



## ***Margaret Chapman, Executive Head Teacher***

As we reach the end of the final full week of the Spring term, time certainly has flown by with great activities and great learning in sharp focus!

It was a great privilege to be invited to present and participate in the **UNESCO Global Inclusive Schools' Forum** last week. It was an excellent opportunity to meet and talk with global education leaders whilst also appreciating the stark reality that from sub Saharan Africa, to Cambodia, to Australia and the US all of us are facing a recruitment crisis into teaching like never before. However, what is equally so powerful was evidence of the global dedication to ensuring, to paraphrase Mandela, that 'education remains the most powerful weapon to change the world'.



We focused on how we can ensure the future of an effective education system in a world of increasing complexity and uncertainty. What we can be sure of, and I see it here at STAGS every day, is that schools are centres of hope, community and diversity and we can make a difference to the next generation, right here, right now.

Parents' evenings continue and it is wonderful to see the level of engagement from so many families - most recently, at 93% attendance in Year 7. We do follow up individual queries with each family so there is always 100% contact. Thank you for your continued support.

This year's theme of **Science Week** enabled our students to get curious and explore how 'Time' impacts everything from the cell cycle to the earth's atmosphere and the structure of our solar system. The Science team led a number of lessons for Years 7 and 8 on Dinosaurs and Space respectively. The work that the Year 8

students produced was displayed in the hall for the Friday lunchtime Science Fair (photos below), with winners announced in Year 8's celebration assembly. Year 9 students produced a design for a new clock for the Science department and Year 10 completed a Biology time capsule. Lunchtime events also included students making a timepiece and competing against the science teachers in a science quiz. Finally, the STAGS Talks last week was centred around the question 'How will you use your time?' which engendered much discussion amongst both students and colleagues.



In celebration of Science Week, warmest congratulations to Caitlin and Jasmine in Year 10 and Mini in Year 11 who have entered the **Young Science Writers Competition** - excellent content with titles varying from 'How to extend your holiday from 7 to 70 days'; 'Sustainability in the future of motorsport'; and 'The influx of ACL injuries in women's football and what can be done about it'; hugely impactful and relevant topics.

Fourteen Year 10 students participated in the **Maths Feast Challenge** on Tuesday - a fun educational online challenge for Year 10 students which tests maths problem-solving and teamwork skills. Congratulations to all students for their enthusiasm in the event and their fantastic teamwork! Photo on the front cover.

The Performing Arts Team is really galvanised at STAGS and even more evident is the opportunity to engage in Music, Dance and Drama both with performance and sound and lighting and it is wonderful to see so many students enthuse and flourish at these many events. Our **Spring Concert** this week was a joyous event of celebration with so many students of all ages involved - the quality and content was superb and hugely uplifting. My thanks go to Mrs Cooper and Mrs Ritou who led on the concert, admirably supported by many students and colleagues within the Performing Arts Team and beyond. The wide variety of instruments being played will ensure that we have a full orchestra very soon, whilst also including steel pans, guitars and choirs.

Mr Sanderson continues to run our Brass Ensemble and will be offering two free taster lessons in the Summer term for anyone looking to try out a brass instrument. In efforts to boost our double reed players, Mrs Dalloway will also be offering this opportunity on the oboe. For more details, please speak to a member of the Music department and look out for a letter after Easter. Very excitingly, we also now have a specialist, Lindsay Campbell, running our Steel Pans club on a Friday lunchtime and will continue to work together with her to give all students access to these incredible instruments!

GCSE Music students have been working hard on their final performance and composition coursework, and just last week we welcomed in our A level examiner to watch Year 13's final recitals.

### **Sporting successes continue and engagement is thriving!**

Last week we ran Get Fit Week! This was to promote a variety of different sports and activities to the students. Engagement throughout the week was excellent across all year groups. Clubs that had particularly high attendance included dodgeball, table tennis, badminton and basketball.

It was also great to see the whole school community come together for the **Directors' of Learning Sporting Challenge** to raise money for Comic Relief. All teachers were great sports and impressed us all with their secret talents! KS3 teachers were victorious! Photo on page 4.



