



Paul Kershaw, Headteacher

It has been a wonderfully productive and slightly warmer week here at STAGS! As we settle into the new term, the energy and enthusiasm across the school continues to enthuse all staff and students alike.

We are thrilled to share the success of yesterday's Year 13 Parents' Evening, which set a wonderful tone for our current sequence that continues with Year 11 Parents' Evening next Thursday. With an impressive 97% attendance, the evening was a testament to the commitment of students, families and colleagues all working together to ensure the best possible achievements this academic year. The evening provided an excellent opportunity for productive and meaningful conversations between families and staff, focusing on supporting students as they enter their final full term of preparations. The shared dedication to academic excellence and personal growth was clear throughout every appointment. We would also like to wish the very best to all students still undertaking Non-Examination Assessments (NEAs) and formal examinations this week and next. Students' hard work and determination are inspirational.



On Tuesday, Mr Holmes and Mr Hughes, along with a group of Year 11 students, visited the Oxford University Mathematical Institute for the 'It All Adds Up' event, designed to inspire young women to pursue further studies in Mathematics. The students attended engaging talks on topics such as infinity and knot theory, delivered by university researchers, offering valuable insights into advanced Mathematics at Post 16 and beyond. They also participated in hands-on problem-solving activities, supported by Oxford undergraduates, who later shared their experiences of studying Mathematics and undergraduate life at Oxford. It was a fantastic

and informative day, and STAGS looks forward to many Year 11 students continuing their Mathematical studies next year. In this picture, Catherine and Coralia are working together to solve a tricky Maths problem!

There was further excitement last night as Mrs Mathurin and the Debate Club took part in a head to head competition with St George's School in Harpenden. There were 6 debates over the course of a hugely competitive two hours with students from across all year groups taking part. Topics debated included whether organ donation should be compulsory and if AI is an existential threat to the world! The students debating skills were judged by an external verifier who gave fabulous group and individual feedback. Thank you to Mrs Flint and parents who came along to support what was an amazing display of debating talent.

Students from Gardening Club had an insightful lunchtime session today, examining the soil health of our Sustainable Garden with guidance from Vicky of Soil Squad. (Picture on front cover)



Thank you to ex STAGS student, Simin Taheri who visited Year 9 in their assembly to give a presentation on careers in the aviation industry. She told us about her inspirational journey to becoming a pilot for Virgin Atlantic and gave students some excellent tips about how to get involved in this vital employment sector through apprenticeships and other on the job training.



The Sixth Form were also delighted to welcome Ex BBC Journalist Keith Macdougall to talk to them about 'why Politics matters'. Keith has worked as a BBC journalist for over 20 years and was able to give our the students a real insight into the political landscape. The talk was inspiring and informative and we are very grateful to Keith for coming to spend time with us.

Following a successful Alumni meeting on Tuesday evening, we are delighted to extend a warm invitation to all former students of STAGS to join our esteemed Alumni Association. Established in 1922, the association has played an integral role in fostering a sense of community and pride among past and present members of our school. By joining, you become part of a proud tradition that spans over a century. Membership in the Alumni Association offers a unique opportunity to stay connected with STAGS and your fellow alumni. It also provides a meaningful platform to give back to the school community by supporting current students through mentorship, career guidance, and networking initiatives. Your involvement can inspire and empower the next generation of learners while strengthening the bonds that make STAGS a truly exceptional place. Whether you left STAGS recently or many years ago, we encourage you to become part of this thriving network. Together, we can preserve and grow the spirit of STAGS for future generations to come. Joining the Alumni Association is simple. You can reach out to the committee directly via email at stagsoga@gmail.com or connect on Facebook: STAGS Alumni Association.

A warm reminder to all parents and carers that our next book group meeting will take place on Tuesday 25 February, at 6pm in the LRC, where we'll be discussing 'Storm Child' by Ele Fountain. Whether you're a regular attendee or new to the group, we would love for you to join us for what promises to be an engaging and thoughtful discussion. All newcomers are warmly welcome, and we look forward to seeing familiar faces as well. In addition, we are excited to announce that details of our next STAGS Read will be revealed very soon - stay tuned for more information.

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

And a final note to have a look at the PTA news section below which contains information about forthcoming events including an exciting fundraising event in March - Queen Bingo! We look forward to seeing you there!

Have an amazing weekend. Very best wishes,



Diary Dates

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

Monday 17 - Friday 21 February

Year 12 & 13 USA Trip

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

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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! Tickets go on sale on Monday via School Gateway.

News

Our next fundraising event is on **Friday 7th March** - Queen Bingo! Get ready for an uproariously fun evening of live entertainment, dancing and Bingo, hosted by Crystal - Ru Paul's Drag Race UK season 1 star! Think you know Bingo? Think again! Tickets: £20 per person (over 18s only) on sale via School Gateway from Monday 20th Jan. We are also offering tickets to the event to Verulam families, and places are strictly limited, so please buy early to avoid disappointment!

This month, your School Lottery is offering a special prize of a £1,000 Aldi Gift Card (or cash alternative if preferred). Existing players are automatically entered. If you'd like to be in with a chance of winning, please sign up [for your School Lottery here](#) and play from £1/week to support STAGS PTA. 40p of each £1 spent with School Lottery reaches the PTA.

How You Can Help

The number of families contributing via monthly Gift-aided standing order to the School Fund is at an all-time low. From a peak of 183 families in 2011, we now have only 52 families supporting the School Fund. Supporting the School Fund is the best way to support the school, as 100% of the amount you donate goes to the school, plus an extra 25% if you make a Gift Aid declaration. You can donate any amount from £1 a month upwards.

Please help the PTA and school make long term financial plans by supporting the School Fund and making a Gift Aid declaration if you are a taxpayer. Please make [your Gift Aid declaration here](#) and set up your standing order to Friends of St Albans Girls School, 20-74-09, 20801542. Thank you in advance for your support and please contact stagspta@gmail.com if you have any questions.



Notices



Family Lives Spring Term Programme 2025

Less Shouting, More Cooperation (6 weeks) Online group

Wednesday 22 January to 5 March 7.00pm to 9.00pm

A programme to help parents be more effective at getting their children to cooperate and listen to them

Bringing Up Confident SEN Children (6 weeks) Online group

Monday 3 February to 17 March 9.30am to 11.30am

A programme to help parents gain a comprehensive understanding of ADHD/ASD and learn strategies to improve life at home and at school

Sorting Out Arguments in your Family (6 weeks) Online group

Wednesday 5 February to 19 March 9.30am to 11.30am

A programme aimed at helping sort out arguments between parents and their children and between brothers and sisters

Getting on with Your Pre Teen/Teenager (6 weeks) Online group

Thursday 27 February to 3 April 9.30am to 11.30am

A programme to help parents understand and get on better with their teenage children. Maybe there is an FFA/CIN/CP in place and need more support

Dads Together (6 weeks) Online group

Wednesday 26 February to 2 April 7.00pm to 9.00pm

A programme to support dads in learning how to change the way you communicate with your child, respond better and feel more in control

For more information, please contact Louise on

0204 522 8700 or email

services@familylives.org.uk.

Please scan our QR code for our referral form.

