



# STAGS LINK



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

Volume 15 Issue 30

17<sup>th</sup> May, 2010

Dear Parents/Carers,

When you receive this letter we shall just have said our final 'goodbyes' to year 11.

Their last 'proper' day in school was very memorable for all concerned! We were expecting them to give us a few surprises but not quite the organised and creative surprise that we got!! The school was turned into Hogwarts for the day, younger students were given application forms and uniform list for The Hogwarts Academy and the Humanities corridor was turned into the Chamber of Secrets. Students dressed up as witches and wizards and played (well tried to play) Quidditch on the field. Finally at lunch time after lunch in the Hogwarts Dining Room they sang to us all and played games. All activities went off without any untoward incidents – the girls knew the trip to Thorpe Park was at stake!

Year 11 now begin Study Leave, after Prize Afternoon on Monday 17<sup>th</sup> May. Year 12 also go on Study Leave to enable them to revise for AS level exams and a small number of year 10 students are taking GCSEs this year too.

We wish all of them the best of luck and encourage them to study and revise as much as they can. A few weeks of hard work can have a huge effect on the rest of your lives girls – so do your very best!

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

## **ATHLETICS NEWS**

Kate Jones 10J became the Herts County under 17 High Jump Champion last weekend with a pb of 1.6m. Meg Steer 10A also won and set a new championship 400m record.

Well done to both girls – a great achievement.

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

## **FRENCH STUDENTS NEEDING A HOME – CAN YOU HELP?**

On the evening of the 9<sup>th</sup> of July, 30 students from all over France will be coming to St Albans to study English. Paris based language school LEC ([www.lec.info](http://www.lec.info)), are urgently seeking host families to take 1 or 2 students and to assimilate them into English family life before they leave on the 22<sup>nd</sup> of July. The students will be attending classes Monday to Friday and will also be exploring London on Saturday 17<sup>th</sup> of July. Host families will be paid. If you have a spare bedroom and fancy practising your French, please call LEC Local Organiser Victoria on 07976 632889.

**Victoria Kelly**  
**LEC Local Organiser**

## **STAGS SWIMMING POOL ASSOCIATION**

STAGS outdoor heated Swimming pool is scheduled to re-open for the summer on Saturday 15<sup>th</sup> May at 2:30. This is the 50th anniversary of the pool built and financed by parents in 1960. For £35 a season this allows free swimming for the family at any of our 8 weekly sessions. Further and membership details can be found on our webpage at [www.stagsweb.org.uk/drupal/family\\_swimming\\_association](http://www.stagsweb.org.uk/drupal/family_swimming_association)

**Steve May**

## **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 2010. (Please note that Free School Meals will be automatically renewed if you are still eligible BUT you must reapply for your other benefits).

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**

## **FREE SCHOOL MEALS – ARE YOU ELIGIBLE?**

Just a reminder:

If you currently receive one of the following benefits:

- Income support or
- Income-based jobseeker's allowance or
- Income-related employment and support allowance or
- Pension credit (guarantee credit) or
- Child Tax Credit

You may also be eligible to receive Free School Meals and other educational benefits such as:

- Help with music fees
- Help with cycle training fees
- Help with transport

The system for applying for Free School Meals has changed and it is now much **easier to apply**. All you need to do is fill in your application form online or phone the Customer Service Centre and the rest will be done for you. Your application will be processed within 7 days.

If you are already receiving free school meals you do not have to take any further action.

**Less fuss, less bother and completely confidential, so why wait?** To apply log on to [www.hertsdirect.org](http://www.hertsdirect.org) or phone the Customer Service Centre on 01438 737370 or 01923 471370.

## **NEW CYCLE SHELTER**

Below is a photograph of our fantastic new cycle shelter alongside our original one. This was fully funded by Hertfordshire Highways.

As you know we are keen to encourage students and staff to cycle to school whenever possible and this new cycle shed and lockers will provide even better facilities to enable them to do this.

If your daughter would like to cycle to school please ask her to speak to Mr Lerwill. Before we agree to a student cycling to school we expect them to have passed at least their level 2 'Bikeability' course and they must agree to wear their cycle helmet throughout the journey to and from school.

***Mr Lerwill***  
***Support Services Manager***



# HOST FAMILIES

Needed

FOR FRENCH STUDENTS

Attending lessons all day at

THE QUAKER MEETING HOUSE,  
7 UPPER LATTIMORE ROAD,

9<sup>th</sup> - 22<sup>nd</sup> July 2010

Good rates of pay (£191 per student or £369 for 2  
students)



For more information telephone:

Victoria

on 07976 632 889

WWW.LEC.INFO

# Promoting a healthy, safe and green journey to school or college

Take five minutes to answer a few quick questions about how you travel to school and you could win one of four

**£25 Prizes**

Hertfordshire County Council wants to know more about your experiences of travelling to school. By taking part you will be helping us to understand things from **YOUR** point of view.

To take part, please visit

**[www.channelmogo.org](http://www.channelmogo.org)**

before Friday 9th July and click on the 'Take the survey' button. Please remember to provide your contact details if you wish to be entered into the prize draw.