



16 OCTOBER 2026

STAGSLINK



Sport at STAGS! Basketball

The STAGS U16 Team showcased superb resilience during their recent National basketball cup fixture against a highly competitive Northampton Girls' School side. Despite facing a formidable opponent, the team refused to back down, executing their defensive sets and fighting for every possession until the final buzzer but sadly did not come away the victors. The matchup provided invaluable national-level experience for the squad, highlighting their grit under pressure and offering key developmental takeaways that will fuel their growth for the remainder of the season.

Football

STAGS U14 team went into the national cup with high hopes following last year's excellent run in the competition, with a tough test against strong opposition from Essex. Unfortunately, it wasn't to be their day as they were beaten by their opponents who ran out comfortable winners. The U12A and B teams were in action on Wednesday with 28 students travelling to Roundwood Park for their district league matches. There were plenty of positives with the B team running out comfortable 3-1 winners with some excellent goals and teamwork on display. However, on the other pitch, Roundwood's goalkeeper for the A team earned her player of the match award with a string of saves to deny STAGS any joy and lead her team to a 7-2 victory over STAGS A. Well done to all for representing the school so brilliantly.



Netball

The U14 netball team came up against The Abbey on Wednesday in the second round of the 'Sisters N Sport' competition. Building on the momentum of a dominant first round victory, the team

anticipated a challenging fixture. STAGS started strong, demonstrating great tenacity in the opening quarter to take an early lead. The Abbey settled in the second quarter, bringing the score back to 16-16 by half time. A change in position allowed STAGS to excel and build a six goal advantage in the third quarter. Despite an intense final quarter where The Abbey closed the gap to just one goal, STAGS held firm under pressure to secure a hard fought 28-27 victory. Well done to Ella, the opposition's player of the match; Orla, the player's player of the match; and Ellie and Emilia, Miss Alder's players of the match. A huge effort from the whole team including Sofia, Amber, Marni and Amelie from Year 9. As well as STAGS' Year 8s, Evelyn-Antonia and Tiggy, who seamlessly blend into our U14 team. This hard fought win earns STAGS a well-deserved place in the next round! Congratulations to all who played!

Cross-Country

It was a very exciting week for our Year 7 and 8 cross country runners this week. It is the first time we have entered the cross country national cup at STAGS! The 6 students who participated had to complete a 2.3km distanced course with varying terrains in the county round of the competition. All students did a fantastic job, with a special mention to Martha who placed second in the race. Overall, the team did a great job placing fourth in the county narrowly missing out in the regional stage of the competition.

Biology Week

Students have been exploring the wonderful world of life sciences as part of Biology Week. Key Stage 3 and 4 students have tested their biological knowledge by taking part in quizzes and exploring careers in Biology. Year 12 Biologists have demonstrated their creative prowess by constructing 3D models along the theme of Biology. The Science team said that they were stunned by their efforts. Mrs Urgo, one of the Biology technicians,

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also shared some of her experiences of working at the world famous Wellcome Sanger Institute through an illuminating presentation and Q&A session. We were delighted that so many students took the opportunity to attend and actively participate in the session.



STAGS Film Festival 2026

STAGS buzzed with cinematic excitement this week as we celebrated our second annual film festival. The event brought a mix of friendly competition and creative inspiration, kicking off with a film quotation treasure hunt alongside form time quizzes that tested everyone's film trivia knowledge. Short film screenings took place every lunchtime and showcased diverse storytelling through short films created both professionally and by STAGS A-level students. A highlight of the celebrations were a special visit from local filmmaker, Jevan Chowdhury, who shared invaluable behind-the-scenes insights and inspired our budding directors, making this year's festival an unforgettable success.



Year 7 Information Evening

On Wednesday, we welcomed parents and carers of Year 7 students who joined us in the restaurant for welcome drinks with the PTA followed by a series of short informative presentations in the hall. Families then heard about the fundraising activities of the PTA and how they can be involved. Miss Holland, Mr Hughes and Mr Harris then joined me on stage to share key information about STAGS Values, the Year 7 curriculum and the support structures in place for students. After this, parents and carers were invited to their child's form rooms to hear a little more about the student experience directly from the Year 7 pastoral team. Following the Year 7 Transition Picnic and Sleepover earlier in the term, it was a pleasure to again meet with STAGS families whilst they got to know one another and the teachers that their children will be seeing each day throughout Year 7 and beyond.

