



Summer Term 2016

# Highlights



Finally made it!

By the time you read this we will have reached the end of term and a well-earned break.

This edition of *Highlights* emphasises just what a wonderful range of activities takes place on an almost daily basis to enrich and enhance our students' lives.

That only happens because of the willingness of staff and students alike to 'go the extra mile', 'put in 110%' and whatever other clichés you want to supply.

So everyone definitely deserves a holiday and the chance to re-charge their batteries ready for whatever the coming year has to offer. Expect to be Prepared, Challenged and Inspired in 2016/17!

**Alan Rosen**

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## 2 RECENT SUCCESSES

### British Ice Skating Championships

On 24 June, I competed in the British Solo Ice Dance Championships and won the Bronze medal. I performed 3 different routines in the primary ladies category, where I came first in the first two dances, and fifth in the final dance. I was pleased with my result, and I am hoping to get on the podium next year as well!

Katie Garman 8W



### BASE Business and Accounting Competition



We set off early to Birmingham to compete in the national finals of the BASE business and accounting competition, sponsored by the accountancy organisation ICAEW. We spent the morning responding to a case study and completing various tasks such as a SWOT analysis. In the afternoon we had to present our ideas to a panel of judges, an experience that improved our presentation skills. There was a formal dinner in the evening where we had the opportunity to network with accountants before the awards were presented. We won best financial analysis and will get to attend an employability skills workshop in October in London. Overall the experience improved our communication skills, whilst allowing us to make important connections for the future.

Annabelle Hood 12L and Daphne Forbes-Russell 12O

### Engineering Competition

On Saturday 25 June three of us went to Luton engineering company, Leonardo, which works with stealth machinery. For the past year we have been working on making our pair of robots, The Avenger and R2D2. The first of the day's events was a sumo challenge in which two robots went head to head to push each other off a platform to be the last standing. The second competition was the assault course, in which we had to wind our way through tricky obstacles, designed to make us fail. The last competition of the day was the two-a-side football where we had to work as a team to try and score goals against a team from another school. We managed to get through to the quarter finals before we were beaten by the team who went on to win, Luton Sixth Form. The competition was good preparation for those of us taking part in a summer holiday work experience program designed to encourage young students to go into Engineering.



By Anna Hayward 10A, Heather Nixey 10A, Lauren Wood 10A and Gemma Workman 10C.

## Year 12 Art Trip to Paris



Early on Friday morning, our art class gathered at St Pancras station ready to travel to Paris. During the trip, with the aim of gathering information and inspiration for our A Level projects, we visited a large number of art galleries and museums, varying in size and style. These included the Louvre, the Musée d'Orsay, Musée de l'Orangerie, Musée Picasso and the Pompidou Centre. Here we recorded our thoughts and experiences in small sketchbooks, filling them with tickets, postcards and drawings. My own personal highlights were the Monet rooms at the Musée de l'Orangerie, where we all became absorbed in the serene atmosphere and the beauty of the paintings; as well as the conceptual, modern art at the Pompidou Centre, which was incredibly striking and innovative. Throughout the trip, we faced a number of challenges when navigating both the metro and the French language. Both skills did improve...eventually. The whole group felt truly immersed in Parisian culture while we were there, from ordering moules frites to cramming ourselves onto the metro (which we failed in doing at least once). I think we would all agree that our time in Paris was unforgettable and was truly inspiring, giving us all a great start to the Year 13 course.



Isabella Cottam, 12I

## Spanish Exchange



On 18 June, 25 Spanish students from IES Alfonso X in Murcia arrived in Aylesbury for the return leg of our exchange programme. They enjoyed an action-packed week here, including meeting the Mayor of Aylesbury and trying on her ceremonial robes, visiting the Harry Potter studios and sampling the sugary delights of Cadbury World. Our Spanish guests all had a fantastic time and weren't at all bothered by British "summer" weather - in fact, they were glad to escape from the 38 degree sunshine of Spain for a week! The exchange programme offers a fantastic opportunity to really immerse yourself in the language and culture of Spain and make lifelong friends. If you will be studying Spanish in Year 10 or 12 from September, look out for the letter about next year's exchange - coming soon.



