Highlights Summer Term 2016 Highlights







Summertime and the livin' is easy?

The last two Fridays have seen Years 11, 12 and 13 head off on study leave and, as is the tradition, both Year 11 and Year 13 took the opportunity to mark their rite of passage in style (Year 12 have less to celebrate as they are only away from lessons for three weeks).

Both days were a delight from start to finish, with the students showing their endless creativity and team spirit, using the themes of films and computer games. Year 11 concluded their day with an assembly documenting their five years, including some suitably embarrassing pictures of them in their 'youth', and Year 13 had a celebratory meal with Madeleine McCarthy, the Head Girl, summing up everyone's emotions in her speech.

The rest of the school should be more peaceful now but, inevitably, life is as busy as ever. Last weekend the countryside was full of countless Bronze DofE expeditioners practising their navigation, cooking and teamwork. Our Chinese and Swedish guests are enjoying their time here while a trip departed early this morning for Spain.

Never a dull moment!

Alan Rosen

In this issue

2 RECENT SUCCESSES

4 HOME & AWAY

5 **CURRICULUM**

8 SPORT

11 CABINET

12 DUKE OF EDINBURGH

For the latest school news visit -

www.ahs.bucks.sch.uk
@aylesburyhigh

RECENT SUCCESSES



Slough Solo Ice Dance Competition

I competed at Slough last week in two solo ice dance competitions - one for Pattern Dances and one for Free Dance - and came first in both of them. This year I am competing at the Primary Level (up to age 13), and the two compulsory pattern dances are The Fourteen Step and the Foxtrot. The Free Dance is where I get to choose my own music and choreography. If I can continue to manage all the early morning training sessions I hope to do well in the British Championships in June!

Katie Garman 8W

Nutty Tilez Competition

The AHS French department came second in the country during the 2016 Nutty Tilez competition. Our success was almost entirely down to Em Jenkins in year 10 who spent hours playing the game to expand her French vocabulary, learning over 500 new words in the space of 3 days! Nutty Tilez is a vocabulary learning game run by thisislanguage.com, a fantastic website used by GCSE modern language students to practise listening skills using authentic videos, and improve their grammar and vocabulary. The most popular way to do this is through the Nutty Tilez game and the competition is always fierce. Em was up against players from across the UK and around the world during her exam week. Félicitations, Em, you've made the French department proud!



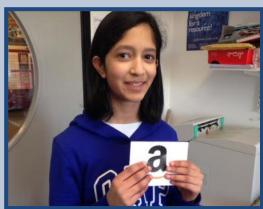
Miss Sheppard

"A Midsummer Night's Dream" poetry competition.



Congratulations to Anna O'Sullivan (1st Prize) and Aboli Joshi (2nd Prize) for their entertaining and engaging ballads, based on Shakespeare's "A Midsummer Night's Dream" and the character Bottom.

Mr Elgin





Bottom's Dream: A Ballad

Written for jest, some may say,

Mere comic relief; my part in this play

While nobles find love along this path

I suffer the charms of Oberon's wrath.

As advances were...seldom,

I wake the day later

My loneliness greater.

Others they got a partner for life;
I was left with confusion and strife.
Me, the butt of the joke;
I play the fool for all the fair folk.

My charmer left, once awoken

From the spell, once it was broken

I return to my days of normality

Never again to confuse what is reality.

By Anna O'Sullivan 11M



Year 7 French Trip

On Friday 6 May, 90 very excited Year 7 girls left school and set sail for Northern France. After a very pleasant crossing, we had a "pique-nique à la plage" in Calais. In the afternoon, the girls learnt about the lace industry in Calais at the Musée de la Dentelle before heading to a boulangerie in the small village of Wierre-Effroy where they were taught (en français!) how to make traditional bread and croissants. We

stayed in the beautiful Parc d'Olhain overnight. The next day was de tour and a quick wa





The next day was dedicated to visiting Boulogne-sur-Mer, with a guided tour and a quick walk in the old part of the town in the morning. The girls went to purchase their lunch at the market and, in the afternoon, visited the Nausicaá aquarium where they were able to see a variety of species of fish, sea lions, sharks and even penguins before taking the ferry back to England. Everyone had a "fantastique" time; all the more so as the weather was beautiful and the girls' enthusiasm and excellent behaviour were a credit to the school.

