



HIGHLIGHTS

Easter 2018

A WORD FROM THE HEADTEACHER

“I was not a good student. I did not spend much time at college; I was too busy enjoying myself. “

Stephen Hawking

I'm not sure that I would dare to disagree with any of Stephen Hawking's scientific work, but would like to humbly suggest that his quotation shouldn't apply to life at AHS. I was certainly guilty of enjoying myself when I was a school student, even if my achievements didn't tend to be in the classroom or exam hall, and I'm not sure that made me a bad student.

The many, many achievements *Highlighted* here are all due to students who want more out of school than exam results, and dedicated staff who go 'over and above' to give them such a fantastic range of experiences, so well done and thank you to everyone for the many hours devoted to extra-curricular activities this term; this edition of *Highlights* gives just a flavour of the events and trips that keep us so busy, and enjoying ourselves.

Alan Rosen

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HOME AND AWAY



On Saturday 10 February, nine students along with Mr Rosen, Miss Hunter and Mrs Wilkes started their 10-day trip to India. We spent the first couple of days in Amritsar visiting famous sights such as the Golden Temple and the Wagah Border, and getting used to receiving a large number of stares from passers-by.



We took the train to our link school, Wylie Memorial High, in the city of Ludhiana. Here we took part in lots of joint projects to learn about each other's cultures. Our Chromebooks were put to good use as we researched democracy in our two countries, looked at our respective moves to a cashless society, and compared our school systems.



HOME AND AWAY

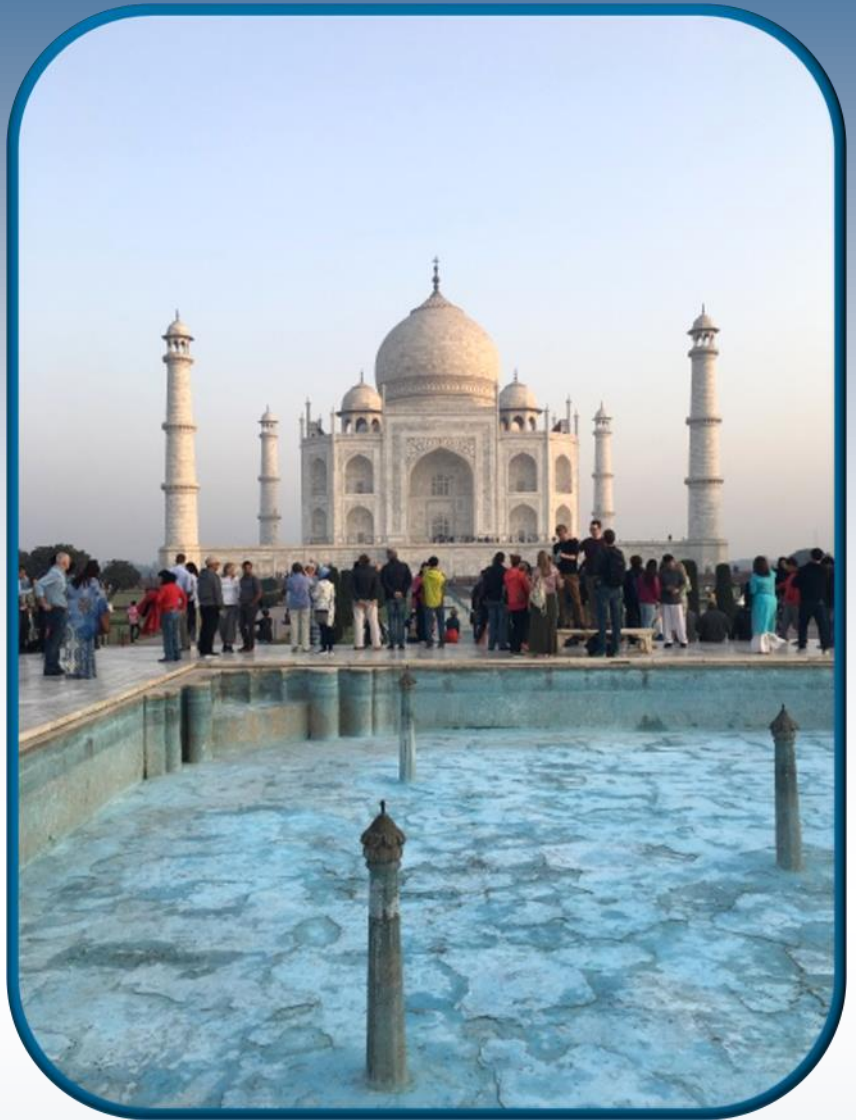
The Wylie students also taught us how to play 'Kho Kho' which we soon discovered we were horrendous at when we lost against a team of mostly 5th Class or Year 6 students.

