



Spring Term 2014

Highlights



Are we hardy, strong and robust?

It is interesting to observe how language use evolves over the years. One of the more recent buzzwords is **resilience**, which we are probably all demonstrating as the wind continues to blow and the rain continues to fall. For a true understanding of the word, and how it applies to us, a thesaurus might be useful.

This term has seen AHS students confronting a range of challenges which, we hope, will have made them **buoyant** and **tough** (eg Year 8 in the sea in January), **flexible** and **spirited** (eg Year 10 on work experience) and **irrepressible** (our various competitive teams). Read all about it here!

Whether you are at home or away, out in the elements or staying warm and dry over the half term holiday, I hope everyone has a good break and returns on 24 February ready for whatever the second half of term has in store for us.

Alan Rosen

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2 RECENT SUCCESSES

World Youth Chess Championships 2013



On 15 December I travelled to Dubai as one of 24 players, aged 8 to 17, representing England in the World Youth Chess Championships held near Dubai.

Games started at 4pm after a morning's preparation checking my opponent's likely openings and an hour's coaching with an English Grandmaster. There were 11 rounds, with a rest day on Christmas Day, when I went white-water rafting. I played opponents from nine different countries including Belarus, Ecuador, Canada and South Africa. My best game was against a higher-rated

opponent from Romania, which I won in under two hours. Considering I was playing the best U18 female players in the world, I was pleased with my overall score of 5 points. These international tournaments are challenging but great experiences as it's a chance to make friends from around the world.

Chantelle Foster 12W

Fantastic results at the NSEA Show Jumping

Lily Good 7C, Hannah Kerr 8S, Emily Conroy 9C and Sorrel Overy 12W were in the 80cm class. The first three put in some very polished performances which took the pressure off Sorrel, whose pony was not very co-operative! The class was large with over 130 competitors and 28 teams. AHS were not only the highest placed Bucks team but they won the class outright. Lily Good was placed 6th individually and this result qualifies the team for the County Championship in April.



Lily, Hannah and Emily were then joined by Annabel Copen 11S on her first ride of the day in the 90cm class, with Annabel and Issi Bradford 10H also riding as individuals. With 30 teams in this class and over 130 competitors, it was very competitive but the team did really well to come second and the highest placed Bucks team, which again qualifies them for the County Championships.

Mrs Karen Copen

More Skiing Success for Anna

Monday 27 January saw podiums for three members of the British U16 and U14 Alpine Squad at the Children's International FIS races in Vallnord-Arcalis, Andorra.

Anna Henderson 10C topped the podium, winning the U16 Girls Super Combined race and bringing in the gold for GBR.

Well done, Anna.



Aberdyfi 2014

Earlier this term, Year 8 took the long journey to Aberdyfi. When we got to the Centre, everyone was very excited. We were given a nice lunch and then were shown to our dorms. We stayed in rooms of 4 to 6 and everyone was with their friends. On Monday night, we all had a very good night's sleep and we were all refreshed on Tuesday morning. The breakfasts, lunches and dinners were all delicious and overall, the trip was really enjoyable and fun.

Tilly Sharman 8M



Challenges



On day 2 of our Outward Bound week, my team went climbing, abseiling and rock scrambling. My favourite part of this was the abseiling. Of course I was absolutely terrified but when you got on to the amazingly flat ground, it was a great achievement. I even managed to scare my team when I slipped on the rock! I also enjoyed the rock scrambling because you had to communicate well with the rest of your team as you needed to warn each other where it was dangerous to walk. Being a very unco-ordinated and clumsy person, I didn't always stay upright! For me, this day was one of the hardest because you had to push yourself to do things out of your comfort zone. However, because of this, it was also one of the most rewarding days.

Lara Wheaton 8C



We had a really great time at Aberdyfi. We did a lot of activities, some of which we enjoyed more than others. Things like canoeing, climbing and abseiling were really fun but the hike and staying in the cabin were really challenging, especially because we were cold and wet. Climbing and abseiling were hard but it felt like you had achieved something afterwards. Everyone found the abseiling especially hard; this involved walking backwards off a steep, windy and slippery rock face. Hiking was not the best activity, but after walking for six hours and managing to climb to the top of the Welsh mountain 666, we were all extremely proud of ourselves.