Miss Billon

Welcome to our Chinese visitors

Twenty four Chinese students aged 12 and 13 and their two teachers from Changshu and Yiwu Schools in the Suzhou province arrived in Aylesbury this term. The visitors have twelve girls based at Aylesbury High School and twelve boys at Aylesbury Grammar School for eleven weeks, where the students will be immersed in the English language and culture. Leaving the classroom behind one day a week they visit a range of places to absorb the essence of the UK. So far they have enjoyed meeting the Mayor of Aylesbury and visiting Oxford and Windsor Castle. Our students are also excited to be hosting the visiting students and to have the opportunity to find out more about Chinese culture. We've already enjoyed lunchtime sessions on making paper umbrellas and learning Mandarin and look forward to learning more. Mrs Queralt





Royal Society of Chemistry

Our Year 13 chemists spent some of their valuable time stretching themselves to participate in the Royal Society of Chemistry's Olympiad this year.

The paper is designed to challenge, yet they rose to it magnificently - Abi Coates and Rachel Weller gaining Bronze, Soonyiu Yau and Shifa Banga attaining Silver and Jessica Fleming being awarded a stunning Gold!

We applaud their achievements and wish them well for their future studies of Chemistry.

Mrs Jefferies



AHS to grow seeds from space!

Students at AHS are preparing to become space biologists and embark on a voyage of discovery by growing seeds that have been into space. In September, 2kg of rocket seeds were flown to the International Space Station on Soyuz 44S where they spent several months in microgravity before returning to Earth in March. The seeds have been sent as part of Rocket Science, an educational project launched by the RHS Campaign for School Gardening and the UK Space Agency.

AHS received a packet of 100 seeds from space, which they are growing alongside seeds that haven't been to space, and measuring the differences



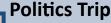
over seven weeks. The students won't know which seed packet contains which seeds until all results have been collected by the RHS Campaign for School Gardening and analysed by professional biostatisticians. The out-of-this-world, nationwide science experiment will enable the students to think more about how we could preserve human life on another planet in the future, what astronauts need to survive long-term missions in space and the difficulties surrounding growing fresh food





in challenging climates. We are very excited to be taking part in Rocket Science. This experiment is a fantastic way of teaching our students to think more scientifically and share their findings.

Mr Elcock





On 17 March, 14 AS Politics students travelled to the London School of Economics and Political Science to hear Labour MP for Leeds Central and Shadow Foreign Secretary, Hilary Benn. The talk was regarding the upcoming European Union referendum, with Benn believing Britain is stronger in the EU although previously voting to leave in 1975. After a short presentation led by Hilary Benn, there was an opportunity for questions, with varying opinions challenging his thoughts. The most interesting part for us, as politics students, were his ideas on the role of referendums in a democracy and the possible future outcomes which may arise if we remain in or leave the European Union. It was an interesting evening in general, providing us all with an opportunity to reflect on the importance of the 23 June. Daphne Forbes-Russell 12O and Hannah Burns 12R

Young Enterprise

Our students performed extremely well in the Aylesbury Vale Final. The event was attended by the Mayor of Aylesbury, Councillor Allison Harrison.

There were 13 companies altogether who set up their trade stands and were interviewed by 4 judges from local businesses about their company performance.

The groups then needed to give a 4 minute PowerPoint presentation in one of the main

auditoriums. This was in front of the other companies, parents, teachers and judges. The team 'Healthy Heroes' from AGS will be going through to the county final. Our company 'Ingenium' came runner-up for the best presentation award and the customer service award.

Well done to all those involved for their hard work this year.

Mr Potkin



End of Year Art Shows

Huge congratulations to all the girls who have successfully completed their artwork and presented some exciting art displays in preparation for their upcoming Private Views.

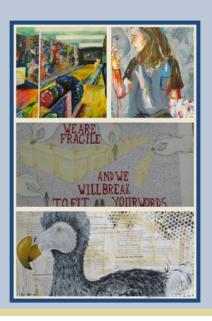
The work this year celebrates some original and exciting ideas being explored, ranging from Natural Forms, Structures and Figures in a Space at GCSE and their externally set assignment, Past, Present and Future. The exam sees the culmination of their skills and individuality with some very imaginative and innovative pieces. Photography students have looked at exploring documentation images as well as more individual themes for their exam. Photographs have been manipulated using Photoshop, and also by being creased, stitched, or layered.

