



Paul Kershaw, Head of School

It is hard not to reflect that the year has progressed with incredulous velocity as we prepare for celebration days for Year 11 and Year 13 students respectively. Guidance has been shared with students in regards to both days, where we look forward to celebrating students' achievements, development and adventures that they have had during their time at STAGS. We have been asking Year 11 and Year 13 students to reflect on their most cherished moments from their time at the school and there were a range of thoughtful and nostalgic answers from trips, visits and enrichment opportunities to celebration days and assemblies, taking in Diversity Day, Curriculum Enrichment Week, the Spring House Cup and Sports competitions. It was wonderful to hear the impact on learners when reflecting on their time at STAGS, whilst preparing for assessments to evidence the learning experiences that they also reflected on so warmly including subjects, teachers and even topics that they have been the most fond of over the last five and seven years. Preparation opportunities and revision materials have been shared by all departments but please encourage students to come and ask if they have questions about any aspect. Year 9 and Year 10 students have been in the Sports Hall this week for their examination series with really positive feedback about students from our invigilators.



As ever, Learner Voice is integral to every element of provision at STAGS. This week's works on ensuring toilet doors and locks are all robust conclude today following this being raised to us via Student Parliament and Every Second Counts opportunities. Our new 'You Said, We Did' display in the SSO corridor showcases further examples of how this insight positively impacts our community.

In January, three of our A Level Chemistry students took part in the Royal Society of Chemistry Olympiad for the highest performing chemists in the country. They prepared for and completed a rigorous, highly challenging exam, putting their extensive Chemistry knowledge to the test. We have recently received their results and certificates. Camille Edomben achieved a Silver award and Pippa Wilton and Arianwen Mennie achieved a Gold award. This put Camille in the top 10% of all entrants across the country and Pippa and Arianwen in the top 5%, both of which are fantastic achievements!

Our sustainability focus this year continues with great success. A poster designed by Sanna in Year 7 has appeared on screens across the school (to reduce paper poster usage), including in reception promoting Earth Day and the recycling of plastics. This morning, Eco Councillors presented Enrichment Friday form activities. In addition, the Gardening Club has been planting potatoes and other seeds in the school garden this week. A huge well done to everyone involved!

The entries for the logo competition for Ambition Trust have been phenomenal with all entries from across the ten schools being judged at present. We will publish images of the STAGS leading entries and details of the overall winners when we have them.

In addition, I would like to bring to your attention the Martha Mills Young Writers' Prize where this year's theme is 'A Secret'. Information about the competition and the inspirational young person that the prize is named after can be found [via this link](#).

Following publication of her poem previously in STAGSLINK, congratulations to Ayla in Year 9 who has been shortlisted as a finalist in the Just Talk poetry competition! Well done!

Congratulations to Henna, Zoe and Sabrina who travelled to Norwich on Sunday to take part in the Rotary 'Youth Speaks' National Final for Great Britain and Ireland. They placed third which is a massive achievement and the highest position a STAGS team has reached. They hold the title: Central and East England Final Winners, and we are so proud of them! (Picture on front cover)

Congratulations also to Charlie, Konni and Lottie who play rugby union for Welwyn U16 Girls. On Sunday, they embodied the STAGS values and emerged undefeated and the undisputed winners of the Hertfordshire League Cup and Plate. A hotly contested last match resulted in a 15-12 win for Welwyn against Fullerians. Picture on the next page.

On Tuesday evening, Governors, Trustees and school leaders from across ATLAS met in our Main Hall to reflect on the past year at STAGS, The Adeyfield Academy and Beech Hyde and look ahead in terms of progress and development. It was a wonderful opportunity to meet with all colleagues from the three schools and reflect on the application of our trust wide targets of Sustainability, Resilience, EDI including Equity and Adaptability for the forthcoming year.

Following correspondence before the Easter break, we will reshare a summary of the fantastic activities that have been arranged for all year groups during our annual Curriculum Enrichment Week in July. Please can I draw your attention to payment deadlines and other information including about financial assistance from Mrs Flint. This year's activities look to be the best yet - it is a pertinent time to reflect on them following comments from students in Year 11 and Year 13 about this week being central to their best memories about the school.

Many thanks to all members of our community who have contacted us with ideas or asking to be involved in endeavours to conserve our swimming pool. Please continue to contact us in relation to this via swimmingpool@stags.herts.sch.uk.

For your reference, there are following arrangements for local food banks over the bank holiday dates: on 6 May and 27 May, the Verso Vineyard FEED and the Redbourn distribution centres for the St Albans and District Foodbank will be closed. Verso Vineyard will open FEED on Wednesdays 8 and 29 May 10.00-12.00 so that clients can collect food then.

The next Parent Book Group is on 4 June at 6pm in the Library Resource Centre - just a reminder that the book is the superbly insightful 'PDA in the Family' by Steph Curtis. As ever, it would be wonderful to see some new faces in the group. All are welcome!

Click [here](#) to sign into the National Online Safety site to view 'What Parents & Educators Need to Know about Shopping Platforms' or [here](#) to view the PDF.

Have an amazing weekend - I have just checked the forecast and it unfortunately looks like rain but sometimes the forecast is wrong - fingers crossed. Have a brilliant weekend either way.

All best wishes,



For an overview of our PSHE curriculum, please click [here](#)

SUPPORT TRUST AMBITION GENEROSITY SUCCESS



Diary Dates

Friday 26 April - Sunday 28 April

PGL Netball Tour

Monday 29 April - Friday 10 May

Year 12 Exams

Wednesday 1 May

SEND Parent Group Meeting, 7-8.30pm

Thursday 2 May

Year 11 Celebration Day

Friday 3 May

Year 13 Celebration Day

Monday 6 May

Bank Holiday - School Closed

Wednesday 8 May

KS3 History Trip St Albans Cathedral

Monday 13 - Friday 24 May

Year 7 & Year 8 Exams

Monday 20 May

Sixth Form Parent Group, LRC, 6-7pm

Monday 27 - Friday 31 May

Half Term - School Closed to Students

Tuesday 4 June

Parent Book Group, LRC, 6-7pm