Mollie Baars 8A



Aberdyfi 2014 - The Cabin

For one night we slept in a cabin; there were four but this one was called Havotty and wasn't the newest one, which made the experience more exciting. The 'bed' was like a big shelf on which we put camping mats and sleeping bags, which was really fun. We also made our own pillows. In the evening we had to make our own dinner, which was nicer than we thought. At night we were really hyper and had loads of fun making up games. When we went to sleep it was more comfortable than we thought it would be. Overall, the cabin was a challenge but a great experience.

Lucy Robson and Catherine Jacobs 8S



Water Sports

Water sport at Aberdyfi was a really great experience where people could re-visit things that they had done before and do new activities as well. Thursday started with the group taking a walk to the Aberdyfi water sports centre. As soon as we got there, we got kitted up and ready for a fantastic day. First of all we had a refreshing ride down to Picnic Island on a speed boat. We built the raft and we got back onto the land safely. Then we sailed; it was great fun as we learned to work together more. Overall, we enjoyed water sports as we had an amazing time! We struggled, but we managed to accomplish the task with teamwork!

Katie Arber 8A and Morksha Rodrigo 8H

Teamwork at Aberdyfi

At Aberdyfi we worked as a team, made new friendships and became more aware of our capabilities. Our team focused on resilience and we learnt how to keep going even when we were cold and wet. We encouraged each other to keep going by singing songs, especially when we were canoeing. As individuals, we built on our self-confidence and learnt how to speak up and share ideas when working in groups. We had a great time and the experience will definitely help us with our future lives at school and work.

Abigail Barlow and Lucy Graham 8W



Students as Researchers (SaRs)

Every Tuesday lunchtime, a group of Year 9 students meets with Mrs Kitchen and, with the support of the Open University Children Research Centre, are taught how to effectively research. Working in groups, we chose a field of interest and have shaped a question around this. Examples include: 'Why are women not as actively involved in science as men?', 'How does reading benefit you?' and 'Does technology have more positives than negatives?'. Some groups chose to send out questionnaires, whilst others decided to interview people from their target audience. We are now analysing our data to answer our questions. I have learnt a lot from this project and will use skills from it in the future.



Emily Francis 9C

An apple for the teacher (and students)

In the Autumn term, the school took a technological plunge and invested in a class set of iPads. A group of teachers with an interest in developing IT within the school are all test-driving projects with their classes. Thus far, the project has involved my German classes and my form. In MFL we wanted to have a focus on making oral work less scary; to that end my pupils in Year 9 have been making video presentations of famous artists. My Year 11 group has used them to practise pronunciation and to make interactive role plays. In the Sixth Form we have had a focus on collaborative whiteboards for sharing vocabulary, but have also had time to do treasure hunts using QR codes with videos and sound files. My Year 10s have been creating interactive comic books, dictating the dialogue as they go along. 11M has been using them for revision aids and memory training during form time.

"A really fun way to start the day" (Year 11 form time)

"This is the first time I've done an assessment that was fun!" (Year 9)

"Brainstorming vocabulary can be quite dull and time-consuming, but this was really quick and good fun" (Year 13)

"The iPads really make you want to do the activity, whatever it is" (Year 9)

Ewen Baird

AHS/AGS Year 8 Quiz

On Tuesday 11 February, Year 8 took four girls from each House to AGS for the first inter-school quiz. We were paired with four boys from each of their Houses, based on our House colours. There were eight rounds in the quiz: History, Geography, Maths and puzzles, Science, books, jokes and a picture quiz. The quiz was really fun and we learnt a lot from doing it. The winners won a trophy and a box of chocolates. The winning Houses were Phillips and Stowe.

If I got the opportunity to do this quiz again, I would definitely take it.

Sarah Piascik 8S



Young Enterprise

Aylesbury High School's Young Enterprise team 'Phonetics' won the 'Environmental Awareness' award at the recent trade fair in Milton Keynes. They had joined over 50 other Young Enterprise companies from surrounding areas, whose products included silver jewellery, Welsh slate products and hand-made wooden toys and ornaments, amongst others.

Rubiya Syeed 12H, Bridie Tubb 12O and Lisa Emmett 12E had an excellent display of their mobile phone chargers and cases. Well done for all of your efforts!

