



STAGS LINK



www.stags.herts.sch.uk

Students Absence Line – 01727 846430

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19th July, 2010

Dear Parents/Carers,

I cannot believe that we have finally arrived at the last week of the year. What an exciting and busy year it has been. Such a lot has been achieved by so many! Yet again we have had the most amazing productions and concerts, 6th form girls winning Gold Certificates for their part in the Engineering Education Scheme, huge numbers gaining gold and diamond certificates for House points, junior girls dancing for year 6 students in our primary schools, girls achieving excellent results in the National Maths Challenges competition and success in Horse riding events. Last week I was thrilled to attend the summer Concert. Traditionally this is one where the junior students get the opportunity to shine and this year was no exception in fact it was exceptional. I don't recall a concert where I have seen and heard so much new talent emerging. We always have new talent coming through at STAGs but this group seem to be the largest I can remember. The future of music looks very strong indeed.

Likewise the PE presentation evening on Wednesday. What a joy it was to present certificates, cups and medals to such a large number of students who clearly loved sport and had taken part in many matches and tournaments from an ever widening number of activities.

During the year all staff have worked hard to provide the girls with the structure and framework they need in order to succeed. This is especially so with years 11 and 13 and we are keeping our fingers crossed for some good results again this summer.

The pastoral guidance team has been very active providing extra time and sessions for students who were struggling with course work the opportunity to complete it. Attendance of a number of girls has improved because of the care and concern shown by staff and this means that the whole school attendance is now well above the national average.

Sadly at the end of every year we have to say 'farewell' to some staff. This year is no different as we say goodbye to Mr Acs who has been on supply in the Technology department for a 2 terms. Miss Lindores a teaching assistant who is also a drama teacher and is taking up a teaching post in a local school, Miss Allen a learning supervisor who is leaving to begin her training as a teacher, Mr Cooke part time teacher for science who is retiring and moving away from the area, Mrs Weber who has done a sterling job covering for the maternity leave of Mrs Mason in the English department and is moving on to a full time post also in a local school.

Mrs Caddy [also from the English department] who has worked in the school for 4 years and has been on maternity leave for a year will also be leaving us to join her husband in Catterick.

From the art department we say farewell to Mr Prothero who after 11 years is retiring and hoping to spend more time with his growing family.

All of these staff will be sadly missed both by students and staff alike. All are dedicated professionals and motivational teachers. I know that you will join with me in wishing them well for the future and thanking them for their contribution to the school.

We also need to say a huge than you to Mr Beardmore who, although not leaving the school, is stepping down after 10 Years as head of faculty. He will remain teaching full time which we are very grateful for as yet again he is a motivational and inspiring teacher who will work hard to ensure that students achieve the best outcome. We welcome to the school his replacement from Hornsey Girls' School Mr Charles Markou.

Thank you too to Mrs Raywood who has done a sterling job as acting Head of the English Faculty whilst Mrs Mason was on maternity leave. Mrs Mason has decided to come back as a part time teacher and so we now welcome a very new head of faculty for September- Miss Rachelle Regan In science we also welcome Miss Rachael Potter in science, Miss Sophie Goldthorpe In art, Miss Laura Reading in maths and an ex student Miss Laura Hicks doing work experience as a science technician before deciding on her next move- luckily she is considering teaching! Laura gained a first from Durham in chemistry and would be a most welcome addition to the profession.

I have taught in a number of schools in my career some longer than others and although they have all been memorable in their own way STAGS has been has been the most memorable for me. The girls here are so very talented and the staff so committed to supporting them.

Thank you all for the very kind messages and cards you have sent to me. I am looking forward to retirement and having some time to put my house and garden in order. I am proud and privileged to have been headteacher here at STAGS for the past 6 years.

The school has a wonderful new headteacher for September and I know will continue to move onward and upwards.

***Chris Murrell
Headteacher***

FAREWELL TO MRS MURRELL

At the end of this school year Mrs Murrell will be leaving STAGS after six years as our head teacher. During this time she has lead the school with amazing energy, commitment and enthusiasm. At all times she has had the best interests of the students at heart. They are the reason that she entered teaching in the first place and this remains her driving force.

Mrs Murrell has the unique ability of combining a very personal and caring style with a highly professional approach to all her work. Her vast knowledge of current educational initiatives and practices has meant that she has introduced changes and developments to the school to keep it up to date and able to provide the best education for our students.

She will be greatly missed by governors, staff and students and I would like to thank her, on behalf of us all, for all that she has done for STAGS and wish her well for a long and happy retirement.

***Paul Lerwill
Acting Deputy Head***

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***

WHERE IN THE WORLD DID YOU READ THAT?

