



## *Paul Kershaw, Headteacher*

It has been an epic final week of term! This week, in PE, we have had lots of exceptional teams compete in finals in netball and football. To kick off the week on Monday, the Year 7 football team and the Year 8 football team competed in the football district cup finals. (See photo above) The standard was very high and the pitches very big so all had to work extremely hard. Congratulations to the Year 8 team who placed 2nd place in the final with some excellent skill bringing the ball through the pitch and some great saves by the goalkeeper. A second congratulations to the Year 7 football team who won their cup final. They played seamlessly as a team and this was rewarded and reflected in the 5-1 score line. A special shout-out to Phoebe who scored a hattrick! Great efforts from all!

On Tuesday, both the U12 and U14 futsal teams represented STAGS in the county futsal finals after qualifying by placing in the top two in the district round of the competition back in November. The competition consisted of 10 of the best teams in Hertfordshire so the standard of competition was very high. Congratulations to the U12's team who won the competition and who are now county champions! They displayed outstanding skill levels and teamwork beating Roundwood Park School 2-0 in the final. Congratulations to the U14 team who also did brilliantly, topping their pool group, winning in the semi-finals and taking 2nd place in the final, with a narrow loss of 1-0 against Joan of Arc School. A special mention to Lara, Alice and Ally who were all selected in the competition organisers All Star Fives for their impressive performances throughout the competition.



On Wednesday, we saw the Year 11 netball team compete in the district cup final against Sandringham and a poignant last game together. They won with a very impressive score line of 37-4. All students played lots of different positions and demonstrated how versatile they are as a team. Congratulations on winning both the district league and the cup this season. The Year 9 A team also took to the courts on Wednesday in the district plate final. All students played really well and came away with more success and a very comfortable win. Congratulations to all!



After qualifying among the top 16 teams across the South and East Regions, Ella and Sofia competed in the U12 England Netball National Finals last Sunday with Hatfield Netball Club. The girls put in fantastic performances - well done to them both!

Last week, STAGS students showcased their talent at the Hertfordshire Schools Gala at the Royal Albert Hall with a truly unforgettable performance. Forty five singers joined the massed choir, while seven students had the thrilling opportunity to perform in the Steel Orchestra for the first time. Their dedication and hard work leading up to this prestigious event paid off, making it a truly exhilarating experience!



Also last week, Year 10 GCSE REP students visited St Saviour's Church, one of our local churches, to support their study of Christianity. They were warmly welcomed by Fr. Richard Watson, who gave an insightful talk on two key sacraments - an important topic for their exam - and provided an opportunity for students to ask questions.

Aspiring Year 12 English Literature Oxbridge students recently took part in a series of four lunchtime sessions exploring the history of English Literature. Designed and delivered by Mrs Daniel, the sessions provided an overview of key literary periods, from *Beowulf* to Modernism. Students were encouraged to deepen their understanding through independent research, with a range of suggested activities to support their learning. The sessions were met with great enthusiasm, with students describing them as 'engaging', 'informative' and 'beneficial'.

This week, 'More to Life' (the Christian Union at STAGS) held an Easter event to share the significance of the celebration for Christians. Students enjoyed making chocolate chicks while also exploring the meaning of Easter through the Bible and open discussions, which continued in this week's STAGS Talks.



On Monday, we had the pleasure of having Dignify deliver important assemblies to Years 9-12, providing them with practical tools to navigate healthy relationships, both online and offline, while reinforcing the importance of self-worth and positive wellbeing. The sessions were engaging, thought-provoking, and encouraged meaningful discussions. It was wonderful to see students invested in learning how to challenge negative behaviours and build a positive mindset.



We would like to draw attention to an important online session on supporting young people with self-harm and recovery which will take place on Tuesday 6 May. Led by a clinician from HPFT CAMHS, the session will provide valuable insights, practical strategies and support. Further details, including how to join, can be found later in the notices section on page 11.

The Year 12 Young Enterprise team has designed a stunning collection of destination-inspired T-shirts. Join them this Sunday 6 April at the Galleria in Hatfield, next to Café Nero, to browse their unique designs. Don't miss out - they are looking forward to seeing you there!



Last night's Spring Concert was a phenomenal adventure through genres and performances. Thank you so much to all performers and the families who supported them - it was amazing to see everyone. The performances were transportational and a very fitting finale to the brilliant performing arts events this term. Every performance was a highlight and included a resplendent rendition of 'You Will Be Found' from the amazing musical 'Dear Evan Hansen', as well as an extremely professional sounding medley of 'Hamilton Women' from the Lin Manuel Miranda penned musical. Charlotte in Year 13's 'Sea Echo' on the flute was exceptional - as were all students' contributions. It's impossible to name all highlights as the whole concert was a highlight! A huge thank you to Mrs Mead, Mrs Ritou and mastermind Mrs Cooper, as well as the Performing Arts Team and all colleagues that supported too.



