

Highlights

Autumn 2018



Diary of a school aged 59¼

It should be possible to draw some sort of graph of the school year to show the quantity *and* quality of everything that goes on at AHS (so it might need to be a three dimensional graph).

It would be nice to think that the graph is a smooth curve showing a steady ebb and flow, but if you have been on a trip, in a workshop or lecture, in a performance or in a sports team, there's been nothing smooth about the first half term of the year - it's a mad dash from one thing to another, and the most important skill for any AHS student is either plate spinning or juggling, depending on which metaphor feels most appropriate.

Anyway, well done to all of the spinners and jugglers this half term, some of whose activities are described in this *Highlights*, and enjoy a well-earned week off (unless you are on a school trip, of course).

Alan Rosen



Aylesbury High School
Prepare, Challenge & Inspire

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Congratulations to ...

National Eventing Champion!

Congratulations to Phoebe Good in 8S, who represented AHS at the NSEA Eventing Championships, riding her pony, Charlie's Riddle. They led the way after the Dressage and went on to jump clear rounds in Show Jumping and Cross Country to win and become National Eventing Champions!

Mrs Queralt



Home and Away

Iceland, August 2018

After a very early start, 37 tired but eager pupils touched down in Iceland and were immediately fascinated by the landscape. Our first stop was the bridge between the continents where Graham, our tour guide, taught us more about diverging plate boundaries.

Other particular highlights included our glacier walk, visiting the Lava (exhibition) Centre and walking behind the Seljalandsfoss waterfall, where we all managed to get soaked but it was definitely worth it!

One of the most insightful stops was entering a lava tunnel, learning about its formation 5000 years ago, and experiencing being in total darkness underground. Iceland was definitely an unforgettable adventure.

Mollie Kelleher 13H



Year 11 Geography Field Trip

Well done to our Year 11 for braving Storm Callum in the pursuit of their GCSE field work. Despite the rather extreme weather, they learnt a great deal in their study of the Dorset coastline.

Mrs Griffiths



Year 7 at Green Park

It is great to see Year 7 settling in so well and a day at Green Park last week certainly helped them bond with their form groups and make friends in other classes, as well as improve their teamwork. Highlights included Jacob's Ladder, the high equilibrium, crate stacking and orienteering.

Mrs Jarrett



Further Maths Day at Wycombe High School

On Wednesday 11 September, I took the opportunity to attend a Further Maths day at Wycombe High. The experience was very enjoyable and the whole day inspired me further to pursue Maths as a subject in the future.

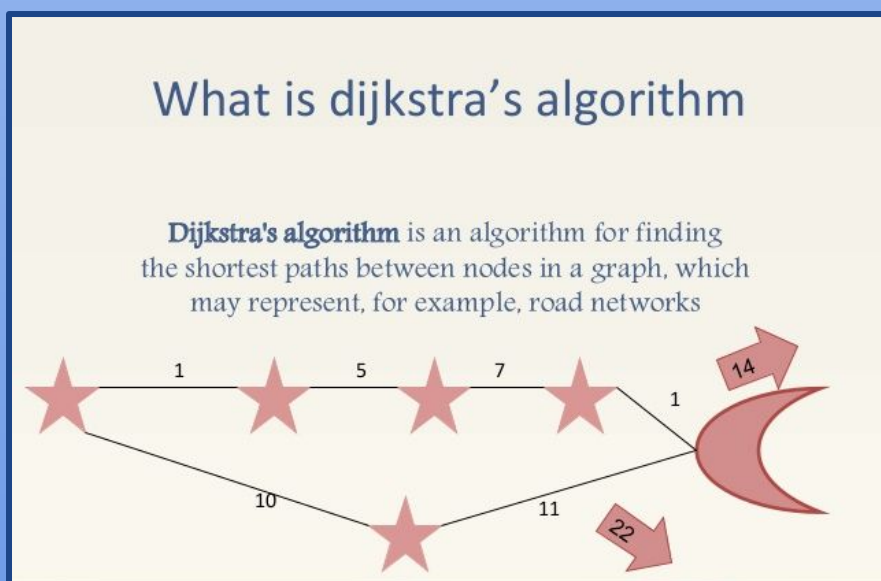
The first lecture was about the nature of complex numbers. The speaker, Niki Studman, was thoroughly engaging and her talk was very interactive as we had to work together as a team to work out a series of equations involving imaginary numbers, however our team had to work together to just turn on a graphical calculator.

