



HIGHLIGHTS

May 2018

A WORD FROM THE HEADTEACHER

IN THIS ISSUE

Good luck to Years 11 and 13

The last two Fridays have seen Years 11 and 13 celebrating the end of their studies and the start of their exam leave in traditional style. Both final days were notable for the good spirit and inventiveness shown by all concerned, and it made a fitting end to each year group's lessons. Meanwhile, trips and visits, exchanges, competitions and clubs have all been busy with some incredible successes to report. Happy Reading!

Mr Rosen



Year 13 about to go on study leave

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HOME AND AWAY



Swedish Exchange

In March, we had five fantastic, frosty days in Granna, Sweden (below) where we enjoyed getting to know our exchange partners. The Prison Island escape room was great fun and a good way to bond with our new friends. It was so interesting to experience school in a different culture; their school seems much more relaxed than ours and they don't have to wear school uniform - but strangely they are jealous of our uniforms! We really enjoyed learning how to make Swedish food- especially the local delicacy of polkagris! Staying with a family was a really good way of experiencing the culture first hand and we did some amazing things with them - some of us even going on a moose safari! We also discovered that some things are the same the world over when we visited IKEA, which is EXACTLY the same in the UK! We have just hosted the return visit of our Swedish friends and enjoyed showing them what England is like, including teaching them to play rounders. As we had them to stay over the weekend we took them on different trips to places such as Oxford, Brighton and Go Ape, which they loved. We really hope we can stay in touch with our new friends. **Megan Gill, Georgina Allen, Daisy Lorimer, Zoe Chang 9H**



The Erasmus Exchange

AHS teachers and students have been taking part in Erasmus+ since 2016. It is a project founded by the European Commission which aims to create partnerships between schools and develop students' awareness of other European cultures. Within the scope of that project, the MFL and English Departments ran an exchange with the Liceo Veronese in San Bonifacio, Italy.

The girls spent a week in Italy in February and the Italian students came to AHS at the end of April to broaden their understanding of Shakespeare's works, as well as researching and presenting about this year's Erasmus+ theme "Creations and innovations of the 21st century." The highlight of this week was the Erasmus+ Day on Thursday 26 April, when 45 students of the Lycée Georges Brassens in Rive de Gier, France, came to AHS for a day of collaborative activities related to that theme with Italian and English students. These activities involved translation of songs, quizzes about London's and Trento's innovative buildings and designing/presenting smart objects.

It was a very enriching experience for all the students involved and it was fantastic to see them working (but also singing and laughing!) in bilingual or sometimes trilingual teams. Thank you, merci, grazie to all participants! **Miss Billon**



Erasmus+

RAF STEM Day

I was very lucky to take part in this event at RAF Northolt earlier this month, which started with a chance to visit several stalls showing the different career opportunities available in the RAF. I was particularly interested in the intelligence side of things. This was followed by a whole variety of STEM activities, such as code-breaking in Arabic! We finished the day by racing mini rocket cars which we had built ourselves. It was a really eye-opening day and has made me even more interested in a future career in the RAF.

Daisy Pearson 9H



HOME AND AWAY

Year 7 French trip

From Friday 11 to Saturday May, 88 Year 7 students travelled to France and back, specifically to Calais and Boulogne. It started with an unfortunate awakening at 4am or earlier, to be at school for 5am. The ferry trip was definitely enjoyed by most students, and so was the picnic lunch on Calais beach. From there, we split into our two coach groups, half going to a boulangerie, where we made croissants and crusty French bread, whilst the other half went to a former lace factory, where we saw the different lace making processes, including seeing (and most definitely hearing) lace being made by machine.

After swapping activities, both groups made their way down to the Parc d'Olhain, where we slept for the night. On Saturday morning, after breakfast at the Parc d'Olhain, both groups visited the statue of Napoleon, located in Boulogne. The teachers did a good job of explaining hundreds of years of history in under 5 minutes, before we headed off to the market, where we had to buy our lunch... speaking French. And in terms of food, let's just say that lots of baguettes were bought!

