



Margaret Chapman, Executive Head Teacher

As parents and prospective STAGS students were told of their secondary schools on Friday, we were once again in the very privileged position of being heavily oversubscribed. With the declining birth rate we are not seeing a decline in applications!

You will recall some years ago when we were requested to increase our Pupil Numbers, the goal was to provide spaces for local students and indeed what is really positive is that 170 of the 240 places are allocated this year to young people living in the central St Albans area. We look forward to welcoming our next generation of STAGS students into our community.

We have had an incredibly busy and joyful week. Flair came to STAGS once again this week with such tremendous performances and so much active engagement from our students, both front and back stage - choreography, style, practice and courage to achieve such superb performances was wonderful and the students so enjoyed the experience, as did the very appreciative audience. My thanks go to Mrs Wheatley and Miss Long for inspiring our dancers.

This week we have enjoyed celebrating World Book Week with a huge array of events including Book Swaps, author visit and book Cluedo. Yesterday, on World Book Day, introduced in 1998 as a celebration of books and reading, we enjoyed Quizzzy Thursday with a photo booth and staff stickers to raise awareness of reading for all ages! Finally today, the Bookmark Competition for the new STAGS Reads 'When I See Blue', the photo booth continues and the finale is the STAGS Reads raffle! Some photos of the Photo Booth are on page 3.

We all enjoy reading in so many guises, whether paper or online, fiction or nonfiction, reading is such an important part of lifeline learning and encourages our minds to work differently. For our young people, research shows that reading involves comprehension to process the words we read. Beyond that, reading enhances analytical abilities, stimulates memory and broadens the imagination!

This year's author who visited us on Tuesday was Frances Hardinge, who provided a talk to all students in Years 7 and 8 and led a workshop to promote the value of reading - some photos of which can be found on page 3.

Students learnt that reading:

- Reduces stress and helps you relax
- Improves your concentration and memory
- Vocabulary expansion and strengthens your writing abilities
- Enhances your knowledge
- Increases your imagination and creativity.

Today, we celebrate International Womens' Day 2024, the theme for which is 'Inspire Inclusion'. According to the official IWD website: 'When we inspire others to understand and value women's inclusion, we forge a better world'. Today, we were really privileged to welcome 33 Inspiring women from the local area and beyond who attended a working breakfast where they spoke to our Year 12 students, inspiring them to break through any preconceived glass ceiling, sharing their own career journeys. Afterwards, they were met with 280 students from both STAGS and The Adeyfield Academy, where 'speed networking' took on a whole new meaning. As confidence in questioning grew, the students were inspired to consider their own pathways and learnt that the only barriers to success are in their minds and that 'dreams can be achieved'. My thanks to Mrs Flint and Mrs Jarvis who organised these events.



Mr Mitchell and Miss Miles visited St Albans Cathedral with Year 7, as part of their Peasants' Revolt Project. It was brilliant to be invited to be part of this project by St Albans Cathedral and the University of Hertfordshire. Our students were splendid ambassadors for the school and they fully engaged in the variety of local history activities offered by the Cathedral with the Peasants' Revolt as the focus. The students seemed to have benefited greatly from this experience and we hope that they see the Cathedral and its immediate surroundings in a new light.



We continue to review our own standards at all levels with 'Every Second Counts, Student Parliament, Parent and Learner Voice all enabling a sharp focus on ensuring that we rigorously monitor all that we do and action any issues to provide the best possible opportunities for all students. Over the past week, the Standards Team Home has been conducting a home learning review, the purpose of which is to build a picture of the quality and consistency of home learning set across the school, to identify great practice and target 'Even Better Ifs'.

Sporting Successes this Week - As we come to the end of netball season both the Year 8A and B teams competed in a District tournament this week. The A team came 3rd in their tournament and the B team came 2nd in their tournament - fabulous achievements!

Our mixed Year 7 and 8 basketball teams also competed in their first basketball friendly against Townsend School, winning 24-6. All played really well, with Tia achieving Player of the Match and Gabby named as Coaches Choice, Player of the Match.

Today, the PE Team with Mr Seabrook have taken the Year 7 and 8 students to a football tournament at The Adeyfield Academy. We also look forward to taking part in the Biggest Football Session Ever all day today in partnership with International Women's Day. The initiative, led by the Football Association, aims to encourage as many girls and women as possible, to be physically active and participate in football on this day.

Next week, we launch Science Week and Mr Bowyer has planned a great range of starter activities in all lessons to raise awareness of the impact of Science across all subjects.

Just a reminder that we have our termly PTA uniform sale for preloved uniforms tomorrow - the full information can be found in the notices section.