On Thursday we said emotional goodbyes before heading to Agra. Of course we couldn't visit India without a trip to the Taj Mahal so woke up very early to visit a true wonder of the world as well as going on a wildlife safari.

That night we moved on to Jaipur where we were lucky enough to ride elephants up to Amber Fort which was an amazing opportunity, and visited Jantar Mantar, site of 19 astronomical instruments including the world's biggest sundial.

Our final stop was Delhi where we had a guided walk through the incredibly busy and crowded old city before getting on 2 more planes with lots of well haggled for gifts and a lifetime of amazing memories.

Jessica Ellams and Natalie Arman 10A



HOME AND AWAY

Ski Trip to Passo Tonale

We were welcomed to Passo Tonale ski resort in Italy by our lovely hosts at the family-run Hotel Angelo. The food was even lovelier! Some of us were beginner skiers while others were intermediate but the diversity in skiing ability did not impede our enjoyment at all, since the very helpful ski instructors sorted us into small groups based on ability.

We all thoroughly enjoyed our week skiing, with the incredible mountain views and great company of our peers, teachers and instructors. Evening activities included ice skating - which proved particularly difficult after a long day's skiing - and visiting a local café for ice cream and very rich hot chocolate.

The whole week was immensely enjoyable and a huge success, and as Year 13 students we are sad to say we won't be able to embark on another AHS Ski Trip, but would recommend it to anyone, beginner skier or otherwise.

Anna-Louise Honey & Jasmine Hart 13W



HOME AND AWAY

Spanish Exchange

During our exchange trip to Murcia, a region (and city) in the south of Spain, we spent a week improving our language skills and being exposed to the Spanish culture. Throughout the week we visited many wonderful places, such as the Alhambra palace in Granada, the Roman theatre and Civil War bomb shelters in Cartagena, and the Santa María cathedral in Murcia, which we climbed for a mesmerising view of the city. Seeing the Moorish influence on the Alhambra, the Roman architecture in Cartagena and the Catholics' design of the cathedral, really helped our understanding of Spain's diverse cultural heritage, which we study at A Level.

Despite seeming a little intimidating at first, staying with a host family was a unique experience which allowed us to further improve our linguistic abilities and confidence. They were all very welcoming, and allowed us to be immersed in their lives. In addition, we attended a few lessons at our exchange partners' school and were interested to find many differences in our education systems.

One day we were lucky enough to have a tour of the Pedro Cano Foundation by the artist himself, and so we had very detailed explanations of the thoughts behind his paintings. He detailed how, when and where certain ideas for paintings came about in his life, which gave us a real insight into how his painting career met his personal life. We had the enjoyment of indulging in Spanish food, such as churros with chocolate (the chocolate was so rich and flavourful, many of us couldn't finish it, however delicious it was), and regional specialities such as meat pastries (*pastel de carne*), and their wonderful array of fresh fruit and vegetables, such as delicately sweet and refreshing persimmons, which we saw at the Verónicas market. On entering the market, we were given the task of creating a hypothetical Spanish meal, using only ingredients which could be found in the market stalls, and so we had to ask vendors for the price per kilogram of the necessary ingredients.