There was just time to fit a quick trip round the Nausicaa Aquarium, where we saw all sorts of sea creatures from seals, penguins and sharks, to clownfish (AKA Nemo), starfish, sea urchins and jellyfish. As we waved goodbye to Calais, we all agreed that it had been a great trip, despite some typical English rain!

Hannah Bush 7C



German Exchange

One of the highlights of this year must have been the German exchange to Stuttgart. Spending time immersed in another culture and another language exponentially develops your ability back home in the classroom, and the trip to Europa Park didn't hurt either. Whether we spoke German or preferred the fluidity of English, we all came away with new friends and the anticipation of seeing them all again soon. I, for one, hope to stay in contact far longer than that. The week started at full speed with the toboggan run at Tübingen, and beautiful weather greeted our return from the Bear caves. We spent many pleasant hours trawling around Stuttgart city centre, and the animals at Wilhelma Zoo charmed everyone. Bowling came next, the lack of barriers dooming many to mockery from the overhead animations, and then we were left to our own devices among our German exchange families.

My personal experience was really enjoyable, enhanced only by the beautiful sun and 'Spaghettieis' - taking a steam train around Killesberg park and playing 3 games of laser tag with some of the others. We topped off the week climbing twisting stairs to admire the view over Heidelberg, a historic town widely regarded as too beautiful to destroy during the war and thus retaining its stunning architecture, much admired as we wandered around at will, spotting the best places for another ice-cream.

It was a brilliant exchange, perhaps even topping my previous visit two years ago, and I think everyone in Year 12 will agree that it was definitely worth a trip back! **Pippa Prendergast-Coates 12E**



French Exchange

From 26 March to 2 April, Year 10 and Year 12 students from Aylesbury High and Aylesbury Grammar went on the French Exchange, which was centred around the town of Bourg-en-Bresse, in Lyon in the East of France. We had hosted our exchanges just before Christmas and were all really excited to see them again and learn more about how they live their daily lives. For me, it would also be a great opportunity to improve my French communication skills and immerse myself in the heritage of the area. The Year 12 students, including myself, were based around the Lycee Edgar Quinet. It was really interesting to learn about how the French school system is different from our own, for example, in France, students don't wear uniform and they have to take many different subjects for A Levels, following a particular strand (like Sciences or Humanities). Also, they get Wednesday afternoons off to do extra-curricular activities (my exchange did drama) due to the fact their school days are about three hours longer than our own.

During the exchange, we visited the city of Lyon, and my highlight was our visit to the Musee des Lumieres, a museum in the centre of the city that told the story of the creation of cinema, which was really beneficial as we are studying cinema for our A Level French course. Outside of Lyon, we visited the Chateau de Cormatin near Cluny, and had a really interesting guided tour in French, learning about the architecture and the position of the chateau during the 19th Century. We also got to visit the highlight of Bourg, "Monastere de Brou", which is a huge tomb that had been built by an Austrian Princess for her loved one.

Overall the trip was incredibly good fun as well as developing our language skills further. I am looking forward to the Year 13 trip to Paris in order to continue this progress and help me to become more fluent.

Emily Sampson 12R



RECENT SUCCESSES

Oxford Mock Trial

On 27 and 28 April we took part in The Trial event organised by Oxford University's Pathways to Law team. On Friday we arrived at the Faculty of Law and met all the other students. After refreshments we attended our first law masterclass and then headed to the conference room to attend a skype call with a London barrister who discussed procedural law with us. We came back the next day to begin preparing for the mock trial, but first we underwent advocacy training. For the rest of the day we were split into two teams with Neha part of the defence and Zofia and Krishna as prosecution. With the help of Maitland Chambers and first year law students from the University of Oxford we prepared our statements and questions. Neha and Zofia took on the role as defence opening speech and prosecution opening speech whilst Krishna cross examined one of the defence witnesses. After a long day it was certificate and prize giving time. We all received a participation certificate for our hard work. Zofia won the overall prize for best advocacy skills, and was awarded a one day mini-pupilage with Maitland Chambers.