Could you help us create our display board for Open Evening in October? We would like to gather together a collection of pictures of girls reading a book while they are on holiday – far flung or unusual locations would be particularly welcome. All your daughter has to do is choose a book to take away with her, all you have to do is photograph her.



We will be offering a prize for the most original picture. (No photographs in swimming costumes or bikinis please).

Many Thanks

***Anne Wall
Librarian***



NETBALL TRIUMPH FOR STAGS GIRLS

Five STAGS girls from Year 10 played for St Albans in the netball championships at the Hertfordshire Youth Games, the premier sports event for young people in Hertfordshire, on 26 June. The girls – Louise Anstee, Frankie Bunting, Katie Harrall, Kate Jones and Izzy Utting – played brilliantly and helped the team overcome all the opposition to win the Cup for St Albans and a Gold Medal each. The St Albans team, trained by Abbey Flyers Junior Netball Club, was runner-up in the championships for the previous two years, and this year the girls were determined to realise their dream of winning.

Congratulations!

Alison Maitland

The Comedy of Errors

The whole of year 8 went to see The Comedy of Errors by William Shakespeare at Regents Park on the 29th June, It is about a family who all get split up and reunited at the end. There is a mum and a dad and they have a set of twins who are both called Antipholus. They have two slaves who were born on the same day as them who are also twins and both called Dromio.

The stage was quite big and had doors, stairs and a window. At the back of the stage there was a big board which was very colourful. It was very light and not squashed or crowded but quite airy. It was very hot because the sun was very nearby. It was cooler on the shadier side which we weren't on. At the beginning it starts with the dad in handcuffs with the sergeants and he is explaining his life and how he ends up where he is. It is the prologue of the play. He was saying how he was on a boat and then lost all of his family.

I think the set was good because they had stairs, doors and a window. The board at the back was also very colourful. It was also good when they changed sets because they all ran on and they changed the chairs around and moved things to make room for the orchestra and other people. The costumes were also good and colourful and they helped you to work out who was who in the play. The costumes and set were also old fashioned and you could tell that because most people wouldn't wear things like that today.

I think that the actors were all very good because most of them could act happy, sad, angry, confused, worried and excited. I think that Adriana who was the wife of Antipholus could have been a bit more mean and angry. They were all very good at staying in role though.

One of my favourite moments of the play was when a gorilla came out and scared a girl sitting on the grass in the audience. Then the gorilla came on the stage and a lady stepped out of the gorilla and it was a costume. She started dancing as well. It was a bit random and weird but it was very funny. Another bit of the play that I really liked was when they were all on the beach and they were all doing different things but silently so that you could watch all of them at the same time. It worked amazingly and was extremely effective. I didn't really like the part of the play when they thought Antipholus was mad because he didn't know he had a wife because it was a bit strange and they were all hiding behind a cross. Also the beginning was a bit confusing for some people and not everyone could understand it.

The play ended with everyone in the family being reunited again and the dad found his wife. It was all very happy and both of the Antipholus's ended up with a wife as well.

The play was fantastic and hilarious. There were a lot of good actors and they acted really well. It was mostly how I expected it to be apart from the beginning because I didn't think they would miss out the part when they are on the boat at the beginning. It was also very confusing.

By Emily Ellis 8J

The calendar for the academic year September 2010 – July 2011 is now live on the school website www.stags.herts.sch.uk. Please click on calendar at the top of the page and choose from the drop down menu under “Agenda” which event you would like to view. All amendments and updates will be uploaded to this calendar on a weekly basis.

Full Calendar

Today ◀ ▶ **September 2010** ▼ Print Week **Month** Agenda ▼

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Friday	Saturday
29	30 Late Summer	31	Sep 1	2 Term begins Year 12 Enrol Year 13 in sch		
5	6 Year 12 induct Year 7 CATS t	7 Year 12 induct Year 7 CATS t	8 Year 12 lesson	9 Year 12 report		
12	13 Year 7 individu Year 9 individu	14 Year 12 Art vis Year 7 Mob ra	15	16 Year 13 report Year 11 Geog	17 Year 11 Geog	18
19	20	21 7pm Cunningha	22 PTA evening fo PTA evening fo	23 Year 10 Germ Year 11 indivic Year 9 Germar	24 Year 11 Geog	25 Year 10/11 Do Year 10/11 Do
26	27 Year 7 Geogra	28 Year 7 learnin	29 Year 8 PSHCE	30	Oct 1	2

- Main Calendar
- PTA
- Sixth Form
- Year 10
- Year 11
- Year 7
- Year 8
- Year 9
- UK Holidays

Events shown in time zone: London + Google Calendar