024	Tuesday 13th February 2024
Thursday 28th March 2024	Tuesday 9th April 2024
Thursday 23rd May 2024	Tuesday 11th June 2024
Thursday 25th July 2024	Tuesday 13th August 2024
Thursday 26th September 2024	Tuesday 8th October 2024
Thursday 28th November 2024	Tuesday 10th December 2024

There may also be extra sessions to help you look after your own wellbeing, such as social get togethers or mindfulness workshops.

About Carers in Hertfordshire

We are a charity that provides information, advice and support to unpaid carers - people looking after a partner, relative or friend, who is ill, elderly, has a physical or learning disability, or drug or alcohol addiction. We support carers of all ages - young people and adults - living, working or caring in Hertfordshire. Our services are free to carers.

We provide services to carers to help them with their caring role or have a break from caring, to improve their wellbeing, and to have a voice in shaping health and community services.

The Red House, 119 Fore Street, Hertford, Herts, SG14 1AX.
Tel: 01992 58 69 69 Email: contact@carersinherts.org.uk
www.carersinherts.org.uk

About Hector's House

Is a charity whose mission is to stop suicide by ensuring everyone has access to mental health services, and encouraging people to talk openly about how they feel through education, awareness and support.

<https://hectorhouse.org.uk/> Email: hihector@hectorhouse.org.uk



Half Term
with Fit
and Fed

Monday 19 - Friday 23, 9.30am-1pm
February
Hot, hearty lunch and drinks included

- Who >>** Young people aged between 8-16 years, in receipt of free school meals or from families who are feeling the pinch during the holidays.
- What >>** FREE activity programme full of fun activities, including sport, playground games, healthy eating, arts and crafts and board games.
- Where >>** Isabella House Nursery, Waltham Cross EN8 7PA.

Pre-booking is essential.

Please email community@broxbourne.gov.uk or call 01992 785555 ext. 5309 to reserve your child's place.

