



HIGHLIGHTS

A WORD FROM THE HEADTEACHER

Highlights past and future

An IT glitch has slightly delayed this edition—apologies for keeping you in suspense. Do read about some of the events that kept us busy last half term. Meanwhile, we are all looking forward to the 33 days remaining in this academic year, wondering how we will somehow squeeze in:

- House Athletics, Languages and Rounders
- The GCSE and A Level Art Exhibitions
- Spanish and German Exchange students here
- A mufti day for charity
- Two Activity Days
- Weather permitting, a Years 7-10 drone photo on the field
- Foreign trips to CERN in Geneva (Physics), Paris (Art) and Picardy (French), plus Fiji and Morocco
- A varied programme of sports competitions and festivals
- Induction Days for new Year 7s and 12s
- An Open Evening for 2018 entry
- The Year 11 and 13 Proms/Balls
- The annual Music, Movement and Muses evening
- Ever-popular DoE expeditions
- Four presentation mornings and a consultation evening

Oh, and a few lessons as well!

Alan Rosen

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HOME AND AWAY

Year 7 French Trip

On 5 May, 90 Year 7s arrived in Calais where we had an interesting tour of the Lace Museum, followed by the chance to make bread with a real French baker! The next day we visited Boulogne, where we explored the medieval city centre, practised our French as we bought our lunch in the market and visited the aquarium.

Eleanor Bye 7C



Business Studies Trip to Barcelona

We arrived in Barcelona on Thursday evening to lovely weather. Friday saw a sightseeing tour of the city, with highlights including the magnificent La Sagrada Familia and the business district. A walk through the main market of Las Ramblas allowed us to experience elements of perfect competition and see the workings of the Spanish economy in action. On Saturday, we were lucky enough to have a behind-the-scenes tour of the famous Escriba patisserie, as seen on both British and Spanish Masterchef, showing the concepts of innovation and invention through the workings of a local store. This was followed by tour of the Torres vineyard, a family business that has grown through 5 generations and expanded into a multinational company, producing one of Spain's main exports. With the sun shining and not a cloud in sight, Sunday created the perfect opportunity for us to gain a real insight into the Spanish culture, and contribute to the Spanish economy! We would like to thank Mr Morris for organising such a fun-filled trip, and Mr Torpey and Mrs McReynolds for such efficiency getting us through the metro!

Daphne Forbes-Russell, Freya Strangways and Eloise Dunne, Year 13



HOME AND AWAY

German Exchange

This year marked the 55th year of the German exchange between schools in Stuttgart and AHS. It was as if the weather had decided to mark the occasion by being generous to us as we barely saw a cloud during our 8-day visit. Despite the contact that exchange partners have with one another through social media before the trip, everybody is usually nervous when it comes to meeting them for the first time in the flesh, and this time proved to be no exception. However, after that nervousness was overcome, everybody was able to enjoy the packed programme. Under continuous sunshine we spent time in the different schools, in Stuttgart centre, visited the TV tower, Wilhelma zoo, the Mercedes museum, Europa Park, prehistoric bear caves and a summer tobogganing run. A video posted on the @AHSGerman twitter feed has subsequently led to us being followed by a bobsleighting organisation clearly highly impressed with our abilities! Only Year 10 girls went on the trip this year, but, from a teachers' perspective, I don't think any Year 10s have ever tried to speak quite as much German, which is to the girls' enormous credit. We left not wanting to leave but now look forward to our partners' return in July. **Mr Baird**



Swedish Exchange

After having visited Sweden in March, we welcomed our Swedish Exchange partners to Aylesbury earlier this month. Despite the rain we had some fun days out at Thorpe Park and Oxford and enjoyed teaching them how to play rounders. While we were introduced to fika in Sweden, our Swedish friends were quite taken with The Works! We are already planning next year's exchange, so look out for details if you will be in Year 10 or 12 next year. **Mrs Queralt**



RECENT SUCCESSES

Folu becomes MYP for Milton Keynes North

After over a month of campaigning, I was elected in March by local young people to represent the constituency of Milton Keynes North in the UK Youth Parliament. The campaign process involved contacting schools across MK, making use of social media, putting up hundreds of campaign posters and even recording a campaign video which was shown to many students during registration time!

