



Paul Kershaw, Headteacher

As you will have seen in the Inspection report earlier this week, we are thrilled to share that STAGS has been rated Outstanding across all areas in our recent Ofsted inspection. This reaffirms the exceptional quality of education, personal development, and leadership at our school. The report highlights our aspirational culture, enriching curriculum, exemplary behaviour, and the nurturing environment where every pupil thrives. The report outlines that STAGS ‘sets no limit on what pupils can achieve’ and that ‘pupils flourish in this truly exceptional school’.

Thank you so much for all of the messages of encouragement, positivity, and congratulations this week and during the visit itself. Your kind words were truly appreciated and reflect the strong partnership between home and school that underpins our success. Together, we continue to inspire excellence and create a community where every student reaches and exceeds their full potential.

This term began with a whole school assembly exploring the power of gratitude. Students were introduced to the idea of the ‘negativity bias,’ a natural tendency to focus on negative aspects, and how practicing gratitude can help counteract it. We explored that gratitude is more than just saying ‘thank you’ as it’s about actively noticing and appreciating the good in our lives, from small acts of kindness to moments of connection. Through examples like the graphic novel *‘Every Little Kindness’* (by Marta Bartolj) and themes from the Jon M. Chu *‘Wicked’* adaptation, students were encouraged to reflect on how small gestures can create a ripple effect of positivity. The assembly ended with a ‘Gratitude Challenge’ for the term, inspiring everyone to recognise and share moments of thankfulness daily. We look forward to seeing the impact of this challenge across our school community and will be sharing more soon about this year’s STAGS Read, which ties beautifully into these themes.

Year 11 Progression Meetings are continuing successfully, providing an invaluable opportunity for all students to reflect on their mock exam feedback and focus on their preparation for upcoming GCSEs. Ongoing personal guidance meetings with Services for Young People for Year 11 support their next steps process further still.

A special thank you to Miss Hall and the English Team for organising a fantastic live adaptation of 'A Christmas Carol' yesterday in the Main Hall. This engaging performance not only brought Dickens' classic to life but also provided students with a deeper understanding of the text, which will support them in their English Literature GCSE exams.



Congratulations to all students who received EPQ and retake marks this week and to those completing important NEA and examination work at GCSE, BTEC, and A Level - efforts and dedication are commendable.

The Online Safety Hub is a one-stop platform with essential resources to help families stay safe online. It provides practical advice, step-by-step guides, and expert reviews of popular websites and gaming apps. We can all explore information on the latest online safety topics, including:

- [AI Powered Online Bullying](#) (video)
- [The Unfiltered Truth about Life as an Influencer](#) (article)
- [Body Image and the Quest for Online Validation](#) - Updated (article)
- [The Anxious Generation: Trending Research from Online Safety Experts](#) (article)

[Click here](#) to sign into the National Online Safety site to view 'What Parents and Educators need to know about Supporting Children to Return to Routine' or [here to view the PDF](#).

Hertfordshire Constabulary has warned our community about a recent scam targeting online vehicle sellers. Offenders posing as buyers swap keys without detection and later use them to steal the car. To stay safe, always lock your vehicle, keep keys secure, and use a Faraday bag for keyless entry fobs. Consider installing a steering lock or similar security device for added protection. Report thefts online [here](#), via web chat [here](#), or call 101.

Yesterday lunchtime, we held our annual 'Languages for Life' event, where our Key Stage 5 languages students heard from alumni students who shared their experiences of studying languages at university, ranging from Spanish to Portuguese, and even Law with French. One alumna is managing to maintain her Spanish studies while pursuing a degree in Geography. The alumni were incredibly generous with their time, staying on to provide our Year 13 students with invaluable revision and exam practice tips. (Picture on the front page) We couldn't be prouder of their achievements and were thrilled to hear about the success they are experiencing in their respective fields, as well as their exciting Post 18 experiences so far.

Thank you to all Year 9 families for attending our Curriculum Choices evening last night! The enthusiasm for learning and excitement about choosing subjects was palpable, and will be complemented by the subject fair taking place at lunchtime today, where students can explore options subjects with current Year 11 students. Thank you so much for the brilliant turnout - it was wonderful to see and catch up with parents and carers.

Have a brilliant weekend and keep warm! Very best wishes,

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

SUPPORT TRUST AMBITION GENEROSITY SUCCESS



Diary Dates

Tuesday 14 January

Year 11 Maths Trip - It All Adds Up, 8am - 5pm,
University of Oxford Mathematical Institute

Wednesday 15 January

Year 13 Parents Evening, 4 - 7:30pm, Online

Thursday 16 January

SEND Parent Support Group, 6:30 - 8pm, Library

KS3, 4 & 5 Debate, 4:15 - 7pm, St Georges
School

Wednesday 22 January

Year 11 Mock Interview Day, Hall

Thursday 23 January

Year 11 Parents' Evening, 4 - 7:30pm, Online

Saturday 25 & Sunday 26 January

Year 7 RSPB Big Garden Birdwatch

Thursday 30 January

Year 8 to Year 13 Les Miserable Trip,
12 - 6:50pm, London

PTA Meeting, 6:45 - 7:45pm, Library

Wednesday 5 February

Year 12 & 13 Maths Fest Trip, London

Thursday 6 February

Year 10, 11 and 12 Latin Trip, 11:45am - 3:10pm ,
Verulamium Museum

Year 7 Parents Evening, 4 - 7:30pm, Online

Tuesday 11 February

Year 13 Hamlet Trip, Leave School at 1:25pm,
Stratford-Upon-Avon

Barcelona Sports Tour Parent Information Evening,
6 - 7pm, Library

Wednesday 12 February

Year 9 Curriculum Choices Deadline

Personal Development Day, Wellbeing

School Closes for Students at 12:20pm

Form Tutor Review



PTA NEWS

Welcome to the PTA News section, where you'll get weekly PTA news and updates.

Diary Dates

Thursday 30th Jan – PTA Meeting 6.45-7.45pm in the School Library. We will be reviewing the departmental applications for funding. Please come and get involved in deciding how the money you raised at the Winter Fair will be spent.

Saturday 1st March – Pre-loved Uniform Sale 1.30-3.00pm in the Main Hall

Friday 7th March – PTA Bingo Night with a difference! You won't want to miss this, so put the date in your diary now! More details to follow in the New Year.

How You Can Help

Would you like to support the School and PTA in a cost effective way in 2025? Please become a regular donor to the School Fund, by making a Gift Aid declaration here and setting up a monthly standing order for the amount of your choice to the PTA (account details provided automatically via email when you complete the Gift Aid Declaration)

Please remember to use Easyfundraising when you shop online – sign up here.

Feeling lucky in 2025? Sign up for Your School Lottery – play from £1/week to support STAGS PTA and be in with a chance of winning! Sign up here.

Thank you for all your support in 2024!