Moving on, we had a talk on how Maths could be used for networking using Dijkstra's Algorithm. It was interesting to hear how it was used in GPS as well as a method of catching criminals. The final talk was with Dr Richard Lissaman which was about the importance of GCSE maths and how the concepts we do now actually played a significant role in Google and Gaming. For example the common concept of simultaneous equations is in fact used by Google to organise our searches from most to least popular. In addition, vectors are used to create the 3D effect in video games.

This was not the end of the day - the main event had been saved for last, the much-anticipated Dragon Quiz. This was where we were split into groups and had to run around the room with maths questions. For each question we got a piece of a dragon that we had to piece together. The team with the longest dragon would be the winner. I now realised why we'd be told to bring trainers to a Maths event!

I would like to thank Dr Maher for making the trip possible and I would encourage more people to experience the Further Maths Day next year, since it is a really fulfilling trip to inspire people to take Maths in the future and it may even open some ideas on career choices.

Avanthika Ravi 11C



Art

Year 11 Art Trip

On Tuesday 18 September, a group of year 11 GCSE Art students visited the Tate Modern gallery in London to gain inspiration for our 'Journeys' topic.

When we arrived, the sight of the Tate Modern was quite incredible, considering it used to be a power station, but had now been transformed into a massive gallery. Inside, there were many exhibitions, ranging from abstract portraits to strange installation pieces. Whilst walking through the gallery we looked for art that intrigued us, and art that linked to our individual projects.

We also saw artwork from some famous artists such as Claude Monet and Salvador Dali. We made notes about our first reactions to these different pieces of art, and on what we thought the artists were trying to portray. We also had to try to incorporate their styles into our own work, so we did some rough sketches using their techniques as we went along.

Overall, it was an interesting and exciting trip and we got a lot of inspiration for our projects. Finally we would like to thank Miss Beattie and Miss Hartwell for organising the trip and taking us.

Ellie McCartney & Flora Kershaw 11W



Drawing on Location

On 2 October both the Art & Textiles classes were offered the privilege of going on a trip to the Botanical Gardens and Natural History Museum in Oxford.

After walking through the tranquil gardens with their stunning flower beds and greenhouses we found a place to sit and draw; a truly relaxing and wonderful experience. All students took photographs linking to their themes or just captured something that inspired them in their photos.

After lunch we ventured to the Natural History Museum where we were greeted by a guide who gave us a brief overview of the museum. There was something here for everyone to draw ranging from antlers to crystals to insects to whole skeletons.

Even the architecture of the building gave some students inspiration with intricately carved pillars and church-windows. A fantastic day all made possible by the art and textiles teachers, so on behalf of the students I'd like to say a great big thank you to Mrs Hartwell and Miss Beattie.