As an MYP (Member of the Youth Parliament) it is my responsibility to amplify the voice and concerns of young people between the ages of 11-18 by working closely with the Milton Keynes Youth Cabinet, the MK Council, MPs and any other relevant figures or organisations on the top three local issues which young people voted for (Life Skills in Education, Mental Health and improving the 'All in One Card'). In addition I will be attending the Annual Sitting at Liverpool Hope University in July, where MYPs from all over the UK will come together to discuss key issues raised by our constituents, as well as the House of Commons Sitting in November (which is broadcast on national TV!) where we debate the most popular issues that young people voted for in the 'Make your Mark Ballot' to produce our UK and England Only campaigns. The campaigns chosen for this year are 'Votes at 16' and 'A Curriculum for Life'.

So I have a busy year of work ahead of me juggling my MYP duties with schoolwork and university applications! Nevertheless I am honoured to represent the young people in my local area and I aim to encourage all young people to get more politically engaged and not be afraid of fighting for issues that resonate with them.

Folu Ogunyeye, 12W



Wings of Hope Achievement Award

On 27 April, Ellie Hardings and I attended the House of Lords to compete in the semi-final of the Wings of Hope Achievement Award project. Ellie, Anna Strong, Cara Saunders and myself have been involved in WOHA since October 2016. It is a charity who work to help children living in India and Malawi. Over the course of our project we have held raffles and dinner parties to raise money, raising enough to make it to the semi-final stage at the Palace of Westminster. We were the first group to present our project in the Lords, with judges including influential businessmen, MPs and members of the Lords. Following the presentation we were asked questions about our project, which were a real challenge. We have found WOHA to be an extremely rewarding experience, and have thoroughly enjoyed it.

Sophie Hyde, 12W



RECENT SUCCESSES

TARGETcareers School Leavers' Challenge

After having completed a short online test, involving a 'Work Readiness Assessment' and 'Apprentice Situational Strengths Test', the top-scoring students from across the country were selected to take part in the Grand Final.

On Thursday 27 April, we were invited, along with Megs Woodward, Julia Barker and Niamh Austin, to the BT Tower in London to take part in the final round of the competition. We were placed in teams and took part in activities that aimed to test our leadership skills whilst being assessed on a variety of skills by supervising representatives from different employers such as McDonalds and BT.

The day was challenging and really enjoyable and it was also an excellent opportunity to meet other young people from across the country. We have now been lucky enough to be invited to BT's Global Research & Development Headquarters at Adastral Park as a prize for coming second and third in the competition.



Ashleigh Stent, 13O & Daisy Williams, 12P



Dressage Success

Huge congratulations to Anouszka Dabrowa in 9S, who came first in the UK U21 Medium dressage last Saturday. She will now be invited to squad training with a view to getting into the GB team. We wish her the very best of luck and we look forward to following her progress.

Mrs Rust

CURRICULUM

Cambridge Chemistry Masterclass

On 7 April several AHS sixth-formers attended the Chemistry Masterclass held at Cambridge University. The masterclasses allowed us to explore the topic beyond what is covered within the AS syllabus and gave us an opportunity to experience typical undergraduate teaching at Cambridge. The masterclass consisted of two taster lectures delivered by leading academic members of staff, based around organic chemistry and touching on nuclear magnetic resonance within physics. This enabled us to widen and test our knowledge about the subject of organic chemistry as the lecturers quizzed us on what we had learnt from the talk. Subsequently, we were given an introduction to the Cambridge admissions process and an overview of natural sciences at the university. The day gave us a really interesting insight into science courses at Cambridge University and also how there is more to discover about the complexity of the world compared to just an atom. **Aruni Kangeyan 12S**



House Art

House Art allows students of all years to come together and work as a team to produce a final piece which contributes towards the House Cup at the end of the year. As House Events are run by Year 12 House Captains they really help strengthen bonds between the lower and upper school. This year we were set the theme of 'Cultural Murals' where we were asked to explore a culture of our choice and to create a mural using a range of techniques and media.

In Missenden, we produced mind maps of a variety of different cultures, before deciding on a British cultural mural. Over the next few weeks we created a mood board of images, painting and words relating to British culture, and came decided that the best way to represent British culture would be to build a red telephone box with each window containing a response from each member of the group.

