

ST ALBANS



GIRLS' SCHOOL

*Learning for
Life in a
Community
where All can Excel*



“Teachers are highly skilled and demonstrate consistently high expectations for learning and behaviour. Lessons are planned in a way that challenges all students to make rapid progress.”

Ofsted

Welcome to St Albans Girls' School

Our school is a very special place and our students, staff and governors are exceptional people. We celebrate and build on our distinguished history combining innovation within a caring, vibrant and dynamic community.

Our students thrive on expert teaching, high quality facilities and a vast range of extracurricular activities. Our academic results are impressive. We know that if we have high expectations of our students, there is no limit to what they can achieve. We are committed to the highest standards of teaching and learning - achieved through a combination of challenge and support, encouragement and praise – to ensure that all students fulfil their potential. We develop the individuality and confidence of our students right across the curriculum.

Our girls are enterprising, friendly and ambitious with a wonderful purpose and energy. STAGS students develop skills for lifelong learning. We aim to instil in every student a set of attributes, skills and values that will enable them to make informed choices, be responsible and principled citizens, enjoy career success and achieve personal fulfilment.

We are sure that you are looking for the very best education for your daughter, and in our Sixth Form, also for your son. We know that choosing the right school is one of the most important parenting decisions you will make and we hope that this prospectus gives you a flavour of the exceptional education we provide.

We encourage you to visit us to experience our school community as we demonstrate how we realise our unique vision.

Margaret Chapman – Headteacher



Our Vision

Our vision is to embrace 'Learning for Life in a Community where All can Excel', ensuring outstanding provision with academic achievement at its core, but social and life skills at its heart, so that our students have a genuine desire to succeed in a supportive environment.

We are extremely proud of our students. Visitors frequently comment that our students are confident, thoughtful and articulate young people; they also remark about how proud they are of their school.

Our Values

Inspiration: To inspire and enlighten every student through exciting and innovative teaching styles that successfully capture the imagination

Enterprise: To enable students to clearly identify and embrace opportunities to foster the entrepreneurial spirit

Resilience: To equip each young person with transferrable skills that are vital in enabling them to thrive under the demands of everyday life

Trust: To continually strive to develop articulate, successful young people who are honest, trustworthy and above all caring and confident communicators

“Parents are overwhelmingly positive about all aspects of the school’s work.” Ofsted





“Teaching is outstanding. Well-planned lessons provide activities that are matched very precisely to different ability levels. Students are challenged to think deeply and encouraged to develop their independence.” Ofsted

A Tradition of Excellence

Judged by Ofsted as ‘Outstanding’, we enjoy a reputation for academic excellence. We have been serving our community since 1920, nurturing aspirations and inspiring success, creating a truly distinctive character and a vibrant learning community.

...with the Freedom to Flourish

At the heart of every outstanding school is an outstanding curriculum taught by specialist teachers who are inspirational and passionate about their subjects. Our curriculum moves with the times. Students enjoy challenging and inspiring lessons which

foster a love of learning and provide knowledge and understanding of the world in which we live.

Emphasis is on the development of skills for life and future learning. Intellectual curiosity ensures preparation for the next step. Students are supported to become confident, independent learners with highly developed thinking and communication skills. Our goal is to encourage all students to explore and broaden their interests in a secure, happy and friendly environment.

The opportunities provided are designed to meet the needs of students from all backgrounds, cultures and abilities. We aim to stretch and challenge all students. For the most able, this means extension in all lessons and involvement in projects beyond the classroom.

Every student is special at STAGS, but those with particular needs such as disabilities or learning difficulties are supported by our inclusive philosophy. Our Inclusion Team provide practical support and advice to ensure that students are able to access the curriculum and maximise their progress.



Happiness, Opportunity & Community

At STAGS we are a friendly, supportive, inspirational and forward thinking community.

The transition into secondary school can be both exciting and unsettling. With new challenges to face and new friends to meet, our girls very quickly flourish at STAGS. Support begins in Year 6 with our intensive transition programme, which involves visiting our feeder primary schools and organising summer schools. It is our family atmosphere and community approach that enables a very smooth transition from primary to secondary school.