Mia Boersma 10C

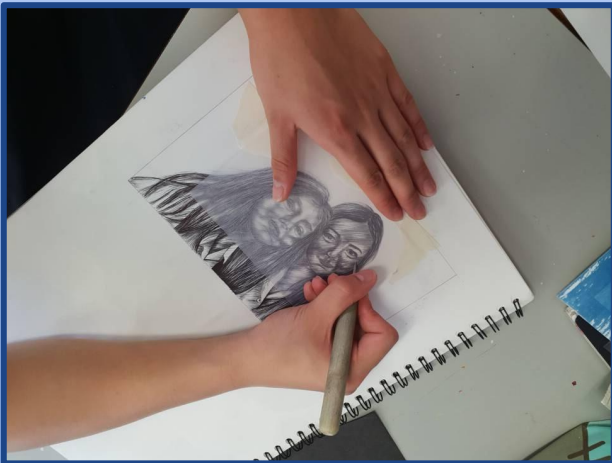


Year 10 Artist Workshop

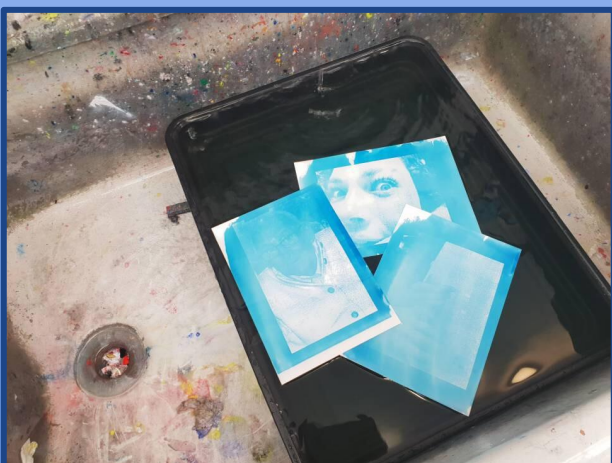
The artist, Liam Biswell, specialises in printmaking and photography, in work revolving around physical journeys and their psychological impact. Year 10 are currently working on their Journeys projects and used his work as a compass for our own.



We began by tracing over drawings we had produced prior to the workshop onto a clear piece of plastic using etching tools. There was a wide variety of ideas around the classroom and we were all eager to see each others' approach to the activity. Once we had finished scratching our designs onto the vinyl, we coated the etching in ink and ran it through the Etching Press so that the design was transferred onto the material.



We learnt that cyanotypes are created using a photographic printing process, with the two key supplies being solutions: ferric ammonium citrate and potassium ferricyanide. Prior to the workshop, we had taken photographs and inverted the colours. These were then printed onto special material. Biswell then helped us submerge the material in the chemicals required to create a cyan-blue end product.



Liam Biswell taught us a lot about the printmaking process and how to incorporate it into our projects, and the workshop provided us a valuable learning experience, for which we are all very grateful.

Ravina Prapaharan 11A

Drama

Frantic Workshop

On Wednesday 26 September our Year 12 drama class participated in a workshop presented by Simon and Michelle from Frantic Assembly, an internationally-renowned theatre company which aims to combine a unique physical style with movement, design, music and text. Frantic Assembly has collaborated on projects such as the TV show *Humans* and *The Curious Incident of the Dog in the Night-Time*.

We began with a physical warm-up, then paired up and carried out an exercise called Push Hands, where we had to rely on the stimulus of pressure and touch of our partner's hand to lead us around the space.

We definitely got to trust each other by the end of the exercise as we then had to carry it out with our eyes closed.

One of my favourite parts of the session was the flying exercise, which involved learning how to lift someone up above our heads, move them around the space and put them down in one long, flowing move. Although some of us were nervous about trusting a small group to hold us up, we all had a go and it was really exciting! Everyone in the lift had their own job, and the person being lifted also had to work hard to make the lift easier for everyone.



Beth Lewin 12M

Shakespeare Schools Festival Workshop

On 25 September the cast and crew of our productions, Henry V and The Taming of the Shrew went to the Grove Theatre in Dunstable for a workshop led by two members of the Shakespeare Schools Festival.

After various warm ups, which got us used to the space we will be performing in in November, we moved on to developing the actual plays.

The Taming of the Shrew performed first, and worked on their first scene. This really helped us develop our characters and how to create a good party atmosphere. Then it was time for Henry V, where the leader got the actors to work on their relationships with each other by standing with their backs to audience then turning around when the narrator mentioned them.

We can't wait for the performance on 20 November, at the Grove Theatre, and we would love for you to come along!

