



Autumn Term 2016

Highlights



Half a term, half a term onward...

Education is destined to be in the news for the foreseeable future, and it's an interesting time to be in the education business. When we do get a chance to reflect, the glass is at least half full for AHS. Despite the many pressures on schools, staff, students and families, our students are benefiting from being in the right place at the right time, and have more opportunities available than ever before.

As always, the range of activities they get involved in never fails to impress and this edition gives a glimpse of what busy people can do when they apply the right mixture of inspiration, aspiration and perspiration.

I hope everyone has a good half term holiday and returns refreshed for Autumn Term, part 2.

Mr Rosen

In this issue

2

RECENT SUCCESSES

3

HOME & AWAY

6

CURRICULUM

9

DESIGN TECHNOLOGY

10

SPORTS

12

SPORTS: Hockey

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2 RECENT SUCCESSES

Former AHS pupil makes dog showing history



Antonia Leech, who left AHS last year, is the first ever Junior Handler representing the Young Kennel Club to be placed at the World Dog Show Handling Finals in 18 years. We were thrilled to hear of her achievement - Runner-up World Junior Handler at the Moscow World Dog Show. Antonia has just started studying Veterinary Medicine and Surgery at the University of Surrey and we wish her every success with her course.

Mr Rosen



BASE

After winning the award for 'Best Financial Analysis' at the BASE Business and Accountancy Competition, on 4 October our team travelled to London to spend a day at Crowe Clark Whitehill, an audit, tax and advisory firm. It was a day of learning crucial skills we could use in the future when applying for jobs. We practised assessment tests, each gave a presentation and had a mock interview, getting invaluable feedback and tips regarding what their firm look for when considering applicants. Overall it was a very useful day and interesting to visit a working office in the accountancy industry.

Annabelle Hood 13L and Daphne Forbes-Russell 13O



Fundraising



Well done to the students and staff at AHS for their fundraising efforts throughout the year including Purple Friday, for which we raised £800. Relay For Life Aylesbury 2016 has broken the £100,000 barrier for the third year in succession and won a special commendation from Cancer Research UK for its efforts. AHS also raised a fantastic £1593 for Ollie's Fund by 'going blue for Ollie' last Friday.

Look out for Fundraising Week activities which will take place in the last week of this term. Students will be voting in November on which charity to support.

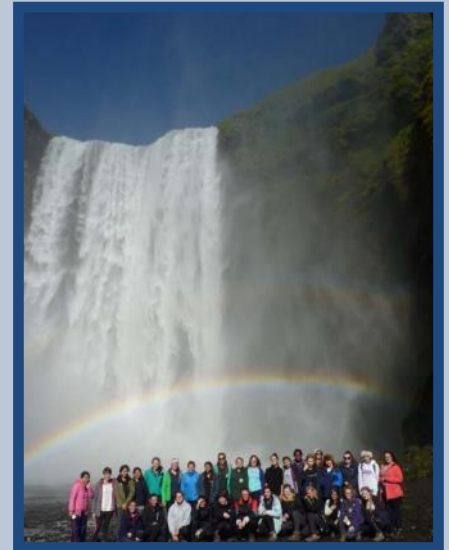
Mrs Jarrett

Geography Trip to Iceland

On 22 August, 40 Year 11s and 12s set off on an adventure to the geographical hotspot that is Iceland. The alarmingly early wakeup call was soon forgotten and before we knew it we were heading to the Blue Lagoon. This luxurious haven kicked off the trip in style and left us feeling fresh and pampered for the four days ahead. We enjoyed an action-packed few days, which brought to life what we had only previously seen in textbooks. Walking on a retreating glacier and getting the chance to wear crampons (a highlight for many), lava caving, climbing extinct volcanoes and walking behind waterfalls

were just a few of the activities. But undoubtedly the most breath-taking experience was seeing the Northern Lights, an extreme rarity for this time of year and definitely a big tick off the bucket list. This was a trip which we will never forget, and a massive thank you to Miss Watson for organising it and all the teachers who came!