Overall, the exchange allowed us to practise our conversational skills with native Spanish speakers. One of the highlights of the experience was the people we met, with whom we stay in contact regularly. We are looking forward to their return visit in June.

Maddie Watts 12N, Izzy Marshall 12B, Nikki Ameryoun 12A, Kalindi Hathi 12R, Caitlin Bell 12J



HOME AND AWAY



London Art Trip

The joint Year 12 and 13 art trip to London gave us the opportunity to find inspiration for our exam project. We visited both the National Portrait Gallery and the Royal Academy, spending about 2 hours at each. As an artist it is hugely important to frequently visit galleries and keep up to date with modern art to stimulate our own thinking. Additionally, as we move towards university interviews we can show our enthusiasm for viewing art outside of school. Being able to explain what influences us greatly helps to understand our own work as well.



The trip was also a chance to start producing some first-hand observational drawings and photographs of people or items relevant to our topics - for example I attempted to photograph people walking around London glued to their phones as this is a current addiction in modern society I am interested in exploring.

My favourite artwork was the photographic series "Creative Connections Nottingham" (see images) by social documentary photographer Katherine Green collaborating with GCSE students. The aim was to document identity and representation in their neighbourhood. The work is clearly also documenting the presence and importance of a community and the bonds within it. I enjoyed this work because it spanned a diverse range of people, and photographed them and their personalities in real life. It reminded me of the Magnum photographer Martin Parr, who has been a huge influence on the photographic side of my artwork this year.



Sarah Smith 13J

HOME AND AWAY



Model United Nations

On 23 February, some excited students boarded a bus to Oxford, ready for a 3-day Model United Nations conference at Magdalen College School. We had been preparing for the past half term, studying the countries of Cote D'Ivoire and South Africa, whose views we would have to represent. All but one of the 12 students attending had never participated in MUN and almost none of the students had heard of Cote D'Ivoire until two months ago. Through researching our countries each delegate built up a new perspective, which we may have not personally agreed with. Students had to

know their countries inside and out, from treaties and allies to the religious groups which made up the population, as every factor, no matter how small, had an effect on the validity of their argument for or against an issue.

Over the conference students lobbied, debated and communicated, meeting new people and developing new ideas. It was an intense and incredibly rewarding three days in which delegates worked in 6 different committees to debate and put forward resolutions to a variety of current issues which the UN is debating today.

All AHS delegates were mature, measured and ambitious, rapidly gaining confidence as their experience grew. On the final day of the conference all committees met for the General Assembly where they had to resolve an emergency, in this case the threat of nuclear war beginning between India and China. With their built up confidence and understanding of how MUN functions, Aylesbury High Students contributed to the discussions, questioning delegates on their policies. A special mention goes to Pippa P-C for being awarded 'Commended Delegate', and all the students involved would like to thank the school for supporting them and Mr Ochiltree and Mr Philips who attended the event with them. **Isobel Glover**



RECENT SUCCESSES



Rotary Club Technology Tournament

This year's competition was held at Aylesbury College with five teams from AHS being entered from Year 7 to 10.

The engineering design and make challenge was to design and make a rocket launcher with varying degrees of challenge for each year group.

We came 1st and 3rd in the Foundation category and second in the Intermediate, each student receiving a certificate and individual prizes.

AHS won the trophy for best portfolio and Mr Cook won with his design in the Advanced category! Another successful day for Aylesbury High School!



TECHNOLOGY TOURNAMENT



RECENT SUCCESSES

Engineering Masterclasses

Run by the Royal Institute, students in Year 9 have been attending engineering taster classes for the past 6 weeks giving them an insight into different areas and aspects of the subject. Each week they have been presented with different challenges and working collaboratively with other schools they have proposed solutions to real life problems. Our girls did us proud in the first week setting the tone for the rest of the sessions by providing the best, workable solution to an earthquake simulation.