Zofia Kaluza, Neha Bohra and Krishna Patel Year 10



Volunteering in India

After a lengthy application process of personal statements and a creative video piece, I was recently selected to go on a three week volunteer trip to Rajasthan, India, in the upcoming summer holidays - fully funded by Virgin Atlantic in partnership with WE. I am so honoured and excited to have this rare opportunity, where I will be able to contribute to international development through helping to build a school whilst also discovering Indian culture first hand. I look forward to meeting the other 29 young people who were also selected and having an unforgettable experience together!



Folu Ogunyeye 13W

RECENT SUCCESSES

National Schools Dressage

On 20 April I participated in the NSEA county dressage championships at Bury Farm having qualified for it the previous November. There were competitors from all over the country and I ended up finishing in a respectable 10th position. In April I also competed in a NSEA Eventing qualifier for the National Championships where I finished in 2nd position, therefore qualifying for the Nationals in July, which I am really looking forward to. **Lily Good 11C**



Youth Speaks

Congratulations to our Intermediate Public Speaking Team who have worked extremely hard this year to win several rounds of the Rotary Youth Speaks competition, and who were runners up in the District Final in March. Mike Bennett, Chair of the Aylesbury Hundreds Rotary Club Youth Services Committee told us that he was 'delighted to see how well your intermediate team performed in an area covering the most of Bedfordshire, Bucks and the whole of Herts. It was a tremendous performance and Emma, Maiwa and Libby have every right to feel very proud of themselves. To see the way in which they have developed from last year's competition to this year's was very impressive.' Well done to Emma Harrington, who also won the overall Best Chairperson award. **Mr Jones**

Young Enterprise

At the end of March, our students' company 'Imagine Dimensions' won 1st prize in the Young Enterprise business plan category. The students presented a very good presentation for 4 minutes to an audience of over 100 people. In the audience there were students from the other 9 companies, business owners and the deputy mayor of Aylesbury. The guest speaker at the event was Mrs Jules Tottman. She explained how her company trains a wide variety of animals to work in films such as Harry Potter and TV shows. Well done, girls, for all of your hard work!

Mr Potkin



Junior Maths Challenge

On 19 March, Mrs Lu accompanied Hannah Garnham, Nyneisha Bansal, Sophie Brimmicombe and Hannah Davies to Ashlyns School to participate in the Junior Maths Challenge. It consisted of four rounds: the group round, cross number, shuttle and relay. We had our ups and downs but after the third round we had edged up into the top five. Although we thought we'd performed disastrously in the relay, it looks like we weren't so bad after all as we ended the day in second place out of 24 teams! Our hard work had paid off! **Nyneisha Bansal 8W**

Migration Museum Competition Winners



One of our History GCSE topics is Migration over time, and earlier this year we were all given an amazing opportunity to enter a national competition run by the Museum of Migration in London, in conjunction with OCR, our exam board. We were keen to enter the competition to broaden and secure our knowledge on the topic and to help with learning and future revision. We were also keen to discover more about the topic because we all have personal migration stories within our families. The fact that the Grand Prize was a trip to New York was almost incidental ...

For the competition we had to create a mock-up exhibit for the museum itself. Our design centred around reconstructions of railway carriages as ways to show migration at different times in history, because all migration involves travel. We talked about the diversity of our school, of our history class and our families' own experiences of migration, using the catchphrase *'This is our story, now what's yours?'* as a way to get visitors to our exhibit to explore their own family experiences of migration.

Our submission earned us a place in the final and, along with three other schools, we had to present to the judges and a room full of people at the Museum of Migration in London. Not only did we win the competition, but one of the judges told us that he uses our definition of migration – *'a brave step into the future powered by hope of positive change'* in all his presentations and work on this subject. It was a fantastic opportunity, an incredible experience and we are extremely thankful and excited to be going to New York in July.

