



# STAGS LINK



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

Volume 15 Issue 22

8<sup>th</sup> March, 2010

Dear Parents/Carers,

On Monday 1st March I was very privileged to be invited to co host the 'Breaking the Mould' Conference. This was organised by Lisa Buckingham, the editor of the Financial Mail on Sunday. The conference focus was on 'Women in Leadership' and many 6th form students and their careers' teachers or Heads of 6th form were treated to a day of inspirational women speakers, leaders in their own fields. The agenda included the CEO of IBM, the head of the Metropolitan Police, the head of the Fraud Squad, an air accident investigator, the lady who sold Confused.com, Haley Westonra (the international opera singer) and Margaret Mountford for the apprentice plus 2 apprentice winners and many many more.

Over 300 girls from all schools across the country were able to hear about the career aspirations of some of the most influential women in business.

The venue was in the wonderful Intercontinental Hotel in Park Lane and apart from the speeches, goodie bags and competitions, the food was spectacular!

I was very proud that the school's Chamber Choir was invited (for the second year running) to sing to the assembled audience at lunch time. There were at least 450 guests listening plus those exhibiting.

Comments from all were very complimentary and made me even more proud. Thank you to Mrs Argüelles for supporting the event and organising 6th form students to attend and to Mr Jones and the Chamber choir for their wonderful contribution.

*Mrs C Murrell, Headteacher*

## PTA

I would like to draw your attention to the flyer that is being sent out with this edition of Stagslink which is from the school's PTA (Friends of Stags). Please read it carefully and give real consideration to what they are asking.

Over the years the PTA has given to the school an amazing amount of money which has assisted us in buying significant resources for your daughters to use. Although the fairs and other events bring in substantial sums the most sizeable amount comes from parents who gift aid on a regular basis.

Sadly only a small proportion of parents have chosen this option. We recognise that many of you will be financially unable to support us in this way but there will be a number of you who possibly could but as yet have not got around to it. Like everywhere else our school budget will go less far next year, costs have risen and so effectively we are unlikely to be able to even have standstill budget without cutting out many of the things we need for your daughters' and sons' continued good education.

This, for us, is possibly the most difficult budget time we have had for a number of years and I am urging you to look closely and see if you can support the PTA through gift aiding just a small amount each month or through a one-off donation. We are particularly short of donors in years 9-13 and this is ironically where we will need to spend most of our money in the coming months. Some of this is due to the changes in exam requirements and some just to try to provide new resources for post 16 students and these are clearly in serious need of updating.

I don't like having to ask you to help in this way but the PTA cannot raise money by itself for all of the resources we need. If you can help we would be very grateful and so indeed will your sons and daughters both now and in the future.

Thank you

*Mrs C Murrell, Headteacher*

**\*\* REMINDER \*\***

Please remember that **Wednesday 10<sup>th</sup> March** is a Training Day and so the school will be **closed to students all day**. Thank you.

**YEAR 7 PARENTS' EVENING**

This is to remind Year 7 parents and students of the forthcoming Year 7 Parents' Evening on **Wednesday 17<sup>th</sup> March** from 4.30pm to 7.00pm.

Your daughter is responsible for booking appointments with teachers, so please ensure you discuss with her any teacher you particularly want or need to see. Subject teachers and form tutors will be available for appointments. Mrs Swanston, your daughter's Key Stage Co-ordinator will also be available during the evening, to discuss any other issues you may have.

*Mrs J Swanston*

**YEAR 13 PARENTS' EVENING**

A reminder to Year 13 parents that parents' evening is on **Thursday 11<sup>th</sup> March**, 4.30pm to 7.00pm.

Your daughter/son will be making appointments for you with subject teachers.

*Mrs Argüelles, Head of 6<sup>th</sup> Form*

**WHO WILL BE STRONG AND STAND WITH ME**

I am delighted that once again the school is supporting the combined events of Sports Relief and the London Marathon with a large fund raising effort for Whizz Kidz, to support the disabled and disadvantaged children who need our help.

