



# STAGS LINK



Business &  
Enterprise

[www.stags.herts.sch.uk](http://www.stags.herts.sch.uk)  
Students Absence Line – 01727 846430

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Dear Parents/Carers

Well here we are at the end of yet another year! In those dark December months I did wonder if this time would ever come. At one stage it seemed a very long year but the last few weeks appear to have flown by. I know that everyone is tired, staff and girls alike and are looking forward to that well deserved break. However, before looking forward perhaps we spare a few moments to reflect on our achievements this year.

We began with a wonderful set of GCSE results - in fact the best this school has ever had and this did give everyone a tremendous lift to start the year. We continued with these high spirits with girls and staff giving several of the most inspirational productions which included Sweet Charity and Guys and Dolls. School concerts have continued unabated with more and more youngsters amazing us with their newly discovered talents and yet again the Carol Service in the Abbey was a real treat and provided us all with the right start to Christmas.

We have also been able to celebrate a number of other firsts (apart from our good results) this year we held our Sports Day at Westminster Lodge for the first time and although we need to tweak a few things for next year it was a definite success. We are also very proud to have had 2 of our girls on The Tall Ships Youth experience for the last 2 weeks. This was sponsored by HSBC and although we have had girls on this before this was not in my lifetime as Headteacher and so for me it was a very emotional first, to go and meet them as they sailed under Tower Bridge on Friday evening. For year 7s we have held the first ever activity days combining from different subjects across the curriculum, for example science and PE or Food technology and modern foreign languages. These days were very successful at helping girls to develop essential skills and will continue next year.

In addition to all of these activities we have of course continued to run our ever growing number of trips. Many staff run these in their own time and most have to do a lot of the admin themselves. This is in addition to teaching, planning lessons, attending parents' evenings and marking books.

Needless to say I am hugely grateful that they are so willing to extend these opportunities to our girls and I thank them for their continued hard work this year.

Sadly we also have to say 'goodbye' to some of our valued staff. Mr Ruxton stepped into the breach to take on a term's work teaching geography and we were very grateful for this at such a crucial time in the year. Mr McEnteggart (Media Studies) is moving on to further his own education by following a very prestigious course at university. He already has several qualifications but would really like to return to his work as a lecturer for graduate and post graduate students and we wish him well in his pursuit of this. He was a very welcome addition to the Media Studies department and many girls have been grateful to him for his support during this year.

Mr Warden (maths) has been with us for 2 years and is leaving in order to spend a little more time with his family although he will not be giving up work altogether. I know that his gentle

approach has been much appreciated by many students and he will be missed both in the classroom and in the maths faculty.

Mrs Little has been on Maternity leave for 11 months and not surprisingly has decided that she would like to spend quality time with her very young daughter. Who can blame her! She was an inspirational teacher of Geography and has been missed very much by her A level students in particular. We wish her well and hope to see her from time to time with her family. Mrs Campbell (food technology) is moving on to leafy Warwickshire to join her husband in his new post. We tried to persuade her to stay here and leave him up there by himself but to no avail! Mrs Campbell has been a breath of fresh air in the school and in her department and has helped and supported many girls through their courses. She has been instrumental in setting up the extra technology course in key stage 4 and is a whizz at using ICT in her lessons. Her year 11 form were devastated to find out she was leaving and they realise like we do what a loss she will be to the school. We wish her all the best as she starts out on this new part of her life.

The musical life of the school will be forever dented as we say goodbye to Miss Chipperfield AKA 'Miss Chips'. She is well named as she has carved a place in the hearts of everyone at STAGS, staff, students and parents alike! Her main aim has always been to provide what is right for the girls and she has done this in bucket loads. She has never failed to give 110% for every concert or production. She moves on up North and we wish her all the best in the future and thank her for what she has done for STAGS.....

