# Autumn Term 2014 Highlights



#### The AHS Atmosphere - can we bottle and sell it?

This half term has seen many visitors in school, a good number of them to inform their choice of secondary school for September 2015.

While they are often very complimentary about the general state of the school and in particular the displays, their highest praise is reserved for the girls who have shown them round and the impression they have gained when going into classrooms.

A recent tour of the school revealed students fully engaged in learning about Appeasement, Apps, The Beast in Lord of the Flies, CAD, Calculus, Compounds, Compound Interest, 2D Design, England from 500 to 2000, Ethical Issues, Fish Cakes, Globalisation, Handball, Henry VIII ... and probably involving every other letter of the alphabet as well.

There isn't a standard measurement for the quantity and quality of learning (brainwaves per minute?) but visitors are certainly impressed by the atmosphere they encounter in every corner of the school, and which also permeates the countless out-of-lesson activities, many of which you can read about in *Highlights*.

Many thanks to everyone for how well the year has started.

Alan Rosen

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@aylesburyhigh

#### **Pathways to Law**

We are delighted that three members of Year 12, Kadija Khadun, Ellie McCague and Rabia Wasim, have been selected for the prestigious Oxford University Pathways to Law Programme. The scheme encourages state school students to apply to read Law at top universities. Last year, Evie Towersey was selected from thousands of applicants to join the scheme. She has reflected about her year on the programme: "Not everyone has the chance to listen to lectures from top academics at universities across the country, visit international law firms, attend some of the country's most prestigious libraries or spend 3 days in chambers with The Times Barrister of the Year – let alone all within the space of a year. Pathways to Law has given me invaluable experience, skills and guidance which have supported my application to read law at university no end. Not only has my knowledge of law as an academic subject grown significantly, I feel as though I have had a privileged introduction to university life as well as the wider world of law which stands me in excellent stead for my future career."

Well done! Liz Chubb

#### **Future Chef**



Students were invited to take part in the school heats of Springboard's 'Future Chef' Competition. Within an hour we had to prepare and cook a hot main course for two people costing less than £5.00. Attention to presentation, the combination of flavours and overall recipe balance were the key focus points of the challenge. The judges consisted of the highly experienced panel of teachers from our Food Technology Department! I made Irish Fish Chowder with homemade soda bread. I was absolutely thrilled to find out that I was the winner and been chosen to represent the school at the local finals, with Holly Harper 10H as runner-up. I am very

excited to now be entering the 'local finalist stage' of the competition and hope to do AHS proud, bearing in mind Sophie Copping won the National Finals in 2012!

Anna Bruce 11S

# **Eventing Championships**



After winning her regional competition in July, Issi Bradford travelled to Cheshire for the Pony Club NFU Novice Championships. First came dressage, where Issi scored 20.4 which placed her in the lead. After much nail biting, she went clear in the show jumping and came home from the cross country clear with no time penalties and a very well deserved first place.

Issi was also selected to take part in the Pony Club Eventer's Challenge at the Blenheim Palace 3\* Horse Trials in September, which was a great honour, especially as she was one of the youngest competitors. "The event is a combination of cross-country and show jumps at a height of 1.05m", Issi told us. "This was the first time I had competed at this level. My horse, Murdo, as always did his best and although we knocked one pole, giving us four

faults, I was pleased with our performance. My contribution was 4 penalties to my team's final score of 20 and at the end of the day we were placed 16th out of 48 teams. I found the experience challenging but nonetheless exciting and enjoyable."

#### **Careers Advice**

Year 11 students are given the opportunity to speak to Laura Franklin from Connexions for careers advice. In addition, the following computer programs to which the school subscribes are available for girls to use at home:

Eclips: www.eclips-online.net. Password: HP21 7SX

Higher Ideas: www.careersoft.co.uk. Click on the 'sign in' link at the bottom right of the home page.

The access code is: fznmzyk3.