Electric Racing car

FormulAHS racing car project has made major progress with the support from Mr Rosen. We were able to purchase a complete racing car from Mr Cook's old school which will enable the team to be ready to race when the season begins in April. This purchase also enabled the team to have essential components needed for the 'scratch built' car which will allow us to have two racing cars on the grid for next season.

We are still looking for help and sponsorship for the running of this project and if you are interested or know of anyone or company that would be interested in supporting us please contact Mr Cook at jcook@ahs.bucks.sch.uk.



CURRICULUM—SCIENCE



On Monday 12 March AHS welcomed around 60 Year 5 students to build rockets to celebrate British science week.



Whilst working with the students we got to see how interested they were in what was happening to make the rockets fly and having fun at the same time. Our aim was to encourage the students to enjoy science subjects and we think we succeeded!

Even though most of the rockets took at least one try to get them working, they were fascinated when they finally shot off, with quite a few hitting the ceiling with a bang! Despite our time being short, getting to know younger students was interesting because they asked questions and were all ready to get involved to see it work in the end. We think there are some budding scientists out there!

Gemma Workman 12E



CURRICULUM—SCIENCE



World Antibiotics Awareness Week

Antibiotics will stop working if they are overused. They have saved millions of lives for people who have suffered from pneumonia and whooping cough or have had infected wounds. If antibiotics stop working, this will no longer be a reality.

I entered the antibiotics poster competition to raise awareness and I'm very pleased to be the winner in my age category.

Chloe Roberts 7S



CURRICULUM

Higher Education Evening

On Tuesday 13 March, Aylesbury High School hosted a Higher Education evening in which representatives from apprenticeship programmes and over 50 universities and colleges came to answer any questions Year 12 students may have. The evening was open to all local secondary schools, so it was packed with many Year 12 students, all eager to discuss their future options with the spokespeople.

The evening ran smoothly with the stalls gathering more interest as students filled the rooms. Several universities appeared to be particularly popular among the Year 12s. These included the University of Cambridge, the University of Exeter and the University of Nottingham. A section was dedicated to apprenticeship stalls which had a constant flow of students as they explored the many possible options for the future. It was extraordinary to see the wide range of institutions that attended from all around the country, and even a couple from the USA. The RAF also made an appearance, inspiring some Year 12s to consider a future in the air! It is sure to say that the night was beneficial for all students, whether they decided to continue onto university or choose an apprenticeship.

Everyone came prepared for the night with lists of questions. FAQs included options for studying abroad, any extracurricular activities offered, the teaching methods used and the standard of facilities at that institution. The evening ended with a very informative talk given by a representative from the University of Buckingham followed by a short talk from Mr Ochiltree who informed us about the steps we will be taking in the near future as we prepare to leave secondary school and go on to have great careers! We are very grateful to Mrs Sutton for all the time she spent organising this excellent event for us.

Grace O'Sullivan 12J



HOUSE EVENTS

House English

The time had finally come for English to take centre stage in this new House Event. It all kicked off with a Year 8 Spelling Bee, spelling words from 'apple' to 'zoomorphism' in front of a large crowd of keen spectators. The skill and accuracy of the participants was truly admirable, but it was Claydon's Pranati Chintamreddy who won both first place and a Mr Elgin handshake. The whole school was then invited to take part in writing their own creative piece centred around the theme of 'Time'. The Year 12 House English captains had the difficult role of choosing the best two pieces from their house to be read aloud in front of the illustrious English teachers and fellow students. We were all astounded by the confidence shown in their public speaking and the quality of the pieces themselves. After much deliberation, Madeleine Botelle and Amelie Lewin came in first place for Stowe with other individual students being awarded the certificate of 'Most Creative' and 'Best Interpretation of Theme'. Overall, it was a great success and we all can't wait to see how this House Event progresses for years to come!