Annabel Sim 13E, Hannah Hanling 13O and Olivia Ray 13O



Swedish Exchange

We landed in Sweden very excited, and the nerves were setting in once we got on the coach. After we got to the school and met our exchanges we had a brief meeting and fika (a traditional Swedish afternoon tea). Later that night we split off and spent the evenings with our exchanges. The next day we did a tour of the school and visited the local town, Gränna, and the museum. We also did PE and a group project with some of the Swedes in the afternoon. The following morning we experienced life in the school and went into language lessons such as French, Spanish, German and English. The Swedish lessons were very relaxed and they do not wear uniform; they also call their teachers by their first names. Later that day, we went back into the town to witness the Polkagriser factory, which makes a candy similar to rock that is specific to the region. On the Saturday we got the bus back into Gothenburg and spent the morning in the Universeum, which included a rainforest, an aquarium, and many interactive games for us to try out. We were then let loose for a few hours and saw the beautiful city of Gothenburg. In the afternoon, we met at Liseburg which is a big theme park in Sweden with many rides and attractions. Overall the trip was a very cultural experience and we all enjoyed spending time with our new Swedish friends.

Florence Webber 11A





Silver Duke of Edinburgh Expedition: 21-24 July 2016

Our expedition was in the beautiful Peak District, with picturesque landscapes and amazing views. Once we had settled at the first campsite, we began an acclimatisation walk allowing us to appreciate the beautiful scenery. For the next few days we covered over 30km, arriving at the campsite each night exhausted. We all completed a project and the topics varied from the pH of the water in the region to the weather and how it affected the local wildlife. All of the groups successfully completed the expedition despite the high temperatures, humidity and a few injuries. Overall it was a very rewarding experience and I would highly recommend it to others.

Abbie Harper 12P



Going for Gold

3 teams from AHS went to mid-Wales in August to complete our Gold D of E expedition. After 2 days training at base camp we set off on a 4 day expedition. Climbing 700m high hills, wading through several bogs and camping in the wild was quite a challenging experience, nevertheless, the sense of achievement that we all had at the end of the expedition was second to none. It has developed our endurance, our teamwork skills and above all else, our friendships. We will also most definitely miss the beautiful scenery of the Cambrian Mountains and will treasure our memory of seeing a stunning sunrise after an early start on the final day. The expedition was very enjoyable but also physically demanding due to the terrain, consequently forcing us to push our boundaries, which has enabled us to become much more resilient individuals.



Lucy Pangbourne 13C

Y11 Art trip to Tate Modern

On Wednesday 14 September, the Year 11 GCSE art students went on a trip to the Tate Modern with the aim to collect photographs and drawings for our new project, figures in a space. The building itself was massive and the art was housed in different sections of what used to be an old factory site. Unlike many other art galleries, the Tate has a very small selection of traditional art. One gallery focuses on illusions made by shadow, viewpoints and perspective which were greatly inspiring. There was also a lot of installation art which was fascinating to look at.

Taking notes and sketching on the way, we walked around every room looking at as many pieces as we could. We all took many

photographs of the interesting architecture of the building itself because our new project has a large focus on structure. After this we walked around the area outside the gallery and across the millennium bridge taking lots of observational sketches. We all returned inspired by the art we saw and excited to begin our new project.

Heather Nixey 11A, Tilly Green 11C and
Asisna Guniyangodage 11H



Art Trip to Pitt Rivers and Oxford Museum

On 30 September, Year 10 artists went to the Pitt Rivers and the Natural History Museum in Oxford. In the Pitt Rivers, we were fascinated by the array of ethnographic and archaeological objects from around the world. On the third floor there were displays of katanas (Japanese swords), axes, guns, arrows and knives, amongst other weapons. On other floors we saw masks, pottery, bones and other interesting artefacts. Then we went to the Natural History Museum, where we saw dinosaur skeletons, stuffed animals, insects, shells and minerals.



The Natural History Museum is the only place in the world that has the intact skin and head of a Dodo, which can also be seen on display. This trip gave us a lot of opportunities for photography and for developing our sketching skills. The Pitt Rivers and the Natural History Museum were both very interesting places and provided us all with a lot of inspiration for our upcoming projects.

Rachel Workman and Pavia Simmons 10A



6 CURRICULUM

Drama Workshop

On Friday 23 October, Year 10, 11 and 13 took part in three drama workshops following the style of Bertolt Brecht, a German practitioner and director, who created the Epic style of theatre. Kelly from Scene Productions came to our school and led workshops demonstrating some techniques Brecht would have used and we were taught to over-exaggerate everything and not keep anything hidden. It was a thoroughly good workshop, which I would recommend to anyone in the future, as it was great fun and we learnt lots. My favourite part was when we acted as Mac the Knife, an evil business man from the play Threepenny Opera, which Year 13 are currently studying.



