



# STAGS LINK



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Students Absence Line – 01727 846430

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Dear Parents/Carers,

This week it has been my very great pleasure to present over 30 Gold House Point certificates and next week I have even more to present including some of those very hard to get 'Diamond awards'. I know from my colleagues that a great number of Bronze and Silver certificates have also been presented. When talking to the girls about how they achieved their certificates they told me that as well as 'working hard' in a variety of subjects, the vast majority of them had house points for 'no consequences'. This gives us and the girls a real glow of pleasure to know that all their efforts to behave in the right way, complete work, and be punctual to lessons has paid off. These are great attributes that will stand them in good stead for any future training and/or employment. Well done to them all. We are very proud of you!

*Mrs C Murrell, Headteacher*

## REMINDER FOR PARENTS' OF YEAR 9 GIRLS

Tuesday 9<sup>th</sup> February is Year 9 parents' evening. Please encourage your daughter to book appointments with subject teachers.

I look forward to seeing you there.

*Catherine Levy, Pastoral Co-ordinator KS3*

## YEAR 8 REPORTS

Year 8 full progress reports will be sent home, via your daughter, on Thursday 11<sup>th</sup> February.

*Mrs G Lacey, Assessment Co-ordinator*

## WALKING TO AND FROM SCHOOL – Personal Safety

As students are travelling to and from school in relative darkness, I would like to remind parents of the need to discuss personal safety with students. Please advise students to have a reflective key ring or bag attachment on their school bags so they are easy to see, walk in well lit areas (preferably in pairs) and keep volume on MP3 players at a level where cars and environmental noises can be heard (possibly just using one earphone would help). Thank you for your support.

*Lyn Hamblin, Head of Pastoral Care*

## **POETRY WINNERS**

A number of our girls entered poetry competitions last term and had their poems published which is a great achievement.

They are:

Karla Simpson, Hazel Joce, Maya Claridge, Faye Griffiths, Pippa Bailey, Elise Parker, Holly George-Samuels and Carina Panchal from Year 8 and Angelina Williams in Year 10.

***Sue Raywood, Acting Head of English***

## **9B FUNDRAISER FOR THE SICK CHILDREN'S TRUST**

9B are working with a company called Fun Mats to raise money for our house charity, the Sick Children's Trust. This is an organisation that works to support the families of children in hospital. Students from STAGS will be offered the chance to design a coaster on special paper, which is then made into a quality product. Each coaster represents very good value for money at £2.25 each. Paper and order forms are available before half term, and orders will be collected the first week after half term. We do hope lots of students will participate and help to raise money for this valuable charity. Thank you.

***Mrs Fletcher and Dr Lawlor***



## **BOOK AMNESTY**

The English department were delighted recently to have two bundles of books returned from sixth form students. These books were from their GCSE English studies and had clearly been languishing under the girls' beds, literally for years! Can I appeal to any girls who have school books at home which they are not currently using, to please return them. It is very frustrating to spend our budget topping up sets of books which have gone missing.

Books can be left on the table in the English office and no questions will be asked!

Many thanks.

***Sue Raywood, Acting Head of English***

# AGM FOR THE PTA

The 2009 AGM for the PTA was held on Tuesday 26th January 2010. The full minutes are available, from either Tessa Cook the secretary of the PTA or myself, if you wish too see them. However we are detailing below the main points discussed and the Election of the Officers.

I introduced the meeting and informed those present that 2009 had been the most successful year in the history of the PTA. The masked ball was the major event which had been both a social and fundraising success. I specifically thanked Chris Murrell, our President, who would be standing down when she leaves her position at STAGS at the end of the summer term.

Tony Grant, our treasurer, then provided a financial report confirming a successful year with £22 000 received from parents Gift Aided donations and a further £8 000 raised at the PTA events. During the year the PTA donated amongst other things £10 000 for matched funding, the setup costs for Parentmail and the outside event notice board. At the current moment there is approximately £19 000 in the bank account including a tax rebate of £4 700 from the gift aid contributions. For this year we have agreed to donate £500 for the school council to spend at it's discretion (which will clearly be used for things the students really want and a new minibus.

Mrs Murrell then thanked the PTA for all the hard work and money raised and paid particular tribute to the masked ball and planting at the front entrance. She then thanked the PTA for their support and discussed matters relating to greater communication with the staff and parents.

John Doyle, the school representative on the PTA, thanked the PTA for the help at events such as open evening, year 12 evening, new year 7's evening and various school productions and events.

The formalities of the evening then took place with myself being re-elected as chairman, Tessa as secretary, Tony as treasurer and John as school representative.

The end of the evening was a question and answer session with informative answers mainly given by Mrs Murrell.

My thanks to those who attended and to all the committee members for their hard work during the year.

***Jerry Brooke  
Chairman***

# SPORTS NEWS



## Hockey

The year 8 hockey team have finally got their county cup campaign under way after all of the snow interruptions. Their season kicked off last week with a game against Parmiters. After conceding an early goal the STAGS girls regrouped and started to play more as a team, resulting in some consistent pressure on the Parmiters defence, however we were unable to go that one step further and force a shot on goal.

The second half started much the same as the first finished with some great stick and defensive work from Eleanor Stunt. This was supported by some great tackling by the teams captain Katy Leach. The girls continued to work hard and started to gel more as the game progressed, developing some impressive passing moves.

The game ended 4-0 a fairly complimentary score line for the visitors, there is much to be done in time for our next match against Queenswood, but there was also plenty to be pleased about. Well played girls!



## Basketball

The year 9 team ventured out for their first ever competitive games in the District Basketball Competition at Francis Bacon. The girls were drawn together after only a few weeks of basketball lessons and were very enthusiastic if not incredibly nervous. The tournament kicked off with a game against Beaumont, the girls played very well considering their lack of competitive experience and won the game 6-0. The second game was against Loreto and in this match our inexperience showed more as we were unable to cope and adapt to their tactics of keeping 2 players high in the key. We suffered quite a heavy loss in this game, but the girls were still high in spirits. Nicholas Breakspeare were our third opponents, again another team with an abundance of experience compared to our girls, but some great defending by Alison Liu and Rosa Whattley along with great build up and attacking play by Rhian O'Donnell and Maddy Tarling – Bell helped the girls to a 4-4 draw. Our final match was against Francis Bacon, the girls by this point were feeling the effects of such a fast, competitive sport, but carried on working hard and some great shooting by Karina Williams, Bella Brown and Tash Townsend helped the girls to a 12-0 win. Overall, the girls came 2<sup>nd</sup> which is a fantastic achievement given their experience in this sport and something for all of them to be proud of. More importantly it seems to have ignited a passion for the sport which I hope will continue. Congratulations to all of the girls who took part. A special mention however to Rhian O'Donnell and Maddy Tarling-Bell who were selected for the County U14 Development Squad! Congratulations!

The squad – Emily Pike, Tash Townsend, Alison Liu, Maddy Tarling-Bell, Rhian O'Donnell, Leah Burchell, Ana McCartney, Karina Williams, Rosa Whattley, Bella Brown.

**Miss Awad, Head of PE**