After much hard work and effort from all the students involved in House Art, Missenden finally finished the telephone box with twelve individual windows using watercolour, embossing, pencil and much more. We look forward to the exhibition where all of the Houses' work will be on display to show all of their hard work.

Missenden House Art Captains



FOCUS ON MUSIC

Music at AHS is thriving! We have a busy schedule of concerts, giving students numerous opportunities to perform. So far this year we have taken part in Energise! at The Waterside, Fame with AGS, two concerts at St Mary's, the Christmas Concert and the ever popular House Music. Just last week our Flute Quintet played at the mayoral inauguration and we have two further highlights this year: Harmonize will sing at the Karibuni Fun Day in Fairford Leys on 17 June and a range of students will showcase their talents at our annual Music, Muses and Movement event on 4 July.



We have a large range of ensembles offered to students of all ages, abilities, instruments and musical styles. Clubs are run by the teaching staff and team of private tutors. We also team up with Aylesbury Grammar School for some of our groups to allow a wide range of activities and full ensembles. See our [website](#) for more details and do come and get involved in the clubs below:

Symphony Orchestra - grade 4+
Flute Choir - grade 5+
Good Vibrations (junior strings) - up to grade 3
Chamber Orchestra - Grade 4+
Jazz Band - Grade 3 +
Harmonize! - all students welcome
Harding House Music Club - Year 10 up
Steel Pans - by application only
Chamber Choir - all students welcome
Percussion Ensemble - by application only
Ukulele Club - KS3 students only



SPORT

Handball Regional Finals

On 3 May, 11 Year 10 students travelled to Surrey Sports Park to compete in the regional round of the English Schools Handball competition. Having had just a handful of training sessions, and only learning the sport this year, the girls were quite understandably very nervous! They started their tournament against Sussex, where a few early goals gave the girls the confidence they needed to go on to win the game 11- 8. With their new found confidence the girls were ready to take on Hampshire in their next game. Solid team defending stopped many attacks on goal, and with some superb goalkeeping from Charlotte they were able to secure a 7-2 win. In their third game against Kent, the AHS team went out fast on the attack, and with an excellent penalty goal from Eve they were able to ensure an 8-5 win against this experienced team. Their final game of the day was against Surrey, who were also undefeated at this point. Both teams started well, with AHS just one goal behind at half time. Unfortunately Surrey were able to break through the AHS defence to go on to win the game 8-6. This meant AHS had won runners-up position – had this been Netball they would have been going on to National Finals! A fantastic effort from all the girls involved, and an incredible achievement considering that they are all new to the sport. Well done girls! **Miss Hunter**



AHS Swimmers in the Fast Lane!

On Monday 8 May, 40 AHS Swimmers set off for Pipers Corner School for this much anticipated gala. With two teams representing Year 7 and full teams for all other age groups, including our seniors, it was a great turnout. Thanks to all parents who came along to support too. There were some incredibly impressive swims by AHS and in the words of one of our parents: 'I haven't attended an AHS gala before and was proud to see the determination and strength of the girls, brilliant!'

There were so many excellent swims but mention must go to both Eden Horwood and Molly Bradford who not only both swam up an age group, but also won at least one of their events! The final score was 122 points to Pipers Corner, 237 to AHS! Another parent said, 'The girls were thrilled to have won the meet by so many points, so we are very much looking forward to the league that is starting in September and I know that my daughter loved representing her school in this gala.'

There is so much to look forward to next year: the new District League; ESSA Team Champs and termly galas at Pipers Corner. In the meantime, why not try your hand at the Leighton Buzzard Triathlon in July! Please see Mrs Carey for further details....

