



Paul Kershaw, Head of School

We are in the last day of another successful, busy and productive week at STAGS. As Lenny Henry has reflected ahead of his final Red Nose Day hosting duties this evening (after 39 years), 'it's about challenging yourself and wanting to do things that push you'.

This is a concept we see exemplified in students every day at STAGS through superb demonstration of our STAGS Values, Ambition and Success, including in many of the events from this week.

As per our message to all families, we conducted a whole school fire evacuation practice yesterday. This is the first time that we have taken the whole school out to the new fire evacuation area which is situated in front of the 3G pitch and students from all year groups were brilliant at finding their new places quietly and swiftly in an orderly manner. We will conduct a lockdown practice in the summer term after Year 11 and 13 examinations have concluded. As requested, please do reiterate the praise we gave to all students for their conduct and efficiency during the practice.



Many thanks to Mrs Mathurin, Mrs Hall and all staff that planned and supported both Duchess of Malfi theatre visits this week. Students went to see brilliant performances of this English Literature A Level text at the Sam Wanamaker Playhouse at Shakespeare's Globe in London. It was an amazing opportunity to be immersed in this wonderful Jacobean revenge tragedy and reflect how director and actor choices impact the nuance of delivery ahead of A Level examinations.





Following a STAGSLINK earlier this year when we reported on Rana Begum's amazing exhibition at St Albans Museum, Art students in Key Stages 4 & 5 had a superb visit yesterday afternoon from Rana. Students heard about Rana's remarkable career and achievements as well as her creative process in her artwork. Before she presented to students, Rana told me that it was her Art teachers and STAGS Headteacher Mrs Booth who met with her family and promoted the possibility of a Post 18 path in the Arts which was the beginning of her amazing journey. That

story is explored further by the BBC [in an article available via this link](#). 'Ordered Form' is open until 14 April 2024 and information about the exhibition and Rana's experiences can be accessed [via this link](#).

Tuesday was a truly epic day of recognising achievement and excellence at STAGS. It was our second governor day of the year and there was a full day of events for our brilliant governors to experience life at STAGS including: meeting with the Head Student Team; attending clubs including STAGS Talks; meeting with Learning Ambassadors to hear about pedagogy and touring the school, visiting lessons. In the afternoon, we held the official opening of the Murphy Centre for Performing Arts. The amazing new building is named after Sarah Murphy, our Vice-Chair of Governors who very sadly passed away towards the end of last year. We were privileged to have Sarah's family join us on Tuesday for some inspiring musical and dance performances from students in the new space. As reflected upon in December STAGSLINK, Sarah also went to and excelled at STAGS. Her immeasurable impact as governor on our community over the last 15 years, as well as inspirational vocational achievements will be commemorated for years to come in our new building. Many thanks to all staff for making the event so special, including thoughtful reflections from Margaret Chapman and everyone who came to remember Sarah with us including colleagues, students, governors, Trustees and Jo Roberts the Chair of STAGS Alumni. Thank you also to our Performing Arts Team led admirably by Mrs Wheatley for organising the poignant and impressive pieces from our exceptional performers, including a choral mashup arranged by Year 11 students that will also be part of the Spring Music Concert next Tuesday evening.

We have had an extremely successful trilogy of Parent Voice opportunities this week. On Tuesday evening, Miss Taylor and Mr James held our first Sixth Form Parent Group which was a brilliant opportunity to explore Post 16 provision at STAGS. Many thanks to the parents who have contacted, thanking the school for this opportunity since. Wednesday evening's book group was a superb opportunity to discuss a short novel (Sarah Bernstein's 'Study for Obedience') with long term members of this group as well as relatively newer ones. The novel is uniquely unusual in its form and tone and made for a very thought provoking and entertaining discussion of our reflections. The next book we will look at is 'PDA in the Family' by alumni-parent Steph Curtis and the meeting will be on 4 June at 6pm in the library. Many thanks to all the parents and carers who have already contacted us expressing an interest in joining us. Everyone is most welcome. Many thanks to all who joined us for our Parent Voice meeting yesterday evening on Personal Development and sharing their perspective on a range of topics including parental consultation opportunities for the next academic year.

Thank you to Ms Owusu for an inspirational Language Leaders visit yesterday to Maple Primary School, where they helped their Year 4 class host a Languages Café for parents. A great opportunity for all students to practice their French speaking skills and for our students to support the younger students in their learning and understanding. Picture on the front cover.

