



HIGHLIGHTS

February 2017

A WORD FROM THE HEAD

As this new (and experimental) edition of Highlights wings its way to you, several groups of students are on exciting half term adventures. The girls on the Barcelona Sports Tour are playing hockey and basketball matches against Spanish teams as well as having masterclasses with international players. The ever popular ski trip to Passo Tonale is on the slopes in Italy. In sunnier climes, the Spanish exchange to Murcia is well underway where the Year 10 students are enjoying making new friends and practising their Spanish.

Last but not least, our Historians and Politicians are in Washington to see if anything is going on there at the moment!

Wishing you all a very happy half term, wherever you are spending it.

Alan Rosen

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Aberdyfi 2017



In January the whole of Year 8 had the wonderful experience of Outward Bound in Aberdyfi. We couldn't believe how many new skills we learnt - not just how to abseil or kayak but so much about ourselves. We were encouraged to step out of our comfort zones - and we certainly did - with heights, cold water and a long expedition to a remote cabin. But it taught us so much about what we are capable of and we truly learnt what resilience is. One of our favourite activities was the gorge walk where we braved the icy water to slide down waterfalls and really worked together as a team. Although we are now safely back in Aylesbury we can continue to apply our learning to our day to day lives and continue to build on the new friendships we have made.



**Megan Gill, Sarah Smethurst,
Eliza Ali 8A**



Brexit Debate

To kick off AHS' new debate society, the Cabinet, my fellow Politics Subject Ambassador and I arranged a debate on Brexit. The motion was that, now time has passed, was leaving the European Union the right way forward for the UK? With each ambassador speaking for a minute about each side of the debate, the audience was asked to elaborate on these ideas and ultimately choose to agree or disagree with the motion.

During the debate, many topics were touched upon, including how leaving the European Union would affect trade, how our economy would be affected, and what this would all mean for us as young people. It was fantastic to see younger students get involved, and this demonstrated how much the referendum is already affecting our generation. One topic that was discussed was how Brexit would affect anybody wishing to study abroad, something that will affect any of us wishing to travel to another country for university. This led to a discussion over the voting age, as the majority of the audience felt that the voting age should have been lowered for the referendum, as we weren't given a say in our own futures.

Although the outcome was vastly against the motion that Brexit was the right way forward, with 82% against and 18% for, the debate was a chance to put forward varying opinions and be challenged to think and respond to conflicting viewpoints. All of the points raised were enlightening and articulate, and it was very interesting to see the opinions of AHS students over the matter. As a whole, the Debate Society is a fantastic opportunity for students of all ages to get involved and to collaborate with each other, and I am excited to hear what topics will be debated in the future. **Cait Boon 13A**

Chinese New Year

In preparation for Chinese New Year, we were given the opportunity by Mrs Ngai to make Chinese lanterns. She showed us how to create different patterns and decorations for our lanterns, some of which were quite challenging, but were definitely worth the effort at the end. We would like to thank Mrs Ngai for the opportunity to learn more about Chinese culture.

Anvita Reddy 10M, Hibah Abbasi 10W, Kiru Ariyakuddy 10M



Physics Day at Oxford University



On 7 December, I attended a Materials and Physics Science Day at Oxford University along with 7 other girls from Year 12. My group started the day with the physics workshop, where we had an interesting lecture about spectrums. We then used diffraction gratings in the lab to observe the spectrum visible from different light sources to identify the gas present within it, which was a fascinating experiment. We then moved on to talk about galaxies and how we can use spectrum images to show the Doppler effect and find out more about our galaxies. Using data provided to us, we worked through some calculations. To our surprise, we realised that we could find out the age of the universe with ease!

After a stroll through Oxford during our lunch break, we moved onto the materials workshop where we discovered the physics behind materials and went on to some practical experiments which enabled us to work out the strain of various different materials. Handling specialist equipment and instruments was a very enjoyable experience for us. To conclude our day we gained not only an insight to the course, but also the criteria used to select candidates, which was immensely helpful to us.

This experience has made me realise that physics is about unraveling the complexity of the universe to discover how and why it works and the day has shown me that it is an exciting and challenging field to study, requiring an adventurous and inquiring mind.