Miss Oatley

### Year 13 Prom

On Friday 8 July, Year 13 joined with the boys from AGS for our Leavers' Ball at the beautiful Missenden Abbey. Preparations were made months in advance, ready for this special day.

Highlights were the photo-booth, which proved hugely popular, the incredible dance moves of certain teachers, and of course the fireworks, which quite literally sent us out with a bang, as a year of hard work culminated in one final grand celebration.

A massive thank you to all those who helped make it a success. It's a goodbye from Year 13 —until Results Day at least!

Osadeba Jegunma 13R, Deputy Head Girl



### Year 9 Trip to Picardy & Paris

On 24 June, we took 54 students for our annual trip to Paris and Picardy. We left early on Friday morning, took the ferry and arrived at the centre late afternoon where we could enjoy the beautiful weather by the lake in Chamouille. On Saturday, we visited the medieval town of Laon and did some watercolour painting using the same techniques the Cistercian monks used to use. We then jumped in time and fast forwarded to the Napoleonic era in the afternoon when we visited Napoleon's Imperial Palace in Compiègne. Sunday was spent in Paris: with a quick tour of the Louvre focusing on a few works of art from the Egyptian times (the Sphynx) to the Napoleonic era. We had studied the Coronation of Josephine by David in class and it was most impressive to see the sheer size of it in real life. We carried on our Napoleonic theme by going to Les Invalides to visit his tomb. We finished with a quick coach tour of Paris, down les Champs Elysées and the Arc de Triomphe to end at the Trocadero for a view of the Eiffel Tower where a certain France-Ireland match was being played. Monday and Tuesday were dedicated to WW1: we visited the battlefields, saw the Thiepval memorial and visited the Chemin des Dames...the girls will agree that this was an incredibly moving experience especially so close to the 100th Anniversary of the battle of the Somme. The French tour guides couldn't reinforce enough their gratitude towards the British troops who helped France to be a free country. Our traditional French evening marked the end of the trip and the girls' performances were excellent. It was an enjoyable and educational experience for everybody and the girls got a lot out of it.



Mrs Aston

### Art in Action

On Friday 15th July the year 10 GCSE art students went on a trip to the annual Art in Action event near Oxford. The site was packed full of marquees offering workshops on painting, wood work, mixed media and much more. Each tent was dedicated to a specific media such as ceramics or textiles. Whilst exploring them we were able to watch artists and work as well as speak to them about how they come up with ideas and how they go about putting their pieces together. My favourite bit was a drawing workshop where we were able to try out ways of working with materials that I had never used before. We all got lots out of the trip and have returned inspired by the artists who we spoke to and excited to continue working on our own sketchbooks. Tilly Green 10C



## Year 7 performance of A Midsummer Night's Dream at Stratford

On Monday 4 July the Year 7 cast of A Midsummer Night's Dream travelled to Stratford Upon Avon to perform at the Royal Shakespeare Company. It was a great experience and a thoroughly enjoyable day! By the time we eventually arrived in Stratford, we were all ready to perform, but first we watched Ashford School from Kent performing their own version of A Midsummer Night's Dream, which we thought was very interesting. We enjoyed watching how they had interpreted the play, using their own first languages. After this, we got changed and had a quick run through on stage. We all just wanted to get out there for real, in front of our first real audience. And soon enough, it was time. After months of hard work, it all came down to this. We filed out onto the stage, and faced the audience. It was bigger than we expected! Everyone performed amazingly, not a single line missed, and all too soon, it was over. We all were so happy with our huge success, and we topped it off with a relaxed lunch and trip to the gift shop afterwards. By the time we got home, we were happy and exhausted, but we can all agree that it was a wonderful day!