Lunchtime talks coming up later this term include:

Degrees and Careers with Languages: Tuesday 4 November

Dentistry: Monday 10 November

The Actuarial Profession: Tuesday 11 November Television Journalism: Thursday 20 November

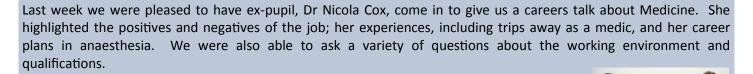
Jane Grimmette
Careers Co-ordinator



Before I attended my careers meeting with Laura Franklin, the only idea I had for my future career was that I wanted to work in an area of the sciences, but I hadn't looked at any specific jobs. After hearing my interests and hobbies, Laura suggested I research engineering, handing me loads of books with information about engineering - ranging from the different courses at university, to the A Levels I should consider taking. She also showed us a great variety of

websites which were very useful, focusing mainly on finding career paths for people who are unsure about where to go, but which also told us which courses are available at which universities and what other options there were besides attending university. Since my meeting, I have a much clearer idea about which subjects I want to study and am seriously investigating various engineering courses at university.

Imogen Andrews 11M



This talk has given me, and hopefully others, a clearer insight into the world of Medicine.

Adanna Ewuzie 10H

# Year 13 Paris Trip

After a very early start on Friday 19 September, 24 sleepy AHS and AGS students and three teachers voyaged across The Channel for a weekend in Paris. Although our time in the French capital was short, we packed plenty in with visits to Les Invalides, Le Musée d'Art Moderne and Le Musée d'Orsay. Going to see the play that we have been reading, 'La Cantatrice Chauve', in the Théâtre de la Huchette brought the words to life and allowed us to appreciate the comedy. A particular highlight of the trip was our climb to the top of the Arc de Triomphe on Saturday night, where we saw Paris's spectacular skyline



in all its glory. After a short trip to the picturesque Marais quarter on Sunday, we jumped back on the Eurostar and headed home. All in all, a fantastic experience!

Jen Moran 13M

#### **Drama Workshop**

On Monday 22 September, drama students from Years 11, 12 and 13 took part in a Scene Productions Workshop in the Harding Hall. The workshop focused on Brecht, a practitioner that many of us are currently studying, and also encompassed scenes and characters from the 'Threepenny Opera' (one of the set texts for A2 drama). The practical elements of the workshop included characterisation and helped us exaggerate characters into a larger-than-life Brechtian style. We worked on the vocal delivery and physicality of our characters, which led to some comical performances at the end of a very enjoyable two hours.



Ellie Wake 13W

# **Art Trip to the Tate Modern**

With our cameras at the ready, we were taking photos as soon as we stepped off the coach. The focus of the trip was to observe and photograph artwork in the Tate Modern and the London Southbank which would contribute to our GCSE

'Structures and Spaces' project. London is perfect for this with its extravagant skyline and simple backstreets. When we arrived at the Tate Modern, we were astonished by its architecture, the vast ceilings and echoing space. Not only were there many interesting paintings, but lots of remarkable sculptures. After nearly filling our cameras with pictures we headed outside and soaked up London's culture as we walked along the Southbank. Most of us took photos in the classic style of Rodchenko, an artist we had studied, who focuses on structures but also on shadow and tones; therefore many of our pictures are in black and white to emphasize this. We all agreed we wanted to come back to the Tate Modern every weekend to see more of the fascinating art work that is so plentiful there. It was a thoroughly enjoyable trip.



# 5 CURRICULUM

#### **Biology Olympiad Highlights**

In January, a selection of A2 Biology students opted to take part in the 2014 British Biology Olympiad, which is structured into 5 tiers. Round 1, the online test, was a rigorous two hour multiple choice question paper, but thanks to 7 great years at AHS we made it through! The remaining tiers were attended by those who were amongst the top scorers of the whole competition. Of those who participated, six of us scored a Gold, Silver or Bronze and were invited to the BBO Awards Ceremony at the Royal Society in London, where we were treated to a fascinating lecture from Professor Alice Roberts titled 'The Incredible Unlikeliness of Being'. We were then presented with our certificates (and goody bags!), took photographs with the Professor and finally, the International Biology Olympiad team of 2014 was announced. The process was an unforgettable experience for all of us and it was made possible by our excellent Biology department – so on behalf of all of the A2 students, a huge thank you to them! I would encourage anyone given the chance to take part to do so; you never know where it might take you!