Ashnaa Sasikaran 12M



RECENT SUCCESSES

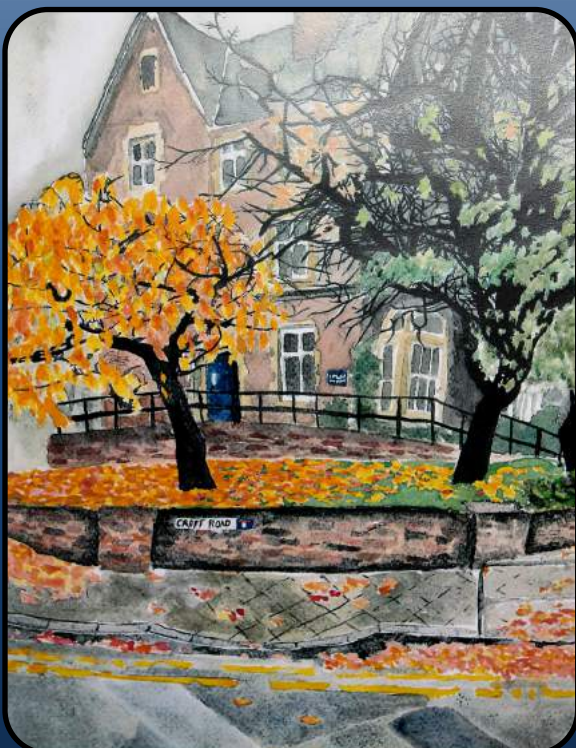


Singing Success

Congratulations to Emma Harrington in 7W, who has been awarded a place in the National Youth Girls' Choir. As well as singing with the AHS Chamber Choir, Emma will be joining the National Youth Choirs of Great Britain twice each year, during the spring and summer holidays, for residential courses and performances. **Ms Raven**

Bea wins local final of Future Chef

Bea Seddon in 7W recently went to cook at Aylesbury College as part of the national Future Chef Competition. Bea won this local final cooking her Greek inspired main meal and dessert in 1½ hours which she had practised many times on her family. She will now go forward to the next stage of the competition, the SE regional finals at Lambeth College in London. Prior to that she will be mentored by the Head Chef from Hartwell House who will help her further perfect her chosen dishes. Bea said 'I can't believe I won, I was not expecting it at all, and everyone's dishes were amazing'. **Mrs Saunders**



Wetherspoons Art Competition

Last term, we were each given a week to start a competition piece because a new Wetherspoons hotel was looking for local artwork to hang in their rooms. The piece had to be Aylesbury themed and could be done in any medium. We had the half term to work on our pieces and each person interpreted the criteria differently, so at the end of the week there was a wide range of artwork ranging in style and medium. The winners' pieces were sent off to Wetherspoons where they will soon hang in the hotel rooms.

Pavia Simmons 10A

Careers Talks

Midwifery

I often take time to attend the career talks that Mrs Taylor kindly organises for us. However, one that especially stood out was the career talk on midwifery presented to us by Lucy Webster, a past student of our school. Looking at Lucy's smile alone when she spoke about her job was enough to know that she adores it! She described midwifery as having good and bad times: the joy of delivering a baby is something almost magical.

Prior to attending Lucy's career talk, I hadn't even considered midwifery as a potential career, but now I am now aware that midwives have opportunities to make a lot of decisions in their work; they are often 'in charge'. There's chance for progression in midwifery as there are different levels and different areas for specialisation available. Working hours are lengthy but there is more flexibility compared to other medical careers, with twelve hour days, four times a week. Lucy's talk opened my eyes to a career that I will definitely take into consideration - so yet another career has been added to my list of possibilities!

Ife Oyedele 12E



Police

On Friday 27 January, Sue Wilson, a Detective Inspector in the Metropolitan Police, came into school to tell us how she became a police officer, what a typical day entails, the perks of working with the police and how to get into it as a career. It was fascinating to hear all about the amazing things she had been privileged enough to experience - it was as if we were listening to a Midsummer Murders episode when Sue told us about the cases she had to deal with!

A career as a police officer seems extremely rewarding and it was very helpful to have a real officer come to tell us about it and how to take the next steps in pursuing it as a career. Some of the advantages included every day being different, not having to work 9 - 5, meeting so many new people - and of course the salary! The group of us who went along were totally engaged in what she had to tell us and asked many questions about the secrets of the police. Sue Wilson was really helpful and I'm so glad I got the opportunity to go to this careers talk.