Molly Squires 7W

## Midsummer Music, Movement and Muses



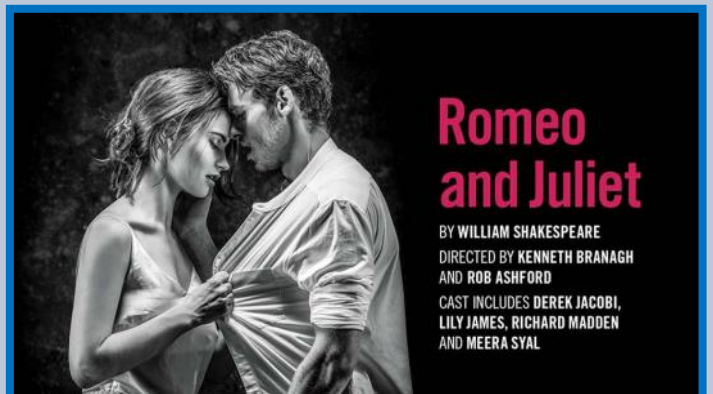
Dance and Music joined forces to produce this year's Midsummer Music, Movement & Muses. Talented students performed to a full hall performing a wide range of pieces producing a varied and cultured evening of entertainment. Items by Year 7 from June's Activity Day featured

including a colourful dance routine called 'Samba!'. Debuts were a theme of the show with first performances by the newly formed Steel Pan Band, Mr Gater's Jazz Band and the new vocal group 'Harmonize'. The show opened with a powerful performance of James Bond themes by Symphony Orchestra and other highlights included GCSE dance compositions, solo songs and dance duets.

Ms Raven

## Romeo and Juliet at The Odeon

Romeo and Juliet, Shakespeare's well-known play has long been essential to the English GCSE diet. Over 240 AHS students flocked to the cinema this month to see a live screening of Kenneth Branagh's production. With its action set in 1950s Verona, Dolce Vita glamour provided an effective backdrop to Mafia style violence. Kenneth Branagh tore Lily James and Richard Madden from their 'Happy Ever After' in Cinderella and placed them in Romeo and Juliet, creating a bright freshness to the story. The play's elegance was enjoyed by many, with occasional whispers of well-known verses echoing across the cinema, a few frustrated groans at the melodrama of Juliet, and silent laughs at the balcony scene which reflected well on



Romeo's irrational and chaotic emotions. We appreciated the experience of watching the play in our own private screening and despite the late finish and early morning wake up for school the next day, our viewing of Romeo and Juliet will definitely be remembered when we reflect back on the hardships of "Juliet and her Romeo".

Isobel Glover 10C

## 6 Activity Days

### Year 7 Creative Olympics

On Friday 24 June, Year 7 students were able to choose which activity to take part in for our Activity Day: Drama, Dance, PE, Music or Art. We chose Drama, and we looked at the pros and cons of the 2016 Olympics; what it did to the environment and how it affected the people. We were put into groups and took part in making a number of different drama pieces all linked to the 2016 Olympics. We created plays, freeze frames, and used abstract techniques such as thought tapping, direct address, morphing, puppetry and music. Other groups took part in PE, Music, Art or Dance activities, also linked to the theme of Rio and it was great to watch everyone's contribution at the end of the day.

Amy Johnson 7W



### Year 8 at Ashridge

Year 8 enjoyed a day of outdoor learning at Ashridge, which included investigating biodiversity using quadrats, using clinometers to work out the heights of trees and a guided walk from a National Trust Ranger looking at woodland management. My favourite part of the day was the orienteering treasure hunt because it wasn't just about finding sweets - we had to use our brains and work as a team.

Lea Brain 8H



## Year 9 Enterprise Day

The aim of our Enterprise Day on 24 June was to create or innovate an ethical product to help the environment. We learnt a variety of skills such as: confidence when performing, how to sell a product and how to work with a team of individuals that we have not worked with before.

Mission 1: was to design our idea and draw diagrams as well as electing project leaders and choosing a company name.

