



4 SEPTEMBER 2026

STAGSLINK



Welcome to 2026-2027 at STAGS!

It has been a superb first week back and it has been wonderful to see new students - especially those joining us in Years 7 and 12 - settle so quickly into the STAGS community. We are also delighted to welcome new colleagues who have already become valued members of our dedicated team. Over the past week, it has been brilliant to hear students sharing stories of the fantastic adventures and activities they enjoyed with family and friends during the summer break. Since Tuesday, there has been extremely positive engagement with lessons and learning across all year groups.

Yesterday, our whole school assembly focussed on the core STAGS value of Ambition where we redefined vocational aspiration not as finding a single lifetime role, but as having the courage to realise that we can be more than one thing. In demonstration, we looked at the extraordinary life of Dolly Parton, sadly referencing her recent passing at age 80. While world famous for her country music career and songwriting achievements, her ambition extended far beyond music. We reflected upon her extensive philanthropic work, including establishing the Imagination Library and donating over \$1 million toward early Moderna COVID-19 vaccine research. We also considered her ability to advocate for equality without becoming embroiled in political activism. Thinking about her inspirational reflection of: *'find out who you are and do it on purpose'*, we encourage all students to try new things - whether a club, competition, or leadership role. Often, these experiences turn out to be lifelong passions.



Uniform Policy & Site Safety

Thank you for supporting us with uniform requirements and helping to ensure a strong start to the new school year. We much prefer to spend time discussing learning and enrichment with students rather than addressing uniform issues! Please note that the optional summer uniform remains in place at present and we will send a specific end date in due course when the weather cools. We do need to raise a safety concern around dangerous parking practices at the front of the school, particularly on zigzags and yellow lines. This restricts pathways, making it harder for students to leave safely at the end of the school day. We urge parents and carers collecting students by car to 'park and stride' or wait until buses have cleared (around 3:30pm). Please also ensure neighbouring driveways remain clear when picking up your child from school. We are incredibly grateful to the many families who collect students at the end of the day in a conscientious and thoughtful manner.

We have had new bathrooms (partly funded by our amazing PTA), new Science labs (photo below), a new car park, a new fire evacuation friendly rooming system, new Sports Hall flooring (only trainers to be worn in there by students, staff or visitors from now on!) and welcome the opening of our new outdoor eating area 'Parks Park' by next week. Teams have been hard at work all summer generating these wonderful upgrades and we are very grateful - especially to our own amazing site team.



Support . Trust . Ambition . Generosity . Success
Shaping Tomorrow, Today



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Upcoming Parent & Carer Information Evenings

We are very much looking forward to welcoming parents and carers next week for three key information sessions:

- **Year 8 Information Evening:** Tuesday 8 September at 6pm online
- **Year 10 Information Evening:** Wednesday 9 September at 6pm in the Main Hall
- **Year 11 Information Evening:** Thursday 10 September at 6pm online

All three events will provide an excellent opportunity to hear about the year ahead at STAGS and to ask any follow up questions at the end of the presentations. We will also speak about the outcomes of this year's summer survey. Thank you so much to all parents, carers, governors and colleagues who took part in it. We look forward to seeing you at your child's Information Evening over the next few weeks. To ensure that families have all relevant start-of-term information, letters from your child's Director of Learning and SLT link will be shared today.

Vaping Survey

Following the launch of Hertfordshire County Council's 2025 Youth Vaping Campaign they are inviting all Year 7-11 students across the county to complete a brief, 5-10 minute online survey. This voluntary, pseudonymised evaluation will help them understand how effectively the campaign raised awareness about the health risks of vaping and nicotine, directly shaping future public health initiatives for young people locally. Participating students will provide informed consent on the day of taking the survey in school. Parent and carer information as well as an opt-out form can be accessed [here](#) - please return any opt-out forms by Thursday 10 September. All responses are strictly confidential and will be reported in summary form only, ensuring no individual student or school is identified.