Mrs Carey

SPORT

English Schools Athletics County Round at Stantonbury

The AHS junior and inter girls teams have progressed to the Midlands Regional Rounds after both coming first at the Stantonbury event. The Junior team pipped Thornton College to the post with 314 points and the Inter Girls gained 354 points, pushing Stowe School into second place. The girls coped extremely well with last minute changes to the team and the effort from all at this early stage of the season was excellent. For every event the girls are awarded points not on places but on times and distances achieved. Special mention should go to Emilia Rock (200m and LJ 40pts) Helena Van Hulen (Hurdles and HJ 41Pts) who both achieved ESAA platinum award performances. In the Inter Girls event, the team dominated the event with once again Lucy Perkins (200m and LJ 43 pts) gaining a platinum award and Margaret Agega (200m and Shot 34 points) Georgie Morley (300m and TJ 38 points) gaining gold awards. Hatty Bell, Olivia Robson and Emily Johnson also scored over 20 points in one event. Well done to you all! **Mrs Arber**



New Club hits AHS

After attending the Girls Active Festival at Stoke Mandeville stadium the Year 10 girls suggested that Boxercise would be an excellent addition to the extra-curricular club list. With the same instructor from the event leading the two Thursday night sessions in the school gym, students and staff have enjoyed the new workout. A combination of routines and circuit exercise, the whole body workout has proved to be a great success. Those wanting to join this term should see Mrs Arber about a taster session.



BASKETBALL

U16 Basketball gain bronze medal at National Finals in Manchester

The U16 team have an impressive record since they started at AHS in Year 7. Five years as county champions, 3 national titles, which includes 3 wins over Greig City academy and then runners up to Greig City in 2016. So with the Southern Champions (us) playing the winners of London (them) in the semi-finals we knew it was going to be a tough battle.

The first two quarters were neck to neck (12-11 16-15) which meant AHS were up 28-26 at half time. However dominant performances from Ciara Belsham and Natalia Osborne, as top scorers for the team, also meant that they got into foul difficulty. Greig City added extra pressure and despite baskets from Morgan Davis, Kiylo Solagbade, and Niamh Gunn, it was Greig City on this occasion that progressed to the final. Final Score 43-53.

In the 3rd v 4th play off, the U16 team were determined to put the disappointment of not being in the final behind them. Kiylo and Grace Ashton steadied the nerves of the team with early baskets. Fine defence from Chloe Osili, Mollie Baars, Isobel Mathews and Ella Ross who all performed well for the team off the bench. Captain Ella Messetter added to the score line, before Year 8's Macy Cook performed a 'Euro Step' lay up to baffle the opposition. Baskets from Mollie Baars and a 30 point haul from Ciara Belsham and 22 points from Natalia Osborne secured a deserved win over Reddish Vale Academy. Final Score: 81-74. In the final, Greig City beat Nottingham by over 20 points, which puts the girls' performance into perspective. It is the end of an era with Kiylo and Niamh moving on to new schools but the girls are determined to be back at Nationals at U17 and U19 level. Many thanks to the 'AHS Basketball Barmy Army' who have had the best seats in the house for this epic journey over the last 5 years. Huge thanks to Coach Jenner who has made it possible.



U14 Basketball - The Final Fours – The Final Destination

The U14 team have waited patiently to be given the chance to showcase their talents at this elite venue. After sweeping aside the opposition from Kent to Cornwall and becoming South of England Champions, the girls were motivated to perform on this elite stage. With the draw not pulled out of a hat, once again the girls faced Greig City Academy. Captain Ella Ross, Grace Ashton, Isobel Mathews and Macy Cook had all experienced the atmosphere of the previous day's U16 tournament. They were joined by Sophie Woodman, Hatty Bell, Millie Lowrie, Hannah Davis, Maiwa Banda and Onyi Okoye. The mighty Greig City were mighty big for Year 9s and Year 8s and despite every effort the extra physicality gave them the edge. Unfortunately, AHS lost Sophie Woodman to an elbow injury early on in the game. Greig City progressed to the final with a 65-52 win.

The U14s then faced Reddish High School, after Reddish lost to Nottingham Academy with the last shot of their semi-final game – sport can be so cruel. Despite baskets from Isobel Mathews, Onyi Okoye, Macy Cook, Grace Ashton, Maiwa Banda and Ella Ross, Reddish Vale had established a 44-24 lead. By half time This did not reflect the effort of the players. The AHS team were given the challenge of winning the second half which they did by 40 points to Reddish's 38. Final Score: Reddish 82-64 AHS. To be fourth in the country out of 3000 Secondary Schools is a fine achievement and the biggest compliment of the day came from Greig City who said AHS gave them the hardest game of the day. A great day to build on for next season. **Mrs Arber**