Eleanor Terrett 10C

Work Experience

At the beginning of the summer holidays, we spent a week at the Engineering company Leonardo in Luton. We had a great time learning about the different areas of engineering and how to get into engineering, both through degree courses, or via apprenticeships. We were taught about systems, hardware, mechanical, microwave and software engineering, all of which played a part in a final project piece that we made over the course of the week. This turned out to be a small, wireless listening box that could be potentially deployed by a robot, in a hypothetical scenario. Among our favourite workshops was a presentation on hardware engineering which focused on how circuit boards are made, and the components used in them, although some of these were so complicated that even the presenters didn't quite know why they worked in the way in which they do! Following this, we spent the first three hours of the next day soldering our own circuit boards for our projects. This was hard, as it was very detailed and precise work, but as it was interesting and engaging, the time seemed to fly by as we worked. As well as this, we really enjoyed the presentation on microwave engineering, as it took us far beyond our GCSE physics knowledge, requiring us to concentrate hard and make links between what we already knew and what we were being told. The final workshop that we really enjoyed was the software engineering session, in which we had to programme LEGO robots to complete a series of actions by using sensors of colour, light and movement. This was very challenging as we could not do actions side by side and so had to work out the order in which we had to programme the robots, but we managed with each one to develop some sort of

programme that at least did one of the tasks! At the end of the week, we had to present what we had learnt, as well as our eventual projects to all of the adults who had taught us over the days. This was a really good opportunity for us to consolidate our knowledge, and show off the details we had picked up. The whole week was amazing, from meeting new people, finding out about work as an engineer, eating at the canteen at Leonardo and getting a feel for what it is like to commute, and we both really loved it as it was so interesting and informative. If students want to find out more career opportunities please join the google classrooms group – qgblucy



Anna Hayward 11A, Gemma Workman 11C

HeforShe Campaign



We started supporting and advocating the HeforShe campaign around a year ago as part of our citizenship GCSE project. The campaign is supported by the United Nations and was set up to resolve the inequality between the genders. We decided to take our idea to Buckinghamshire County Council, where we presented to an audience of around thirty people, including the past and present CEO. After receiving such positive and encouraging feedback, we were offered to present to further audiences around the county. We presented to each key stage before we went and spoke to Buckinghamshire Safer and Stronger Board. They listened to our plan for the next few years

and offered their help with spreading the word about gender equality. We then started preparing to make a video to send out to all of the local primary schools, to prevent gender stereotyped from a young age. With the assistance of the council we were able to film it and we are currently planning our second version of the video. We aim to have it written, practised and filmed by Christmas and will then send it out to local primary schools with a lesson plan for gender equality. We want to do this because gender equality is a worldwide issue and could affect our lives. We hope to change the attitude of gender equality in our local community within the next few years!

Emily Critchlow 10S

Robert Guest of the Economist

On Friday 30 September, the Sixth Form had the brilliant opportunity of listening to the foreign editor of The Economist, Robert Guest, who enlightened us on his experiences as a journalist, as well as sharing his own thoughts on the state of the world in 2016. Having interviewed international statesmen, leading economists and political thinkers, he presented a really unique insight into a huge variety of international problems. Among the issues discussed was the current devastating situation in Somalia, where the previous attempts to resolve the current anarchic nature of society have failed, with the authorities still facing a huge challenge from Al-Qaeda-aligned and Al-Shabab insurgents, making peace an impossibility for the foreseeable future. Additionally, he touched upon the politics that we all hear



about on a regular basis, whether it be Brexit or the US Presidential election, where he shared with us his own opinions and predictions concerning the success of Clinton's and Trump's respective campaigns. Nevertheless, his far-reaching knowledge of economic and political affairs was truly inspiring, with many of us considering a career in journalism following the talk. After the presentation, he then provided well-considered and discerning answers to our questions, and as a result we all came away feeling extremely well-informed. The talk was an unforgettable experience and we were very grateful for the chance to listen to such an inspiring speaker.

Kirsty Peacock 13L

8 CURRICULUM

Geography Fieldtrip to Juniper Hall

For our geography GCSE controlled assessment we need to carry out fieldwork along a coastline, which we decided to conduct at Seaford. Our visit consisted of a two night stay at Juniper Hall Field Study Centre and a trip to Seaford coastline and town centre on the Saturday. We carried out a variety of data collection tasks which included beach profiling (measuring the gradient of the beach), flood risk mapping, our own unique technique and asking a questionnaire to people in the town centre. The staff at the study centre were all very friendly and helped us achieve our full potential whilst we were on the trip. Overall we had an amazing time even though the weather was a bit temperamental!



Abigail Barlow and Dunmi Okude 11W

Harvest Visits



Our Year 9s were busy this month marking Harvest by visiting residents of St Leonards and Langden Court. The girls took homemade cakes and harvest boxes created by Year 8 students. As well as chatting to residents, the girls entertained them with several musical items.

