



STAGS LINK



www.stags.herts.sch.uk

Students Absence Line – 01727 846430

Volume 15 Issue 32

7th June, 2010

Dear Parents/Carers,

FAREWELL TO YEAR 13

On Friday 28th May we said a final 'goodbye' to our year 13 students. This was sad for all of us and it brought it home to me how well I knew this year group and how much they had impressed me over the years. Apart from their amazing academic results at GCSE level (the best ever for the school) they have provided us with so many talented dancers, sportswomen, musicians, actors, debaters, Young Enterprise leaders and many other things that have pleased us and made us laugh! We celebrated their last day with staff and their long suffering Heads of Year, Mrs Argüelles and Mrs Rowley by sharing a delicious buffet meal together. This was prepared for us by our in house caterers Cucina and was of an excellent standard and a fitting farewell for the girls to mark their commitment to STAGS and their achievements whilst they have been here.

We wish them all the best for their futures whatever they do and for their exam results in August. I have reminded them that 'whatever they do they must ensure that they do their best as their best will always be good enough!'

I have great hopes for all of them and shall follow their progress with interest. Thank you to all of you who have helped to make my life at STAGS so enjoyable - you will be my last year 13s ever!

We also said goodbye to Ms Spares who has been providing teaching for us in the Business Studies Department whilst Mrs Glanvill has been on maternity leave. She worked exceptionally hard with senior students and without her expertise we would have really struggled. We wish her all the best as she returns to Canada.

MATHS SUCCESSES

We have just received the results of the Junior UK challenge, taken by years 7 and 8 top sets. As usual our results exceed the national averages and I would like to take this opportunity to congratulate all of the girls involved and to thank the staff who supported them through the tests.

10% of our students received a gold award (national is 6%)

31% of our students received a silver award (national is 14%)

31% of our students received a bronze award (national is 20%)

So overall, 72% of our students gained an award, compared to a national figure of 40%.

The students (all in year 8) receiving gold awards are as follows:

**Camilla Hoffman
Rachel Hoffman
Cora Smith
Corinne Morris
Maisie James**

***Mrs C Murrell
Headteacher***

UNIFORM RECYCLING

As we approach the end of the academic year, we would ask you to donate any uniform your daughter has grown out of that may be of use to others. As you will know, uniform purchase is an expense, especially at the start of year 7, so your donation could make a real difference. Any old uniform submitted for recycling should be dropped at reception for the attention of the pastoral team.

Many thanks for your support.

***Lyn Hamblin
Head of Pastoral Care***

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***

“GAZEBOS IN THE GARDEN” – WEDNESDAY 9TH JUNE 10.00AM-3.00PM

A parent of a year 10 student would like to make you all aware of a charity event being held on Wednesday 9th June, 10.00am-3.00pm at 32 Homewood Road, St. Albans, AL1 4BQ, with all proceeds to “Macmillan Cancer Support”.

There will be stalls including, handmade soaps, Italian handbags, ceramics, children’s clothes and accessories, jewellery, silk flower arrangements, jams, preserves, cakes, cards and tombola. Everyone is welcome to bring friends/family along. For those of you that like to bake and would like to donate a cake or biscuits etc, they would be very grateful to receive them. They will also be serving light lunches.

For further information, please see their website www.doingitforcharity.org.uk

***Mrs C Murrell
Headteacher***

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.

OPEN FARM SUNDAY – 13th JUNE 2010

Care about your food? We do!

Care about your food? We do! That's the message from local farmer Ian Pigott and farmers alike as they work together in preparation for Harpenden's fifth annual Open Farm Sunday.

Rain or shine, on Sunday 13th June from 11am – 3pm at Annables Farm, Kinsbourne Green, the community as well as people from further afield are encouraged to come out and meet the farmers who grow your food and see how they care for your countryside.

Open Farm Sunday is a national annual event organised by the charity LEAF (Linking Environment and Farming, www.leafuk.org) in which farmers up and down the country invite their neighbours to get a behind-the-scenes look at life on a farm and the nature it sustains. Last year, more than 440 farms opened their gates to over 120,000 members of the public which gave many their first farm experience.

Harpenden is fortunate to be home to so many farmers who are passionate about re-connecting people with food and farming and keen to support Open Farm Sunday every year. Pigott says, "This is a great day out and it's free! Not only can you be educated while having a good time, there's fresh air, wide open space and some beautiful views. Come and meet the farmers who want to share the good story of British Farming!"

At Annables Farm, there will be tractor and trailer rides, a nature trail to explore, big farm machines to climb into, real farmers to speak with, real animals to look at, games to play and arts and crafts for the little ones.

Visitors are welcome to either bring their own picnic or take advantage of the BBQ. *Farmer's Weekly* Beef Farmer of the Year 2008 finalist Bridget Borlase, a local and highly respected livestock producer, will be grilling meats from her quality-driven Bridget B's Traditional Meats range.

Admission to Open Farm Sunday is **FREE** and no advance booking is necessary.

Annables Farm is a working arable farm with a proportion of its hectareage devoted to organic production. It is also a LEAF demonstration farm.

Annables Farm is located on Common Lane, Kinsbourne Green. If travelling from Harpenden towards Luton on the A1081, turn left at the mini roundabout opposite The Green restaurant. The farm is on a sharp right hand bend about ¾ mile from the roundabout and will be well signposted. For those with satellite navigation, the postcode is AL5 3PR.

For more information, please contact:

Gillian Pigott

Tel: 01582 712 844 or Mob: 07967 364 787

gillianpigott@btconnect.com



Open Farm Sunday

13th June 2010

Visit a farm on Open Farm Sunday and discover the story behind our food. A day for everyone to meet the people who grow our food and care for our countryside.

where:

**Annables Farm
Kinsbourne Green
Harpenden, AL5 3PR**

time:

**11am - 3pm, FREE
rain or shine**

contact:

www.thralesend.co.uk

activities:

**Tractor and trailer rides
Real Farmers & animals!
Big farm machines
Nature & history trails
Activities for the Kids
Bridget B's traditional BBQ**



www.farmsunday.org

Posters printed courtesy of: **PRINT-FORCE.COM**

Open Farm Sunday is a national farm open day co-ordinated by LEAF

www.farmsunday.org tel: 024 7641 3911



Open Farm Sunday is supported by





MEN BEHAVING DADLY !



Drum Fun!

Dads/carers with children aged between 9 and 14 years

Saturday, 26th June 2010

Get yourself a mighty fine band!

Learn basic drum patterns, use an electronic drum kit
Name your band and create a logo for your Bass Drum

10am-11am

OR

11.15am – 12.15pm

Sandridge Primary, Woodcock Hill, St Albans



DADS
£5.00

Children
FREE

Extended Schools



Linking Schools and the Community

To reserve a place call Nexus on 07891
220250 or 01727 855134.

nexus@fleetvillejm.herts.sch.uk

www.hertsexendedschools.org.uk/nestalbans