Mark Potkin



Thank you - Mr Simon Taylor

I would like to thank Mr Simon Taylor once again for his support of our Year 13 Product Design students. The CAD CAM techniques and machinery the students were able to access at your furniture making business in Bierton last week enabled the students to complete the final parts of their Controlled Assessment pieces. It has been an invaluable experience for the students and has aided examination pieces tremendously.

Mark Potkin

Design and Technology Club - Year 7

DT lunch club will be starting back after half term in TC7. Please see Mr Roberts to sign up. Hurry - only 10 spaces available on a first come/first served basis.

Rotary Tournament

I will be asking students entering this year's Rotary Tournament to come in for a series of lunchtime meetings after half term to better prepare you for the event. I have already met up with this year's competitors but I will notify you of dates via your registration form notices.

Mark Potkin

Year 10 Work Experience 2014

I was offered a placement at a care home as a General Assistant for home living people with learning disabilities. Roles for my days were giving companionship to residents, teaching residents learn, taking them on outings, looking after them and many more. Every aspect of work was inspiring and the environment at work was friendly. Caring, looking after and giving companionship for the disabled people were some of my greatest strengths. Not only did I discover my talents but also my weaknesses, which encouraged me to specifically understand what I will aim for in the future. Overall, this work was an unforgettable, extraordinary experience and all the useful skills gained will help me achieve my future job in becoming a doctor!

Nilogetha Rajasingham 10A



This is me by a celestial globe from 1692. I spent my work experience in the Maps Department of the British Library, and had a brilliant time user testing their software, making spreadsheets, etc. As part of a geo-referencing task I had the opportunity to view microfiche maps of anywhere in the country from the 1840s onwards, including my own town (there was nothing there, whatsoever.)

The picture was taken on a trip to the BL basements – the people in the background were measuring the globe to make a display case and I was invited too. It was a brilliant experience to see the ‘internal’ workings of such a great organisation and to feel a useful part of it for a week.

Florence Hewett 10H



For my work experience, I went to the Oxford Combined Court Centre in St Aldates. I observed court cases and sentencing most days. However, I was also able to gain experience at working in an office environment for a couple of days. As well as this, I spent time with the bailiffs and learnt about their jobs and what they involved, before they went out for the day. I really enjoyed my week as it was totally different from school and was a completely new experience for me. It was very interesting and I found the week valuable and worthwhile in giving me an insight into possible future career options and, to a certain extent, what it is like being treated as an adult.

Millie Fantham 10M

I really enjoyed my work experience at World's End Garden Centre as it enabled me to develop my confidence skills. I think it will benefit me in the future and has equipped me with useful knowledge.

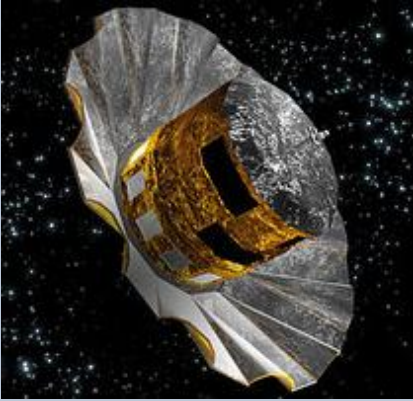
Katie Dysart 10C

I really enjoyed my work experience at Quainton School, as it has given me a great insight into the world of work. It was a great experience and has improved my confidence. Even though I am still unsure of what I want to be when I am older, it has shown me that working with children would be a good option.

Sarah Winstone-Partridge 10C

I really enjoyed my work experience at Wolverton Health Centre, as it improved my confidence and independence. I have also decided that a career in medicine may suit me, and I have increased my knowledge in the area of work I was in and how to work efficiently.