We are thrilled to include this week that STAGS has been appointed as a Lead School for Music in Hertfordshire! Following a rigorous application and interview process, we were selected for our dedication to musical excellence and innovation, both within STAGS and in the wider community. This role will provide students with even more opportunities to perform and compose while strengthening our connections through music locally and beyond. It is extremely exciting and the possibilities for the Music department and the school are vast.

Also included in this edition of STAGSLINK is a recount of this week's alumni get-together by alumni Chair, Jo Roberts and an overview of our Tackling Period Poverty endeavours led and written by Miss Haria. Read more on the next page.

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

To find out what exciting enrichment clubs and activities will be available in the summer term [please click here](#).

As we head into the break, we wish everyone a wonderful balance of adventure and rest. To Year 11 and Year 13 students and families, we send our best wishes for the important weeks ahead - may your hard work and dedication bring you success.

We look forward to welcoming everyone back refreshed and ready for the new term on Tuesday 22 April!



## **STAGS Alumni News:**

On Wednesday morning, a number of STAGS Alumni met at Burston Garden Centre for a coffee and a chat. Although we were all from different year groups, spanning over 50 years at the school, there were so many shared memories. Aprons were for many years the first thing created in Needlework, part of Home Economics, and two of us had brought these along to show. I apologise to any former teachers whose ears may have been burning as we mentioned them. Miss Williams (Home Economics) was fondly remembered, as well as some of the Geography teachers - Mr Matthews, Miss Gallop and Miss Barnes. We talked about doing cross-country, which involved running (or for some of us walking) along Harpenden Road to the Corner Shop, along Beech Road, Firbank Road, Valley Road and into the school grounds via the back entrance. For this we were wearing our white PE tops and royal blue gym bottoms with a gold stripe. There was lots of reminiscing about the rest of the school uniform through the years - those who remembered formal berets and hats, the smart blazers, different styles of skirts and, of course, those black leotards for gym and dance.

There was discussion about houses - Breakspeare, Mandeville, Salisbury, and Verulam, then Jupiter, Mars, Neptune, Pluto, Mercury and Saturn and inter-house events. It was lovely to hear stories of two or even three generations of a family who have attended STAGS. You may have spotted the STAGS teddy bear in the photo. These certainly proved popular at our Centenary Lunch a few years ago and we would love to see photos on our Alumni Facebook page of the locations these teddy bears now find themselves. We were joined by some current staff who are alumni and are very grateful to Mr Kershaw that they were allowed to attend. If you are a STAGS alumni, please join the Alumni Association, by emailing [stagsoga@gmail.com](mailto:stagsoga@gmail.com) and we look forward to seeing you at a future get together and to hearing your memories of STAGS.

*Jo Roberts, STAGS Alumni Chair*

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## **Tackling Period Poverty:**

Since March, we have been raising money towards tackling period poverty with the goal of raising **£8000** which supplies reusable pad kits to **1454** girls in Kenya (the approximate number of students at STAGS!).

### **Information about the Reusable Pad Kits (£5.50 per kit):**

- The kits **last for up to 5 years**, are easily washable in minimal cold water and cheap bar soap
- Made with **100% cotton** which prevents infections and skin irritations
- Are **fully biodegradable** (disposable pads take 500-800 years to break down in a landfill site). In Kenya, they are commonly disposed of down a pit latrine or on the streets, where they accumulate
- Made **locally in Kenya** by a social enterprise employing marginalised women

For more information, [please click here](#).



### **How to make a donation:**

- Collect cash donations and bring this in a sealed envelope with your child's full name and form group, with the total amount stated on the front. This is to be **handed to their Director of Learning**.
- Collect donations and make an **online contribution via School Gateway** (i.e collect £10 cash in total therefore donating £10 on School Gateway).

Track how much we have raised to so far - [Help Changes Lives - Tackling Period Poverty Fundraising Tracker](#)

Please reach out to friends, family and the community for support with this initiative!

The deadline for submitting donations is Friday 4 July 2025.

*Miss Haria, Director of Learning for Year 9*



# Diary Dates

## **Monday 7 - Monday 21 April**

Easter Holidays

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## **Tuesday 8 - Saturday 12 April**

Year 10 Barcelona Sports Tour

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## **Tuesday 22 April**

School starts for all students with Registration at 8.35am

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## **Tuesday 22 April - Friday 2 May**

Year 10 and Year 12 Exams

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## **Thursday 24 April**

PTA Meeting, Library, 6.30pm

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## **Friday 25 April - Sunday 27 April**

PGL Netball Tour

## **Wednesday 30 April**

SEND Parent Support meeting, Library, 6.30 - 8pm

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## **Thursday 1 May**

Year 11 Celebration Day

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## **Friday 2 May**

Year 13 Celebration Day

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## **Monday 5 May**

Bank Holiday - School is Closed

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## **Wednesday 7 May**

Public Exams Start

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## **Monday 12 May - Friday 23 May**

Year 7 and Year 8 end of year exams

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

**SUPPORT TRUST AMBITION GENEROSITY SUCCESS**



# PTA NEWS

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

## Diary Dates

Thursday 24 April - PTA Meeting in the Library, 6.30pm. All parents/carers are welcome.