Year 11 Revision Workshop

This week, all Year 11 students actively took part in a Memory & Recall workshop that focused on ways to improve recall strategies and find the balance in examination preparation between revision and their wellbeing. Students were encouraged to create a home timetable that embedded rest breaks alongside time dedicated for their subjects. The Curriculum Leaders for Maths, English and Science provided useful information as well as effective strategies for recall in their subject areas. Miss Haria also launched a loyalty card for students, to encourage them to elevate their outcomes. Stamps on the loyalty card can be redeemed when they positively engage in a lunchtime study support session throughout this academic year. We look forward to seeing how our Year 11s utilise these resources and advice in the lead up to the November mocks and GCSE examinations thereafter.



SSLT Conference

On Thursday morning, our incoming and outgoing Senior Student Leadership Teams (SSLT) gathered for an inspiring Leadership Conference organised by Mr Tansley. The morning kicked off with a joint networking breakfast in the restaurant after which I was honoured to be invited to give a short keynote on the legacy of leadership at STAGS where I referred to this quote from Benjamin Crooks: 'If you think you are leading and you turn around and nobody is following, you are just taking a walk'. The current and future leaders then collaborated to reflect on the past year and hand over key roles and responsibilities. The incoming SSLT spent the remainder of the morning putting together their action plans for the upcoming academic year. We are incredibly proud of the outgoing team for their dedicated service and look forward to seeing the new student leaders shape the year ahead! (See picture on front page)



Macbeth

Congratulations to Martha who has been cast for the role of Young Macduff in OVO Theatre Company's upcoming production of Macbeth! Her incredible theatrical debut was also featured in this recent news article on [BBC News](#). STAGS is extremely proud of Martha's achievement as she prepares for an exciting run of performances from 15 October to 8 November and we wish her the very best of luck on stage!



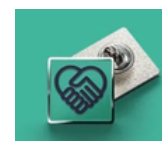
Fundraising for Macmillan Cancer Support

A huge well done to Skyla, who did a fantastic job of running a plant sale. Supported by Rosie - they have raised an incredible £800 for Macmillan Cancer Support. The funds have been donated directly to the Macmillan Centre at The Lister Hospital Centre, where they will help build a new therapeutic garden for patients. This achievement is a reflection of Skyla and Rosie's kindness and community spirit - a huge well done and congratulations to them both.



Acts of Kindness & Diana Award

This week marked the launch of our first Acts of Kindness nominations of the academic year. Each half term, students are invited to nominate a peer for an Act of Kindness. This is an opportunity for students to celebrate one another across the STAGS community. Nominations will be randomly selected during celebration assembly and every student will receive their nomination card during form time to keep. We are also thrilled to win the Diana Award Inclusion Social Action Badge. A special thanks to Lottie, Maira and Taybah for their dedication and hard work in securing this amazing accolade!



District Foodbank - Thank You for Everyone's Donations!

Thank you to all STAGS families and staff for the wonderfully generous donations to the St Albans and District Foodbank. The team from the Foodbank has now collected all the contributions



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and they were extremely grateful for the overwhelming support and generosity from our school community. Thank you also to all our newly appointed Charity Leaders, including Izzah and Azra, for their support in organising the collection! (See photos below)

Year 8 Languages Ambassadors

The STAGS Year 8 Languages Ambassadors had the opportunity to promote their love for languages beyond our school community during two online sessions with Maple Primary School in the first two weeks of October. During the sessions, they took part in a French conversation with questions and answers establishing their first communication with Year 6 students and participated in a virtual Blooket competition. Winners on the podium won a small prize! Well done to all for their enthusiasm and involvement!



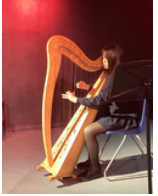
Year 7 Laser Club

Brilliant Year 7 students in Design & Technology this week have demonstrated problem solving skills while diving into 3D modeling on Onshape and TechSoft Design! From untangling tricky dimensions and getting their heads around where to draw their ideas, they tested concepts, asked great questions and supported each other to resolve any technical issue. Seeing their confidence grow alongside their digital skills has been magical!