Amelia Beel 12E

THEATRE VISITS

On 15 December, a group of GCSE and A-level students went to a production in Oxford of Snow White and other tales from the Brothers Grimm by the Creation Theatre Company. The theatre had a unique atmosphere with the audience, in the round, seated at tables. The performance itself was based around lots of different Grimm Fairy Tales, such as Snow White and the Seven



Dwarves, Rumpelstiltskin, Hansel and Gretel and Little Red Riding Hood. The play unusually wove the stories in and out of each other, always keeping the audience on their toes. They put a modern twist on the stories, using props and music, as well as interaction with the audience. The production was fun, fast paced and unique, as well as using interesting dramatic techniques which we thoroughly enjoyed. **Bethany Arrowsmith 12E**



In January, Year 12 Drama students had the pleasure of watching the National Theatre's production of Hedda Gabler starring Ruth Wilson as the eponymous protagonist. Having studied the text for a full term in great depth, it was a great opportunity to watch such an entrancing production. Ivo Van Hove's production restored the luxurious late 1800s mansion into a contemporary light, switching out the corsets for slip dresses and the extravagant decorations for drab walls and dirty white furniture. Having once spent half a lesson building our own set from plastic chairs, this was something refreshingly unpredictable. Seeing such a fiery, compelling portrayal of the character has helped to shape everyone's personal interpretations. The class left buzzing with conversation about how incredible the production was. We've gone from groaning at the play for its sheer length to wanting to perform the entire work! It was an unforgettable performance that will stay with us forever. **Georgia Collins 12W**

BBC micro:bits for Year 8

This year all our Year 8 pupils were given a 'BBC micro:bit'. This tiny hand help computer was created by the BBC to inspire children to develop their programming skills in the same spirit that the BBC Micro inspired a generation of software developers in the UK three decades before. Here are just some comments from our Year 8 pupils.

I really liked the Micro:bit. I think it has been a good way to create a game with levels which was super fun to make and play! Kodu is an amazing way of making a new world with challenges, and lots of details that make it even more fun. It was easy enough so that everyone had fun completing the task, and had lots of extensions for those who wanted more of a challenge. The Micro:bit itself was a really fun controller in your pocket! The ability to use it in the Kodu game meant it was great for bringing it to life, as it followed my movement. I have loved this topic, and will continue to use my Micro:bit and program little animations to show up on its screen at home! **Jess Duodu 8M**

I was really excited to get my Micro:bit for the first time. I thought that it was a really clever little device. I really liked how it had gravity sensors so that you only had to tilt it in order to make your character on Kodu move. However, it did take me little while to get used to! Overall, I loved getting my Micro:bit there were so many things to play around with and I would really recommend getting one! **Nina Konstantynowicz 8M**



HANDBALL

Handball has come to Aylesbury High as part of Girls Active and Girls4Gold. Adam from Leap delivered a Handball course to Year 10 for two weeks, which included skills, tactics, umpiring and how to lead a handball lesson. The girls have now been using their new skills in their core PE classes, which has led to each Year 10 group taking part in a Handball Tournament every Friday lunchtime. This began on 27 January, with 7 groups and over 65 girls taking part. In match one the girls kick-started the tournament with much enthusiasm, with the results coming in with G7 and G4 winning and G3 and G6 drawing. Once their momentum started the goals came flying in, and in match 2 the results were G1 5-10 G7, G3 7-6 G4 and G2 10 – 1 G5! The girls will continue to compete in the tournament until after half-term before taking part in the play-offs and beginning training for a Schools Tournament. **Mrs Carpenter**



NETBALL



Netball continues to be a popular sport for AHS girls, but particular mention should go to the Year 7 House Netballers. Their dedication to Monday lunchtime training has been outstanding, and has seen them improve their netball skills as the term has gone on. Due to the high attendance at House Netball sessions, friendly matches were arranged for the C and D netball teams against Chesham Grammar and Mandeville School. Both the C and D teams worked hard throughout the matches, listening to advice, which led to impressive wins on both accounts.



On 28 January the U14 and U16 teams travelled to Farnborough for the Regional rounds of the English Schools netball competition. Both teams scored impressively against Cowes, with a 12-1 win for the U14s and 7-2 for the U16s. Both teams went on to win another game each, which unfortunately, wasn't enough for them to progress through to the next round of the tournament. Well done to all of the girls for their hard work leading up to and throughout the tournament. **Miss Hunter**

BASKETBALL

U16 County Cup

With England Basketball deciding this season to have no U13 or U15 national competitions this was the first chance for our Year 10s to dust off their boots. Once again playing against older and taller opponents, the girls led 13-9 after the first quarter - thanks to baskets from Sasha, Ella, Maiwa and Elena. A nail-biting game saw Stowe pull ahead in the 3rd quarter to lead 28-21. As time ticked by in the fourth quarter, it was Amy Williams' baskets that levelled the scores 32-32. In the last 30 seconds Ella Ross scored the winning basket - a great fight back girls, well done!