Mo Dada (AHS 2007-2014)

## **Technology Highlights**



As you may know, AHS and AGS are performing "Grease" as this year's joint production. Of course, you can't present "Grease" without 'Greased Lightning'. So seven Year 9s, Emma Torrance, Heather Nixey, Sam Burt and I from 9A, and Gemma Workman, Juliana Jeyakumar and Dorothy Gardner from 9C were asked by Mr Potkin to undergo the challenge of making this iconic car. The car in the picture is our prototype, but the real car will be 2.6 x 1 metres and will be able to support four or five people on it! By February next year, it should be being used full-time in rehearsals, and will have working headlights and a steering wheel.

Anna Hayward, 9A

# KS3 'Designer of the Month'

All students in Technology could now be 'Designer of the Month' in Years 7, 8 and 9 - see the board in the Technology corridor.

I won Designer of the Month on account of my general knowledge of the subject, which I gained from my previous school, Lockyer's Middle School. The RMT class there was very informative, and it taught me about things such as what MDF, PVA and HIPS stand for (Medium Density Fibreboard, Polyvinylacetate and High Impact Polystyrene) and renewable and non-renewable materials, among other things. I really enjoy Product Design here and I'm looking forward to all the design opportunities to come.

Sian Beddows 7S



#### **ARTiculation**

The ARTiculation Prize is a nationally-acclaimed annual event designed to promote the appreciation and discussion of art. The competition seeks to engage Sixth Form students, regardless of background or experience, with art and to develop their confidence and ability to express their opinions, thoughts and conclusions.



Ten of our Sixth Formers took part this year with the standard and quality of presentation at an impressively high level. The Art and English department are pleased to announce that Georgina Hayward 12N has won this round of the process and will be representing the school regionally.

Well done to all those who took part, including Freya Cox 12Y and Letty Cole 13M, who came second and third respectively. Matt Elgin



## **Creative Writing Club**

The Creative Writing Club has been a great experience for everyone involved so far. Budding young writers from all year groups in the school have had the opportunity to extend their writing abilities and challenge themselves with a range of fun activities,

including writing murder mystery stories in the style of Agatha Christie and Arthur Conan Doyle and spooky Halloween-themed poetry. The club is a great place for literary enthusiasts to meet with others who have similar interests, get hints and tips from Sixth Formers (some of whom have been on professional creative writing courses!) and expand their love for reading and writing. A huge thank you to Miss May for setting up the club and helping it run smoothly!

Katy Roberts 12 M

#### **SLAMbassadors**

On Friday 19 September, 15 students attended a workshop as part of the Poetry Society's national competition, 'SLAMbassadors'. We were unsure of what to expect; however, the moment Joelle Taylor began to talk to us we were immediately put at ease. As the day progressed, our slam poems took shape, ranging from list poems to poems about particular characters, for example a child soldier from the Congo. By 3:30, we had all stood up in front of the group and found the confidence to perform our work. The following Tuesday, we came back again, eager to write more and spent the day perfecting our competition entries and filming them for The Poetry Society's YouTube channel.



I was lucky enough to win a mentoring contract with Joelle and to be picked to be on the SLAMbassadors' UK National team, where I will be performing in Central London on 31 October along with the other winners and professional slam poets such as Joelle Taylor and Mark Grist. I would definitely recommend the workshops to everyone - as a huge learning curve but also great fun.

#### House Art 2013/2014

Last year, the Year 12 House Art Captains worked with groups of creative volunteers from a range of year groups to produce a clay tile. The tile needed to be inspired by the country house corresponding to the House name of each group, for example Waddesdon Manor. We used photographs to influence their designs, creating a busy mood board of sketches and research, before producing a final design. The younger students, encouraged by Haribo and chocolate, enjoyed creating their own designs and each group managed to produce a unique and imaginative tile, as well as having a lot of fun.

Lydia Knight 13D

Well done to all the students who helped to produce these striking relief tiles and special thanks to the brilliant House Art Captains. The tiles will be going up soon on a wall somewhere at school .... so keep a look out for them!

Mrs Michele Greene





# **Library News**

After the textbook issuing chaos of September, things have started to calm down in the library. Now the fun begins and we can start to process all the books that have been requested by the students. We have just received a big order and are always looking for more suggestions for items for the library, so why not come and see if we have the book you want in stock and if not maybe we will order it!

Everyone is welcome to join our monthly Reading Group held jointly with AGS. Meetings take place on the last Friday of each month, so our next event will be at lunchtime on Friday 28 November.