## Netball

Year 8B won 8-7 against Samuel Ryder Academy in the league and Year 10B won against Loreto in the league 19-11. They have finished 2nd in the league. Photo's below.



On Monday Year 8 and Year 10 played STAHS in the district cup. Both teams narrowly missed out on winning their fixtures but are still placed 2nd in the district. All players should be very proud of their achievements.

## Football

After winning the district futsal tournaments earlier on in the year, the U12s and U14s both attended the county futsal finals on Friday. All students really impressed with their level of skill and sportsmanship - a fabulous achievement to finish 5th and 3rd in the county respectively. Photo's below.



The U16s also competed in the quarter final of the district cup winning against Sandringham 3-2 progressing to the semi finals against Roundwood.

The U13s have also progressed through to the semi-finals of the district cup playing against Beaumont in the next round.



## Gymnastics and Cheerleading

On Tuesday our cheerleading squad preformed a showcase at STAHS with other schools in the district. The routine was very well executed, impressing the audience with their unique stunts. It was great to see all their efforts throughout the year come together in this excellent performance.

Congratulations to all active participants in the vast array of sports - now we move into the summer sports season!

A reminder that we will be holding another **Personal Development Day** next week. With the theme of **Diversity**, we have a huge range of workshops and activities from judo to multicultural music, from diverse drama to Indonesian Batik making and a model UN, there is something for everyone to be involved with in our culturally rich school community.

**Food Bank Distribution Centres** for access during the Easter break:

Friday 29th March: London Colney and Harpenden - **CLOSED**

Saturday 30th March: Jubilee 10am - 12.pm **Open**

Monday 1st April: Redbourn and FEED - **CLOSED**. However FEED, at Verso Vineyard will hold a session on Wednesday 3rd April

Tuesday 2nd April: New Greens 1-3pm **Open**

Wednesday 3rd April - FEED : 10am-12.pm **Open**

Click [here](#) to sign into the **National Online Safety** site to view 'Developing Healthy Sleep Patterns' or click [here](#) to view the PDF.



Finally, I draw your attention to the letter sent to all families earlier in the week with an update to our **swimming pool**. Click [here](#) to read.

Thank you for your continued support. Enjoy the Easter break.

With all good wishes,

*Alcaig*



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

**SUPPORT TRUST AMBITION GENEROSITY SUCCESS**





# Diary Dates

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## **Saturday 23 - Sunday 24 March**

Year 10 Duke of Edinburgh Practice Exhibition

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## **Monday 25 March**

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

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## **Wednesday 27 March**

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

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## **Wednesday 27 - Saturday 30 March**

Year 8 French Trip

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## **Thursday 28 March**

Non Uniform Day

Year 11 & Year 13 Reports to Parents

School closes at 12.20pm

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## **Friday 29 March - Friday 12 April**

Easter Holidays

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## **Saturday 30 March - Sunday 7 April**

Ski Trip (Year 8 - Year 13)

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## **Monday 8 - Friday 12 April**

Year 10 Malta Netball Tour

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## **Monday 15 April**

School starts with Registration at 8.35am on  
Monday 15 April

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## **Monday 15 - Monday 22 April**

Year 9 Exams (Information letter to be shared  
next week)

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## **Thursday 18 April**

Year 10 Inter-House Sports

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## **Friday 19 April**

Year 7 Inter-House Sports

EID Celebrations

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# Notices

**Design a new...**

# LOGO

**COMPETITION!**

We are coming together as 10 schools and we need your help to design a logo for our new trust called ...

**'Ambition Education Trust' (AET for short)**

**How to enter:**  
The Competition is open to EVERYONE in our 10 schools, you can submit your entry electronically or in paper formats.

**THINK ABOUT:**

- Brand identity: the logo should reflect our values of *'Aspire to Educational Excellence for All'*
- Simplicity: keep your design simple and memorable for easy recognition
- Versatility: design a logo that looks good across different mediums and sizes, e.g business cards, letterheads, school signage, banners, social media
- Colour schemes: choose colours which compliment and evoke the right emotions

**PRIZES:**  
Will be awarded for top ten entries in Junior and Senior age groups

**Entries by:** Monday 15th April 2024 (to your Headteacher)