Music Enrichment

Year 10 musicians performed to their peers this week in a class concert. Every member of the GCSE class participated and we are so proud of the musicians they have become over the last few years. A group of these musicians also went to Jersey Farm Community centre to perform for the social club that meets on a Tuesday afternoon. After a varied concert including pieces like 'Can't help falling in love' by Elvis Presley, 'In Dreams' by Howard Shore from 'The Lord of the Rings' films and the challenging solo

violin piece, 'Meditation' by Massenet; the students were able to speak with members of our local community. Members of the audience were visibly moved by performances. Many thanks to all involved and to Mrs Mead for organising this amazing opportunity.



Wear it Pink

Join us in supporting Breast Cancer Awareness during the week of 19 October. Throughout the week, our Charity Captains will be running a stall in the foyer at lunchtimes selling pink ribbons for £1 (payable via card at the stall or online through Gateway). The week culminates on Friday 23 October, when everyone is invited to show their support by wearing ONE pink accessory. Students can purchase their accessory token at the foyer stall during the week or on Friday itself. Let's come together to raise money and awareness for a fantastic cause!

Parent & Carer Book Group

Another reminder that if you would like to join us for the Parent & Carer Book Group in the library on 18 November, the book will be 'London Falling' by Patrick Radden Keefe. All are most welcome.

Thank you so much to the amazing PTA who will be running this weekend's Pre-Loved Uniform Sale on Saturday.

Very best wishes to all for the weekend,



Paul Kershaw,
Headteacher



District Foodbank Collection!



DIARY DATES

**Monday 19 October**

Year 10 Parents Work Experience Drop In,
Online, 6-7pm

Thursday 22 October

Year 8 STAGS and Verulam Student Disco,
STAGS Main Hall, 6.30-8pm

Thursday 22 - Sunday 25 October

Year 10 & 12 Geography Naples Trips

Friday 23 October

Fireworks Festival, Verulam School, 6-9pm

Monday 26 - Friday 30 October

Half Term

Tuesday 3 November

PTA Meeting, Staff Room, 6.30-7.45

Thursday 12 November

Sixth Form Open Evening, Main Hall,
6-8pm

Wednesday 18 November

Parent & Carer Book Group, Library,
6-7.30pm

Sunday 22 November

Winter Fair, 12-3pm

Wednesday 25 November

Year 9 Parents & Carers Consultation
Evening, Online, 4-7pm

Friday 27 November

Occasional Day, School Closed to
Students

[Click here](#) to view this week's Online Safety Top Tip about 'Parental controls - Navigating the need'

[Click here](#) to sign into the National Online Safety site to view 'Online Gaming: Moving from Policing to Parenting' or [here to view the PDF](#).

[Click here](#) to view the PSHE, Personal Development and Step Up Scheme of Learning

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Linkedin.com/schools/st-albans-girls'-school

PTA NEWS



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

Save the Date: Upcoming Events Next Term

- Sat 17 Oct: Pre-Loved Uniform Sale, Main Hall, 1:30-3pm
- Fri 23 Oct: Verulam Fireworks Festival, 6-9pm
- Tues 3 Nov: PTA Meeting, Staff Room, 6:30-7:45pm
- Sun 22 Nov: Winter Fair, 12-3pm

STAGS WINTER FAIR: SUNDAY 22 NOVEMBER 12-3pm

We are really excited to welcome all parents, carers, and families to our annual Winter Fair on Sunday 22 November!

Please come along and support the School, the PTA and the Student House Charity competition.

- Try your luck at the PTA Tombolas & Games
- Support your student on their House Charity Games stall
- Browse our wonderful craft market and stock up on beautiful Christmas gifts
- Enjoy hot & cold drinks and snacks at the PTA Festive Café
- Enter the PTA Grand Draw for a chance to win fabulous prizes



HOW YOU CAN HELP

- We always need volunteers at events, meetings and on the committee. Please [sign-up here](#) to signal your interest.
- Making a regular donation to the STAGS School Fund supports a vital source of fundraising - [find out more and sign-up here](#) (with Gift Aid if you can).
- You can also help by online shopping via [Easyfundraising](#), entering the [Lottery](#), and making donations through School Gateway.

Every contribution, however small, makes a huge difference. Thank you.