Mission 2: was to make a 3D prototype of the product we chose to sell and design a logo that would help us be recognised in the real world.

Mission 3: Our final mission in the main hall was to make a TV advert to sell our newly designed product. This required us to present confidently and show that our product was the best.

We were then split up into classrooms whilst we presented our adverts and products to the other groups. 10 of these teams got through to the finals where they had to present to the rest of the year and Lucy and Daisy, the people who made the day so enjoyable.

First place was a product called Paragua which is Spanish for 'For water', an umbrella that transformed into a tent. The group consisted of Maya, Georgie, Ella, Naima, Fiona, Shruti, Magaret and Liv. The entire day was very enjoyable and we learnt new life skills and that teamwork is key.

Maya Patel and Chloe Rainbow 9W



## Year 10 Health Day

Year 10 took time out of our busy year to focus on our health and well being. As well as getting advice from services such as the School Nursing Team and AdAction we enjoyed sessions on yoga and self defence. I particularly liked the yoga, which was a fantastic way to unwind and it's inspired me to find a yoga class to join over the summer. Sam Burt 10A

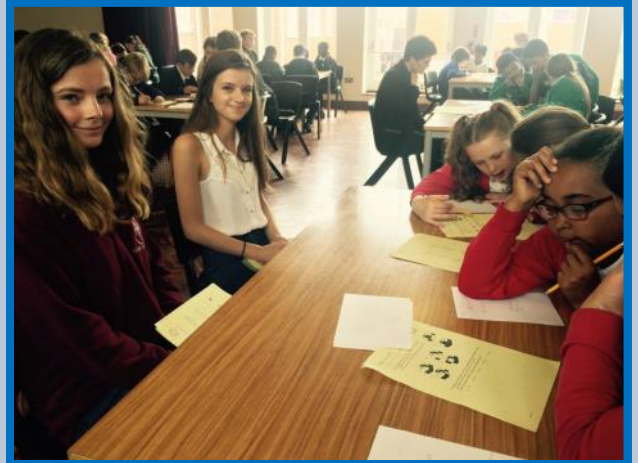


## 8 PRIMARY OUTREACH

### Primary Maths Challenge

Groups of Year 12 volunteers have spent the year running 'Maths Challenge' clubs in local primary schools alongside boys from AGS. The project culminated in an exciting inter primary school competition organised by Mrs Hughes at AGS last month. The hall was buzzing with heated mathematical debate and problem solving—especially during the relay round! Thank you to all the Year 12 students who have been involved this year. We look forward to even more work with our primary schools next year when some Year 12 students have opted to take the Primary Outreach Project as an extension study and will be running maths and literacy clubs in primary schools.

Mrs Queralt



### Primary Science Workshop

On 29 June a group of Year 5 girls from local primary schools attended the Aylesbury High School Science workshop. In light of the recent excitement over Tim Peake, the British astronaut, they planned to launch their own bottle rockets on the field, however, disaster struck!



Mr Elcock

Unpredictable weather meant they had to think quickly and design all new film canister rockets, which turned out to be a great success. The children also quite literally got stuck in to dissecting hearts and lungs, which also helped fuel their interest in science. Thank you to the Year 12 students who helped.



### Year 10 Primary School Multi Skills Festivals

As part of the Year 10 Sports Leaders unit the students plan and deliver Multi Skills Festivals to local Primary School Children from Reception to Year 4. As always they have been very well received by Primary staff and children and the feedback has been very positive. The following is just one example of some of the comments:

*"Our teachers and parent helpers commented on how well organised the events were and how the girls are a true credit to your school. They were helpful, well organised and most importantly gave clear instructions to our young children so they could have fun and enjoy themselves in a safe environment. We hope the girls enjoyed themselves as much as our children did and look forward to next year's events!"*

Congratulations and well done to Year 10.