As per the opportunities this week, Parent Voice is essential to effective provision at STAGS and promotes a sense of community and accountability, encouraging a supportive environment where students can thrive. There are many opportunities to glean essential parental insight including: Parent Voice; SEND Parent Voice; the Parent Book Group; Parents' Evenings and the survey that take place after each one; Information Evenings which include an opportunity for bespoke Q&A; Year 7 transition events; coffee mornings as well as when parents are on site for performances, events or to support with clubs; governance and PTA opportunities and many more. We have included in previous STAGSLINK editions, comments made by families as part of our survey on Form Tutor Review Day and have already acted on many of the topics that arose from the survey as well as contacting families to collaborate in relation to bespoke contexts. Next steps following the survey include promoting effective adherence to the Home Learning timetable and ensuring this work is set on Edulink exclusively, promoting the impressive breadth of provision in relation to Careers and Anti-Bullying respectively, as well as further developing Blended Learning. To this end, and following on from information provided during National Careers Week, you will have received our half termly Careers Newsletter this week. As well as providing a range of information about the careers curriculum provision at STAGS, the newsletter also provided useful links for parent/carers including our parent log in for Unifrog, an online one-stop-shop where students can easily explore their interests, then find and successfully apply for their next best step after school.

A huge congratulations to Michelle in Year 8 whose achievements in Cheerleading are explored in an article in [the St Albans Times this week](#). We look forward to following her future achievements and are grateful to her family who contacted this week thanking her teachers for supporting her incredible endeavours in this highly competitive field. Well done Michelle!



On Wednesday this week, Margaret Chapman went to the Global Schools' Forum at UNESCO in Paris having been invited by Daniel Sobel, globally renowned Inclusion expert. She will be joined by school leaders from across the globe sharing experiences and best practice in inclusion from across each country and focus on how we cater for the needs of modern childhood. We look forward to hearing about innovative inclusive educational practices at the inaugural global forum, identifying key recommendations to inform global educational policy. We will make sure to include further details of this fantastic event in next week's STAGSLINK.

Today, we are all enjoying Comic Relief Rule Breaking including wearing red items and/or trainers for £1 a time, as well as watching the Director of Learning sporting challenges at lunchtime - pictures to follow on social media! There is also nail painting and a cake sale to enjoy raising money for this wonderful charity which supports so many amazing causes.

As you will recall, Alexandra in Year 13 delivered an inspirational TedX Talk last year. If you would like to speak about 'Curiosity' at this year's TedX St Albans Talks, applications are now open and can be accessed via [this link](#).

Have a wonderful weekend despite some predicted changeable weather and we look forward to seeing you next week at the Spring Music Concert and Year 7 Parents' Evening events. All best wishes,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Alexandra'.

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

SUPPORT TRUST AMBITION GENEROSITY SUCCESS



Diary Dates

Monday 18 March

Years 12 & 13 Subject Reviews (until 22 March)

Year 8 Reports to Parents

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

Tuesday 19 March

Spring Concert, 7pm, Main Hall

Wednesday 20 March

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

Year 9 DTPY Vaccines

Thursday 21 March

Rotary Interact Silent Disco, 6-8pm, Hall

Saturday 23 - Sunday 24 March

Year 10 Duke of Edinburgh Practice Exhibition

Monday 25 March

SEND Parent's Group Meeting, 7-8.30pm, LRC

Wednesday 27 March

Year 12 Parents' Evening, 4-7.30pm, Online

Wednesday 27 - Saturday 30 March

Year 8 French Trip

Thursday 28 March

Non Uniform Day

Year 11 & Year 13 Reports to Parents

School closes at 12.20pm

Friday 29 March - Friday 12 April

Easter Holidays

Saturday 30 March - Saturday 6 April

Ski Trip (Year 8 - Year 13)

Monday 8 - Friday 12 April

Year 10 Malta Netball Tour

Monday 15 April

School starts with Registration at 8.35am on Monday 15 April



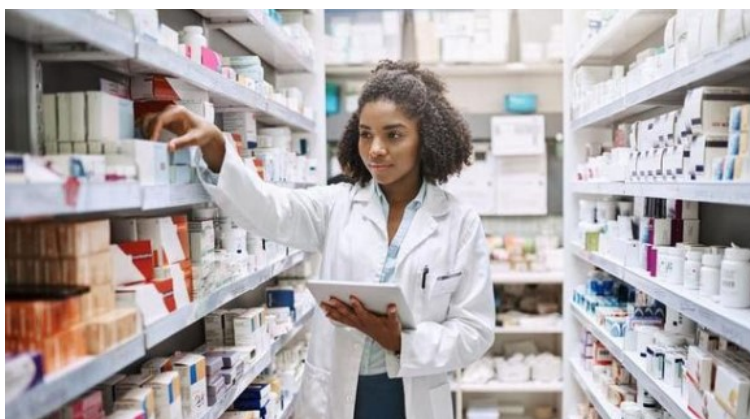
Careers

Spotlight on a career in Pharmacy



[Pharmacy and other dispensing assistants](#) work under the supervision of pharmacists or other relevant health professionals to dispense drugs and medicines, issue pre-packaged prescriptions, sell over-the-counter medication, dispense spectacles and contact lenses and other related products.

You can watch the HOP Careers In Pharmacy webinar [here](#), as well as access webinars on nearly 100 careers.



Explore the wider HOP Careers Directory [here](#).





Notices

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

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