Mrs Queralt

Fame Choreography

Over the past few weeks, myself, some students in Year 12 and our dance teacher Miss McKendrick have been choreographing the dances for 'Fame!' We've worked with around 20 girls and one boy and they've all been very cooperative, easy to work with and lovely in general. 'Fame!' was a fantastic show, and I hope everyone's families and friends enjoyed seeing what we created.

Em Jenkins 11M

More about the fantastic Fame performances in the next Highlights



DESIGN TECH

News



Students in Year 11 are teaching a group of Year 8 students about wireless robot building. The Year 11 students have competed with their own robots in the 'Rampaging Chariots' competition for the last 3 years. This year they are passing their knowledge onto a new team. The Year 8 students have decided upon a theme for their robot and have started building both the chassis and circuit boards.

The same Year 11 students are also running a Technology Club for Year 7 students. They will show the new students how to use a range of tools and machines to make a range of small projects. Many thanks to Year 11 students Anna Haward, Gemma Workman, Lauren Wood and Heather

Nixey for their help with the Year 7 and 8 students.

The Design and Technology, Mathematics and Science ambassadors in Year 13 are running a STEM club involving a range of challenges for Year 7, 8 and 9 students. So far they have made paper airplanes designed to carry the most pennies and a structure made from marshmallows and spaghetti.

Well done girls. Some interesting design projects and challenges produced so far.

Mr Potkin



Design Ventura



Design Ventura is a national design competition run in association with The Design Museum London, aimed at encouraging young people to be creative and entrepreneurial. Students, working in teams, are asked to consider the whole process of design, from initial ideas to manufacturing and budgets to marketing and branding.

We have a team of five Year 9 students currently working on a product that addresses the importance of road safety. If successful, the girls will have their product made professionally and sold in the Design Museum shop.

For more information contact: Mr Cook in Design & Technology

FormulAHS



FormulAHS Racing is our new electric racing car project whose aim is to design, build and race a full size racing car.

This is a national motor sports racing competition run under the Greenpower scheme where cars race at various well known race tracks up and down the country. We have a team made up of students from Years 7 - 10 eager to get racing. We aim to start building our car after half term with the hope of being ready for the new race season which begins again in April 2017, with a season opener at Goodwood.

For further information and/or offers of support contact: Mr Cook in Design & Technology



Two AHS students selected for England Basketball Team!

Following the Regional Development Tournaments in Manchester in September, two Year 11 students have been selected for the England basketball team. Kiylo Solagbade, who gained a place in the Women's U16 National squad joins Ciara Belsham who was called up to the England U17 team.



Kiylo, part of the AHS U16 team who won the national finals this year, is over the moon with her selection: 'I didn't make it through last year so it was a real boost to see my renewed efforts pay off this time.'

Ciara says, 'I'm really looking forward to playing with some of the top players in the country and I'd like to thank Mrs Arber, our Head of PE, and Coach Jenner for all of their time, support and encouragement.'

Mrs Queralt



Squash on the Move at AHS

Congratulations to Hannah Mathews (7S) who won the Bucks County Closed U13 Championship at Beaconsfield Squash club. Hannah battled very hard in the final to win 3-2 against an older opponent. This win is quite remarkable given that Hannah is only in her first year of this age group. This win has meant that Hannah has now been selected for the county team to play in the inter counties tournaments. A big thanks to coach Darren Withey who is helping to develop squash with AHS students. AHS girls have been entered into the Bucks Junior Squash league and won their first game against Thame. Girls new to the sport of squash can access 6 weeks free coaching - please email Mrs Arber. Coaching is available on Mondays and Thursdays after school for all year groups. A great start to the season for Coach Darren and the girls.



Mrs Arber

Squash v Beaconsfield Jaguars

On Sunday 9 October Molly Woods, Emily Withey, Imogen Gibbs, Hannah Mathews, Mia Gilbert and Frances Dodds played a tightly fought match with all of the games being close. Unfortunately we lost the match 3 -2, but we picked up 8 points. Hannah continued her winning form with the most comprehensive 3 - 0 win. Molly and

Mia came straight from their DofE practice walk onto court and once in her stride Molly recorded our other win (3 -1). The other girls fought hard against their all boy opponents and many of the games could have come our way with just one or two points extra. At Beaconsfield's request we had a friendly number 6 game giving Frances her Bucks League debut which gave her some good match practice before we get to the next National Schools round. Wonderfully supported by parents the girls demonstrated good attitude on court and friendly team spirit (and thanks to Hannah's mum for the KitKats!).



