



STAGS LINK



www.stags.herts.sch.uk
Students Absence Line – 01727 846430

Volume 14 Issue 31

18th May, 2009

Dear Parents/Carers,

This week I have lots of good news to share with you about students.

First of all congratulations to Victoria Fisher in year 8. Victoria swims for the Hertfordshire county team in the eastern division and is representing the county and the school in an inter county gala on May 15th. As well as that she has recently gained 3 gold medals at the Watford Swimming Club Open meet and best of all secured a National Time for her age group in the 100m backstroke. This means that she will now swim in the ASA national Championships on July 25th. We wish her every success in this event and who knows we may have an Olympic star in the making!

Recently three girls, Rosie MacLeod - 9S, Samantha Williamson - 10B and Evie Cunliffe - 9A, performed as part of a group in the "Energy of Dance" competition, through their drama school and won the trophy! They had practised long and hard for this and the dance and their costumes were very innovative so the win was well deserved. Many congratulations to these girls who clearly work hard even out of school hours.

We are immensely impressed too by the STAGS horse riding team who continue to represent the school in a number of events. Mrs Murphy writes with pride of their achievements (see below) and I thank them and all of their very supportive parents for taking them many miles in order to compete. We are proud that they are keen to represent the school in this way.

And finally the local co-ordinator for the Extended Schools project wrote to me recently: 'I just wanted to let you know that the Extras launch was very successful on Friday. We were very lucky to have Asian Fusion performing from STAGS who were three of your girls – Ranjot (Rayna) Nandhra, Shilpi Begum and Farzana Begum. These girls helped me incredibly by offering their time to rehearsals and the launch as well as being completely pleasant, lovely people and they are a credit to your school. Their performance gave the launch a 'wow' factor and the audience was very impressed which is great for STAGS too.'

What a wonderful e-mail to receive and how proud I am of these girls and all the others who are such good ambassadors for the school. Well done all of you.

Mrs C Murrell
Headteacher

SKI TRIP 2010

The Ski Trip to France for the Easter half term 2010 (2nd to 10th April) still has places available. The trip is offered to girls in Year 10-12 (Present Year 9, 10 & 11). The total cost of the trip is expected to be around £750 per student. If you would like to register your interest please contact Miss Cripps or Miss Levy by the 20th May for more details.

Miss Cripps and Miss Levy
Ski Trip Organisers

YEAR 13 REPORTS

Your daughter's year 13 final report will be sent home on Thursday 21st May.

Mrs G Lacey
Assessment Co-Ordinator

YEAR 9 & 10 TRIP TO SEE OTHELLO

'I think the turning was back there...'

Apart from this slight hiccup, the year 9 and 10 trip to see Othello, in Kingston on Friday 24th April was incredible.

After a very long drive from STAGS, a coach-full of girls entered the Rose Theatre, and almost caused minor chaos in a desperate attempt to find their seats before the show began, but soon everyone was settled, and two young men sauntered onto the stage, and began to converse in the magical words of Shakespeare.

The whole first half was gripping and intriguing. Lenny Henry himself played the lead of Othello in a way that had you glued to your seat from his first words. He owned the stage – which must have been pretty easy at his height, towering above every other actor! Lago, however, was terrifying. When surrounded by others, he was a charming gentlemen, but then they left, and he changed. His laugh was evil, and his eyes cold. All you could do was cower in your seat, he was THAT frightening.

After an hour and a half, the actors retreated backstage and the lights flared up. As fast as bullets, the girls hurried to the ice-cream stand, then spent fifteen minutes chatting about the play and getting hopelessly lost in the crowds. But then a voice rang out over the noise, and everyone filed back to their seats, ready for another hour of epic drama.

In the second half, things really got exciting. Othello shouted, his eyes wild and shoulders hunched. Lago schemed, and people died. When the final scene came, nobody dared move for the tension, and the horror in the eyes of the audience was obvious.

But then, all too soon, the dead rose, and the applause began. The actors bowed, and Lenny Henry chased his once secreted knife which had accidentally rolled off the stage after being dropped by the dying Othello, before they all filled backstage, and the theatre lit up.

We were soon back on the coach, racing home. By this time it was past 11, and people were dozed off, but you could still tell from everyone's sleepy eyes, that Othello was not to be soon forgotten.

Lizzie Corscaden, 9F

CHILDREN'S CHOICE- RED HOUSE CHILDREN'S BOOK AWARD

On Wednesday 29th April, six girls from Year 8 went with Mrs Wall and Mrs Coates-Smith (our librarians) to the New Barnfield Library in Hatfield. We discussed and voted for our favourite book with students from other Hertfordshire schools.

The first thing we did when we arrived was to listen to a talk from the author Sally Prue who lives in Hemel Hempstead. We then split into groups to discuss the three books that were on the Award's shortlist. They were: **Young Samurai: Way of the Warrior** by Chris Bradford ; **Broken Soup** by Jenny Valentine; and **Blood Ties** by Sophie Mackenzie. After hearing everyone's opinions we had a vote and concluded that **Blood Ties** was the best book. We then went back to school for lunch.



Emma Dovey, 8S

INTER SCHOOL SHOWJUMPING TEAM

I am delighted to report that the STAGS show jumping team had a very successful inter-school show at Potton on 10th May 2009.

A number of STAGS girls rode as individuals in the first class and Jodie Slany came 2nd on Amber Tiara and 6th on Maghery Blaze. Ellie Harriette in Year 7 did really well at her first show with the team and missed an 8th place by 4 seconds. It was an excellent result for her - as her pony is only 4 years old.