Emma Owen 10C

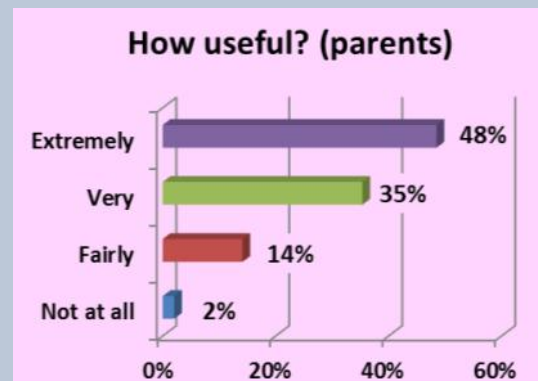
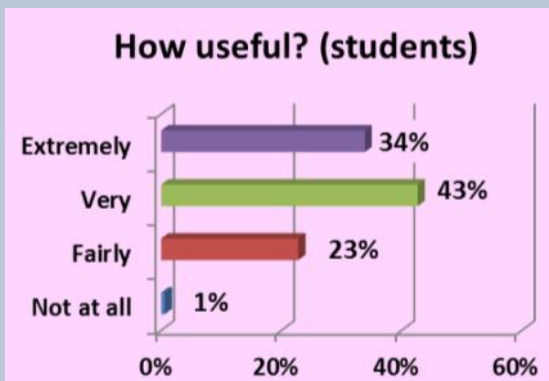
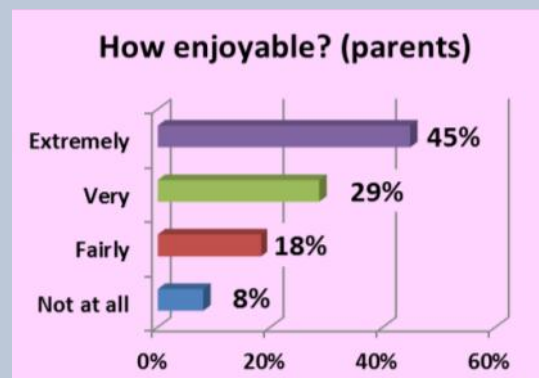
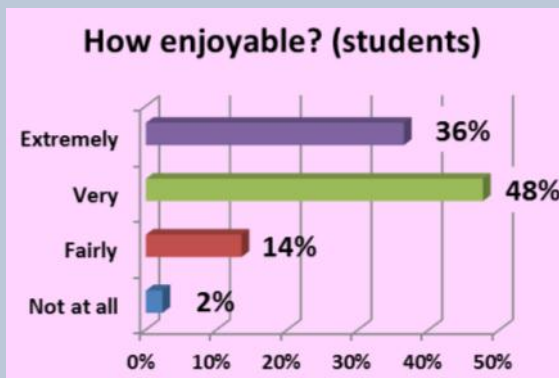


At the start of January, the whole of Year 10 went on work experience. I visited a company called Astrium, in Stevenage; they design satellites for space, as well as doing all the programming and constructing of the module. I had an amazing time, programming my own little computer to do various tasks I wanted it to, as well as using an incredible 3D design program called CATIA to design various things. The atmosphere of the company was unbelievable: every day I walked past satellites being designed, thought-out and constructed right in front of my eyes.

I felt the week I had was so informative about what I would like to do when I'm older.

Niamh O'Callaghan 10A

Work Experience Feedback



Thank you to all the students and parents who completed the surveys.

U12 County Basketball Champions

The U12 basketball team produced an awesome display to beat local basketball rivals, Princes Risborough. The Year 7 team dominated early play and led after the first quarter 10-2. The team went from strength to strength and improved in both offence and defence. A 22-10 half-time lead was transformed in the second half to produce a 50-22 victory.

Katherine Mitchell 7W led the scoring with 19 points, Sasha Abraham 7H 14pts, Katherine Wingfield 7A 9pts, Olivia Lowrie 7W 4pts and Anita Binns 7A 2 pts. Georgie Morley 7W, Hannah Ekerold 7H, Gabi Munien 7W, Elisabeth Hamilton 7H and Kaycia Socrates 7S all contributed to fine attacking and defensive play.

Well done Year 7 on winning the first basketball trophy of the season.

Ali Arber



U15 Basketball

In the coldest sports hall in the history of basketball games, the U15 team produced a nail-biting finish to a dramatic match against Woking High. It was not until the last quarter that the AHS team edged ahead in the last 2 minutes of the game. Going into the last phase, AHS trailed 21-24 but fine defence, especially from Charlotte Brooker 9M and Megs Woodward 10H, restricted the Woking team to only 3 more points. Once again, Melody Stephen 10A was a goal machine with 19 points, but crucial points from Megs (8 points), Charlotte (2 points), Alex Hickey 10C (2 points) and a bizarre basket from Annabelle Denly 9H secured a 33-27 win phew! Player of the Match was Megs Woodward.