...and finally after 8½ years at STAGS we bid farewell to Mrs Regan, Head of the Humanities Faculty and head of the Geography department. The humanities faculty is the largest in the school comprising at least 9 different departments. This has been a real challenge and one which has been achieved with calmness and professionalism. Mrs Regan has been an excellent role model not just for the girls but also for staff in school aspiring to leadership positions. She is a very clear thinker, plans well in advance and is always there to give extra time to girls and/or staff who need support or extra coaching. She has been sensitive to need and very caring in her approach. However, she feels the time has come to give some of that to her young family and her husband who perhaps have sometimes missed out in favour of school. We shall miss her sensible thinking as part of the middle leaders group in the school and hope that she returns to teaching at a later date.

To all of our leaving staff we say an extra 'thank you' and wish them all the very best for the future. I also hope that all staff, students and parents have a safe, healthy and restful break.

**Mrs C Murrell**  
**Headteacher**



**Beginners Spanish**  
**10 Week Adults' Course**  
**September Start**

classes held at  
**St Albans Girls' School**

***We use simple techniques to teach you the essential language structures so you can do more than just get by.***

- \* Mondays 7pm - 8pm**
- \* No lessons during school holidays**

For more information and start dates:  
**01727 841352**  
**info@headstartspanish.co.uk**

## **MUSIC REMISSION OF FEES**

Remission of Fees is available to parents on a low income.

Hertfordshire County Council has now extended the criteria to support those children who are vulnerable or disadvantaged for reasons other than income-based, for example, children looked after, young carers, children with special needs, young travellers.

You can apply online at [www.hertsdirect.org](http://www.hertsdirect.org) by completing a How Can We Help form or by telephoning the Customer Service Centre on **01438 737370**.

When applying, could you also please contact Mr Jones, Head of Music. All applications under the extended criteria will need to be supported by a letter from the Headteacher explaining why the child is eligible for help with music fees.

Please may I remind all parents/carers that you have to **reapply each year**. The Music Service is accepting applications now for lessons commencing in September 2009.

If Mr Jones is not notified that you have applied, there could be a delay in Remission of Fees being granted and lessons commencing.

***Mrs Val Little***  
***Finance Assistant***

## **REPORTS**

### **Year 10**

Examination results will be coming home via your daughter on Thursday 16<sup>th</sup> July.

### **Year 9**

You have already received the national curriculum teacher assessments for your daughter on her report. This week you will be receiving comparative data showing the number of students at each level and national data for 2008.

***Mrs G Lacey***  
***Assessment Co-ordinator***

Extended Schools



Linking Schools and the Community



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13 July 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**.



#### **EXTRAS YOUTH CLUB - New Year 7s**

Extras is a Nexus project which has run through the Summer Term. In the Autumn our Year 7 children will be able to attend on a Friday at Homewood URC Halls from 6.15-8.00pm. Please encourage your child to come along with friends and to make new friends. We have sports activities, music, relaxation and tuck on offer - come to chill and chat! Only £2.00 entrance. See you in September!



#### **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.

#### **INDIVIDUAL SUPPORT SESSIONS**

From September Nexus is offering sessions with our 'Children's Champion' to those children who are having difficulties with their lives. Schools will be able to refer pupils. However, if parents feel their child could benefit from this service please contact Jo Maher.

**For details of the above please contact Jo Maher on 01727 855134 or 07939 11152.**

**You can also visit our website: [www.hertsextendedschools.org.uk/nestalbans](http://www.hertsextendedschools.org.uk/nestalbans)**

## SCHOOL TERM AND HOLIDAY DATES FOR 2009/2010

### AUTUMN TERM 2009

Wednesday 2 September                      Training day  
Thursday 3 September                      Term begins

Monday 26 October – Friday 30 October      Half term

Friday 27 November                      Occasional day  
Friday 18 December                      Term ends

### SPRING TERM 2010

Monday 4<sup>th</sup> January                      Training day  
Tuesday 5<sup>th</sup> January                      Term begins

Monday 15 February – Friday 19 February      Half term

Wednesday 10 March                      Training day  
Thursday 1 April                      Term ends  
(NB Good Friday is 2 April)

### SUMMER TERM 2010

Monday 19 April                      Term begins  
Monday 3 May                      Bank holiday

Monday 31 May – Friday 04 June              Half term

Wednesday 21 July                      Term ends