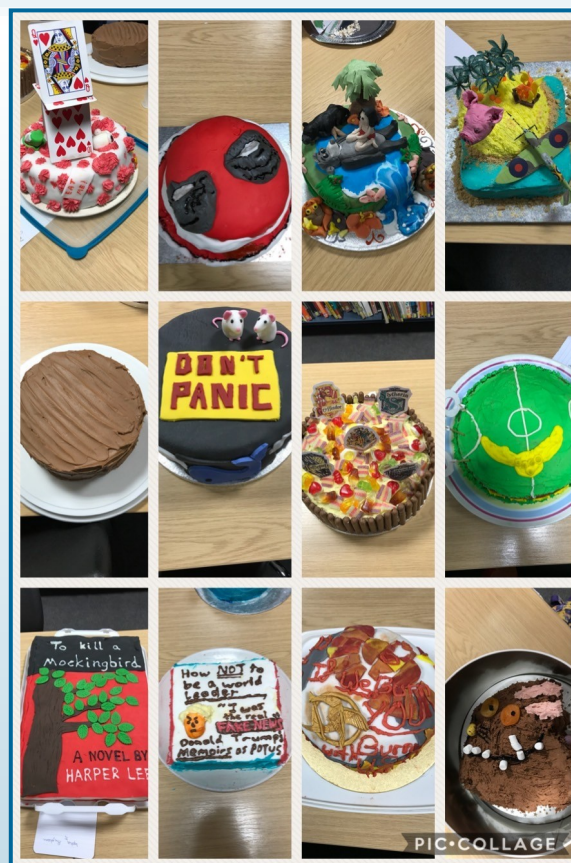
Emily Mack, Nikki Melsom, Anna Powell and Lottie Tangen, Year 10

World Book Day

This year, on Thursday 1 March, was the 21st annual World Book Day. World Book Day is a wonderful celebration of books and reading, observed globally in over 100 countries. The AHS cake competition, which took place in the library and was judged by the English department, had a variety of excellent, original, and creative entries made by extremely skilled bakers from across the year groups.

Taking first place, was an intricately designed Jungle Book cake topped with an array of carefully made characters and decorations. Closely following in second place was an ingenious Lord of the Flies cake. Everyone was highly impressed with the standards of every single entry. With so many to choose from, it wouldn't be surprising that the judges had a difficult time choosing only one winner. It was an amazing experience to see the effort that the entrants put in to show their dedication to their favourite books, but most importantly, everyone had a lot of fun.

Sophie Flecknell 12J



Medics Society

At AHS we have a Medic Society consisting mostly of Year 12s who are considering going on to study Medicine, Dentistry or Veterinary Medicine at university. We meet at lunchtime once every week where we take it in turns to lead the session and have discussions on themes such as medical ethics, work experience and interview skills in the hope of preparing ourselves better for our university applications.

On 21 of March, Shinjal Sharma, a former AHS student who is now in her first year studying Medicine at the University of East Anglia, came back to talk to us about her application and experience so far. I found it very interesting as she talked about her typical weekly schedule and answered all of our questions. Shinjal also gave us tips regarding the application process, such as how to make a strategic application based on UKCAT or BMAT scores and personal statements, which was helpful. We hope to host more outside speakers like Shinjal at Medic Society in the future. **Saara Sheikh 12F**



Architecture Visit

On 9 March, we were delighted to receive a visit by the Architecture Admissions Officer of South Bank University, Steve Bowkett. During the visit, he spoke about what the journey to becoming a fully fledged Architect included, such as what the course was about and what to do if university just wasn't for you. Not only this but he also gifted a book that he produced, selecting pages from it for us to draw on to give us a taste of what part of being an Architect entails.

As well as this, he also talked us through the types of questions that would be asked during a university interview and what they look for in a candidate. All in all, it was a very exciting and interesting Q&A session; I would definitely recommend talks such as this to others, even if they do not feel a hundred percent clear on their future goals. **Zaynah Younus 12E**

Lessons From Auschwitz

The Holocaust cannot be summarised into a short article. You could not even begin to explain it. The Holocaust could not even be fully understood with years of research, but Isobel Glover and I attempted to further understand it, both the historical facts and the deep complex emotion, through the Holocaust Educational Trust's Lessons from Auschwitz Project. After a selection process at school, we took part in a seminar that focused on humanising Holocaust victims, including a testimony from Rudi Oppenheimer, who is a holocaust survivor. This prepared us for an unforgettable one-day visit to Auschwitz and Auschwitz-Birkenau in Poland.