At GCE, girls have followed their own individual themes and created varied artwork, including textiles, photography, painting, and installation. Work looking at the female form has proved popular with students looking at the male gaze, society's stereotypes, disease and illness as well as body morphing between man and woman. More traditional pieces look at still life and architecture.

The work is a credit to the girls; the Art Department are incredibly proud of their achievements and thank them for their innovative work. Please do come along to the end of year shows on 27 May (GCSE) and 10 June (A Level).

Mrs Hartwell









Hughenden wins House Drama 2016

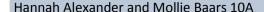
On Friday 29 April we were entertained by this year's House Drama festival. This year's theme was 'Face.' From a superhero help group to a satirical take on life as a celebrity, all the performances were wonderfully creative. The award of Outstanding Performer went to Lucy Sallows in 9S and the overall winners of this year's festival were Hughenden. Well done to all involved! Rosa Clarke 9M



SPORTS

Aquatic Club

Aquatic Club is a great opportunity for both the leaders and Year 7s to experience and try out new activities. As leaders we have introduced some new activities such as water rounders, water Olympics and aqua aerobics. We hope to see lots of new Year 7s and new leaders in the coming months!





Cardio Tennis comes to Aylesbury High School!



If you pass the tennis courts on a Monday lunchtime you will hear music, laughter and fast feet! Cardio Tennis at AHS is here. And you don't need to be a tennis player to enjoy the club. It's all about a fun, cardio workout tennis is an added bonus. The photos speak for themselves. Already oversubscribed, we hope to extend the club to offer to more students. Look out for more information.



Mrs Carey

Duston Triathlon

On Saturday 16 April Team AHS competed in the Duston Kids' Triathlon. The day started off by meeting everyone and nervously setting up for the cold and windy race! One by one each of us set off, starting from the youngest to the oldest. The triathlon consisted of laps in the pool, a tough bike ride on a very muddy and hilly field and finished with a run in the icy wind hitting our exhausted bodies! As each athlete finished the race we were awarded with our medals and we were all eager to find out our times.



Although the day was freezing cold, we all enjoyed the experience of the race and are keen to do more!

The Team: Hatty Bell, Millie Carey, Abbie Garton, Sarah Nicholls, Tilly Green.

This is just the beginning! We look forward to further events in June, at Chesham and again in July, at Leighton Buzzard. If you are interested in taking part, please contact Mrs Carey for more details.





Abbie Garton 9H

SPORTS 9

Basketball – Four AHS Teams Make National Final Fours

In 2014 we won four national titles in four different sports (Cross-Country, Netball and Basketball). These were our first ever successes at a national level. In 2015 we won the U14 basketball national championship. To reach a national finals is an unbelievable experience and to become National Champions is a dream. A huge thanks to Coach Jenner #DreamMaker!

Mrs Rust

U13 AHS v Northampton School for Girls (National Semi Finals) Joint 3rd in England



The U13 squad had progressed through to the national semi-finals after a fine 53-39 win against Maynard School from Exeter. The semi-final was end to end action with the first quarter Northampton edging 12-10 after Year7's Onyi Okoye opened the scoring for AHS. At half time after baskets from Sophie Woodman, Hannah Davis, Grace Ashton and Chesky Laine the score was NSG 22-20. AHS were never ahead in the game and struggled to really impose themselves in the way that they can. Fine defensive 'hustle' play and endless running from Hatty Bell and Maiwa Banda could not keep NSG from scoring. Despite captain Ella Ross, Isobel Mathews and Macy Cook adding to the score sheet, Northampton edged the game 51-44. There is huge potential in this age group squad and after coming joint 3rd in the country...we're hoping to keep moving upwards next season.

U15 v Greig City Academy (National Final)

The U15 Team progressed to the finals at the brand new National Basketball Performance Centre in Manchester after a convincing 86 v 29 victory over Sir Jonathan North Community College, Leicester in the semis.

The majority of the team had played in AHS U16 final the day before. After both U17s and U16s had beaten Greig City Academy this season, they were out for revenge, and revenge hit us early on...Greig City stormed to a 17-4 lead at the end of the first quarter. However, they were helped a little by the AHS girls not putting away their shots. Frustrated and disappointed after the first quarter the girls were determined to show their fight. AHS edged the second quarter 15-13 and the fight was on. By the end of the 3rd quarter the gap was narrowing and Greig City led 42-32. In the last quarter the quality of AHS basketball shone through as Greig City only added 3 points to their total. Oh we came so close, but just ran out of time with the final score 45-41. But did we battle – Morgan's black eye shone. After winning 3 out of the 4 quarters we gained many supporters from the neutrals in the crowd who admired the spirit you showed and the way you play the game. When you have never been beaten in 4 years of playing school basketball to lose and come second in the country was hard for a team of champions. Hugely proud of your dedication and commitment – a joy to watch. Our moment will return TEAM AHS.

