



## ***Paul Kershaw, Head of School***

Happy Leap Year Day Week to all - especially a happy birthday if it was your one yesterday and that you only get one every four years!

Actress Ayo Edebiri from 'The Bear' who most recently collected an outstanding performance at last week's SAG Awards has expressed that she loves to 'be a sponge and learn as much as possible'. She elaborates: 'if I don't know what I am going to learn, that is the best possible experience for me'. There were lots of opportunities to learn about a range of exciting enrichment opportunities this week where we have applied Ayo's learning ethos to complement the curriculum with superb student achievement at every level.

Continuing with the theme of cooking and creativity, we were not short of cake on Wednesday this week. Many thanks to Mrs Pannell and Mrs Flint for their oversight and Mrs Millard for the recording of the brilliant InterHouse Bake Off. The standard was so high! It was also very thoughtful that some cakes were donated to staff. The realised ideas of the application of House themes and motifs was phenomenal! Many thanks to all students for their amazing entries - there was an amazing turnout. We found it very hard to judge but after tasting all the entries(!), the results were as follows:

Star Baker - Morgan in Year 12

1st House Winner: Maggie in Year 9

2nd House Winner: Fariah in Year 8

3rd House Winner: Lois in Year 7

Special Mentions: Emily, Elisa, Isla, Kiera, Sara and Olivia for their entries too.

We have included some pictures on page 4, as well as on social media of the wonderful cakes. Well done to all bakers!

This has also been a superb sporting week. On Monday, the Year 8 and Year 10 cricket teams competed in the county indoor cricket tournament. Both played really well and the Yr8's placed 3rd in the tournament overall. On Tuesday, our Level 1 Sports Leaders hosted a primary school speed stacking event! Twelve schools and 120 Year 3 students were in attendance. All our Sports Leaders were very effective at running and officiating the event and all found the competition a great developmental experience. Photo included below. The Year 11 B team also won their netball fixture this week against Townsend, winning 19-11. A huge well done to them!



A special congratulations to Thea in Year 8 who has been selected for the England Fencing Sabre squad and will be competing in the upcoming International European Fencing Championship in Ciudad Real, Spain! Good luck Thea!

Thank you so much for the positive feedback following the Year 11 Revision Evening on Tuesday. It was a wonderful opportunity for parents and carers to hear about practical revision ideas which can support their child, as well as introduce a variety of preparation ideas and trial some effective methods to share at home. Many thanks to Mr Mitchell, Mr Tansley and Miss Fotheringham. Materials from the evening are available on the website, as well as key information about the timeline from now until GCSE examinations. Just a reminder that the Year 11 Celebration Day is 2 May this year with Year 13 on 3 May ahead of GCSE, A Level and BTEC examinations respectively. Year 11 students are currently meeting with senior colleagues for their final progression meetings as we move into the final months of preparation. It is brilliant to hear how confident and prepared students feel across all of their subjects.

Following the announcement of our STAGS Read, the highly engaging 'When I See Blue' by Lily Bailey, I would like to remind Parents and Carers that the Parent Book Group on Wednesday 13 March is about 'Study for Obedience' by Sarah Bernstein. Hopefully, I will see you in the Library from 6pm. The English Team and our librarians are preparing for a fulsome week of activities for World Book Day Week next week which we will report on in next week's STAGSLINK.



Mr James and our Head Student Team in Year 12 attended a leadership conference with students from our consortium schools in order to generate collaboration and plan a conference. It was a hugely successful day and we look forward to hearing about this initiative's next steps. Anya, Temi, Lily, Eliza, Madison and Maleeha were discussing, planning and preparing for a summer term presentation. In addition, the students got to tour around the large food bank facility located at the event, highlighting for all of us, the importance of giving. The day was really successful, with our Student Leaders unsurprisingly representing the school admirably.



Following previous successes, our Senior Team won the District Debate Final held at Bishop's Hatfield School yesterday evening! There was fierce competition from other schools including Dame Alice Owen's, Bedford School, Bishop's Hatfield and Ashlyns. A huge congratulations to Zoe, Henna and Sabrina in Year 12. There were also awards for Best Proposer and Best Opposer which Henna and Sabrina won respectively. Their topic was 'Dictatorships are an ineffective form of governing'. Very good luck to the team who are now through to the Cluster Finals in March! Thank you so much to Mrs Mathurin and Mrs Sharp for supporting this amazing debate team's fantastic successes. Pictures below.

Thank you for all of your contributions to the survey distributed after Form Tutor Review Meetings which closed yesterday. Effective communication between home and school is integral to student success and we will follow up with individual queries expressed in the survey. I have included a few lines of feedback from the survey below. Thank you all so much for your continued support of our school, our school community and all the learners that thrive here.

- I think all the teachers do a brilliant job. My daughter feels she can do anything she puts her mind to - what an amazing message! The extra curricular clubs are brilliant.
- Communication is effective, honest, and comes from a place of kindness. I feel my child is very well understood and always has her needs met.
- Thank you for all the support your teachers give to my daughters. They often go above and beyond and it's greatly appreciated.
- To the entire staff at STAGS - thank you so much for all your hard work and dedication. It is noted and appreciated.