Lauren Whitworth 13P

House Music

A huge well done to all the students who took part in House Music 2018, fighting off the Beast from the East to put on a spectacular show. Special congratulations go to Waddesdon who took us on a magical trip around the world to be crowned this year's overall winners!

Ms Raven



SPORT

National Tennis Championships - Aberdare Cup

On Tuesday 13 March, the National School Tennis Team played against Berkhamsted School in the first round of the Aberdare Cup. Aylesbury High were to host the match and so began play mid-afternoon at Halton Tennis Centre. They got off to a great start with Lauren Armstrong and Isabelle Marshall winning their singles matches against some tough competition. Annabelle Denly and Chloe Wright battled it out in their singles matches, to put us in with a 2-2 draw after the singles. The

doubles matches were just as tough with Berkhamsted putting up a fight and it going to a 3-3 draw. This meant a tie-break shootout was on the cards. Isabelle and Annabelle stepped up to fight for the win

with the first team to 10 points winning the match. They did not buckle under pressure and won 10-8! All 8 girls played extremely well and the match could have gone to either team. They have been drawn against Wycombe Abbey for the next round, which will be another tough match for them to look forward to! **Miss Daniels**



U13 Football

After sweeping all teams before them in the group stages of the County competition in the autumn term, the U13s were through to the semi finals as group winners. A much tougher prospect awaited them in Doctor Challoner's High School. A tight affair between two evenly matched teams saw AHS run out eventual 3-1 winners, and earn themselves a spot in the final. This year, the final was held at the Arbour Park Stadium in Slough. The girls were all very impressed with the set up, and for some reason everyone felt the need to lie down on the massage bench in the changing room. The final was against Chesham Grammar school, who had had a similarly impressive run to the final. The first half was very tight, with the best chance falling our way only to be narrowly missed and the half ended 0-0. The second half was much more open, perhaps due to the doubt in everybody's mind about the dreaded penalties which loomed if the match had ended in stalemate. In the end Chesham ran out 3-1 winners. It was undoubtedly the girls' best performance of the season against a very good team, but it proved to be a step too far. Well done for all the games (and goals) this season.

Mr Baird



Badminton Regional Champions

On 8 March the KS4 team ventured to Surrey to compete in the Regional Badminton competition. They started off their competition well, with a 5-0 win against the team from Oxfordshire. This was then followed by a 4-1 win against Surrey, and to finish of their round a 4-1 win against Guernsey. This meant they went through to the semi-finals and would face Kent.

The semis started off with a close game for number 1 player Olivia Jophy, finishing in a 21-19 win for Kent. Jessie Mace and Gauri Morjaria then followed this game with a good win, and Sita Morjaria went on to win her singles game, leaving AHS 2-1 up. AHS won their next two doubles games, winning the semi-finals and progressing to the finals to face the strong Kendrick team from Berkshire.

In the finals Olivia once again put in a strong performance but eventually conceded her game. Jessie and Gauri fought back in their doubles to leave it 1-1. Sita won her singles game leaving it 2-1 to AHS but unfortunately the next game was lost leaving it 2-2, and down to the final game of the day to decide who would progress through to National finals. The Morjaria sisters put in a phenomenal performance, taking the lead early on in the game and dominating play, to eventually win 21-8 and securing the KS4 AHS team's win. The KS4 will be competing in the National Finals at the National Badminton Centre in Milton Keynes on 28 April. Well done girls!

Miss Hunter



Handball County Champions

On Tuesday 7 March the Year 10 Handball team competed in the County round of the tournament at Stoke Mandeville Stadium. Having previously won the warm-up tournament the team were identified by other schools as 'the team to beat.' The team started the tournament well, winning their first 3 games comfortably before facing their hardest competition, SWBGS. A 1-minute penalty 30 seconds into play left us playing with 6 players, but AHS kept their momentum and scored 2 goals quickly to go 2-0 up. They then conceded a goal and scored another to finish the game 4-

1. The AHS team went on to win their next 5 games with lots of goals scored by many members of the team. Top goal scorers of the day were Grace Johnson, Poppy Parkes, Ella Ross, Isobel Matthews and Olivia Jophy. The U15 AHS team will go on to represent the County at Regional Handball Finals in May. Well done girls!