Our expert staff focus on what makes each student unique, identifying what they are good at and what will challenge and develop their individual talents. Our anti-bullying ambassadors programme, self-esteem and social awareness groups along with our restorative work mean students are open to sharing the issues facing young people today and are skilled at working them through.

We provide the support and challenge to ensure that your daughter will do well. We show our students what is possible, without limits that can sometimes be imposed, and we enable them to shine so that they are confident to embark on their future studies.



“Students’ spiritual, moral, social and cultural awareness is extremely well developed.” Ofsted

A young woman with long dark hair and glasses is playing a red violin. She is wearing a dark blue school uniform jacket with a crest on the left chest. The background is dark, making her and the violin stand out.

“Because of extremely high expectations, skilled teaching and well targeted support, students make outstanding progress across all subjects.” Ofsted

Learning through Challenge and Success

Building confidence and raising aspirations

We know that young people thrive when they are inspired and motivated whilst feeling happy and secure. At STAGS, we are dedicated to developing enquiring minds and promoting the enjoyment of learning. We do this through a stimulating, broad yet balanced personalised curriculum that is designed to challenge and support students of all abilities. We have high expectations and high standards. Our students are happy, well rounded young people and their exceptional examination results speak for themselves.

We use our Business and Enterprise Specialism to spark interest and passion in our young people in this fast changing world. Enterprise and creativity is the key to independent learning. It improves self-esteem, motivation and problem solving skills in all areas of the curriculum. We share high expectations for all of our students academically, socially and personally, so that potential is achieved and each student is equipped with the personal skills needed for adult life.

Home Learning gives students the opportunity to develop independence and foster a ‘love of learning’, enhancing achievement and developing strong study skills. The Student Planner records all work set, with parents being asked to sign this weekly. A supervised home learning club is available after school each day, with supervisors on hand to support students.

Every student has a Leadership Passport as part of preparation for their future and the world of work. In addition, we have a culture of rewarding hard work, good behaviour and excellent attendance. The reward system is built around the seven Houses and develops leadership, entrepreneurial skills and the ability to work in a team, enabling students of all ages to meet regularly through assemblies and take part in competitions.





Inspiration and Enrichment

There is a STAGS ‘buzz’ – an energy and pulse that has pace and enthuses our girls.

We have a rich and varied array of extra-curricular provision and offer many opportunities to participate in local, national and international educational activities. With a superb record of participation and high achievement in Sport, Music and The Arts, students are proud to participate in a vast range of extracurricular activities.

Concerts are held regularly in school and the annual carol service takes place in St Albans Abbey. In these events, students participating in the large number of choirs, ensembles and orchestras are able to share their talents with the rest of the school. Theatrical productions and Gym & Dance displays involve very large numbers of students of all ages.

Our extended learning experiences provide our girls with a real sense of purpose and further community engagement. Students also enjoy working with others in charity fund raising events and from participation in activities such as the Duke of Edinburgh Award Scheme, Rotary Interact and Sports Leadership, debating club to Science Crest Awards, Dragons’ Apprentice to Young Engineers – the variety is endless!

“The school has exceeded our expectations and has transformed our daughter’s academic performance and self-esteem.” Parent

Providing Care and Support

The journey from childhood to adulthood is complex; we have an outstanding pastoral support system which is multi-layered and responsive to individual needs.

Recognising that each young person is unique, our focus is on enabling students to fulfil their potential. At STAGS, we have a real commitment to, and enthusiasm for, the development of the whole child.

We know that you expect your child to achieve their academic potential, in a safe environment that enables all students to flourish intellectually and emotionally into mature, responsible and self-confident adults. We pride ourselves on having such an environment, which both nurtures and challenges students in all aspects of their development. All of our staff play a part in the pastoral life of our school, be it directly as a form tutor, or more subtly

through being alert to individual students' changing needs. Directors of Learning and form tutors move up the school with the students, providing continuity of care throughout your child's time at STAGS.

Student Voice is central to the STAGS ethos and students are encouraged to contribute their ideas to the ongoing development of our school. Promoting a true sense of community, our student-led House System provides a focus for competition and cooperation. House Challenges and charitable events offer students the chance to embrace opportunities, accept responsibility and develop leadership skills contributing to the school and demonstrating their commitment to active citizenship.