Kim Adams Librarian

#### 8A's Car Wash

This year 8A are raising money for the MacMillan Trust and Emily's Star. We decided to wash teachers' and Sixth Formers' cars to raise money for our charities. We wanted to do something active and helpful and we had lots of fun over 3 lunch times washing cars. The whole form got involved and we managed to wash 19 cars and raised £200!

Beth Lewin and Neha Mukherjee 8A



#### Harvest 2014

**Year 7:** This term we have been making Harvest boxes for the elderly during form time. We spent a couple of mornings making and decorating our boxes and we also made a card between each group to go with it. We brought in items from home to fill our boxes as gifts.

Olivia Reeder and Avanthika Ravi 7C

**Year 9:** On Wednesday 8 October, 10 Year 9 students from AHS visited our elderly neighbours at Landon Court across the road. I played my Clarinet, Ania played her flute and we had some readings. We all gave out the boxes that Year 7 students had made. It was a great experience and we hope to go back near Christmas.

Em Jenkins 9M

On Wednesday 15 October, 11 Year 9 students visited St Leonard's Care Home in Aylesbury. We all made cakes and biscuits to give to the residents and we spent time talking to them over a cup of tea. They seemed to enjoy having a good chat and they are looking forward to coming to the Christmas Party at AHS in December. I found it really interesting to find out about their childhoods—their schools and uniforms seemed so much stricter than ours!

Hannah Alexander 9A





# **Internet Safety**

To help you stay up to date with this ever-evolving topic, we are holding an internet safety evening on **Monday** 17 November from 7.00 – 8.30 pm in the Main Hall, where our Safer Schools Officer, PC Graham Brigginshaw, will talk about both the dangers of social media and what you can do to ensure your daughter's safety. If you'd like to attend this important event, please contact Mrs Betts by email (<a href="mailto:kbetts@ahs.bucks.sch.uk">kbetts@ahs.bucks.sch.uk</a>) and let her know how many free tickets you would like.

Harriet Queralt

#### **AHS String Quartet**

The classical quartet, comprising Julia Raj 11H, Sarah Critchley 10M, Katherine Dalby 11W and Charlotte Evans 11W, regularly performs in the local area. More recently, they have been lucky enough to perform at some formal events. Last week the girls were invited to play at Waddesdon Dairy for the Bucks Community Foundation Annual Supporter Reception. This is a huge event for the Foundation, where they vote for their chosen good cause awards for the coming year. It also gave the girls a big audience to showcase their skills in front of. They are currently lining up more performances over the coming months and welcome any invitations for extra performances from inside and outside of the school community.



Oliver Druker



#### AHSA News

The AHSA's next fundraising event will be held at the school on **Sunday 9 November** from 12 noon - 4.00 pm. This is a perfect way to do your Christmas shopping in a relaxing environment, whilst helping raise funds for the school. There will be over 30 companies attending offering gifts, crafts, fashion, homeware, candles, cosmetics, handbags, scarves, fine foods, cakes and many more.

Tickets are available from the Front Office at £3.50 for Adults and £2.50 for Children (up to age 11); under-5s are free. You will also be able to pay on the door.



All parents are welcome to come along to the AHSA AGM on **Tuesday 11 November** at 7 pm in the library. As well as electing the new committee there will be a chance to find out what the AHSA did last year and what is planned for the year ahead, including how you can get involved.

On **Friday 28 November**, we will be holding the popular annual Quiz Night. Details and a ticket order form can be found on the website in the AHSA section under "Parents".

The AHSA will be running the much anticipated Year 7 disco on **Friday 12 December.** Tickets will go on sale later in the term.

# **Community Involvement**

More than 170 students from Year 13 have begun a Community Involvement placement this term. These usually take place on Thursday afternoons, when students carry out voluntary work at a wide variety of places including primary schools, charity shops, care homes, museums and community libraries. This year students are helping out at locations as diverse as Bucks Goat Centre, Waddesdon Manor, Aylesbury Youth Action, Chilterns MS Centre and Bletchley Park. The scheme gives students great opportunities to develop valuable skills which will help them in the future. In return, we always receive wonderful feedback about the contribution our students have made to their placements and I am sure this year will be no different!