Second in England



Congratulations to our Silver Medallists: Ella Messeter (capt), Niamh Gunn, Chloe Osili, Natalia Osborne, Molly Baars, Ciara Belsham, Morgan Davis, Kiylo Solgabade, Mollie Kelleher, Sasha Abraham.

Super Saturday U16 Basketball

National Champions

The most incredible last 2 games of the season ever! The U16s 46-43 win over Greig City Academy in the semi-finals at Oakland College was described by Coach Jenner as 'probably our best victory' - ever! The nail biter of a game went down to the last 37 seconds. With the game tied at 43-43, Ella Messeter 2m back from the 3- point line launched the match winning shot. The remaining 37 seconds and 2 time outs were the longest, most agonising seconds. From Natalia Osborne's opening basket to the match winning shot, the girls battled all the way against a side that has never been beaten before. A great day for AHS basketball – which Captain Charlotte Brooker can recount second by second!

The national final in Manchester saw AHS face Nottingham Academy (again a basketball academy who have 3 basketball courts to train and play on). With National League and





England players on the opposition this was going to be a tough encounter. However, Captain Charlotte's 'can do' attitude was something Nottingham Academy did not have.

An early basket from Natalia Osborne settled the nerves for AHS and brought our supporters to their feet. The end of the first quarter saw AHS edge to an 8 point lead (14-6). At half time the game edged closer with AHS narrowly leading 24-23. The match progressed as AHS took control again to lead at the end of the third quarter 43-34. With Ella Messeter controlling the set plays as ball carrier the teamwork shone through. Kiylo Solgabade's 15 points and Natalia Osborne's 13 points finished off the set plays. Great defensive work

and set move plays from Brooker,

Davis, Osili, Gunn and Baars resulted in a great day courtside.

Special mention must go to Ciara Belsham who received the U16 Girls Most Valuable Player award for the tournament. A huge performance with 22 points, 1 assist, 12 offensive rebounds, 15 defensive rebound, 3 steals.

Final Score 53-46

All this would not have been possible without our own 'Barmy Army' parent supporters. Girls, you are all very level headed compared to your parents at a basketball match! A mad day in Manchester – thanks for the memories #proud.

National Champions: Charlotte Brooker(capt), Ella Messeter, Niamh Gunn, Chloe Osili, Natalia Osborne, Molly Baars, Ciara Belsham, Morgan Davis, Kiylo Solgabade.



U17 AHS v Charnwood Academy, Leicester (Semi Finals) Join

Joint 3rd in England



The U17 team travelled to Loughborough University's national netball centre to face Charnwood School. The basketball academy, who offer scholarships to girls and have three England players on their squad, had won their quarter final game 109 -29. Aylesbury High had progressed to the semi-finals with a fantastic 42-18 win over Greig City Academy. The first quarter saw Aylesbury battle back to end the quarter Charnwood 14-Aylesbury 10. However, in the second quarter Charnwood eased ahead to lead 27-14. Both teams started the second half well with hoops flying in at both ends. The AHS Team fought back to 36-22. A great team effort could not halt the Leicester team from progressing to the National Final 76-37. A learning curve for our very young team against their older opponents. Player of the match Melody Stephens. A great effort by all especially as Charnwood went on to become National Champions. Team: Megs Woodward (capt), Melody Stephens, Ash Mutembwa, Charlotte Brooker, Kiylo Solgabade, Ella Messeter, Niamh Gunn, Chloe Osili, Natalia Osborne, Molly Baars, Ciara Belsham, Morgan Davis.

Meet the new Cabinet

Hello, I'm Ellice and am delighted to have been elected Head Girl. I'm studying Biology, Chemistry, Geography and History. By being Head Girl I hope to bring greater integration across the school by developing our buddy system to increase the interaction between the different years. I feel like I'm approachable and so I want to encourage people to let me know what they would like to change or improve about the school, to help make everybody part of the student leadership team.