In the bitter cold snow, we were guided through the two death camps, witnessing gas chambers, barracks, and piles of shoes, suit cases, pairs of glasses, and human hair. We felt frozen to the bone until a Rabbi explained that the -7 degree weather and strong wind was nothing compared to what prisoners at Auschwitz endured. We, in our many layers, and them, in their pyjamas. We suddenly couldn't have cared less about the weather. A closing ceremony including prayers (both sung and spoken), poems, and silence allowed us time to process and reflect. A final seminar readied us for our next steps: how we as individuals could continue the learning in school and our wider community. Both moved and saddened by horrors of the Holocaust, we left strangely inspired and full of ideas of how we could make an impact on the school. We have already delivered assemblies back at school and will also be getting involved in lessons. In the words of Elie Wiesel, "for the dead and the living, we must bear witness." **Sophia Bizos 12B**



Exeter College Recital

Well done to students from years 11-13 who put on a wonderful set of solo performances in the stunning chapel of Exeter College, Oxford. The standard was immensely high and we were overwhelmed with the students' professional performance style.

Joint Concert with AGS

Thank you to all students who took part in this year's joint concert with AGS at St Mary's Church, Aylesbury in March. Highlights included a programme of Russian music by Symphony Orchestra, a powerful medley from Les Miserables by Choral Society and a stunning solo French Horn performance by Marnie Shutter.

Competition Prize Winners

AHS has been delighted to hear of recent successes in local performing competitions. Congratulations to Anna Powell who won the Charles Pope Memorial Trust's *Margaret Fripp Singing Prize 2018* and to Emma Harrington who came first in the Junior Vocal Class category at the Wycombe Orpheus Festival of Young Musicians.

Ms Raven



U16 Final Fours - National Performance Centre Manchester

At National Schools final fours, AHS produced an amazing performance to get the silver medal and come 2nd in the country. Playing two high intensity, full length games in one day is a real challenge. In the semi finals against Nottingham, it was a very close game with the score being 31-27 to Nottingham at half time. However into the third quarter we started to overtake Nottingham to end up with a result of 59-47 to AHS, taking us into the finals with a guaranteed silver medal. Everyone had a great game with superb offence and defence.

In the finals versus Clapton Girls, AHS were leading the majority of the game winning by 6 points at half time, but were overtaken in the second half with a final score of 67-63 to Clapton leaving us in 2nd place overall. Despite losing we played so well as a team, and proved what we were capable of, especially as everyone can still play in this age group next year.

I'm so proud of my team. Everyone performed amazingly and it was a great experience. We played as a team throughout and enjoyed ourselves. Ending up with a silver medal is a great achievement for us!

Squad: Ella Ross, Grace Ashton, Hatty Bell, Isobel Mathews, Sophie Woodman, Maiwa Banda, Macy Cook, Millie Lowrie, Onyi Okoye.

Ella Ross 10A



Super Sunday for U14 Basketballers

In the semi-final AHS were drawn against London side, Heston. Our students recognised many of the girls from the Hounslow national league side that beat the Bucks Hornets at the beginning of the season.

An early basket from captain Macy Cook settled the nerves. The fast-paced game was stop-start as Heston got themselves into foul difficulty. Further baskets from Onyi Okoye, Liv Crowley, Maiwa Banda, Hannah Whitby and a 3 pointer from Hannah Mathews sealed a 29-18 first quarter. Aylesbury maintained the pressure throughout a first half which took 53 minutes to play and led 48 -34 against a very determined opposition.

The final score of 80-51 did not reflect what a hard fought game this was. Great offensive play from our posts Onyi, Liv, Esme Harrison and Dejaenne Shelukindo ensured the baskets kept flowing. Dominant defence from Maiwa Banda, Millie Lowrie and Ana Agega held the opposition back. 20 points plus games from Macy Cook and Onyi Okoye sealed the best team performance of the season for the U14 team.

U14 Final - Kesgrave High School 53 v 50 Aylesbury High School

For the second day in a row, the girls' Final at the Dynamik National Schools Championships came down to the very last possession. Unfortunately for AHS, our final shot couldn't find the basket and Kesgrave were left to celebrate a famous 53-50 victory.