#### **Sports Presentation Evening**

We had only been back at school for three days when the Sports Presentation Evening was held. On Friday 5 September, the PE Department arranged a slightly different Awards Evening to previous years. Parents were invited and there was great excitement as we all lined up backstage.

The awards were presented by our great teachers and coaches for the huge variety of sports we take part in at AHS. Following on from School Colours, a few National Champions and Finalists Awards were handed out by our special guest, Paralympic Rower Naomi Riches. As an extremely proud Netball National Champion and Basketball finalist this year, it was a great privilege to have a gold medal holder in school presenting them to us. Naomi was a huge inspiration, telling us her story of being partially sighted from birth. Thank you to the PE Department for such a successful evening.

Charlotte Brooker 10M

**Special Achievement Awards** were presented to the following:

**KS5 Team of the Year** - Senior Swimming Team

KS4 Team of the Year - U15 Basketball Team

KS3 Teams of the Year - Junior Badminton, Junior Cross Country,

U14 Netball U13 Basketball

National Finalists in Two Sports - Charlotte Brooker 10M, Morgan Davis 9C, Natalia Osborne 9M

**Sports Leaders of the Year** - Florence Hewett 11H (KS4), Donelle Arulanandam 13J (KS5)

Margaret Cooper Cup - Annabelle Denly 10H (KS3), Anna Henderson 11C (KS4), Rosanna Evans 13D (KS5)

Service to Sport - Cara Stubbings 131

Outstanding Achievement in Sport - Charlotte Evans - Swimming

Sports Person of the Year - Morgan Davis 9C





#### **U15 Netball Tournament**

On Thursday 18 September we played in the U15 start-of-the-season netball tournament at Aylesbury High School. Amongst the schools in our top group were Denbigh, Sir Henry Floyd, St Pauls, Ousedale and Waddesdon School. Our team got off to a great start, comfortably winning our first match. Our toughest game was against Sir Henry Floyd but, despite their best efforts, we notched up another win for ourselves. In total we played six matches and I was particularly proud of our teamwork, which resulted in a clean sweep and we became the overall winners of the tournament.



Natalia Osborne 9M

## **U13 Basketball Trials - a bouncing success**

Students from Year 8 and Year 7 spent Tuesday lunchtime and/or after school displaying their basketball skills. The girls involved will represent the school in U13 English Schools Cup Games (A and B teams), county cup (A and B teams), and development games. The teams are hoping to follow in their Y9 teammates' shoes who became U13 National Champions last season. Train hard, follow your dreams and have fun!

Ali Arber





# **U14 Basketball Development Team Shine** in Season's Opening Game

The girls from Years 8 and 9 got the season off to a flying start with a 46-4 victory over Mandeville. With the majority of girls playing their first competitive game for the school, the match saw both teams battle to the end. Sharp shooting from Alice Eastwell 8M (10 pts), Louisa Hankey 9M (6pts), Holly Lewis 9H (4 pts), Thiara Rupasinghe 9A (4 pts), Katie Arber 9A (4pts), Nisimi Ayodele 9A (2pts), Alanna Lavery 8M (6pts), Sarah Nicholls 8M (2pts), Umme Alam 8H (6pts) secured victory in the end to end game. Players of the match: Alana Lavery Y8 and Louisa Hankey Y9.

Ali Arber

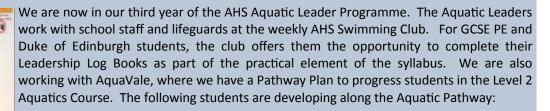
# **U16 Basketball Development Team**

A mixed development team of Year 10 and 11 students played Mandeville and Thornton College in an introduction to Basketball match play. Amber Wright 11C, Kiera Gillies 11C, Kainaat Ishaq 10S, Ellice Bonsi 11M and Sristhi Agarwal 10S were all playing their first games for the school. AHS won both games - against Mandeville by 34-14 and Thornton College 8-2. Top scorers: Year 11 - Kiera Gillies (12 pts), Year 10 - Elyse Heron 10S (6pts). Newcomer Players: Amber Wright and Kainat Ishaq. Well done to all involved.



