



weekly news

Stagslink



From the Head Teacher

Dear Parents/Carers

We were delighted this week to welcome The Right Honourable John Bercow, Member of Parliament for Buckinghamshire and Speaker of the House of Commons. He spoke to a group of students from Years 11, 12 and 13 about his role as Speaker, the need for an unbiased approach in the role and gave us a real understanding of the importance of Parliament and how he has sought to bring change and more opportunity for greater participation from back benchers. He was very impressed with both the school and our students and their achievements and he particularly enjoyed the questions posed to him, which not only supported the development of our Politics and Sociology students but also appealed to all – no subjects were off limits even his height! My thanks go to Mrs Davies who has again enticed a superb speaker to STAGS to broaden the minds of our students – George Galloway to John Bercow – we await with great interest to meet our next guest.

This week we have raised awareness of the national Time to Talk campaign and on Thursday 6 February 2014 specifically highlighted awareness to students with links to the website and video clip show the impact of talking to young people and continuing to keep lines of communication open as they progress through adolescence. We are supporting Young Minds next week with a non uniform day on Friday, led by Year 9 students. Links to further information can be found at <https://www.time-to-change.org.uk/talkday>. I was particularly pleased to hear the number of students and parents who had taken the offer of exam support and other activities run by Youth Connexions during half term and beyond. We will be hosting events for both students and parents as the spring term progresses.

We are delighted to be holding our annual Governor Day on Thursday 13 February, when all governors will spend the day with us, immersing themselves in the life of the school, visiting lessons and departments and talking to students and staff.

Finally, a very warm welcome to Mr Michael Norton and Mr Robert Frampton, who join our expanding team of ICT Technicians and we wish Mr Peter Chaplin a long and happy retirement.

Anyone interested in a career in teaching?

The Alban Federation continues to recruit trainees in a variety of subjects for September 2014. Training positions are available for potential teachers in these areas: Chemistry, Computer Science, Design and Technology, English, Maths, Modern Foreign Languages and Physics.

The Federation has been recognised by Ofsted as an Outstanding provider. Trainees will be based in a local school and receive input from a variety of expert professionals across the area. Successful trainees will be awarded Qualified Teacher Status on completing the course.

For further information, please contact the Federation via afgtpenquiries@sandringham.herts.sch.uk or 01727 759240 Ext 217.

With all good wishes.

Margaret Chapman

7 FEBRUARY 2014

EVENTS NEXT WEEK

Monday 10 February

Year 9 Options interviews

AS/A2 Music conference

Year 9 Parents' Evening -
4.30pm to 7.00pm

Tuesday 11 February

Year 12 results, Main Hall

Wednesday 12 February

Hitler on Trial conference

Thursday 13 February

Geographical Association
Quiz - 4.00pm to 5.30pm

Year 10 reports issued

Year 12 reports issued

Friday 14 February

Year 11 trip to Berlin -
Wednesday 19 February

UPCOMING EVENTS

Monday 17 February to Friday 21 February

HALF TERM

Sunday 23 February

A level trip to Flatford Mill -
Wednesday 26 February

Tuesday 25 February

Year 8 reports issued

Year 10 Parents' Evening -
4.30pm to 7.00pm

Wednesday 26 February

GCSE PE practicals

Year 11 trip to War Horse -
5.00pm

Spring Chamber Concert,
Main Hall - 7.00pm

*Please park in the tennis
courts through the blue gates
for all evening events*

Sixth Form Work Experience Exchange



Last week saw the return visit of our German exchange students from the Mataré Gymnasium (Grammar school) in Düsseldorf. All seven students completed placements in an area of work they had chosen. Mrs Nawathe procured most of the placements including a petroleum company, St Albans Museum and a solicitors' office. The students enjoyed their placements and found the people they were working with extremely helpful and interesting. In addition to the work placements the students also enjoyed a packed social programme in St Albans and London.

On Monday the German students spent the day in STAGS, experiencing a typical day in an English school. They spent some time with Year 11 German students, chatting with them in German and answering questions about their daily life and interests.

They enjoyed many aspects of the day, but commented that they would not like to attend a girls' school, or to have to wear uniform!

Many good friendships have been formed between STAGS students and their partners, and there are plans to meet up again in the future. A group of Year 12 STAGS students will be spending a week in Düsseldorf over Easter, living with their exchange partners and attending their work experience placements.

Mrs D Buckley
German Curriculum Leader



First Maths Mania Event 2014



Super Maths teachers; Mrs Thenuwara and Miss Makee arranged a fantastic Maths Mania Event last Monday lunch time for Year 7 pupils. The aim was to help them develop their mathematical reasoning in a relaxed and fun environment. Many inspiring activities were available, such as Chess, calculated colourings and card probability games. The room was buzzing with the excitement of students enjoying themselves, and the anticipation of them trying to win the edible prizes up for grabs!

Year 7 Pupil Porsha Sears gave an account of the event:
"At Maths Mania I had an amazing time. We played lots of fun games like snakes and ladders, connect four and many more. We also had a massive pack of playing cards that we played around with. I had the smaller pack of cards and wowed everyone with my amazing magic trick! Up on the interactive whiteboard was the my maths' frog game. It was hard to complete but good fun. I really hope there is another Maths Mania again soon."

Mrs Thenuwara said "We were very pleased at how many students came. In fact it was so successful that the Maths Department are already planning their next event which will be coming up in March. More details will follow soon."