Sally Withey

Cross Country teams through to Regional Finals

Well done to the Junior (Years 7 & 8) and Intermediate (Years 9 & 10) teams who came third and second respectively at the Bucks Championships at Cottesloe School. Conditions were ideal for running and the teams qualified comfortably for the Regional Round in November, with leading runs by Millie Carey (8th Junior) and Olivia Lowrie (5th Intermediate). Millie was followed home by Millie Lowrie (14th), Helena Van Hullen, Zara Brooks, Isabelle Barnes and Hannah Davies. In the Inter Girls race, Olivia was followed home by Lucy Perkins (6th), Hatty Bell (8th), Emily Johnston (9th), Georgie Morley (16th) and Olivia Robson (17th) as the team came home almost in pairs in the 50 strong field.

Mrs Arber



Sports Presentation Evening 2016

On Friday 16 September, Aylesbury High held its annual Sports Presentation Evening. The Main Hall, packed with all of our sportswomen, hosted a night to remember all of the incredible achievements of the past academic year. We were able to celebrate the amazing performances of both our teams and individuals, and recognise the terrific contributions of all the staff involved.

We were fortunate enough to have Jo Hunter, an international hockey player and former student at AHS, talk to us about her pathway to playing at such a high level and the milestones in her life from starting as a Year 7 here.

Jo presented the awards throughout the evening, and it was a huge pleasure to have congratulations from such an inspirational young woman. I am honoured to have received the Margaret Cooper Cup award for KS4, having played netball and basketball for the school since Year 7. It was a thoroughly enjoyable event and, on behalf of the rest of the girls, would like to thank Mrs Carpenter and the PE staff for organising such a successful and inspiring awards night.

Charlotte Brooker 12P



12 SPORTS: Hockey

Hockey News

Hockey has started with a vengeance at AHS again this year, with a number of fixtures already having taken place.

Year 7 have had 3 games so far with player of the match going to Alex Collins, Emily Corlett, Inge Drotske, Pheobe Lipscomb-Stevens and Rowan Chantrey. They have made a fantastic start to their hockey lives at AHS - but we are in need of a few more Y7 players! Please see Mrs Rust.

Year 8 have had 2 matches with player of the match going to Emma Sainsbury, Freya Maguire, Gracie Brown and Lucy Elliott. They have had some tough opposition from Sir Thomas Fremantle, but they have been training hard and with Halton winter training starting next week, they will be ideally placed to start their league games.

U14 have had their county tournament and were so very unlucky not to qualify for the next round. The team consisted of the following: Grace Ashton, Zoe Kenney, Helena Van Hullen, Mathu Indran, Jasmine Orris, Nikki Melsom, Hatty Bell, Olivia Robson, Gracie Brown, Freya Maguire, Fleur Dixon, Flo Plant and Alex Collins. With 4 of this squad being a year younger and Alex being 2 years younger, it bodes well for the future. The league campaign starts soon and this team will be a force to be reckoned with in the future.

U16 have also had their county tournament, beating Sir Thomas Fremantle in their lead up game 2-1, with Nathalie Grant and Lisi Prendergast-Coates scoring the goals and Emily Critchlow in goal being awarded player of the match.

U18 County outdoor finals – a tough draw with Stowe, Sir William Borlase and The Royal Latin School to play. The top two would progress into the Regional rounds. Despite some excellent play from the entire squad, it was not meant to be. Their performance did allow them to hold their heads high against this really tough opposition. Losing 3-1 to Stowe, Olivia Robson scoring, 3-0 to an impressive and physical Sir William Borlase, then a 2-0 win over The Royal Latin with Annabelle Denly and Anna Henderson getting on the score sheet. The majority of the squad are only U16, with two still being U14, which shows the strength and depth of the players coming through. The squad consisted of: Annabelle Denly, Abigail Lawrence, Amani Hoque, Anna Henderson, Ellie Kiely, Eloise Dunne, Hannah Alexander, Hannah Kerr, Hannah Hanling, Kirsty Stratful, Mollie Baars, Molly Woods, Phoebe Siaw, Vanessa Bond, Nikki Melson and Olivia Robson.

Hockey continues to grow at AHS and the commitment from the girls and parents is hugely appreciated. Our volunteer coaches are looking forward to getting started with the winter hockey training at RAF Halton and Miss Daniels will be providing some strength and conditioning elements to the training sessions; I'm sure the rest of the season will show even more progress.

Mrs Rust