There have been whole school assemblies on the theme of 'Who will be strong and stand with me' highlighting how much better things are when we work collectively together.

We run BECAUSE WE CAN and we support the children of Whizz Kidz because they cannot.

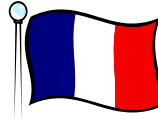
Together, collectively we can raise enough money to make a real difference to their lives. With this in mind the school has allowed a **non-uniform day on Friday 19<sup>th</sup> March** (Sports Relief Day) when the students will be asked to bring in £1 for non-uniform and £1 because they can.

Please support Whizz Kidz and please support those children whose lives we can truly change for the better.

Will you join in our crusade, who will be strong and stand with me?

With many thanks.

**Matthew Buckley**



## **YEAR 8 - LE TOUQUET - March 12<sup>th</sup>-14<sup>th</sup>**

**Final Reminder:** Girls should arrive at school by **7.00 am** on **Friday 12<sup>th</sup> March**, ready to leave by **7.15 am**. They must bring their **passport** to show staff as they get on the coach, **EHIC** to give in to staff and carry a **copy of each; packed lunch** for Friday and **swimming things** for those who are going to the pool. Would parents please park in the staff car park, not at the front of school.

**Mrs A Gardner, French Department**



## **ICELAND FIELDTRIP 2011**

We have had a huge response to the Iceland fieldtrip and we have more applicants than we have places for. Since we are unable to confirm places until Year 9's options for GCSE courses in September are confirmed at the end of this term, we are unable to tell parents or girls whether they will have a place on the fieldtrip. We are going to have to use the sorting hat to select participants.

We are sorry for keeping you on tenterhooks like this, but we will try to sort it out as soon as possible. In the meantime, we suggest you start – or continue – to save up, just in case!

**Miss J Barnes and Mrs J Jobson**

## **EXAM INVIGILATORS**

We have a very good team of exam invigilators working at STAGS. However, there are times when we need a few more invigilators and so are looking to increase our numbers for the summer exams. Previous experience of working in a school is useful but not essential as training will be given and there will be a session at school at the beginning of next term.

If you are interested in finding out more, please contact Mrs Jacky Jenkins at school and ask for an information sheet and application form. Interviews will be held on 26<sup>th</sup> March.

We are committed to the protection and safety of children and young people and all applicants will need to be CRB checked.

**M. Bigmore**  
**Examination Officer**  
**exams@stags.herts.sch.uk**

# SPORTS NEWS



## **Cross Country**

Saturday 6<sup>th</sup> February saw a group of STAGS cross country runners head to Verulamium Park for the annual Herts Schools Cross Country Championships, with a place in the Hertfordshire team for the English Schools Championships up for grabs.

It was a bitingly cold February morning and the ground underfoot was fairly heavy as a result of the recent snow and thaw. The first race was the Inters race which featured Laura Farrar, Meg Steer and Kat Butler making her Herts Schools debut. It was a tight race and keenly fought. The girls represented themselves and the school exceptionally well, Kat butler finished in 25<sup>th</sup> place, Meg Steer came home in 9<sup>th</sup> and Laura Farrar finished in 7<sup>th</sup> and earned herself a place in the Hertfordshire team.

The junior girls were up next with Pippa Bailey and Victoria Pritchard representing STAGS. Both girls again did exceptionally well and from a field of 84 girls Pippa came home in 38<sup>th</sup> place and Victoria finished in a fantastic 5<sup>th</sup> place.

Well done to all of the girls involved!



## **Hockey news**

The year 8 team have continued their county cup campaign with a game against Presdales School last Thursday. After a very long and bumpy journey to Wodson Park, we were greeted with pouring rain and very cold winds. The girls were quite clearly affected by the positions and found it difficult to get into any kind of rhythm during the game. The Presdales team had a very strong front line which put our defence and midfield under continued pressure throughout the game. Some fantastic saves from Hannah Forrester in goal kept the score line down, and we were 2-0 down at half time. The girls started the 2<sup>nd</sup> half much brighter and played some good hockey and kept their shape well to begin with. In the end the conditions and being 1 player short took its toll and the score line increased to flatter the opponents.