Mrs Carpenter



## Felicity Hewitt Memorial

In August, Felicity Hewitt, a dear friend and an outstanding AHS student, tragically passed away. We wanted to find a way to commemorate her life and short time at AHS, and so we have raised the funds for a memorial so that she will always be remembered here. A variety of fundraising efforts, most notably a highly successful bake sale, has meant that we have been able to complete the memorial which now consists of an outdoors study bench, a beautiful cherry tree nearby, and a commemorative plaque. We have also established the Felicity Hewitt Award, which will go to a hard-working and talented Year 12 student each year for the next five years.



By starting this award and having the plaque displayed at school we hope all future AHS students will learn what a brilliant and kind student she was and how much she is missed.



Sereana Chima 13C, Amna Qamar 13G, Sarah Mann 13Y, Sarah Deeley 13C, Salma Hussain 13O, Jess Fleming 13B

## Purple Friday

The Science Technicians and the Head of Biology got busy with their baking skills and held a cake sale for Purple Friday on 17 June. They raised £131 and the total raised by the High School was £742.60 for Relay for Life Aylesbury. Relay For Life is a year-round team fundraising challenge bringing communities together to beat cancer. There are 40 Relay For Life events happening across the UK this summer. You can join any one of them by starting or joining a Relay fundraising team with friends, family or workmates. Raise as much as you can, then come together with your Relay community for a fun day and night of celebration. Ms Trunkfield



## County Athletics Championships

In varied weather our athletes competed with great spirit and were a credit to the school. Bronwen Reed in Year 11 took a break from revision to storm to victory in the inter girls 300m. She just missed out on the qualifying time for the National Finals but achieved a very impressive 41.6seconds. Running a year under age, Jemima Taswell Fryer came 4th in the same race.

In the junior girls' (Year8/9) events the Year 8s were out in force and produced some great performances against their older opponents. Lucy Perkins was more like a multi-eventer reaching both the 200m and 800m finals coming 5th and 6th respectively. She also leapt her way to the long jump final and achieved a massive personal best of 4.69m just 1cm behind the county champion. Year 9 Olivia Saunders achieved 3rd place in the 100m, Mia Thompson 2nd in the hurdles and Isobel Mathews nudged out Olivia Robson to gain 2nd and 3rd places in the javelin.

Mrs Arber

## District Athletics Championships

A fine performance from all year groups resulted in AHS becoming Overall Girls District Champions.

The Year 7 team were competing in their first athletics match this season that had not been affected by rain. Helena Van Hullen became District Champion in the high jump, just 1cm below the district record. Millie Lowrie became District Champion in the hurdles with Helena (800m), Millie Carey (1500m) and Hannah Davis (Javelin) gaining 2nd places. A fine effort from the whole team who gained 3rd place just 9 points behind 1st place.



The Year 8 team once again became District Champions achieving 65 points to Royal Latin's 58. Suki Fogg became a district record holder with a leap of 1.40m. She was joined as a District Champion by Hatty Bell (1500m), Lucy Perkins (Long Jump), Francesca Strach ( Discus). Podium finishes were achieved by Jasmin Orriss ( hurdles), Nikki Melsom (200m) and Lucy Perkins (800m).

The Year 9 team stormed to victory by 21 points over the Royal Latin school to become Champions. The year 9 relay team (Lowrie, Thompson, Garton, Saunders) were district champions and the new district record holders in 53.9 seconds. The Year 9s were district champions in 6 events:), Olivia Lowrie (800m), Emily Johnson (1500m), Grace Ashton (Discus) Margaret Agega (Shot Putt), Abbie Garton (Triple Jump). Second places went to Mia Thompson (hurdles), Georgie Morley (300m), Olivia Lowrie (Long Jump) and Olivia Robson (Javelin).



The Year 10 team received the district trophy after edging the Grange into second place by 4 points. Danielle Kidd not only became District Champion but also took the district 1500m record. She was supported by podium finishes from Grace Welch (TJ), Rosanna Schmidt (Discus) Maddie Weir (Javelin), Zoe Chappell (High Jump), Kiylo Solgabade (200m) and Millie Guntrip (hurdles). A great team effort from all.