Best wishes for the weekend ahead,

Paul Kershaw,
Headteacher



See Page 6 for more information

DIARY DATES



Tuesday 8 September

Whole School Musical Auditions, Main Hall,
3:15-4:30pm. *Open to Year 8 and above*

Tuesday 8 September

Year 8 Information Evening, Online, 6-7pm

Wednesday 9 September

Whole School Musical Auditions, Main Hall,
3:15-4:30pm. *Open to Year 8 and above*

Wednesday 9 September

Year 10 Information Evening, Main Hall,
6-7pm

Thursday 10 September

Year 11 Information Evening, Online,
6-7pm

Tuesday 15 September

Year 9 Information Evening, Online, 6-7pm

Wednesday 16 September

Whole School Musical Rehearsals, Main Hall,
3:15-4:30pm

Wednesday 16 September

Year 12 Information Evening, Main Hall, 6-7pm

Thursday 17 September

Year 10 Duke of Edinburgh Launch, Online,
6-7pm

Wednesday 23 September

Year 13 Information Evening, Online, 6-7pm

Wednesday 23 September

Whole School Musical Rehearsals, Main Hall,
3:15-4:30pm

[Click here](#) to view this week's Online Safety Top Tip about 'Minecraft'

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

[Click here](#) to view the PSHE, Personal Development and Step Up Scheme of Learning

FOLLOW US



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Linkedin.com/schools/st-albans-girls'-school

PTA NEWS



Welcome to the PTA News section, where you'll get weekly PTA news and updates

Save the Date: Upcoming Events Next Term

- **Tues 22 Sept: PTA Meeting, Staff Room**
- **Sat 17 Oct: Pre-Loved Uniform Sale, Main Hall**
- **Fri 23 Oct: Verulam Fireworks Festival**
- **Tues 3 Nov: PTA Meeting, Staff Room**
- **Sat 22 Nov: Winter Fair**

A Big Welcome!

Welcome to our school community all new Year 7 parents and carers! As your children embark on this exciting new chapter, the Friends of Stags PTA extends a warm and enthusiastic welcome to you all. We are also delighted to welcome back all the returning parents and carers.

The Friends of Stags is a friendly, volunteer-run PTA dedicated to enriching our students' school experience and building a supportive community for families.

Throughout the year, we organise fun events and fundraisers to support the school, and whether you'd like to join the committee, volunteer at an event, or simply attend our activities, we would love for you to get involved and look forward to meeting you soon!

How You Can Help

We always need volunteers, whether helping at events, attending our half-termly meetings or on the committee. Please [sign-up here](#) to signal your interest.

Making a regular donation to the STAGS School Fund supports a vital source of fundraising -the income from the Fund pays for many of the school requests that the PTA fund. [Find out more and sign-up here](#), and please Gift Aid if you can.

You can also help by online shopping via [Easyfundraising](#), entering the [Lottery](#), and making donations through School Gateway. Every contribution, however small, makes a huge difference. Thank you.

Pre-Loved Uniform Sale – Donations Required

Our first Uniform Sale of the year is Saturday 17 October in the Main Hall. Donations can be sent in with your student or dropped at School Reception every school day between 10am and 2pm. If you can't get to school, we may be able to arrange collection - please contact stagspta@gmail.com for help.

Verulum Fireworks Festival

We are delighted to partner again with Verulam PTA on their spectacular Fireworks Festival on Friday 23 October. Money from ticket sales benefits our school - and tickets are on sale now [by clicking here](#).