Early on in proceedings, the Final was shaping up to be an individual battle between Aylesbury's Onyi Okoye (24 points) and the very tall and talented Rafiu. Okoye certainly played her part with 8 of her side's opening 10 points. The Suffolk side led by seven at 17-10 after 1, and by the middle of the second the difference had moved into double digits. Aylesbury fought back though as guard Macy Cook (24 points) joined Okoye as the only other scorer for Coach Jenner's side, leaving the Final evenly poised at 25-21 Kesgrave by half time.

After the break, Cook and Okoye took over as Aylesbury seized the opportunity to pull away. A 13-2 run broke the game open and put daylight between the sides, but that spurred Rafiu into action despite the amazing defence of Maiwa Banda and Millie Lowrie. Her efforts helped to pull the deficit back down to a single basket at three quarter time before helping her side push on in the 4th.

An 8-2 run to open the final frame swung the game back into Kesgrave's favour, but both Okoye and Rafiu would get into foul trouble in the game's final five minutes and both walked a tightrope the rest of the way. As hard as AHS pushed from there, Rafiu had an answer. With less than 90 seconds to go Kesgrave were up by 5 and looking to put the result beyond doubt. AHS had other ideas though and pulled within three as Okoye scored another basket, but despite getting one last chance to tie the score, it wasn't to be.

This weekend was basketball at its best; as exciting as the England netballers at the Commonwealth Games. National runners-up at U19, U16 and U14 – a real silver season for the basketball teams and Coach Jenner. A fantastic achievement. Many thanks for our great support at the Finals and throughout the season. So close to three National Championships this year, we will be back in 2018-19 to go for gold.

Mrs Arber

Key Stage 4 National Badminton Champions

On 28 April the KS4 badminton team consisting of Sita Morjaria, Gauri Morjaria, Olivia Jophy and Jessie Mace competed in the National Badminton Finals, after having won both the County and Regional rounds. Their first match of the day was against King Edward VI School, a close fought match between Olivia and her rival Number 1 seed left our opponents 1-0 up. A good comeback from Gauri and Jessie in doubles brought the school back to 1-1. Sita was next to play singles, going 6 points down in the early stages of the game (and making Miss Hunter's heart rate rise to 130 bpm!), but coming back to win by a comfortable 10 points to secure a 2-1 lead for AHS. Jessie and Olivia lost their doubles leaving it up to the Morjaria twins to win and secure the game. They put in a strong effort and won their doubles convincingly, taking the match, 3-2.

In the afternoon they played Truro School first, securing a 4-1 win; particular mention should go to Olivia's singles game in which she beat her opponent 21-17. Their final game against Chelmsford also came down to the last game with both schools entering the game with 2 games each. The Morjarias, as always, remained calm under this pressure and took the game in their stride, even managing a smile! They won the final game of the day, sealing AHS as National Badminton Champions with a 21-15 win.

An absolutely fantastic achievement for the 4 girls, and especially to Sita and Gauri who are now National Badminton Champions in both KS3 and KS4! **Miss Hunter**



Park Run



As part of the Girls Active Initiative at AHS, on Tuesday 27 March, 35 Year 7 - 12s headed off to the weekly Aylesbury park run. With many students never having completed a park run, or even a 5k run for that matter, it was fantastic to see so many determined girls at the start line. Well it rained all day long, just stopping prior to the event. There was me worrying about you running through deep puddles - but that's the bit many of you loved! There were huge smiles and team camaraderie in abundance with super effort and resilience shown. Thanks to staff for your support and to Mr Morris for leading the fast group home in such style. Run Leaders, you did an amazing job of motivating and inspiring all to finish with smiles on their faces! **Mrs Carey**

Handball

On Wednesday 9 May the U15 Handball team travelled to Surrey to compete in the regional round of the competition. Their first game was against previous Regional Champions, Surrey. The AHS team took a while to find their form, ending the game in a 4-4 draw. They then followed quickly with a 10-1 win against Berkshire. Tournament favourites were up next, and after a hard fought game AHS came out with a 1-3 loss. It was now down to goal difference as to whether AHS or Surrey would progress through to the finals to play Kent once again for the Regional title.