## News

The first two terms of this academic year have been really fun and successful for the PTA in terms of fundraising and events we've organised or helped at. So far this year we have:

- Supported the Year 7 Welcome Picnic event with refreshments and our very popular Candy Floss machine!
- Met families at the Year 7 Information Evening and provided refreshments
- Provided numerous car-parking stewards for the school Open Evening
- Organised two very busy and popular Pre-Loved Uniform Sales
- Held our AGM and elected a new Chair
- Worked with the amazing school staff to deliver a wonderful Winter Fair
- Staged our first even Queen Bingo event which was declared a fabulous night out by so many

**...and raised over £11,000 at these events!!**

None of this could happen without the commitment and effort of the small but mighty PTA Committee, as well as our army of reliable and willing parent volunteers and class reps. Thank you doesn't even begin to cover it – to everyone who has contributed to PTA Events, you are amazing! (See pictures on next page)

## How You Can Help

Please get involved. The PTA needs new parents to come forward and get involved, as class reps, event volunteers and especially new Committee members. It would be great to have two or three new members on board in time for the new Academic Year in September, as that is our busiest term. Please get in touch via [stagspta@gmail.com](mailto:stagspta@gmail.com) to find out more.







# Notices



*Stay Connected!*

**Our primary platforms for school updates are Instagram and Facebook, where we will continue to share news, announcements and important information.**

**Please make sure to follow us on Instagram and Facebook for the latest updates and news:**

 [stalbangirlsschool\\_stags](https://www.instagram.com/stalbansgirlsschool_stags)

 [@STAGS.official](https://www.facebook.com/STAGS.official)





# Notices

## Easter Closures

Thursday 17<sup>th</sup> April – Wheathampstead 11:30am - 1:30pm - **OPEN**

Friday 18<sup>th</sup> April – **London Colney and Crabtree, Harpenden - CLOSED**

Saturday 19<sup>th</sup> April – Jubilee Centre 10am - 12pm - **OPEN**

Monday 21<sup>st</sup> April - **Redbourn and Verso Care - CLOSED**

Tuesday 22<sup>nd</sup> April - New Greens 1pm - 3pm – **OPEN**

Wednesday 23<sup>rd</sup> April

Verso Care 10am – 12pm – **OPEN**

Frogmore 11:30am – 1pm - **OPEN**

Cottonmill 1pm - 3pm - **OPEN**



# Notices

## THINK PHARMACY FIRST

Did you know that Pharmacies can now offer NHS clinical appointments with medication available if required for four clinical conditions particularly relevant to school age children?

Earache (children aged 1-17)

Sore Throat (over 5s)

Infected Insect Bites (over 1s)

Impetigo (over 1s)

Visit your local pharmacy for more information





# Notices

## Parents and Carers talk about self-harm and recovery

Please join us at an information session to learn more about self-harm and get practical ideas and strategies to help your child towards recovery

Our guest speaker will be a clinician who works at \*HPFT CAMHS

Where: Online over Zoom.

When: Tuesday 6th May, 7pm to 9pm

\* Hertfordshire Partnership University NHS Foundation Trust  
Child and Adolescent Mental Health Services

For more information or to book your place:

Call: 01992 58 69 69

Email: [contact@carersinherts.org.uk](mailto:contact@carersinherts.org.uk)

Go online: [www.carersinherts.org.uk/events](http://www.carersinherts.org.uk/events)



### About Carers in Hertfordshire

We are a charity that provides information, advice and support to unpaid carers - people looking after a partner, relative or friend, who is ill, elderly, has a physical or learning disability, or misuses substances.

We support carers of all ages - young people and adults - living, working or caring in Hertfordshire. Our services are free to carers and bereaved carers, who can access support for three years after the death of the person they looked after.

We provide services to carers to help them with their caring role or have a break from caring, to improve their health and wellbeing, and to have a voice in shaping health and community services.

We are partly funded by Hertfordshire County Council and the NHS in Hertfordshire. In partnership with them and other local organisations we work to ensure unpaid carers are identified, informed, supported and heard.

#### Carers in Hertfordshire

The Red House, 119 Fore Street, Hertford, Herts, SG14 1AX.

Tel: 01992 58 69 69 Email: [contact@carersinherts.org.uk](mailto:contact@carersinherts.org.uk)

[www.carersinherts.org.uk](http://www.carersinherts.org.uk)

### Our support for parents and carers.

We have a team of Carer Engagement Workers who can provide advice and information and also support you to speak up.

We also:

- Give you a chance to meet and talk to other parents, carers and staff who understand;
- Give you the opportunity to represent your views to the authorities that commission and manage Children and Young People's Mental Health Services (CYPMHS) in Hertfordshire;
- Provide free training and learning opportunities; and
- Offer a Carers' Passport Discount Card that gives savings in shops, restaurants and other venues (contact us to apply for one today!)