U16 English Schools

The U16 Team have progressed to the regional rounds of the competition after convincing victories against John Madejski Academy 69-33 and Aldworth School 66-33. The girls look forward to their regional game against the runners up in the Sussex county cup competition after half term.



BASKETBALL

England Basketball National Cup

U19 & U17 Playing in these age groups is always a challenge, facing many opponents who are specialist basketball academies with national players in their ranks. However, it gives our Y13 'golden oldies' Melody Stephens, Ash Mutembwa, Megs Woodward and Y12 Charlotte Brooker a chance to shine on the basketball court. The year 11s (Ella Messetter, Natalia Osborne, Chloe Osili, Mollie Baars, Kiylo Solgabade, Niamh Gunn, Ciara Belsham, Morgan Davies) have supported this team admirably but special mention should go to Year 9s Grace Ashton, Isobel Mathews and Ella Ross who have all scored multiple baskets for this age group.

Results:

U19 v St John's Academy – 42-61

U19 v American School (St John's Wood) – 31-35

U17 v Charnwood Academy – 53 - 61

U17 v Nottingham Academy – 33 - 49



Student Showcase

How The Sun Was Formed, by Bea Seddon 7W

On the island of Crete, there lived a forbidding and appalling Queen, named Flamesus. The people of Crete lived in great dread of her, for if they put one foot wrong, they would be imprisoned and become her slaves. They pleaded for mercy, and for just a morsel of food to eat, but Flamesus, being a heartless being, commanded them to be her slaves.

Many, many years before now, there was no light at all. The Gods took pity upon the starving people, and demanded the God of light (Apollo) to fly over the crops of the people of the world every day. Apart from that brief moment of radiance, everyone lived in gloom. Only the island of Crete went without light. This was the Gods' punishment for Flamesus's violent ways. No light ~ nothing for the plants to grow on ~ no food; starvation for all. Sadly, this caused the villagers to starve, not just their ruler.

One day Zeus – God of Gods – was admiring the world when his eyes fell upon Crete. As he watched, his thoughtful eyes opened in revulsion as he saw thread-thin adults nibbling on sticks and children bawling. He took pity on them and planned for immediate action. Just before Apollo left for his regular lap of the Earth, Zeus nudged him and murmured: "Fly over Crete my son, but be sure to only bring light to villagers' fields and not to the Queen's."

So the next day dawned and the Queen heard cries of intense joy rising over the land. She was puzzled. The only sounds she ever heard were cries of sorrow and agony. Immediately she set out to find this cause of delight. "What is the meaning of this?" Flamesus demanded.



Sorrowfully the citizens of Crete bundled their prized food, their only food, into the carts. "We have been blessed with the fruits of the Gods your majesty," mumbled a fearful citizen. "WHAT?" she screeched, sending birds scattering into the ink black sky. "I checked my fields yet they bear no sumptuous gifts. You are to hand over these fruits to me, for this is my land they thrive on."

Yet as they walked away in desolation, they did not know Zeus was observing. "That's it!" he boomed. He summoned the god of potions to concoct a seed which would turn Flamesus into an unimaginably obnoxious creature. Once the drugged seeds were completed, Zeus instructed Demeter to bury them in the fields of the Queen. The time came for Apollo to fly over Crete. This time he flew over the Queen's side of the island. As the villagers rose, they heard screeches of delight from the Queen. "The Gods have finally come to their senses!" she giggled gleefully. And there in her field sat succulent, bountiful fruit.

Preparations for a great feast began promptly. The Queen gathered all her subjects in the great hall to watch her eat, their ultimate torture. They didn't receive a single scrap. Not one. As she took her first bite she looked a little queer. Then in the pit of blackness everyone had known so well, there was a very faint glow. Silence. Then all of a sudden there was a piercing shriek and a flash of blinding light. Chaos erupted. In the midst of this disaster was Flamesus. All her anger, hate and loathing had been powered into her at once. It was so great she had burst into flame. At that very second she vowed to destroy everything that had brought her this grief and suffering. In her blinding wrath the flame which she was contained within erupted into a frenzy, killing every innocent person in its path. As quickly as she had appeared she was gone, leaving only the piles of ash that were once her subjects.

From then on, Flamesus's lips were closed around the skin of the fruit and the world was given constant light. To this very day she still watches over the Earth, with nothing but hate in her cold heart. Since the day of change, her loathing has blossomed into an endless pit of despair. Oblivious of this, the people of Earth live on to hate, fear and worship the mysterious fireball in the sky that they named 'Sun'. Yet Flamesus is there, if you can see her or not, watching, waiting for the day to release her vengeance upon the Earth.

Bea wrote this story as part of Year 7 English lessons on myths.