In the team event STAGS fielded a team consisting of the following:

Jodie Slany on Amber Tiara
Helena Murphy on Bobby Blue
Lucy Vaughan on Longdean Linaker
Jade Rossiter on Diamond Star II

The competition was fierce with 11 teams competing for various schools - and I am pleased to say that the STAGS team came 3rd overall.

Jodie Slany won 3rd prize for her fast double clear round on Amber Tiara and 7th prize for her round on her second pony in that class – Miss Loobie.

Other STAGS team members came to support including two new girls in the team, Laura Diath and Alicia Murphy. The team's lap of honour at full gallop was fun to watch!

Well done to everyone and a big thank you to all the families that took time out of their weekend to travel to the show and help out.

The team will be competing at other shows throughout the rest of the year and I am sure would welcome additional support from any other STAGS girls interested in horses. Further details will appear in STAGS link as soon as possible.

CONGRATULATIONS STAGS TEAM!

Cathy Murphy
Team Co-ordinator

THEORY CLUB

This club meets during the second half of Monday lunchtime. The purpose is primarily to give extra help to girls preparing for theory exams such as those set by the Associated Board. However, extra theory help can be given to anyone wishing to improve their understanding of this part of music. Exercises are marked with the student and further explanation given. It is not always necessary to attend every week but some regular attendance is invaluable. I should be happy to see your daughter.

G.W. Jones
Head of Music

EVENING CLASSES FOR ADULTS AT STAGS

We are continuing to offer computer classes twice a week for all adults as well as parents. The courses are provided in conjunction with Computer Friendly of St.Albans. Computer Friendly is a training organisation funded and managed by the charity St Albans and District Cafe Net. Cafe Net was founded in 2002 and aims to support appropriate individuals who would benefit from our unique style of learning. While most learners attend training courses in public venues, such as schools, the outreach programme assists those that need training in venues appropriate to their needs.

Free* Courses @ STAGS

Computing for Beginners

This introductory course consists of 6 sessions of 2 hrs and is designed for people with little or no experience of using a Personal Computer (PC). It explains, in non technical terms, the parts of a computer and some of the jargon used. Learners become familiar with both Mouse and Keyboard. The necessity for good housekeeping and saving your work will be explained and demonstrated.

Using MS Word TM learners will be introduced to basic word processing techniques. By the end of the course you will be able to produce and edit simple documents, change text styles, size, colour, underline, cut and paste and more.

Introduction to the Internet and Email

4 or 5 sessions of 2 hours each; designed for people who have some understanding of computers and can use a mouse and keyboard, or who have attended "Computing for Beginners" and want to gain an understanding of the Internet, email and the jargon used. You will practice using search engines to find information they want and will be introduced to a variety of web sites, internet shopping and the UK Online site, MyGuide.gov.uk. In addition you will set up an email address and send and receive emails.

To apply for a place please call Barbara on **020 3239 1559** or pick up an application form from the school reception.

***Free courses are subject to eligibility and some courses maybe subject to a small fee. Please check when you make an enquiry.**

**www.computerfriendly.org.uk
courses@computerfriendlystalbans.org.uk
020 3239 1559**



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15 May 2009

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NEXUS NEWS – STAGS LINK.

PARENT SUPPORT

For support and guidance don't forget to book an appointment or call the HELPLINE on **07984 436939**.



HALF TERM CAFÉ – THURSDAY, 28th MAY – For Children in Years 7, 8 and 9

Come and meet friends, chill out with others, enjoy games, quizzes, music, indoor sports, Wii games between 12.30 and 3.00pm. **FREE** entry and a **FREE** Hotdog (other food available to purchase). Marshalswick Baptist Church, 4 Sherwood Avenue (next to the Chinese at the Quadrant). Run by STEP.

DROP 'N DODGE –Holiday sessions for Children in Years 7, 8 and 9

Encourage your child to 'drop-in' and 'dodge the boredom' and learn a new sport! Nexus is working in partnership with Charters Health Club in Russet Drive, St Albans to offer fun sessions on Tuesday, Thursday and Friday afternoons between 2.00pm and 4.00pm. **For only £1.00** youngsters can use the wonderful facilities provided to include Dodgeball sessions at 3.00pm. For children aged 10-16 years. No need to book, just turn up and enjoy.

FIRST AID COURSE FOR TEENAGERS AND ADULTS

Due to popular demand, we are offering another four hour accredited course for young people who babysit or care for children. To be held on Saturday, 6th June 2009 from 9.30am-1.30pm at Fleetville Junior School. Cost £15.00 - to reserve a place please contact Jo.

MUMS BEHAVING MADLY! – Body Toning Course

For Mums and Children aged 9-14 years - Saturday mornings 11.30-12.30am at Charters Health Club. Dates: 20 June, 27 June, 4 July and 11 July. This course is an astounding £5.00 for Mums, children FREE so sign up now! To include Aerobics, Yoga/Pilates, Step and Toning. Call Jo to reserve a place.

IS YOUR CHILD BEING AFFECTED BY BULLYING?

If you want help in supporting your child and need someone to talk to in confidence we can help. Parentline Plus and Mediation Herts are supporting families in Herts affected by bullying. Call **01707 630101** if you have any concerns.

EXTRAS LAUNCH – A GREAT SUCCESS!

There were a large number of children and parents who enjoyed the launch of our new youth club. Thank you to the STAGS Bollywood dancers - Asian Fusion - who added a Wow factor to the event!





**For details of the above please contact Jo Maher on 01727 855134 or 07939 11152.
You can also visit our website: www.hertsexteredschools.org.uk/nestalbans**