Ali Arber

#### **Aquatic Leaders**



'We chose to take on ASA Level 1 Teaching Aquatics Award because we both really enjoyed our time as Aquatic Leaders. The award has provided us with a variety of skills and opportunities. One of these is working at Aqua Vale where we have recently been supporting the teaching of swimming skills to children. It is incredibly rewarding and exciting. We are looking forward to continuing our development in swimming teaching and coaching.' Ayesha Chandhry 11S and Vicky Okafar 11S

As a swimmer herself, Finn Whitbread 11H has confidently led aquatic activities and provided valuable analysis and teaching points. She has decided to embark on both her Swimming Officials and Timekeeper courses, another progression through her aquatic career.

Issi Bradford 11H has embarked on her NPLQ Lifeguarding course, which will be great not only for the AHS Swim Club, but also provide her with future income.

# Charlotte Evans – We wish you luck in Loughborough!

Some of you will know by now that Charlotte left us at the beginning of this term to study at the National Centre for Swimming in Loughborough and train with some of the best coaches in the country and world class facilities, in a unique performance environment. It has been exciting seeing Charlotte progress through her Swimming Career. We have been lucky enough to drag her from her intense training schedule to support AHS in a number of ESSA Swimming Events over the past 5 years. Currently Charlotte trains for 18 hours per week, plus gym sessions ... one of my abiding memories of a Swimming Championships in Watford was seeing Charlotte with her most used item on her lap – her food flask! Her mum explained that it is from this that Charlotte eats most evenings, en route to swimming meets. Just a thought for many of you - when you come into school in the morning, Charlotte has already been up for 4 hours, training! Swimmers amongst you will be familiar with this!

Charlotte is currently ranked 14<sup>th</sup> in the country in the Open Age Group – an amazing achievement considering she is only 17! She recently competed in the Commonwealth trials, swimming against the likes of Lauren Quigley and Georgia Davies, both British Champions (Georgia won a bronze medal at the Commonwealth Games). Charlotte won two silvers in the Nationals, missing out on Golds by hundredths of seconds, and setting South East Regional Records.

I know the Swimmers here will be following her achievements; watch out for Charlotte at Rio in 2016 and Tokyo 2020! Good luck, Charlotte!

**Mandy Carey** 

# **U16 County Hockey Tournament - 1st Round**

On Wednesday 8 October, the U16 hockey team, consisting of players from Year 10 and 11 travelled to Bisham Abbey National Sports Centre to take part in the first round of the County Hockey tournament. The girls kicked off their matches with a score of 2-2 against Beaconsfield High School. They came back fighting in their second game, with a strong defence breaking down any attempts from their opposition to gain possession of the ball in their attacking half . Strong attacking play resulted in valuable short corners and numerous shots on goal and the girls were rewarded with a 12-0 win against Chesham High. Their final game of the day brought another win for the girls with a score of 2-1 against Dr Challoners, ensuring their progression to the second round; we wish them the best of luck!



**Kirsty Hunter** 



## Young Team secures place at Regional Finals

Olivia Lowrie 8W showed her Year 7 team mates the way home with a convincing win at the first round of the ESAA Cross Country Cup. Hatty Bell 7A (6<sup>th</sup>), Lucy Perkins 7S (8<sup>th</sup>), Olivia Robson 7A (11<sup>th</sup>) and Lauren Faulkner 7C (43<sup>rd</sup>) showed the strength of Cross Country running at Aylesbury High. The tough hills were certainly more challenging than the flat fields at school! Congratulations to all the girls on securing a place at the Regional Finals in November by the team coming 2<sup>nd</sup> with 28 points behind Dr Challoner's (21 pts).

Ali Arber

# Storming Effort Secures Top Team at ESAA Cross Country 1<sup>st</sup> Round

On the tough hilly course, the Inter Girls team showed real grit and determination to qualify for the Regional Finals in November. The girls destroyed the strong local opposition in a fine display of team running, coming 1<sup>st</sup> with 27 points ahead of Beaconsfield High (44 pts) and Wycombe Abbey (46 pts). Jemima Taswell-Fryer 9H (5<sup>th</sup>), Morgan Davis 9C (6<sup>th</sup>), Danielle Kidd 9W (7<sup>th</sup>), Tilly Green 9C (9<sup>th</sup>), Bronwen Reed 10H (11<sup>th</sup>) and Hannah Alexander 9A (19<sup>th</sup>) all showed that they have the potential to reach the National Finals in Newquay, Cornwall. An awesome display, girls - we're proud of your efforts.



Ali Arber