The girls have 1 more game left against Royal Masonic on Thursday.

The senior XI drew their County Cup campaign to a close away to Dame Alice Owens last Wednesday. The home team started much the brighter and were 1-0 up after only 5 minutes. This seemed to stir the STAGS girls into action and some great work down the right hand side between Leanne Welch, Ellen Barrow and Bethan Donaghey saw Leanne go close to levelling the game. The team continued to press the Owens defence but couldn't find a way through and finished the half 1-0 down. The 2<sup>nd</sup> half continued in much the same way and more good work by our midfield and forward line provided us with many opportunities to tie the game up. The STAGS team continued to press right up to the last seconds of the game and some desperate last ditch defending by the Owens team saw them cling on to a 1-0 win. We're hoping to round off the season with a 'friendly' against Sir John Lawes, as a swansong to Sabrina Jayaseelan and Rosie Fletcher who will be hanging up their STAGS hockey sticks after representing the school team for 7 years. Let's hope we end on a high!



## **Basketball news**

After the success of the Year 9 team at their basketball tournament it was time for the Year 11 team to take to the court last Thursday. The District tournament was held at Gosling Sports Park and after a frantic dash from Poetry Live the Year 11 team were keen to emulate the success of the 9's. First up was Sir John Lawes, there was some interesting shooting techniques on display from the STAGS team but they managed to beat their opponents 10 -4. Next up was Nicholas Breakspeare and the girls were able to defeat them by the same score line. The 3<sup>rd</sup> opponents, Loreto were to be the toughest competition and this was reflected in the very close 0-0 score line! Finally the girls took on Sandringham and got back to winning ways beating the 10-4 to be crowned District Champions! Well done to all the girls who took part, particularly to Lucy Mann, who despite her dubious shooting technique managed to net the basket to bring home the title!

The team – Alice Duff, Hayley Ladd, Lucy Mann, Francesca Miller, Beth Potts, Alix Smith.

***Miss Awad, Head of PE***



## **NETBALL NEWS!**

Last term the district held their annual trials to select an U15 District Netball Squad. Schools send their top players to compete for a space in the squad and with only 26 spaces and over 50 girls attending, competition was rife. Five of our girls succeeded making it through to the training squad. Congratulations to Izzy Utting, Frankie Bunting, Daniella Cheung, Katie Harrall and Louise Anstee. The girls have regularly attended training and Izzy, Katie and Frankie were recently selected to represent the district in the Inter-District tournament. The teams played extremely well with the B team having a clean sweep in their tournament making them outright winners. The A team had a tougher affair which at the end of the day saw them level on points with Broxbourne. This meant it went down to goal difference with the winning team scoring 2 goals more. After a nail biting, tension building speech from the organiser she finally announced that St Albans were the winners!!

Winners of the A and B tournament's is a fantastic achievement and I have been told that it hasn't been done since 1999.

Well done to all girls involved.

***Mrs Warner, District Netball Coach***

# **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.*



**French now available!**

- \* **Mondays**
- \* **10am-11am or 7pm-8pm**
- \* **Start date: April 26**
- \* **Limited places**

**Tel: 01727 841352**  
**07878440937**

**info@headstartspanish.co.uk**



(Friends of STAGS)

Registered Number: 278576

March 2010

## Stags School Fund Appeal

### To all Parents and Carers

As Stags parents we are all very privileged that our daughters have the benefit of attending such a high achieving school. The PTA (Parent Teacher Association) Committee currently consists of 20 parents who work with the school on your behalf raising funds for many projects around Stags. In the past 4 years we have raised and donated over £125,000, a lot of which has been spent on upgrading and improving ICT provision throughout the school. Although this is a lot of money it is a fraction of the overall school budget. Government funding is already very tight and is likely to reduce in the future. In order to provide the things that make the school a stimulating place to study we really need your help.

