



STAGS LINK



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

Volume 15 Issue 31

24th May, 2010

Dear Parents/Carers,

USE OF MOBILE PHONES

I am very concerned that students are abusing the privilege to have their mobile phones in school. I would like everyone to be clear that this is a privilege and that phones are not to be switched on or used during school time. Phones are allowed so that students can contact parents/carers in an emergency for health and safety reasons. There are a growing number of students using phones inappropriately, including to take photographs. This is against school regulations and the Data Protection Act. I will be speaking to all students about this and would ask that you as parents/carers support our stand on this to ensure that we protect both staff and students. As a final resort phones would have to be banned completely.

NEW MINIBUS FROM THE PTA

We were thrilled recently to receive a fantastic new minibus funded entirely by the PTA. The picture below shows the keys being handed over to me by Mr Jerry Brooke, the chair of the PTA, and Mrs Tessa Cook, the secretary of the PTA. As you can see the bus is silver and has the school crest on the sides. It not only looks very smart but will be used for many years to come to take students to all sorts of school functions and events such as sporting fixtures, school trips and music events.

The bus it will replace was 15 years old and definitely well past its best! We are very grateful to the PTA for all their hard work and dedication in organising fundraising events which enable them to provide the school with so many 'extras' that we would not otherwise be able to afford. Likewise we are very grateful to you for supporting these events. Please continue to come along or gift aid (forms available from Mr Doyle/Mr Lerwill in school or from PTA members) both of these will help us to buy much needed resources in these times of severe financial cuts.



Mrs C Murrell; Mr J Doyle; Mr P Lerwill

HANNAH FEARNs – 9F

Hannah Fearn is making performance history, as the O2 is hosting its first fully staged opera in May this year. Carmen, the world's most popular opera, will take over The O2 in May for just three performances, 21st, 22nd and 23rd. On the 23rd, Darius Campbell, winner of ITV 1's 'Pop Star to Opera Star' is making a special one-off appearance in a starring role.

"Bizet's masterpiece promises to be spectacular as from the very first note to the final tragic chords; this stunning in-the-round production vividly portrays the powerful story of lust, superstition and murder that passionately unravels with fatal consequences."

Carmen will be performed by a superb cast of over 200 performers, including dancers, acrobats and fire-eaters. Hannah is one of 20 children in the Children's Chorus, drawn from Capital Arts Children's Choir and is very excited to be part of this exciting production. Hannah is very grateful to the school for being given the opportunity to take part in this fabulous production. "The wonderful set and fabulous costumes will bring to life the dusty atmosphere of the town square, the cool night air of the smugglers' mountain hideout, and the colourful festivities outside of the bullring in Seville.

Accompanied by The Royal Philharmonic Orchestra and conducted by Gareth Hancock, this world class company of singers, musicians and artists will provide an unforgettable production of Bizet's Carmen, staged on an epic scale at The O2."

We wish Hannah real success in this and perhaps some of us will get the chance to see the performance!

***Mrs C Murrell
Headteacher***

HOST VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

Would your family enjoy introducing someone from another country to your way of life? There are international students from all over the world at universities in the UK: they speak English and most are in their 20's. They would love to spend a weekend sharing your family life in order to understand more about the UK. You could have fun introducing them to British food, customs, your local community and area; and you could learn about their country and culture. This is an opportunity to make friends across international boundaries. Geography comes alive, and afterwards, any news bulletin about your guest's country will have much more meaning.

HOST is a national charity, backed by the Foreign Office, which has been linking students with volunteer hosts for many years. See www.hostuk.org or call Sandra Purrett, the voluntary organiser for Hertfordshire, on 01296 681625.

***Margaret Stevens
Host 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 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 or phone the Customer Service Centre on 01438 737370 or 01923 471370.

FRENCH STUDENTS NEEDING A HOME – CAN YOU HELP?

On the evening of the 9th 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), are urgently seeking host families to take 1 or 2 students and to assimilate them into English family life before they leave on the 22nd of July. The students will be attending classes Monday to Friday and will also be exploring London on Saturday 17th 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

HOST FAMILIES

Needed

FOR FRENCH STUDENTS

Attending lessons all day at

THE QUAKER MEETING HOUSE,
7 UPPER LATTIMORE ROAD,

9th - 22nd July 2010

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



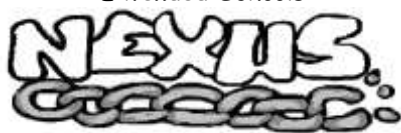
For more information telephone:

Victoria

on 07976 632 889

WWW.LEC.INFO

Extended Schools



Linking Schools and the Community



01727 855134



01727 811541

c/o Fleetville Junior School
228 Hatfield St. Albans
Herts
AL1 4LW

e-mail: jo.maher@fleetvillejm.herts.sch.uk

21st May 2010

e-mail: john.doyle@stags.herts.sch.uk and jacky.jenkins@stags.herts.sch.uk

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 runs on a Wednesday from 6.15-7.45pm. 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 £1.50 entrance. See you soon!



SUPPORTING PARENTS/CARERS OF CHILDREN WITH AN ADDITIONAL NEED

Drop in session for parents with Helena Marks, Parent Partnership will be available to discuss specific needs or concerns. Please call to confirm attendance (07984 436939).

HALF TERM CAFÉ – THURSDAY, 3rd June – For Young People in Years 7, 8, 9 and 10 (11-14 years old)

Come and meet friends, chill out with others, enjoy indoor sports, games, quizzes, music and Wii games between 12.30 and 3.00pm. **FREE** entry and a **FREE** Hotdog (other food available to purchase). Marshalswick Baptist Church, 4 Sherwood Avenue (next to the Chinese at the Quadrant). Run by STEP.

DROP 'N DODGE – HALF TERM EVENT - For Young People aged 10-15 years

Call in at Charters Health Club and enjoy two hours of activities of your choice. Every holiday on Tuesdays, Thursdays and Fridays between 2.00pm and 4.00pm with a Dodgeball game running at 3.00pm. **All this for an unbelievable cost of £1.00 per person!** Call Charters for more information on 01727 731540.

COME DINE WITH ME (Not Pot Noodle!) – For Teenagers in Years 11, 12 and 13

A new exciting project from Nexus for young people planning to live away from home. Cooking skills, shopping on a budget, looking after your health and body. The first course has been postponed and will now run in the Autumn Term. If you would like to persuade your teenager to sign up then contact Jo to reserve a place.

MEN BEHAVING DADLY! – Saturday, 26th June – Dads of pupils in Years 7 and 8

DRUM FUN EVENT - 10.00am-12.00pm. Come along and join in this musical session. Learn basic drum patterns, use an electronic drum kit and more..... To find out more call Jo – Dads £5.00, children free.

HERTS GOT TALENT !

Whether you're a singer, dancer, juggler or comedian we're looking for the very best talent Hertfordshire can offer. Open to individuals aged 5-105 years. Auditions Summer 2010 at The Forum – Call 01707 285000 or register at www.forumhertfordshire.co.uk

IS YOUR CHILD BEING AFFECTED BY BULLYING?

If you want help in supporting your child and need someone to talk to in confidence we can help. Parentline Plus and Mediation Herts are supporting families in Herts affected by bullying. Call **01707 630101** if you have any concerns.

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