



Aylesbury High School
Prepare, Challenge & Inspire



HIGHLIGHTS

December 2017

A WORD FROM THE HEADTEACHER

What's school for anyway?

It's illuminating sometimes to compare UK education with other countries. Whilst you could probably see a fairly similar lesson on metaphors or multiplication or molecules anywhere in the world, lots of the wider experiences described in these pages simply wouldn't happen in many other places, even those with a comparable level of development.

We always say that education at AHS doesn't just happen inside the classroom, and the many extra-curricular activities that take place every week of the year often provide the best memories for students and staff alike (although I do hope the lessons are suitably memorable as well).

In 2016-17 we managed 112 'distant' trips (ie not including local fixtures or visits), 20 of them overseas, 14 involving adventurous activities, with 8210 participant days (5985 of them overnight).

And that's just the trips - one day I will count all of the other in-school and out-of-school activities, when I have nothing better to do!

Alan Rosen

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RECENT SUCCESSES

Bucks Young Scientist of the Year

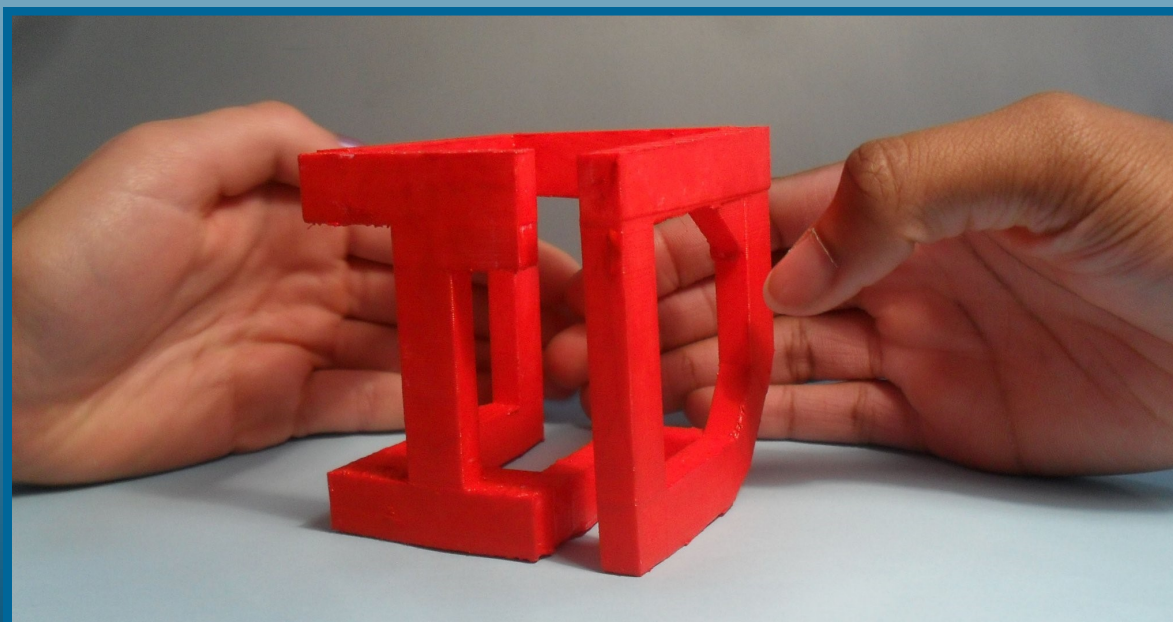
For several years there has been an awards ceremony in Oxfordshire to honour young scientists so we were delighted to be part of the inaugural Bucks Young Scientist of the Year Awards run by the Bucks Learning Trust. Three of our students were involved in the evening and rewarded with certificates for their achievements. Congratulations to Sarah Critchley (Physics), Sneha Mallya (Chemistry) and Vanessa Bond (Biology) who all gained Young Scientist awards at last month's event. Guest speakers were invited to discuss their research and included a very inspiring Physicist working in the field of lasers and their applications. It was a rare sight to see a Physicist so animated!

Mrs Burt (Biology!)