Some parents already donate very generously to Stags through the Gift Aided School Fund. Even if your daughter has already been at the school a couple of years, your contribution can still make a direct impact on her education. Although we take general direction from the senior staff, the PTA makes every endeavour to provide improvements that the students themselves request, will notice and make use of.

The 6<sup>th</sup> form facilities have been updated a few years ago but remain extremely cramped and under-resourced. One long-term major objective is to provide a separate 6<sup>th</sup> form block and even though the PTA would not be able to finance such a big project we could, with your help, provide substantial support to the school in greatly improving 6<sup>th</sup> form facilities.

Each year we raise approximately £20,000, including tax reclaim, from current School Fund donations for which the school is extremely grateful. However, this amount comes from only 140 donors - less than 1 year group of parents! If all year groups donated just think how much we could raise for Stags! In these dark economic times it may not be at the top of your list of priorities – but please give the school some thought and try to donate.

Donating is very easy and can be done as a monthly or annual standing order, or as a one off payment, for as much or as little as you can afford. Through Gift Aid, if you are a UK tax payer, we can claim back 28p on every £1 you donate. Please fill in the School Fund form sent with this email and return it to the school marked for the attention of Stags PTA.

Please give generously to your school. Thank you very much in anticipation.

For more information about the PTA please contact:-

Tessa Cook (Secretary)

[tessa@pecoint.com](mailto:tessa@pecoint.com)

Jerry Brooke (Chairman)

[jk.brooke@virgin.net](mailto:jk.brooke@virgin.net)

## **Summary of donations from Stags PTA 2005-2009**

**Seating and tables in 6th form common room**  
**Microwave & Fridge in 6th form common room**  
**Flooring in 6th form common room**  
**Lap tops, projectors and DVDs for the media resources department**  
**Carpet in library**  
**7 showcases**  
**Computer tables in music room**  
**Bookcases and cupboards**  
**Solar reflective film**  
**New RM network server for whole school**  
**Replacement of monitors in library with flatscreens**  
**Refurbishment and increased security of 1 set of toilets**  
**Multimedia equipment for LCD projectors**  
**New LCD projector and multimedia system**  
**Dropdown whiteboard for Maths dept (M7)**  
**Food mixers, processors, blenders and 1 tumble dryer for Food Technology**  
**Fund for School Council**  
**Multimedia equipment in 10 classrooms, new LCD's in 12 classrooms**  
**Installation of fully wireless network in school**  
**Computers in new Senco classrooms**  
**20 replacement chairs in Library**  
**6 Acer/Advent 17" computer monitors**  
**50 512mb PC memory cards**  
**10 Hannstar 19" multimedia computer monitors**  
**5 LCD 17" computer monitors**  
**6 acoustic solution sound systems**  
**Electronic classboard**  
**6 Sanyo projectors + installation**  
**Small office cupboards**  
**Picnic tables**  
**Events Board**  
**Parentmail**  
**Matched Funding for ICT equipment (network switch upgrade)**  
**Covered Eating Area**

**TOTAL £125,000**

STAGS PTA invite you to join our



With the   
**Candleford**  
Ceilidh Band

# Ceilidh

The Ultimate Barn Dance

Saturday 1<sup>st</sup> May

7.30pm to 11.30pm

Tickets £15 to include food plus cash bar—order form attached

Bring your friends and family for a great night – over 18's only

St Albans Girls' School, Sandridgebury Lane, St Albans AL3 6DB





STAGSPTA

## Ticket Order Form

Name		
Address		
Post code		
Telephone Numbers	Home	Mobile
Email address		
Daughter's Name & form	Name	Form
No. of tickets required	@ £15.00 per person	
Total enclosed £	Please make cheques payable to The Friends of Stags	
Please return form and payment in a clearly marked envelope to: Elaine Hoffman, STAGSPTA, C/O School Reception, St Albans Girls' School		

Please let us know if anyone in your party requires a vegetarian meal:

We will require \_\_\_\_\_ vegetarian meals.

## The Ultimate Barn Dance



With the