Flair rehearsals are in full swing and we look forward to sharing details of next week's performances with you. Have a superb weekend though it looks like it might be a wet one and we look forward to seeing you next week at Flair!

With all good wishes,



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

**SUPPORT TRUST AMBITION GENEROSITY SUCCESS**



# THE GREAT INTERHOUSE STAGS BAKE OFF



STAR BAKER  
Y12 JOHNSON

HOUSE WINNER  
Y9 BRONTE

HOUSE WINNER  
Y8 FRANKLIN

HOUSE WINNER  
Y7 BRONTE







# Diary Dates

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## **Tuesday 5 and Wednesday 6 March**

Flair Dance Performance, 7-8.15pm, Hall

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## **Thursday 7 March**

PTA Meeting, 7-8pm, Learning Resource Centre

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## **Thursday 7 - 10 March**

Year 10 Languages Spanish Trip to Madrid

Year 10 & Year 12 ADT Trip to Madrid

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## **Friday 8 March**

Year 8 and Year 12 Inspiring Women Networking Event

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## **Monday 11 - Friday 15 March**

Get Fit Week

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## **Tuesday 12 March**

Sixth Form Parent Group, 6-7pm, LRC

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## **Wednesday 13 March**

Parent Book Group, 6-7pm, LRC

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## **Thursday 14 March**

Parent Voice, 6-7pm, LRC

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## **Friday 15 March**

Years 7 Reports to Parents

Young Carers Action Day

Comic Relief

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## **Monday 18 March**

Years 12 & 13 Subject Reviews (until 22 March)

Year 8 Reports to Parents

Year 8 Inter-House Sports

Year 8 French Trip Information Evening, 7-8pm, Online

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## **Tuesday 19 March**



Year 9 Inter-House Sports

Spring Concert, 7pm, Main Hall



# Careers






NATIONAL CAREERS WEEK - MONDAY 4 - SATURDAY 9 MARCH 2024



## NATIONAL CAREERS WEEK 2024

Monday 4 - Saturday 9 March

### JOIN THE CELEBRATION

- 1. DOWNLOAD THE PARENT GUIDE**  
CLICK [HERE](#) 
- 2. CHECK OUT #NCWTV**  
CLICK [HERE](#) 
- 3. ACCESS TARGETED LOCAL GUIDANCE AT HOP**  
CLICK [HERE](#) 
- 4. VISIT THE NCW2024 VIRTUAL CAREERS FAIR**  
#NCW2024 VIRTUAL [Careers Fair](#) CLICK [HERE](#) 
- 5. INCREASE AWARENESS OF EMPLOYABILITY SKILLS WITH A [unifrog](#) WEBINAR**  
CLICK [HERE](#) 
- 6. EXPLORE BBC BITESIZE'S DAILY NCW2024 CONTENT**  
CLICK [HERE](#) 
- 7. EXPLORE STEM CAREERS BY JOINING THIS ASPIRE WEBINAR**  
 CLICK [HERE](#) 
- 8. FOLLOW NATIONAL CAREERS WEEK ON INSTAGRAM FOR UPDATES @CAREERSWEEK** 

NATIONAL CAREERS WEEK - MONDAY 4 - SATURDAY 9 MARCH 2024



# Notices

**TICKETS NOW ON SALE!**

# 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



**SPRING  
CONCERT**

TUESDAY 19 MARCH, 7PM

FEATURING A RANGE OF PERFORMANCES FROM OUR MUSICAL ENSEMBLES, AS WELL AS SMALL GROUP ACTS FROM ACROSS THE YEAR GROUPS



**ST ALBANS COMMUNITY PANTRY**  
OPENING TIMES

**9.30AM - 11AM**  
EVERY MON TO THURS

**COMMUNITY FRIDGE + BREAD**  
UNIT 9, THE ENTERPRISE CENTRE, LONG SPRING ST ALBANS AL3 6EN  
OPEN TO ALL • NO VOUCHERS REQUIRED  
SURPLUS FOOD RESCUED FROM LOCAL SUPERMARKETS, HELP US SAVE FOOD HEADING TO LANDFILL

**9.30PM - 10.30PM**  
EVERY SAT TO WEDNES

**COMMUNITY FRIDGE + BREAD**  
UNIT 9, THE ENTERPRISE CENTRE, LONG SPRING ST ALBANS AL3 6EN  
OPEN TO ALL • NO VOUCHERS REQUIRED  
SURPLUS FOOD RESCUED FROM LOCAL SUPERMARKETS, HELP US SAVE FOOD HEADING TO LANDFILL

**12PM - 2PM**  
EVERY MON

**COMMUNITY PANTRY + LUNCH**  
COTTONMILL COMMUNITY & CYCLING CENTRE ST ALBANS AL1 2EF  
OPEN TO ALL • NO BOOKING REQUIRED  
SURPLUS FOOD RESCUED FROM LOCAL SUPERMARKETS AVAILABLE TO TAKE HOME. FREE HOT COOKED LUNCH. FREE HAIRCUTS. BENEFITS ADVICE. IT TUITION & MORE

CONTACT US  
**08081753917**



St. Albans  
Community  
Pantry