Sustainability at STAGS - The Gardening Club has been hard at work clearing beds and have recently started planting up some shrubs. The Site Team have waterproofed the greenhouse for us and our parent helper Mr Morris has been amazingly supportive to the Club.

All students can participate in the naming of the new Garden Area which coincides with St Albans 'Sust Fest' in June - anyone able to support with this Club, please do contact us directly via admin@stags.herts.sch.uk for my attention and I will pass onto Mrs Keat.

Finally, a reminder please to avoid parking on the near side of the school with the zig zag lines. We have again had to contact the traffic wardens who will issue parking fines to any cars parked illegally. Equally, we want to ensure that all of our young people can walk safely on the pavement without being impeded by cars parked in the way.

Thank you for your continued support,



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

SUPPORT TRUST AMBITION GENEROSITY SUCCESS

WORLD BOOK DAY EVENTS

WORLD
BOOK
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WORLD
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WORLD
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WORLD
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WORLD
BOOK
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POPULAR AUTHOR FRANCES HARDINGE VISITS STAGS



World Book
Day!

Red Nose Day - 15 March





GET READY TO... **DO SOMETHING FUNNY FOR MONEY**

On **Friday 15 March**, we're going to join the nation in having some serious fun and raising some all-important cash.


COMIC RELIEF **RED NOSE DAY**
FRIDAY 15 MARCH



WE'VE ALREADY GOT A FEW THINGS UP OUR SLEEVE! ...

-  **DOL Sporting Event**
-  **Red Noses for Sale**
-  **Red Nail Painting**
-  **Red Nose Themed Cake Sale**

THIS YEAR, WE ARE ALSO JOINING THE RED NOSE DAY REBELLION! ...

-  **Pay £1 to Break a Rule!**
 - ◆ Main School & Teachers: Trainers and Red Nail Varnish allowed, wear a red nose in class, wear something red
 - ◆ Sixth Form & Teachers: Wear blue denim



Diary Dates

Saturday 9 March

PTA Pre Loved Uniform Sale, 1.30-3pm,
Main Hall

Monday 11 - Friday 15 March

Get Fit Week

Tuesday 12 March

Sixth Form Parent Group, 6-7pm, LRC

Wednesday 13 March

Parent Book Group, 6-7pm, LRC

Thursday 14 March

Parent Voice, 6-7pm, LRC

Friday 15 March

Years 7 Reports to Parents

Young Carers Action Day

Comic Relief

Monday 18 March

Years 12 & 13 Subject Reviews (until 22 March)

Year 8 Reports to Parents

Year 10 Inter-House Sports

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

Tuesday 19 March

Year 7 Inter-House Sports

Spring Concert, 7pm, Main Hall

Wednesday 20 March

Year 7 Parents' Evening, 4-6.30pm, Online

Thursday 21 March

Rotary Interact Silent Disco, 6-8pm, Hall

Friday 22 March

Year 8 Inter-House Sports



Careers

unifrog

UNIVERSITY FAIR

March 13th

16:30 - 19:00



Scan here
to sign up!

The University of Law | University of Plymouth | University of Kent
University of Exeter | Norwich University of the Arts | Heriot-Watt University
University of Dundee | Liverpool | John Moores University | Bangor University
University of Sussex | University of Portsmouth | Solent, Southampton
University for the Creative Arts | University of East Anglia | University of
Worcester | Royal Holloway, University of London | University of Suffolk
Birmingham Newman University | De Montfort University
University of Bradford | Manchester Metropolitan University | Queen
Margaret University, Edinburgh | Queen's University Belfast | Teesside
University | University of Brighton | University of Hertfordshire | University of
Reading | Leeds Trinity University | Liverpool Institute of Performing Arts
Cardiff University | University College Leuven-Limburg | University of
Chichester | University of South Wales | Royal Central School of Speech and
Drama | University of Aberdeen | University of Essex | Norland College
Edge Hill University | UCLan | Oxford Brookes University | British Army

www.unifroguniversityfair.vfairs.com



Notices

STAGS

PTA PRE LOVED UNIFORM SALE

SATURDAY 9 MARCH, 1.30-3PM,
SCHOOL HALL

BLAZER £10	PE SHORTS £5
SKIRT £4	PE TOP £7
JUMPER £4	PE HOODIE £10
BLOUSE £2	PE SKORT £5

CASH AND CARD PAYMENTS ACCEPTED

ALL PROCEEDS GOING TO THE STAGS PTA
SMALL PROJECTS FUND!

PLEASE NOTE: WE CAN'T GUARANTEE WHICH ITEMS AND SIZES WILL
BE AVAILABLE ON THE DAY AS THIS IS DEPENDENT ON DONATIONS



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**

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