Hello, I am Sarah and I am taking French, English Literature, Chemistry and Economics. By being on the cabinet I would like to be able to improve the leadership skills amongst the rest or our school. I believe that in our modern society where women increasingly hold powerful leadership roles within the workplace, it is essential that we hold the skills necessary to be able to lead a team both in school and out. By creating more opportunities for year groups to work together and take on new challenges, the students will gain confidence and hopefully this will help them in the future!

Hi I'm Anna and I've just been elected as one of the new deputy head girls. I'm currently studying French, Biology, Chemistry and History. First of all I'd like to thank everyone who voted

for myself and fellow cabinet members; we're all so grateful and can't wait to work together next year. By being in the cabinet, I hope to be a friendly face who you will feel comfortable coming to talk to, not just a scary Year 13! We hope to make a real difference through our project next year and I can't wait for you all to get involved with us!

Hi I'm Zahra and I am currently studying Maths, Biology, Psychology and RS. I have been elected as one of the deputy head girls for which I am most grateful! I hope to bring creativity and enthusiasm with regards to projects and fundraising events which will continue to enhance us as a school. I hope to bring innovative ideas and to be the friendly face who you can ask questions and propose ideas to! I look forward to working with you all!

Hi, I'm Zoe and this year I'm studying Art & Design, Biology, English Literature, Geography and History of Art. I'm really looking forward to being part of the Cabinet 2016/17 and through my role, I hope to organise a greater variety of Careers Talks and opportunities to experience subjects that we don't currently offer here at AHS. This way we can highlight both the outstanding academic achievements at our school as well as the array of talents from performing arts to cooking, whilst encouraging students to consider a broader range of options for the future. Having the opportunity to work alongside four amazing friends this year is something that I am extremely grateful for and I can't wait to get started!

The new cabinet from left to right:

Zahra Manji, Sarah Shepherd, Ellice Bonsi, Anna Bruce, Zoe Berkeley

And congratulations to our new House Captains

Ascott: Megan Lowe, Jemima Trenchard, Fran Hyde

Claydon: Eloise Dunne, Nyasha Mutembwa, Freya Strangways

Hughenden: Keira Matthews, Sanna Ahmed, Jenitha Jeyendra

Missenden: Sorcha Simons, Catrina Shutter, Cecilia Moore

Stowe: Julia Reid, Talia Hatch, Jennifer Bryant

Waddesdon: Isabella Bidlake-Hall, Darcey Moore, Anna Thomas

Duke of Edinburgh's Award: AHS and our students recognised at Buckingham Palace

The DofE Award has been running at AHS since the 1980s and we became a Licensed Organisation in 2013, being accredited by the DofE to offer the Awards to our students.



We had our 3-yearly review earlier in the year and the assessors reported that they were 'incredibly pleased' with the programme that we offer, and praised all of the staff, led by Mr Torpey, who put so much time and effort into making it such a success.





We have ever-increasing numbers taking on the challenge each year, with 120-140 starting Bronze, 30-55 going on to Silver and around 30 moving on to Gold. Completion rates are high, which is testament to the students' determination and the staff's encouragement.

To celebrate the DofE Award's 60th birthday, Gold Award presentations were held on Monday 13 May at Buckingham Palace, and Mr Rosen, on behalf of the school, was invited to attend.

The ceremony was held in the palace gardens, with several thousand people in attendance. Kelly Fleet, Jenna Haill, and Ruth Wetters were presented with their Gold Certificates and then joined Mr Rosen to receive the school's plaque from Ainsley

Harriott. The Duke of Edinburgh (who has attended over 500 award ceremonies) circulated round our group for a few minutes to talk to students and teachers, cracking a few jokes and obviously enjoying the afternoon.

The Duke of Edinburgh's Award was set up in 1956 by the Duke of Edinburgh, John Hunt (leader of the 1953 Everest expedition) and Kurt Hahn, well known to AHS as the founder of Outward Bound at Aberdyfi. It was Kurt Hahn's philosophy that led to the different sections of the Award: Volunteering, Physical, Skills and Expedition (and Residential for Gold). It now operates in 140 countries, with over 100,000 Awards achieved in the UK each year.

We are really pleased that so many students choose to challenge themselves through the three levels of the Award and are delighted to see their efforts and the hard work of the staff honoured so publicly as part of the 60th birthday celebrations.