Miss Hunter



SPORT

Girls Active Leaders

Girls Active is a campaign to try to get girls to be as active and nimble as boys are, as the national average is lower. If you are a 13-16 year old girl, you are three times less likely to do a sport than a boy of the same age. It gets even worse as the ages progress, as the ratio for 16-18 year olds is 1:4 compared to boys! It is something that has built up the stereotype that boys are much more capable than girls. It is very untrue, but many females have listened to it, and let that ratio climb. Girls Active wants to see that number equal out, so both male and females are the same. That way, stereotypes like this one will fizzle out over time. It will promote a better future for the generations ahead as well as ourselves.

On Monday 5 February, Mrs Arber took three Year 8 students (Lucy Anker, Emily Celine and Emilia Rock) to Stoke Mandeville Stadium, where they took part in a one day training course on how to become a successful Girls Active Leader. There were 4 other secondary schools there, who were each allocated primary schools to pair up with. We will be working with Ashmead, Haydon Abbey and Bedgrove.

We spent the day learning skills and techniques to use later on in our GA journey and made a video to explain why girls need to get more active. It was a great experience, one that will come in handy soon as we hope to do more for this campaign as soon as possible!

Emily Celine 8S



“I really enjoyed the day, as I got to know many people from other schools.”

Emily Celine

“An amazing experience, I am very fortunate to have been a part of it!”

Emilia Rock.

“It was fun and educational and great to work with younger kids.”

Lucy Anker

SPORT

Girls Active at Amersham School

Developed by the Youth Sport Trust, and delivered in partnership with This Girl Can and Women in Sport, Girls Active is funded by Sport England.



The Chief Medical Officers recommend that all children and young people should engage in moderate to vigorous intensity physical activity for at least 60 minutes and up to several hours every day.

As part of the AHS commitment to the Girls Active programme we teamed up with Amersham School and took a bus load of girls to take part in Boogie Bounce, basketball and to use their amazing fitness suite.

Mrs Arber

Miranda: the gym facilities inspired me to go to my local gym

Emma: I really loved the gym and I had so much fun but the boogie bounce was my favourite part

Mal: The gym was my favourite part and it was really motivating!

U14 dominate Regional Basketball Game

The U14 team have had to wait for the regional rounds to be involved in this year's English School competition. With more than half the team being a year young for this age group, the taller bigger opponents might have hoped for an easy game. However, the team were ruthless in the first quarter and steamed to a 29 - 0 lead after the first 10 minutes.

Under the captancy of Macy Cook the team continued to dominate and led 44 - 4 at half time. Despite being fouled on the way to basket Maiwa Banda completed her lay up and then punished the opposition by completing her free throw. By the time we had got to the third quarter, every player had scored and the team led 58-6.

Final score 74-16, now means we head to Barnham near Chichester for a zone round game. The aim for this young side is to reach the national finals in May. A super team performance - well done!



Congratulations to Year 12 students
Ciara Belsham
and Ella Messetter who won the
National U18 Basketball
Championship in Manchester.

Both girls were representing
Oakland Wolves and beat
Charnwood in a 66-41 victory at
the National Performance Centre.

SPORT

U19 Basketball - Oh we do like to be beside the seaside!

As 'the Beast from the East' swept into Buckinghamshire, Mr Rosen sent us on our way to Blackpool with the encouraging words "if you get stuck give me a call". Actually, as usual, the hardest part of the journey was getting through Aylesbury. The fastest we moved all day was sprinting through MK Central station and catching the train with 30 seconds to spare.

As we headed up north, talk concentrated on what did we know about our opponents. Hardly a local fixture, so all we had found out was that they had won the U19 tournament last year. With only one Y13 on the team, captain Charlotte Brooker, we were desperate for this not to be her last game for the school.