PTA NEWS



Pre-Loved Uniform Sale – Saturday 17 October

STAGS
PTA PRE LOVED
UNIFORM SALE

SATURDAY 17 OCTOBER, 1.30-3PM,
SCHOOL HALL

BLAZER £11	PE HOODIE £12
SKIRT £6	PE TOP £8
JUMPER £5	PE SKORT/SHORTS £6
TROUSERS £3	PE LEGGINGS £6
BLOUSE £2	

CASH AND CARD PAYMENTS ACCEPTED

ALL PROCEEDS GOING TOWARDS THE STAGS
BATHROOM REFRESH PROJECT

PLEASE NOTE: WE CAN'T GUARANTEE WHICH ITEMS AND SIZES WILL BE AVAILABLE ON THE DAY AS THIS IS DEPENDENT ON DONATIONS

Join us on Saturday 17 October to stock-up on a range of uniform at massively reduced prices.

Open from 1:30 to 3pm, the main hall will be full of rails and tables of clothes and PE equipment, with payment accepted by card or cash.

We still need donations to ensure a good range of sizes and stock. These can be sent in with your student or dropped at School Reception every school day between 10am and 2pm. If you can't get to school, we may be able to arrange collection, please contact stagspta@gmail.com.

Verulam Fireworks Festival - Friday 23 October

FIREWORKS
FESTIVAL 2026

FRIDAY 23RD OCTOBER
6PM-9PM
FIREWORKS AT 7.30PM
TOTALLY MUD FREE ZONE!

Verulam School Sports Ground
Sandpit Lane, St Albans, AL4 0BX

NO PARKING ON SITE
Disabled parking only. **MUST be pre-booked**

Enjoy epic street food, bars with mulled wine, a live DJ, candy floss and breathtaking fireworks set to music!

TICKETS
Under 5s: **FREE**
5-15 year olds: **£6**
Adults: **£10**
Family: **£30**
2 adults, up to 3 children
Prices higher on the day

We are delighted to partner again with Verulam PTA on their spectacular Fireworks Festival on Friday 23 October.

With street food stalls, bars with mulled wine, a live DJ, candy floss and breath-taking fireworks set to music, it's always a great night for the family.

Every ticket sold through our dedicated booking link raises money for our school, so please book now: [Click Here](#)



BOOK
HERE!

tinyurl.com/Stags2026

A massive THANK YOU
to our Sponsors!



Supported by: ST ALBANS CITY COUNCIL

HOW YOU CAN HELP

- We always need volunteers at events, meetings and on the committee. Please [sign-up here](#) to signal your interest.
- Making a regular donation to the STAGS School Fund supports a vital source of fundraising - [find out more and sign-up here](#) (with Gift Aid if you can).
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NOTICES



Newsletter

October 2026

Sportsman of the Year!

Our wonderful Trustee, Haydar, cycled from Land's End to John O'Groats recently, raising over £2,400 for the foodbank.

An amazing achievement Haydar, well done and thank you so much!



Emily's Story

Emily is a local Mum who started coming to the foodbank when she couldn't afford food for her family. She had been skipping meals, so that her children could eat. She had little confidence, often not leaving the house.

When she first visited the foodbank, she felt nervous and ashamed. But these feelings soon went, with the help and encouragement of the volunteers. Regularly coming to the foodbank has been a lifeline for her.

It's not just the food – it's the company, the reason to leave the house, the routine. The food parcel meant she had one less thing to worry about. And then she grew in confidence. She was ready to start planning for the future.

Our Wellbeing Team at the foodbank worked closely with Emily, helping her with a college application. She got a place, completed her course...and is now applying for jobs!

Walking through the door of the foodbank was the first step towards stability, and to a life she wants.

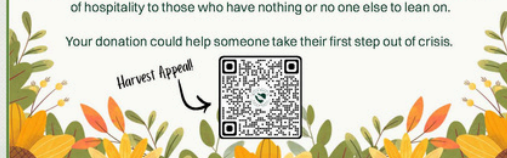
"The foodbank has given me the confidence to do things I never thought I'd do. I really don't think I would have gone to college if the foodbank hadn't helped me."

We need your help this Harvest

Donations have dropped. But the number of people needing to use our foodbanks remains high. In 2025 over 13,000 food parcels were given out. Almost 40% of these went to local children. Last year there were over 600 new households referred to the foodbank for support.

This Harvest, we are reaching out to the local community to ask for your support. Any way you can help - from food or financial donations, sharing the appeal with friends and family, or volunteering - will make a big difference to the local people accessing the foodbank - your neighbours. Help us to keep providing the warmth of hospitality to those who have nothing or no one else to lean on.