AHS had to win their final game against Hampshire by 9 goals in order to secure a 1 goal lead over Surrey. Aylesbury started well, taking the lead early with goals from Olivia J, Grace and Poppy, and with secure goal-keeping from Natalia to stop any attempts for a comeback from Hampshire. With 1 minute left on the clock AHS needed 2 more goals to secure their place in the final. These came in quick succession, both from Grace, and placed AHS in second place after the rounds.

The Aylesbury team upped their performance in the finals, working as a team in attack to work the ball round, and a solid defence to stop Kent's attacking play meant the Kent team only got 3 goals past them. With 2 goals from Poppy, 1 from Ella, 1 from Grace and 1 from Olivia J, the AHS team took victory, and the regional title, to represent the South East at National Finals on 9 June! **Miss Hunter**



First ever Bucks School Games

On Wednesday 2 May, 45 girls comprising competitors, Aquatic Leaders (many of whom have also been trained as British Triathlon Activators) and Sports Leaders either took part in or led at, the first-ever School Games Triathlon in the country. The team event, with 35 teams entered, was a huge success and British Triathlon and LEAP are already looking at next year's date! School staff from across Buckinghamshire complemented the Activators and Leaders on their superb leadership in difficult conditions - super hot poolside and torrential rain on the track! I was incredibly proud of all the leaders and competitors who all put their heart and soul into the day and showed incredible resilience and determination. Junior girls Team 1 finished in 2nd position and are awaiting their medals. The Inter girls Team 1 dominated the track event winning this section convincingly despite the torrential rain. Well done all! **Mrs Carey**

On Wednesday 2 May two Year 7 - 8 teams and two Year 9 - 10 teams excitedly headed off to a triathlon event at Stoke Mandeville Stadium. We all walked with high spirits even though it had started raining! First came the swim, where we were given 15 minutes to do as many 50m as possible. We were all really supportive of the swimmer who was in the water and managed around 1200m altogether!

Next, we had 15 minutes to change and were soon on the bikes and pedalling at a huge speed. British Triathlon team members were really supportive to motivate us, which we needed as our legs were BURNING. After 16 minutes we filled up our water bottles, had a little rest and then made our way onto the track.

At the track we divided ourselves into teams of 3 and sorted out who what order we were going to run in. We had to run 200m as many times as possible in 15 minutes. We all got soaking wet again in the pouring rain, but we were all very pleased with how we all did.

It was one of our best experiences at school, and we would really encourage more students to take part next time. **Emma Phillips, Issy Johnston, Sophie Gibson, Dejannae Shelukindo, Jess Chandler, Hannah Whitby and Lauren Egan**



Squash Successes

Congratulations to our Bucks Junior League squad (Emily Withey, Imogen Gibbs, Hannah Mathews, Maisie Glock, Izzy Slade, Mia Gilbert and Kaycia Socrates) for an almost immaculate season, winning 7 of our 8 fixtures, and for finishing top of the table in Division 4 with 127 points. We have just heard that they won Division 4 - well done!

In the National Schools Championship, our Under 13 team consisted of Hannah Mathews, Samantha Ackland, Florence Ashwell, Eva Rainbow and Vivienne Sellors. We had a hard match against Benenden where our most experienced player, Hannah, won her match 3 – 2 but rest of the our young team lost their first matches. They played with smiles on their faces, despite being well beaten by a more experienced side, and gave 100%.

Our Under 17 team of Molly Woods, Imogen Gibbs, Emily Withey, Mia Gilbert and Izzy Slade were hoping to get through the league stage, and at least make it to plate competition so we were disappointed to discover there was no longer a plate competition! So it was all or nothing....but we had a tough group! We faced Wycombe Abbey, Wycombe High, Comberton, and North Leamington.

We registered a 3 -2 win v Wycombe Abbey, with Molly, Emily and Imogen winning well but lost our other 3 matches. This meant an end to the Nationals before Christmas but the team members continue to train at after school sessions and develop match play skills as they gain more experience. After school sessions on Tuesday and Friday continue to be well attended, with on average 10 – 12 girls attending ranging from Year 7 through to Year 13. It is great to see so many younger girls attending and keen to improve.

Sally Withey