Scan to access the
STAGS PTA New
Member sign up
form



Scan to access the
STAGS School
Fund donations
form



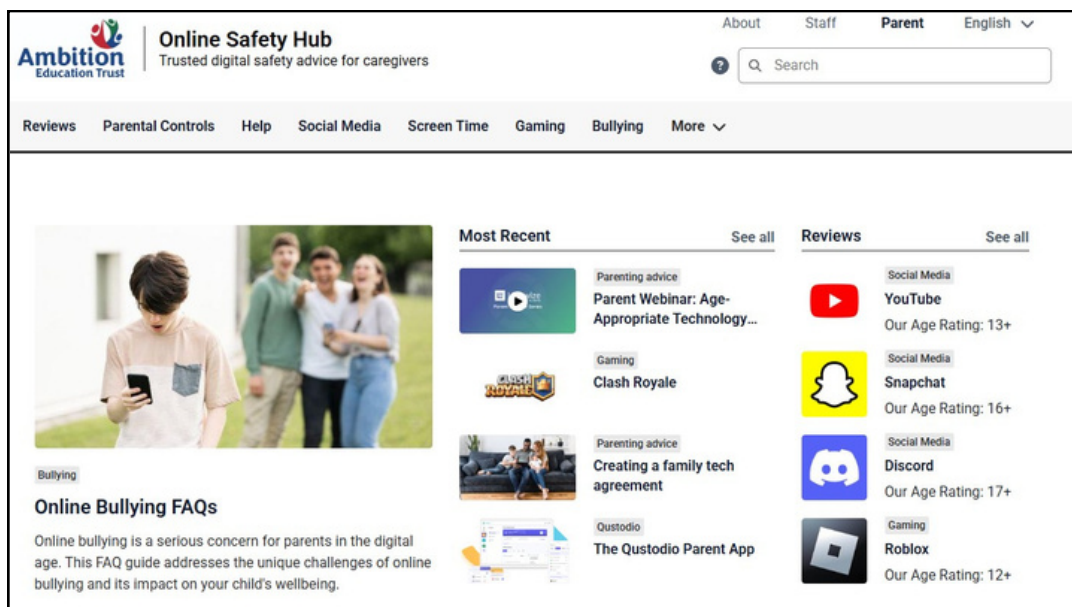
NOTICES



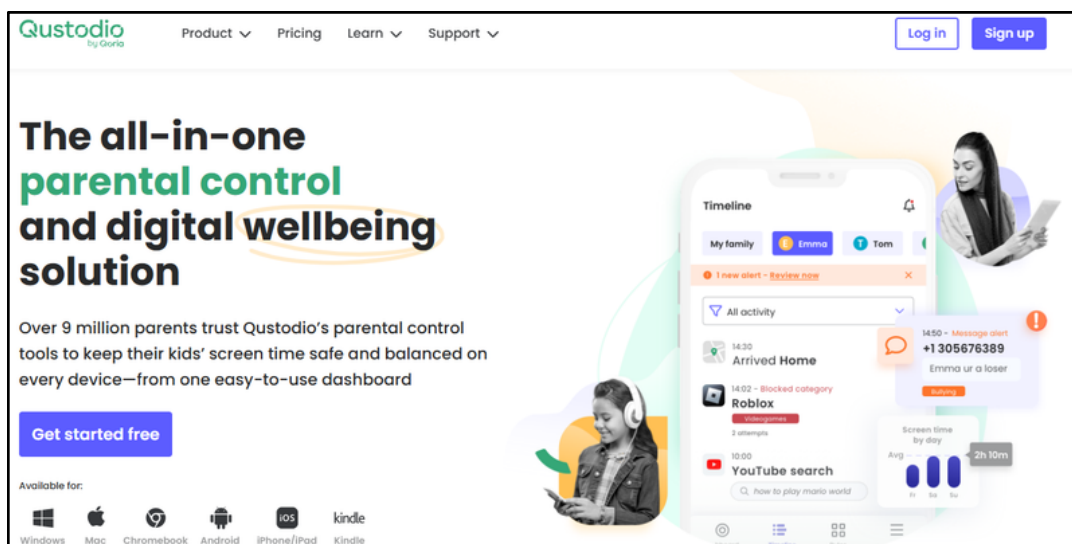
Find out how to keep your child safe online

Don't forget that the Online Safety Hub is live! You can access it for free [here](#).

The Online Safety Hub is a brand-new online resource with lots of expert advice and guidance to help you manage your child's safety online as a parent. It includes information on the latest hot topics when it comes to keeping children safe, such as how to manage your child's screen time, understand the latest gaming platforms, what they mean for your child's safety and lots more.



We're also offering you as a parent, a free Qustodio account facilitating parental controls on any individual device and free premium access for 30 days. Gain more visibility on what's going on in your child's online world. Block dangerous content, introduce screen-free schedules, receive alerts for inappropriate content, keep tabs on their location and more. [Click here](#) to create your free account.



NOTICES





Harvest Appeal

Help support your local foodbank this Harvest!

In the three weeks leading up to Harvest, the food bank will provide over 700 food parcels for local individuals and families facing hardship.



- ☒ Tinned meat/fish
- ☒ Tinned veg/fruit
- ☒ Cooking sauces
- ☒ Coffee
- ☒ Milk (UHT)
- ☒ Cereals
- ☒ Fruit juice (long-life)
- ☒ Tinned pudding
- ☒ Jam

Donate Food – Donate an item or two from our shopping list, ensuring we can provide food for people facing hardship in your local community.