Ali Arber

U14 Success at Regional Netball Finals

On Saturday 25 January, our U14, U16 and U19 netball squads travelled down to Southampton for the Regional Finals in an attempt to qualify for Nationals. After a long, cold day, it was just the U14s through to the semi-finals, after 2 draws, one against Wellington 7-7, and the other against Brighton College 11-11, and 5 wins, which included 22-1 and 20-6 in our pool.

In the semi-finals, we had to take on Beaconsfield High, which had previously beaten us in a recent school match. Everyone went onto court with nerves running high, knowing that if we won, we would be through to Nationals. At half time, we were winning 4-2, but we continued to play as if it was 0-0, as the result could have changed at any point. During the second half, we could hear Mrs Sillence's words of encouragement and instruction, which kept us motivated. After what seemed like forever, the final whistle blew, securing us an 8-5 win and a place at Nationals! But it wasn't over yet, as we had to play the regional final against Wellington College, who we had previously drawn with in the rounds. However, we lost 13-8, letting our performance drop slightly in the second half, as we knew we were through to Nationals already. The day was great - extremely tiring, but worth it. A big thank you to our coach, Mrs Sillence, who has got us this far already! Bring on Nationals!

Caitlin Rowley 9H and Charlotte Brooker 9M



Regional Netball Finals - U16

Back in November, our team won the Under 16 County Netball Tournament, which meant we qualified for the regional round in Southampton. So, on Saturday 25 January, we made our way to the Southampton Sports Centre for a day of six tough games.

We started well, being ahead in our first game at half time against Thornden School, the eventual winners; but unfortunately we didn't win a game overall. However, we gained two points by scoring half of our opponents score twice (6-7 against Ryde School and 8-12 against Brighton College). Our highlight of the day had to be Mr Sillence's signature brownies! Despite not achieving highly, we had a fun day which would not have been possible without Mrs Sillence and Mrs Frith, who have coached and helped us throughout the year. Thank you also to Alice Digby for scoring our games all day!



Jess Payne 11W (Captain)

English Schools' Badminton Success

After a six year battle to get through to the Regional Finals of the English Schools' Badminton tournament in one of the strongest badminton counties in the country, our KS3 team has managed success at last! They beat Denbigh, Dr Challoner's and finally Stantonbury, losing only one game all day. Ruchika Madhotra 9S (captain), Issy Marshall 8H, Sita Morjaria 7C, Gauri Morjaria 7W and Daisy Williams 9S were presented their gold medals by Emily Westfield, a Team GB player, and will go on to represent Bucks at the next round in Guildford on Thursday 20 March. Good luck, girls!

Our KS4 Badminton team beat Wycombe High School in the first match of the tournament then, went on to beat Stantonbury (last year's National Finals winners) 4 games to 1 to the great excitement of all. In the semi-finals they convincingly beat Beaconsfield High School to qualify for the tournament final. Again they were up against Stantonbury but unfortunately could not repeat their amazing performance of earlier in the day and eventually lost by 3 games to 2 after a very hard fought match. Well done to Neha Madhotra 11A (captain), Lucy Denly 10M, Laya Hariharan 11S and Carmen Li 11H - a valiant effort, girls.



Val Frith

Young Ambassadors

On Friday 24 January, the PE Change Team (PECT) visited the University of Hertfordshire, to receive the Youth Sports Trust's Young Ambassador training. Over 200 students from across the South-East region were inspired by Beijing Olympic 100m finalist Jeanette Kwakye and England Badminton's Anthony Clarke.

In February, the girls will work on the PE survey that KS3 and KS4 have completed. The girls are aiming to identify areas which would improve the provision of PE and Sport for all at AHS. The AHS PECT group - Bronwen Reed 9H, Rosemary Paine 10W, Annabelle Denly 9H, Charlotte Brooker 9M, Emily Edwards 10S and Finnley Whitbread 10H - is one of only 32 such teams nationally.

Ali Arber