AHS does Dragons' Den

Nine Young Enterprise companies from schools throughout Aylesbury attended a Dragons' Den-styled event at Aylesbury Vale Academy. Our company pitched to a team of 4 'Dragons' about their business idea. The 'Dragons' were experts in a range of business fields. They were impressed with our AHS team 'Imagine Dimensions' and awarded a sum of £55 as an investment for their company, which was one of the highest investments. The AHS business advisor Mrs Pettifer and Mr Potkin were thrilled for the team. Well done Jannath, Zoe, Dunmi and Michelle for all of your effort and a great business pitch! **Mr Potkin**



HOME AND AWAY

BERLIN TRIP

On the morning of 19 October, 3 girls and 5 boys from Aylesbury High School and Grammar School flew to Berlin, leaving at 2:55am. The first day consisted of a walking tour around Berlin, which brought the classroom to life. We visited sites such as the Brandenburg Gate and walked through the Tiergarten, seeing and discussing memorials, statues and key places en route, with each of us presenting about one we visited.

After a stop at an Eis-Café and a very German dinner of Currywurst, we then spent the evening at the Reichstag, learning about the history and development of the modern day parliament building, with a night-time view across Berlin. The next few days thankfully began slightly later, but were still packed with interesting places and visits, from a Turkish market, a flea market and a political cabaret, to the Jewish and GDR museums, several memorials and a church ruin to name just a few.

The trip definitely brought into reality a lot of the concepts we had learnt in the classroom, for example the ongoing difficulties of reunification, current political discussion topics and how Germany begins to deal with its past from the world wars to time under the communist regime in East Germany, all of which made this an unmissable and invaluable trip, despite the unplanned extra night after a last minute flight cancellation - which was a setback but didn't disrupt the happy spirits.

Beth Arrowsmith 13E



Year 11 Geography Field Trip

On a chilly Friday morning, we left school at approximately 8:00am, with a positive attitude about the trip we had ahead of us. The coach journey to Bournemouth lasted about 4 hours, obviously excluding a stop at the service station McDonalds. We met our instructors at Boscombe Pier, and they introduced us to the area and gave us background information to help us collect our data. The basis of our research was to investigate the difference between the sea front and the town centre to see the effects of regeneration. Although the sea front of Boscombe was very picturesque, as we walked further into the residential area, we noticed a significant difference in the beauty of the town. After a long and tiring day, we reached to the place we were going to spend the next two nights, called Leeson House.

The next day was spent collecting primary data for the physical aspect of our investigation, looking at the effectiveness of coastal management at Swanage. Despite the cold weather, we all enjoyed the beauty of Swanage and Studland Bay from the top of the hill. After seeing the tourist destination of Old Harry's Rock, we made our way back to Leeson House and devoured the delicious food that was offered to us. Finally, the last day was spent viewing beautiful locations such as Durdle Door and Lulworth Cove. We all thoroughly enjoyed the time that we spent together on the trip and we learnt a lot!

Sharon Amuwo and Rasika Wakhare 11A



Festive Music at AHS



Christmas Concert

Thank you to all the performers who started our festive season with a bang - quite literally - with amazing performances from AHSteel and our percussion group. Other highlights included the Symphony Orchestra's pieces from The Nutcracker, the Jazz Band, some lovely festive singing from Harmonize and the Chamber Choir and of course the Harding House Choir. Special mention must go to those

students who bravely performed on their own, so congratulations to Maiwa, June, Mathu, Elizabeth and to Velvet Garden Party. A huge thank you too to Ms Raven, Mr Gater and Mr Lemon for all their work with the ensembles. **Mrs Queralt**



Carol Singing

Well done to the carol singers who entertained the elderly at Fremantle Court on Thursday 30 November, and for so festively accompanying the AHS Christmas lunch last Thursday. It was enjoyed by all and you sang beautifully.

Ms Raven

Fundraising Week

This week saw our annual Fundraising Week, when Year 12 students organise and run lunchtime events to raise money for charities selected by the students. Tuesday opened the events with the ever-popular school panto, Wednesday was the Staff Karaoke, where staff get the chance to show their talents outside of the classroom, and Thursday ended with the highlight of the week, The A Factor, where students compete for a £50 prize. The charities put forward by students this year were: A21, The Alzheimer's Society, Oxfam, People not Borders and Water Aid and all proceeds will be equally shared between them.

Panto

Several members of 7W and 7H were asked to help out with teacher panto and keep a massive secret from everyone in the school - who played which characters. Our role was to play Fairy Tale Creatures and Knights and the girls from 7H were the three little pigs. We fought Shrek (Mrs Burt) and helped Lord Farquaad (Mr Stanley).