- Bring to our warehouse
- Drop off in the STAGS collection box in the Main Foyer
- Order online at <https://givetoday.co.uk/stalbansfoodbank/>



Donate Money – Help to cover the costs of storing and distributing food, as well as developing sustainable projects.



Drop donations to our warehouse
Unit 3 Redbourn Industrial Estate, AL3 7LG
Open
Tue and Fri: 10am - 3pm
Wed and Thu: 10am - 12pm

www.stalbansdistrict.foodbank.org.uk

01727 613019

info@stalbansdistrict.foodbank.org.uk

[@st_a_and_dist_foodbank](#)

[@StAlbansDistrictFB](#)

HARVEST 2026 WISH LIST	WISH LIST	ITEMS WE <u>DON'T</u> NEED
Baked Beans	Cereals	No Nuts If Your School or Organisation Is Nut-Free
Dried Pasta 500g / 1kg	Longlife Milk	No Alcohol
Tea Bags 40 or 80 pks	Cooking Sauces	No Fresh Food Or Perishables
Coffee 90g	Tinned Rice Pudding	WE WELCOME MONETARY DONATIONS. PLEASE SCAN THE QR CODE BELOW OR VISIT OUR WEBSITE www.stalbansdistrict.foodbank.org.uk  Harvest 2026 @StAlbansDistrictFB @st_a_and_dist_foodbank
Tinned Vegetables	Desserts	
Tinned Fruit	Deodorant	
Tinned Soup	Longlife Juice	
Tinned Meat	Noodles	
Tinned Macaroni Cheese	Jam/Spreads	
Tinned Custard	Nappies (Size 4 upwards)	
Tinned Fish	Toilet Rolls	
Tinned Tomatoes	Laundry Tablets	
	Shower Gel	
	Shampoo/Conditioner	
	Washing Up Liquid	

NOTICES



Youth Mental Health First Aid Training

1 day Champion course designed specifically for school professionals working with 8 to 18 year olds.

FREE



You will learn:

- An understanding of common mental health issues and how they can affect young people
- The ability to spot the signs of mental ill health in young people, and guide them to a place of support
- Knowledge and confidence to advocate for mental health awareness
- Skills to support positive wellbeing

Friday 12 June 2026 9.30am to 4pm	Hertfordshire County Council, Robertson House, Stevenage, SG1 2FQ	School Professionals	Parking available on site
Friday 10 July 2026 9.30am to 4pm	Hobbs Hill Wood Primary School, Hemel Hempstead, HP3 8ER	School Professionals	Parking available on site
Friday 13 Nov 2026 9.30am to 4pm	Peartree Spring Primary School, Stevenage, SG2 9GG	Parents/Carers	Parking available on roads near venue
Friday 15 Jan 2027 9.30am to 4pm	Springmead Primary School, Welwyn Garden City, AL7 2HB	School Professionals	Parking available on roads near the venue
Thurs 21st Jan 2027 9.30am to 4pm	The Hub, Fleetville Junior School, St Albans, AL1 ALW	School Professionals	Parking available on site
Friday 12 Mar 2027 9.30am to 4pm	Hobbs Hill Wood Primary School, Hemel Hempstead, HP3 8ER	Parents/Carers	Parking available on site

2 day First Aider course suitable for everyone who teaches, works, lives with or cares for 8 to 18 year olds.

You will learn:

- An in depth understanding of young people's mental health and factors that affect wellbeing
- Practical skills to spot the triggers and signs of mental health issues
- Confidence to reassure and support a young person in distress
- Enhanced interpersonal skills, such as non judgemental listening
- Knowledge to help a young person recover their health by guiding them to further support
- How to engage with parents, carers and external agencies
- How to support a young person with a long term mental health illness to thrive
- Tools to look after your own wellbeing

Thursday 26 & Friday 27 Nov 2026 9.30am to 4pm	Hobbs Hill Wood Primary School, Hemel Hempstead, HP3 8ER	School Professionals	Parking available on site
Thursday 4 & Friday 5 Feb 2027 9.30am to 4pm	Peartree Spring Primary School, Stevenage, SG2 9GG	School Professionals	Parking available on roads near venue

To book your place please email schoolsmh@hertfordshire.gov.uk
Places are limited to two representatives per education setting