We measure success not only in terms of academic attainment, but in developing our students into caring, responsible, socially aware young citizens, gaining the confidence, education, and skills they need for a contented and secure future.

The Unlocking of Talents

STAGS students are leaders of the future. They develop confidence and leadership skills for future success by engaging in a wide variety of activities.

High academic achievement is nurtured in an environment where students participate in ongoing activities with peers and adults. Developing their enterprise and employability skills in the classroom and through participation in a range of activities allows preparation for a successful future and students are empowered by being able to shape their own learning experience and support the learning of others.



Working in Partnership

We work actively with parents and the wider community to extend opportunities beyond the classroom.

At STAGS, we work together with parents to maximise the achievement of our students. We believe that one important way to inspire young people is to work collaboratively.

The most important partnership is between parents, school and students. This is why Home Learning, parent consultation and information evenings, a form tutor review day and three reporting sessions each academic year are crucial.

Partnerships with Governors, our very active PTA and STAGS Alumni, the Chamber of Commerce and many more businesses ensure that life as a student at STAGS is varied, stimulating and utterly unforgettable. Our motto 'Nobis Cura Futuri' (Ours is the Care of the Future) is evident in our Alumni, through their successes and experiences, ensuring the values and vision of education at STAGS thrives long after they have left.

Healthy Lifestyles

We guide students to make healthy choices in preparation for adult life.

The enjoyable PE curriculum has an emphasis on personal fitness and encourages life-long participation in sport. Healthy food is promoted in the school dining hall and the school ethos supports mental well-being. STAGS is a very happy school!

Preparing for the Future

We have a comprehensive Careers Education Information Advice and Guidance programme for all year groups here at STAGS and we recognise the importance of a balance between work and play!

As well as appreciating the need to maximise academic achievement, students develop the knowledge, skills, attitudes and values that will help them become effective employees or entrepreneurs. We support students as they embark on their pathway of life-long learning, giving them the confidence needed to make informed decisions in their future lives.

Ready for the Next Step

In Year 13, our students complete their journey at STAGS.

By the time they leave us, our students are resilient, independent thinkers, adept at problem solving; vital qualities for personal as well as professional fulfilment. They have faced fresh and exciting challenges and made lifelong friends along the way. They have flourished in the supportive learning environment which has focused on the individual development of our 'family' of students.

Through effective Teaching and Learning, students will have become lifelong learners and by the end of Year 13, realise the importance of independent learning and have developed a strong set of values to take with them.

"You have all done a fantastic job, you have helped my daughter be the successful young woman that she has become."

Parent of STAGS Alumni



Moving Forward with Confidence

At STAGS, we strive to achieve the best in everything we do across the curriculum within a happy and purposeful community.

We have a broad range of A Level subjects from the traditional to the contemporary with a choice of over 30 different courses. We constantly review and question our provision to ensure that we meet the needs of our students – flexibility and inspirational teaching promotes success; enabling students to progress to their chosen future paths. Advice on university entrance, ‘gap’ years, careers and employment is a key aspect of our curriculum from Years 7 – 13.

Our examination results at Post 16 reflect our high standards, and in securing excellent results for all, our experience and expertise enables us to cater for those considering Oxbridge, Medicine and other higher level universities. We have an excellent reputation as a Leading Maths School and very high participation rates in Advanced Level Maths and the Sciences, which highlights our growth as a unique STEM centre.

Our Post 16 learning community stands out amongst other local schools because our students become true leaders of the school. The leadership opportunities that we offer are second to none and enable all students to become highly responsible, caring citizens. Our Head Students, House Captains and Prefects organise and manage all our House events, providing excellent examples of maturity and responsibility for our younger students. Students organise superb fund raising events to support their chosen charities, working with girls in Years 7 – 13 to develop ideas and promote roles and responsibilities beyond the curriculum; emphasising our focus on the importance of ‘all rounded’ individuals, who will undoubtedly have an ‘edge’ as well as academic success.



St Albans Girls' School

Sandridgebury Lane, St Albans
Hertfordshire, AL3 6DB

Tel: 01727 853134

Email: admin@stags.herts.sch.uk

www.stags.herts.sch.uk

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