As the game started, two very quick baskets from Grace Ashton and Mollie Baars, and we knew this was not going to be Charlotte's last game. Onyinyechi and Macy added to the score line as all 9 team members contributed to a massive 35-5 score line after the first quarter.

At half time the team led 60-14 with every player having scored. Isobel Mathews and Macy Cook started the second half by adding to the tally and at the end of the 3rd quarter we led 84-18. In the final quarter we split the squad into the golden oldies (Charlotte, Mollie, Chloe Osili, Morgan Davis) and young guns (Grace, Onyinyechi, Macy, Isobel and Ella Ross). Ella had the honour of tipping the scoreboard to 100 as AHS completed a 104-23 victory. A very happy Coach Jenner as the teamwork and set plays were performed to a high standard. The team now competes in the national U19 finals in Manchester against Charnwood Basketball Academy on 23 March. A fitting end to Charlotte's basketball career at AHS. Best of all we avoided getting stuck - despite the girls insisting they didn't mind staying in Blackpool!

Mrs Arber



SPORT

Year 7 Basketball



Year 7 students travelled to East Ham to face Brampton Manor aka Indianapolis and Barking Academy aka Detroit Pistons. In the first match v Indianapolis the team took time to settle in a low scoring match. AHS aka Milwaukee Bucks led at half time 6-2. Indianapolis made a comeback in the second half but AHS held strong to win 13-6.

AHS went straight into the next game v Barking Academy - a team with a huge basketball reputation. Barking Academy aka Detroit did not disappoint with one tiny player having the accolade of best U12 basketballer in the country. However AHS played exceptionally well and deserved their 26-17 lead going into the last quarter. In the last quarter there are no restrictions on who plays. Barking were able to keep their star player on and injuries to AHS players saw Barking edge to a 32-26 victory. However, the girls can take great delight from the way they played in the second game and Coach is hopeful next time you will get the victory you deserve. Player of match Charlotte Kiteley with her controlled lay ups - well done!

GB Hockey Success

Congratulations to former student Jo Hunter who gained her full GB hockey cap v Argentina on the recent tour of the country. Jo spoke to AHS students two years ago at our Sports Presentation evening about her roller coaster career. We are glad to hear of her recent success and hopefully the Olympics are next? **Mrs Arber**



SPORT

British Triathlon Activator Course

On Friday 16 March British Triathlon ran an Activator Course at Aylesbury High School. 15 Year 9 - 11 Triathletes and Aquatic Leaders spent the day learning more about this growing and exciting sport, developing their leadership and 'activator' skills and delivering fun sessions in each strand of triathlon, along with all important transition activities. The day was superbly led by British Triathlon Coaches Jon Cowell, World Indoor Record Holder and GB Duathlete Sandra Barden. It was a jam-packed, fun and inspiring day and we are looking forward to the girls putting their new found skills to the test in lunchtime sessions for younger students and through leadership at the forthcoming School Games Triathlon event in May at Stoke Mandeville Stadium.



Mrs Carey

"The day was full of fun; interesting activities and learning about triathlons, we all learnt a lot from the day and become more confident as leaders." Natalie Arman

"The day was very interesting and I learned a lot about a sport I previously knew nothing about- It was a lot of fun preparing and performing tasks that we and our friends had created." Purva Shegunshi



ESAA National Cross Country Championships

The ESAA National Cross Country Championship is the most eagerly anticipated event of the winter for young athletes. The event brings together the best athletes in each of the 46 Counties in England to compete for the honour of being the best in the Country.

Entry to the event is by virtue of athletes being selected by County Team Managers to represent their County. Sixth formers Emily Batchelor, Tilly Green and Year 10 Emily Johnston represented Buckinghamshire at Temple Newsam Park, Leeds on Saturday 17 March. Well done on your selection for such a prestigious event.

Mrs Arber