Katie Balmer and Emily Brittain 7W



Staff Karaoke

Staff Karaoke was entertaining and fun. We were involved in the Irish Squad's performance from High School Musical which was really energising. It was brilliant to hear that we had won! Other great acts were from the Science, Languages, Maths, Computing and Creative Arts departments as well as a fantastic poem from Mrs Livingstone!

Poppy Gregory 7W

Fundraising Week

The A Factor

This was the highlight of the week and all were very impressed by the amazing talents of those who participated. Well done to: Tiffany, Suzanne, Lucie, Paige, Laura, Maiwa, Mathu, June, Sharni, Katharine, Neve, Yi-Toong, Julia and Sam. The Winner/s of the A Factor trophy are still under wraps to be revealed during Friday's End of Term Show! Thank you also to the amazing Cabinet (and friends) who were brilliant.

Mrs Jarrett



AGS / AHS JOINT PRODUCTION

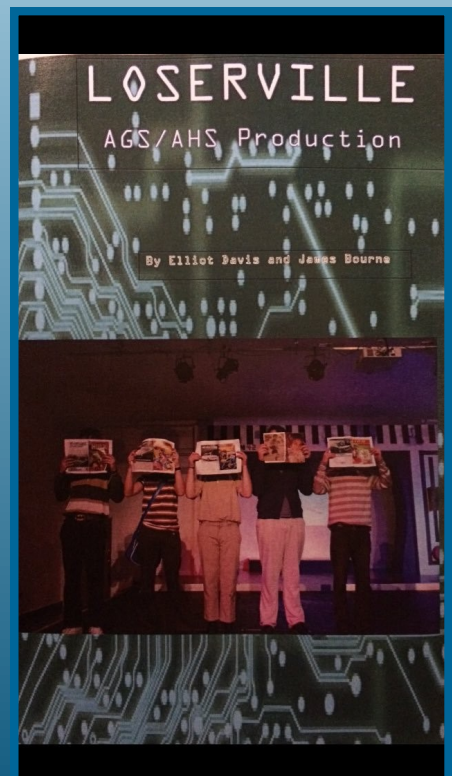
Loserville - boldly going where no AGS/AHS production has gone before!

This year, the joint AHS and AGS production of 'Loserville' took place from 18 - 20 October. Loserville is an energetic and entertaining pop-rock musical set in the 1970s that tells the story of a group of dorks who set out to develop a computer communications system. With trips and turns, romance and betrayal, sci-fi conventions, and constant Star Trek and Star Wars references, the computer message is successfully sent and received.

Following auditions in the summer term, the cast undertook 6 weeks of intensive yet highly enjoyable singing, acting and dancing rehearsals beginning in September. As well as the actors learning lines and where to stand, the tech crew also designed the set, props and made sure the actors were all clearly seen and heard on stage during the performances.

It is definitely fair to say that everyone worked extremely hard, both on and off stage, to create such a successful production and, from what the audience have been saying, the force was definitely with us!

Harriett Robson 13H



CURRICULUM

Rotary Public Speaking Competition



On Tuesday 21 November, 6 students from Year 8 and 3 from Year 10 took part in the Rotary Speaks public speaking competition, representing AHS. The speech consisted of three people in a team: a chairperson, who introduced the topic, a main speaker, who covered the main substance of the speech and answers a spontaneous question and lastly the vote of thanks, who thanked both previous speakers and drew it to an end. Overall the speech had to be 10 minutes long, which was fairly challenging!

In the intermediate competition, after fierce competition from The Grammar School, Maiwa, Emma and Elizabeth won, talking about social media and mental health. Emma (in Year 8) showed off her excellent speaking skills and consequently won best speaker in her category. It was a tight competition and Nyneisha, Dejannae and Anna came very close behind them talking about Article 50. This speech was very relevant with Britain's future and showed their thorough understanding of the complex topic. Lucy, Purva and Abby, also won the senior competition, talking on gender stereotypes, answering the

spontaneous question with enthusiasm for the topic. Both winning groups are through to the district finals which will be held in the new year.

We really enjoyed the experience and would like to thank Mr Jones and the organisers for helping us and putting on the competition. It has definitely improved our confidence with public speaking and will enable us to use these valuable skills throughout our lives. **Lucy Frazer and Abby Scutchings, 10H**

Frantic Assembly physical theatre workshop

On 10 November our Year 12 Drama A Level group (as well as a GCSE group) participated in a workshop held by Richard James Neale - director and actor of Frantic Assembly. The stimulus of this workshop was based on physicality and ensemble movement in performance, taking ideas from Frantic Assembly's most popular 'Things I know to be true' and 'The Curious Incident of the Dog in the Night-time'.