If you would like to see more photographs of Year 7 students enjoying themselves at the Maths Mania event, please visit our school Facebook page via the STAGS website home page at: <http://www.stags.herts.sch.uk>

Mrs D Johnson Smith
Marketing Co-Ordinator





STAGS Pupils Fuel a Fitness frenzy For Charity at Westminster Lodge



Six entrepreneurial students managed to successfully fuse, dance, fitness and fashion together for a charity fund raiser event at Everyone active Westminster Lodge at the end of last month. Throughout Sunday 26 January an impressive number of the general public came to get active in the 'Can you move' event to enjoy burning off some energy whilst raising cash for The St Albans Volunteer Centre. Those who came had a cardio blast whilst learning to dance with celebrities, Chris and Wes; winners of Sky's TV programme 'Got to dance' fame. This was especially enjoyed by all ages from 4 to 50! New inspiring types of exciting aerobic work outs also on offer included taster fitness sessions in burlesque dance, and jumping for joy, using skipping techniques!

The event was the brainchild of team Evolve made up of Year 12 pupils Charlotte Thompson, Lucy Hayes, Olivia Coverley, Tara Graham, Megan Wancio and Sumaiyah Jamil who are currently taking part in the Hertfordshire Dragons annual apprentice challenge, which encourages youngsters to develop business ideas for charity. Charlotte Thompson, leader of team Evolve said "Everyone who came really had such fun and they all seemed to leave on a natural high, it was truly amazing. We really want to thank our sponsors and especially Westminster Lodge for supporting us by letting us use their new dance studios."

Through various fundraising events that includes the Great Herts Bake Off Competition with Big Brother celebrity judge Luisa Zissman last December, a stall at the St Albans Christmas market, the Evolve team have collectively raised a substantial amount of cash for the cause. Well done girls!

We invite you to enjoy viewing extra images of this fun fuelled event on our school face book page, simply go to: <http://www.stags.herts.sch.uk/> and click on  in the left hand column. Help us to identify the photos you like the best by giving the image a thumbs up 

Mrs D Johnson Smith
Marketing Co-Ordinator



THANK YOU TO OUR EVENT SUPPORTERS:

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PHOENIX

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The Year 12 Pseudoscience Conference

On a wintery Monday, Year 12 Psychology students made their own way into London to the Institute of Education, to watch a Science and Pseudoscience conference. The Psychology conference was run and organised by Cara Flanagan, a Psychologist who, amongst many things, is the author of the textbooks that the STAGS Psychology department uses. This was beneficial as many of the topics covered during the conference were present in our textbooks. It also helped to consolidate our current understanding and knowledge.

Cara Flanagan was joined by Psychologist and author Professor Richard Wiseman, and Hypnotist Andrew Newton amongst others. Both provided a different perspective on Psychology. Professor Richard Wiseman spoke about the idea of luck and how we can potentially transform an *unlucky* life into a *lucky* one through our outlook and perspective on life. This lecture certainly provoked thoughts about how we view everyday challenges. Whilst Andrew Newton provided us with a more light hearted topic, of hypnosis, which had many sceptics but, none the less, was an interesting eye opener.

Overall, the conference was extremely beneficial to all students as it provided a wider understanding of Psychology, outside the areas that are taught at A level. It certainly opened my eyes to the many different branches that the term Psychology includes. It also, possibly most importantly, granted us students an insight into the nature of Psychology, if we were to pursue it at university level or even eventually as our careers.

On behalf of all the girls that experienced the conference I would like to thank the STAGS Psychology department for organising the trip. Especially Mrs Birkett for the extensive organisation that occurred behind the scenes many months in advance and the constant attention that she gave us girls throughout the day.

Emma Ferris, 12/13J

Personal Trainer Motivates Students To Get Ahead In Business

Thank you to local Personal Trainer, Juan Muguerman who very kindly gave up his time to inspire the Year 10 GCSE Business Studies class last Thursday. Mrs Fox, Business Studies teacher has arranged for a variety of local business people to come in and share their real life experience with the students of setting up a successful small business. Juan gave the students an insight into his interesting personal journey which started with him living in Argentina and competing in gymnastics at a national level, between ages 4 - 21 years. He then went onto develop a successful career in PR and Marketing. After a total of 15 years he decided to embark on a new career as a professional personal trainer and this has clearly proved to be the right business move!

In March 2013 he set up his own business and aimed it at inspiring and helping committed customers who want to tone up and loose weight. He explained to the students how he set up the structure of the business and was delighted to inform them that he is already making a profit; which is amazing after less than twelve months of trading! Mrs Fox said "These talks are really informative and are brilliant at bringing the subject of Business Studies to life." Juan's detailed information will motivate the students and help them complete their next module, which covers the exciting subject of Marketing. We wish him every success with developing his business and we are very grateful to him for giving the students the benefit of his very valuable experience.



For more information contact JSM fitness: juan@jsmfitness.co.uk or email him on: Ejuan@jsmfitness.co.uk

Mrs D Johnson Smith, Marketing Co-Ordinator

jsm fitness

JSM Fitness provides both individual personal training sessions and specially created fitness programmes.

Programmes include:

- Skinny Jeans
- Weight Loss
- Fitness Fast
- Busy Professionals Fitness

All sessions are targeted at individuals who are serious and committed to losing weight and toning up.

Prices start at £40 per hour.

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