



STAGS LINK



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

Volume 15 Issue 14

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Dear Parents/Carers,

No doubt like all of us at STAGS you are rushing around buying those last minute presents and making those last minute arrangements for the Christmas festivities.

Things here have been very hectic in many areas. Last week we were able to enjoy the superb acting we witnessed in the school play *The Good Soul of Szechuan*. This challenging play enabled a number of girls to show off their well honed acting skills as well as highlighting the skills of the directors Allan Hart and Rebecca Khan.

On Friday many of us were able to take part in a beautiful Carol Service in the Abbey with splendid music and singing from all of the choirs. The singing was befitting such beautiful surroundings and paid testament to the teaching of the staff Mr Jones and Miss Eddy and the talents and commitment of the girls. The girls (and Mrs Wesley) who did the readings perfectly complemented the singing and were of an even higher standard than in previous years. Many thanks to Mrs Buckley from the MFL department, who trained and rehearsed them.

Sadly as the term draws to a close we have to say goodbye to some members of staff. This term we say goodbye to Mr Silverton who has worked in the Design Technology Department for the last year. He has been a real asset bringing new ideas to the subject and running clubs in his own time. He will be greatly missed and we wish him all the best. We also say goodbye to Jo Ee one of our science technicians and one time senior technician. Jo has been with the school for 7 years and has been hugely valued by the Science department and particularly the Physics department where he was much admired for his ability to mend things and to devise new pieces of apparatus to accomplish the desired end result. Jo is retiring and hoping to travel and we wish him a happy retirement and safe journeys.

Mrs Pfistermuller first worked at STAGS as a full time RE teacher in 1966 when it was a Grammar School. In 1972 she left the school taking time to have a family before returning to us (again as a full time RE teacher) in 1988. So all told she has been with us for 27 years! Not surprising that she has decided to retire at Christmas! Hopefully she will be able to have a well deserved rest and help to take care of her grandson which I know she is very much looking forward to although perhaps she won't get much of a rest!

Many of our girls and our 'old girls' will have been taught by Mrs Pfistermuller and will remember her as a very knowledgeable and highly skilled teacher who always conducted herself with the utmost professionalism. She has always shown enormous care for every one of her students whether it is in the concern she shows when they have a problem, the reports she writes in such detail or the very supportive UCAS references she has provided for 6th form students. Our very best wishes go with her as she begins her retirement.

And last but very certainly not least we sadly say 'au revoir' to Mrs Margaret Wesley who has been a teacher and Deputy Headteacher for over 25 years at STAGS. She joined the school in

September 1984 and when I look back at what she has given to the school I have to say 'what has she not given?'

As Deputy Head to Miss Brown, Mrs Booth and me, Mrs Wesley has proven to be incredibly efficient and hard working. She was appointed to be in charge of pastoral care, Heads of Year and the house system. Whilst doing this she has also in her time at the school, taken on a vast number of additional and different roles including liaising with the Educational Welfare Officer, planning the school Carol Service, being a member of the Friends of Stags (PTA), Chairman of the Uniform Committee, a member of the Equal Opportunities committee and the Christmas Bazaar committee! She introduced the staff handbook, staff induction and the wider curriculum for 6th form girls. She has been known to be school caretaker and in conjunction with Mrs Booth, opened up the school and closed it again every day for several months when the school had no one else to do it. I believe that on one occasion she also had to deal with the boilers! One of her first jobs as a deputy was to take responsibility for Open Evening, a job which she has held to this day and one which she has refined each year until she now has it to perfection. In 1994 she wrote her first school timetable for STAGS and took over the running of the finances in line with the new Local Financial management for schools initiative. She was largely responsible for the school gaining Specialist School's status and even took the bid up to London to deliver it by hand to ensure its safe arrival. There aren't many things left in a school to do! So we owe a great debt of gratitude to Margaret for the things that she has put into place at STAGS over the years, which continue to be in place now and have helped to make STAGS the school it is.

She has been a staff governor throughout her career and her input into the Finance Committee and as 'keeper of the school budget' has been enormously valued. Likewise her efficiency in ensuring that all policies are completed on time and distributed, has been exceptional. The governors have already said their thanks to her but I think her commitment to the governing body should also be recognised publicly.

For me she has given the most tremendous support I could ever have wanted or needed, always being there with the much needed word of advice or the idea that I just could not think of. I shall miss her ability to make me laugh when I'm feeling down as well as the other wonderful qualities I have already mentioned.

I know she plans to spend some quality time with her husband and to give even more of her time to her vast garden.

We wish her well in her retirement and trust that it will be a long and happy one.

To Margaret, to the staff who are leaving and to those who are staying I give my personal thanks for the hard work that you have all given to STAGS this term. Everyone is tired and there have been an unprecedented number of illnesses and family tragedies this term and yet you have struggled through trying to ensure that the girls get the best education possible. I am very grateful to you for this.

To all the girls and parents I thank you too for your continued support of the school and wish everyone a happy, safe and blessed Christmas and a healthy and joyous new year when it arrives.

Season's Greetings

Mrs C Murrell, Headteacher

Hannah Fearn, 13, a student in 9F is set for a busy and exciting two months. As part of Capital Arts Children's Choir, Hannah will be appearing in 'The Glory of Christmas. Hannah is part of 'Spirit'; the angelic voices of the Capital Arts Children's Choir and will be singing songs from the new album 'Be Still' at the Royal Albert Hall on December 16th.

The day after singing at the Royal Albert Hall, Hannah is flying to New York with 'Spirit' as part of its Diva A Cappella tour. SPIRIT will be in New York for a six day Christmas recital tour including a guest performance on the TV breakfast show, Good Morning America. With a professional style beyond their years the children are gaining a following both in the UK and in the USA. Their recently released album 'Be Still' has been described as 'magical and haunting'

'Spirit' also supports the Voice In A Million concert and Hannah will take centre stage with 'Spirit' who have agreed to perform three songs at the London O2 Arena on January 28th 2010. This is to support National Adoption Week to raise awareness and money for the British Association of Fostering and Adoption.

Hannah recently performed locally with Rare Productions, playing Princess Jasmine in 'Aladdin' at the Abbey Theatre, St. Albans and in February 2010 will be a principal dancer with Rare Productions 'Fame' at the Weston Auditorium, at the University of Hertfordshire's De Havilland Campus.

Congratulations Hannah and good luck in all that you do.

Mrs C Murrell, Headteacher

DEAR PARENTS/CARERS AND STUDENTS,

As you know the Governors have been interviewing for Headteacher at STAGS following Mrs Murrell's intention to retire in the summer.

We know from our rigorous three day process of interviews, exercises and presentations we have an outstanding candidate. Her name is Mrs Margaret Chapman and subject to the usual background checking procedures she will be in post from 1st September 2010.

***Claire Barnard
Chair of Governors***

**** REMINDER ****

The end of term is Friday 18th December 2009 at 12noon approx.

Students will be back to school on Tuesday 5th January 2010.

Please note that the 84 bus service is a scheduled route and therefore no changes can be made.

PTA – ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

The Annual General Meeting will take place on **Tuesday 26th January 2010** at 7.30pm at STAGS. All parents and staff are welcome.

Mr Doyle

YEAR 7 REPORTS

Year 7 progress reports will be sent home via your daughter on Thursday 17th December.

Mrs G Lacey
Assessment Co-ordinator

Beginners Spanish 10 Week Adults' Course

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**
- * Start date: January 11**
- * Limited places**

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