Your donation could help someone take their first step out of crisis.



What £24 could buy for a local individual

The people that visit our foodbanks receive cupboard staples like pasta, beans and soups, along with fresh fruit and vegetables, eggs, bread, sweet treats, hygiene items and household essentials. We also provide nappies, pet food and baby food.



But we rely on kind donations, to be able to do this. A £24 donation could provide everything here. And a regular donation helps us plan ahead and respond quickly to rising demand.

Thank you!

Donate Food



Donate Money



www.stalbansdistrict.foodbank.org.uk

01727 613019

info@stalbansdistrict.foodbank.org.uk

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

[@st_a_and_dist_foodbank](https://www.instagram.com/st_a_and_dist_foodbank)

[st-albans-foodbank](https://www.linkedin.com/company/st-albans-foodbank)

St Albans & District Foodbank

We are open for food collection at the following times and locations:

St Albans

Verso Care, 7 Brick Knoll Park, AL1 5UG - Monday 10:00-12:00
Christ Church, 3 High Oaks, AL3 6DJ - Tuesday 1:00-3:00

Cottonmill Community Centre, Old Oak, Cottonmill Lane, AL1 2EF - Wednesday 1:00-3:00

Jubilee Centre, 10-12 Catherine Street, St Albans, AL3 5BU - Saturday 10:00-12:00

London Colney

Caledon Community Centre, Caledon Road, London Colney, AL2 1PU - Friday 10:00-12:00

Frogmore and Markyate (alternating Wednesdays)

Holy Trinity Church, 37 Frogmore, St Albans, AL2 2JU - Wednesday 11:30-1:00

St John's Church, Markyate, AL3 8PY - Wednesday 11:30-1:00

Wheathampstead

The Memorial Hall, Marford Road, AL4 8AY - Thursday 11:30 - 1:30

Harpenden

Crabtree Church, 139 Crabtree Lane, Harpenden, AL5 5RD - Friday 1:00-3:00

Redbourn

Redbourn Parish Centre, The Park, Redbourn, AL3 7LR - Monday 2:00-3:30

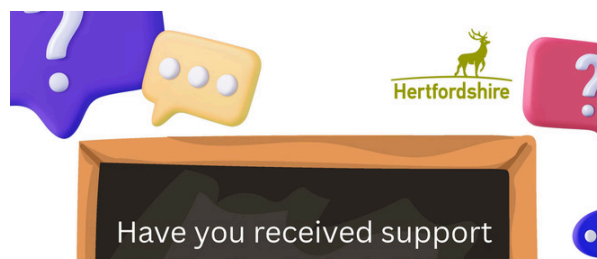
For more information please do one of the following:

Call: 01727 613019 - option 1

Email: info@stalbansdistrict.foodbank.org.uk

Visit www.stalbansdistrict.foodbank.org.uk

Charity Number: 1158917



Have you received support from Hertfordshire's Children and Young People's Mental Health Services in the last 12 months?

We are asking young people, parents and carers to share your views and experiences.



**HH
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COMPLETE SURVEY

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NOTICES



Hertfordshire County Council is running a consultation on the proposed admissions arrangements for the school year 2028/29 and is seeking responses from parent/carers, schools and community groups.

The proposed changes are:

1. To reduce the published admission number (PAN) at five community primary schools.
2. Retain the remainder of the county council's existing admission arrangements for 2028/29, including PANs, Relevant Areas and schemes of coordination.

The consultation period runs until 22 November 2026. Please [click here](#) for more information and to respond online.

School Admissions Consultation 2028/29

The consultation on Hertfordshire County Council's school admission arrangements for 2028/29 is open until 22 November 2026.

The county council proposes to:

- Reduce the published admission number (PAN) at 5 primary schools for 2028/29.
- Retain the remainder of the County Council's existing admission arrangements, including PANs, Relevant Areas and schemes of coordination.

Please note that for the 2027/28 and 2028/29 processes we amended our address definition following changes to legislation

Go to www.hertfordshire.gov.uk/admissions2028 for more information about the consultation and to respond online.

***Have
your
say***



Consultations are also taking place on the admission arrangements for some schools and academies that are responsible for their own admissions.

You can also view the proposals for these schools at www.hertfordshire.gov.uk/admissions2028