Mrs Arber

## Inter Girls English Schools Cup: County Round and Regional Final

A very soggy and wet event at Stantonbury Stadium in Milton Keynes saw Aylesbury High top the table at the county round north event with a modest 279 points. Only Olivia Lowrie (800m) achieved beyond the magical 20 point mark for a single event. Zoe Chappell (200m), Georgie Morley (300m) and Dani Kidd (1500m) all came close in their events. However, the team achieved their goal and progressed to the Regional Final at Lee Valley. The sun had done a disappearing act and the girls had to perform in monsoon conditions. Once again Olivia Lowrie cruised to 25 points in the 800m but fine performances from Grace Welch (triple jump), Dani Kidd (1500m), Zoe Chappell (200m) and Olivia Sauders 100m saw the team beat their first round score and achieve a very creditable 2nd place. Well done to all involved and special thanks to Mrs Cornwell, Mrs Bell and Mrs Rust for their support at the events.

### Regional final results

1st	349pts	Bishop Challoner Catholic Federations of Girls School, London
2nd	327pts	Aylesbury High School, Buckinghamshire
3rd	316pts	The Lady Eleanor Holles School, Middlesex

## Junior Girls

Olivia Robson (24 points Javelin), Lucy Perkins (23pts 800m), Mia Thompson (21 points hurdles) and Emily Johnson (20 points 1500m) were the top scorers at the county round in MK. The Team AHS athletes won the event by 72 points to progress to the regional finals.

At the regional finals the team put in some fine performances with many athletes hitting the magical 20+ point mark (Charlotte Basnett, Lucy Perkins, Hatty Bell, Emily Johnson, Mia Thompson, Olivia Robson and Isobel Mathews). Special mention should go to Year 7's Helena Van Hullen who scored 19 points in both the high jump and 800m. Overall the team improved 64 points from the first round - a remarkable achievement in such poor conditions. Their score of 363 would have put them into the national finals in many of the regions around the country. Something to build on for next season.

Posn	Points	School
1	372	The Godolphin and Latymer School, London
2	363	Aylesbury High School, Aylesbury
3	328	The Lady Eleanor Holles School, Hampton

## Swimming South East Regionals

Chantel Ottonello Year 7 and Elle Cogan Year 8 competed in the Swimming East Regionals in May. Competition was tough, with entries from around 80 clubs and most finalists achieving National Qualifying times, but Chantel and Elle managed to hold their own.

With both girls swimming in the 13 year old category, Chantel got Long Course PBs in all her races which included 50m/100m/200m Breaststroke, 200m Individual Medley, 4x50m/4x100m Freestyle relay, and so did Elle who was swimming in 50m/10m/200m Freestyle, 50m Breaststroke, 4x50m/4x100m Freestyle Relay and 4x50 Individual Medley Relay. Chantel also made reserve finalist for the 50m Breaststroke, which is her strongest race.

They have both gone back to training with renewed enthusiasm from the experience gained in racing long course and are looking forward to next season's competition schedule, where they hope very much to improve on this year's performance. Congratulations to the girls.

Mrs Carpenter



### House Athletics—third time lucky!



Congratulations to everyone who took part—but especially to the winning house: Missenden, and to the top scorers in each year group: Daisy Pearson, Lucy Perkins, Olivia Lowrie, Chloe Aslett and Anna Bruce.



The winning staff relay team!



### Ode to George

A sad day for Aylesbury High School has come-  
Science lessons will no longer be quite as much fun....

A Pagona vitticeps is no longer around

And the cheery Mrs Burt has been rather down.

The Bearded Dragon known as George has passed on

And the tubs of worms he ate are now gone

A very happy life here he had, that's for sure.

A great talking point, he helped the girls even more.

So farewell George we will remember your ways

But how will Mrs Burt now fill her days?

Do we think she will gain another new friend?

Maybe.....We'll see what happens as summertime ends!