We started off by warming up to gain energy and focus before carrying out tasks. This included physical exercise incorporating some yoga which really got our hearts pumping so we had enough energy to get in touch with our body and minds. After this we progressed to more teamwork and trust exercises which really allowed our group to excel in becoming an ensemble as opposed to mainly just focusing on ourselves. A large proportion of the workshops were how to incorporate realistic lifts into a performance. Although at times there was a struggle in doing this due to several height differences, we all managed to do it in the end and were amazed to see everyone (short and tall) become confident in lifting by the end! Overall this was a 'frantastic' experience for us, especially as we now know how to build unique ensemble techniques into our own devised pieces in the future. We thank Richard for his time with us. **Chisha Chanda 12W**



CURRICULUM

FormuAHS

This term sees continued progress on the construction of our racing car. The main body is mainly complete to the next point. A big thank you goes to Henkel/Loctite for supplying us with some of their new modern adhesives that reduce the need and use of mechanical fittings.

We are still looking for sponsors to help the construction of the progress further as we now look to install the key components of the car such as the motor, batteries and wheels. If you or your company would be interested and able to sponsor us with any part of the car we would be most grateful. In return your company logo would be placed on the car and any literature produced, which would be seen by at least 70 other teams in the competition and hundreds of individuals and companies. For sponsorship offers or more information on the project please do contact: jcook@ahs.bucks.sch.uk **Mr Cook**

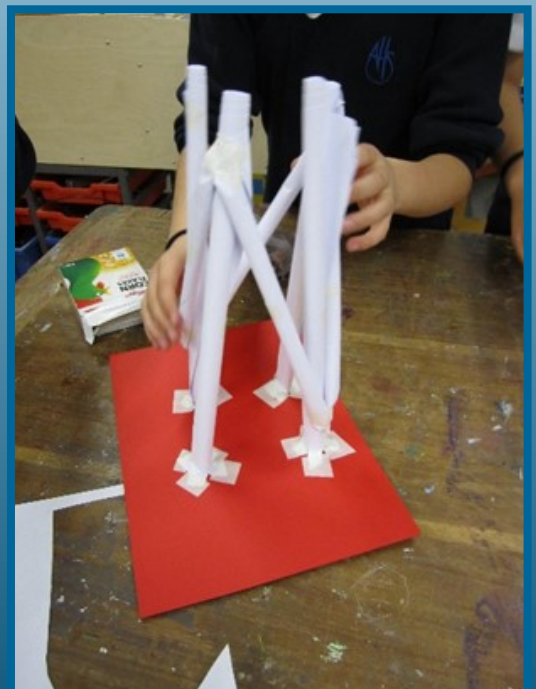


D&T House Challenges

The Year 8 task was to design and construct a structure that would withstand the forces of an earthquake keeping the content of the structure (a raw egg) safe from harm. Congratulations to the winning house, Ascott.



Year 9 were required to build a device that could carry a 'toxic' liquid across a room. The person carrying the liquid had to maintain a distance of 80cm from the container. Maiwa Banda from Missenden clinched the final victory with a fast and efficient transportation with no spills! **Mr Potkin**



CAREERS TALKS

Medicine Careers Talk

Thank you to Dr Chloe Spence who came in to speak to us about her career in medicine. We were intrigued to learn about her journey from a curious Year 7 student at AHS to a qualified doctor. Dr Spence spoke about her current work at Stoke Mandeville's busy A&E department, and also discussed her unique path into volunteering with Thames Valley Air Ambulance. She imparted crucial advice to sixth form students and inspired younger students too. Thank you again for giving up your time to speak to us and giving us insight into this profession! **Mrs Taylor**



Clinical Psychologist

A few weeks ago, Anne Schmidt, a clinical psychologist, came in to tell us a little bit about this branch of psychology and what she does within her role. As there was a range of students of a range of different ages, she started by explaining what clinical psychology itself is and how it differs from other areas of psychology as well as other similar fields such as psychiatry. Anne continued to explain what she does as a clinical psychologist, detailing the sorts of methods she uses and the disorders she usually treats. Something that particularly interested everyone was her work with young offenders whose crimes were put down to a clinical disorder. Overall, the talk was incredibly fascinating and gave everyone a very interesting insight into the role of a clinical psychologist and how truly important this work is! I think everyone enjoyed hearing about what Anne does to help others- especially the young offenders. It was a really worthwhile experience that I'm sure inspired everyone to take further interest in clinical psychology. **Mrs Taylor**



ESAA National Cross Country Finals

After making it through a tough regional round, the AHS junior and inter cross-country teams ran at the ESAA National Cross-Country Finals on Saturday 25 November at Sevenoaks School in Kent.

We arrived after a two-hour coach journey to be greeted by a cold but sunny morning. This gave us plenty of time to walk the course, warm-up and practise our pen starts.



The first race was inter girls (Years 9 and 10) who approached the race with determination, especially the Year 10' as this was their last ESAA Cup Final. After a crowded start the team fought their way up and down the short but steep hills, through the woods and back to the finish line with the first AHS runner, Emily Johnston, across the line in 50th place. Next was Isabelle Barnes (87th) and Millie Carey (98th) followed by Lucy Perkins, Hannah Davis and Hatty Bell.



Whilst the inter girls were making themselves warm with plenty of layers, the junior team were preparing for their race. For every junior runner this was their first ESAA National Final. Once the gun was fired they all battled their way out of the pens with great team effort. A special well done to Kitty our first junior runner who finished in an amazing 55th place despite tripping over. Behind her was Mary Drewett (73rd), Emilia Rock (112th), Laura Goble (118th) and Eva Pudney (145th). Everyone gave it their all and after a tiring day we went for a well deserved meal at the Works in Aylesbury! Thank you to Mrs Arber and Mrs Carey who spent the whole day supporting us.



A fantastic effort by all the runners, great running - we are very proud of you girls!

Mrs Carey

SPORT

Swimming Highlights

On 18 November the AHS swim team went up to London to swim at the London Aquatics Centre to compete in the English Schools National gala, where countless Olympians have swum! It was an early start, but everyone was soon awake after the pool familiarisation, and delicious lunch at Westfield Shopping Centre. It was a great opportunity to do a bit of Christmas shopping, and enjoy a big meal before our races.

We walked back to the aquatic centre, the pool now full of schools from all over the country. The atmosphere was



buzzing as the juniors began their relays, and many of the swimmers were able to see friends from other schools, who swim with them at their clubs. Mrs Carey, Mrs Arber and Mrs Faulkner were all very supportive and were cheering us on through the tough competition.

Although we didn't finish first we all had a wonderful day, shopping, eating and swimming! **Mia Boersma 9C**

A Level Sports Leaders and Harding House

Each Monday for the past six weeks beginning in October, the eight A level Sports Leaders held a variety of sports sessions for the students of Harding House. We started with cricket, moved onto football and then basketball, with each sport having one session developing skills and one match play session.

The students from Harding House throughout the 6 weeks have always been enthusiastic and enjoyed the sessions whilst really improving their basic sports skills such as catching and throwing accurately. We have all had a great time getting to know them and are going to miss seeing them every Monday! **Mollie Baars 12H**



Handball county tournament

The GCSE PE students have been learning how to play Handball this term in their lessons and during a Friday lunchtime. Last year saw the current Year 11 team win their County round tournament to progress to the Regional round of the competition where they finished in second place.

This year Handball has become a bigger sport across the County and so a preliminary round was introduced. On 16 November the Year 10 Handball team competed in their first competition. Facing 5 teams from across the County the girls were unsure of the standard to expect. They started well, winning their first fixture against Buckingham 6-1. This was soon followed with a 5-1 win against the Grange, a close 5-4 win against Sir William Borlase, a 4-2 win against Sir Thomas Freemantle and finally, their closest game, a 2-1 win over Royal Latin. For most of the team this was their first experience of an actual Handball game, with 5 of the 9 players scoring goals - a fantastic achievement. We look forward to facing them all again at the next round of the competition! **Miss Hunter**

English Schools Netball County Round

On 18 November the U14 and U16 English Schools Netball teams competed in the County round of the competition.

As usual for this round, rain coincided with the start of the tournament and continued throughout the day! Both teams started well, with a convincing 22-2 win for the U16s and a closer 8-7 win for the U14s.

As the day progressed the U14s continued to fight hard but unfortunately lost some key games. The U16s continued their strong start to go on to win their other matches convincingly. They will now go on to compete at the Regional round of the competition in January - well done girls!