Ella Deraed & Dinojaa Sreethar 9H



Dance



House Dance 2018

Congratulations to everyone involved in House Dance, from the leadership of our Year 12 Dance Captains to the commitment of the dancers and the technicians.

This year's theme, to tie in with our 60th birthday celebrations, is 'Female Empowerment' and it was fantastic to see how this has been interpreted while watching the dress rehearsals earlier this week.

Good luck to everyone on Wednesday, Thursday and Friday!

Miss McKendrick

Sport

English Schools Cross Country Cup County Round

On Friday 5 October, 12 students participated in the county round for the English Schools Cross Country. The Junior team included 3 Year 7s: Payton Carter (11th), Olivia London (18th) and Aoife Patel (27th), who did particularly well considering it was their first ever race representing the school and they are still at the lower end of their age category. Our 3 year 8s were: Mary Drewitt who led the team home in 8th, Tamsin Tewson (34th) and Kitty Galbraith. Special mention also goes to Tamsin who had never previously represented the team in cross country. The Juniors came second overall and are progressing to the regional round where they will aim to move on to the national finals in Suffolk.

The Intermediate girls will also move on to represent the county in the regional finals after coming third overall. The two Year 9s (Laura Goble and Emilia Rock) both had high scoring runs despite being a year younger than some of the eldest runners, coming 12th and 23rd respectively. The team also had 4 Year 10s, who were running the course for the last time; Millie Carey (10th), Hannah Davis (15th), Isabelle Barnes (18th) and Zara Brooks (19th).

All runners did amazingly well as the Cottesloe course is known to be particularly challenging due to the tough hills and rutted ground. Every runner's effort has meant that both teams have a chance of proceeding to the National Finals if they also have good runs in the regional round in November.

Millie Carey 10A



Swimming

ESSA Trials 2018

Friday 12 October saw the return of the AHS swimmers to Watford swimming pool for the schools' regional gala (ESSA). Everyone who competed at the gala did so well and overall it was a great experience. There was lots of team support with the swimmers who weren't competing at the time standing at the end of the lanes and cheering. Everyone worked hard and were determined to do their best for the team. We are still waiting to hear whether we have qualified for nationals. A huge thank you to Mrs Carey for taking us.

Kathryn Reid 10C



Wycombe League Gala

On Wednesday 10 October, 20 swimmers travelled to Wycombe Abbey School to compete in the first Wycombe League gala of the year. Everyone did really well in their races - we came very close to first in both our relays, but most importantly, we all did our best. The Junior Team won the first stage overall but well done to Inters and Seniors too! It was worth it as we were served delicious brownies after our races!

Anna Birch and Stephanie Beveridge 8H

U16 County Hockey Finals



Well done to our U16 team, who got through to the County Finals and played brilliantly against Borlase and Thornton at Stowe School earlier this month. **Mrs Rust**

U19 Basketball

On 15 October Aylesbury High School's U19 Basketball team won a fantastic match against Taunton's Richard Huish. The match opened with 2 free throws from Richard Huish. Then a spectacular swish of a 3 pointer from Macy Cook which definitely had the opposition scared.

At the end of the first quarter AHS were winning 22-6. The opening of the second quarter another spectacular swish but from the captain Ella Messeter. And with many shots from Grace Ashton, Molly Baars, Macy Cook and Isobel Mathews, by the end of the second quarter AHS were still in the lead, 39-15.

In the 3rd quarter AHS were still winning by 55-27 with another 3 pointer from Morgan Davis and multiple points from Onyi Okoye and Grace Ashton. 4th quarter opened with Molly Baars adding to the score. Although some of our players had a few fouls, Chloe Osili went the whole game with no foul trouble. The game ended with a terrific score of 76-41. Great game AHS!

Mrs Arber

AHS Sports Presentation Evening 2018

Inspirational speaker Joanne Jackson, Olympic Medallist and Former World Record Holder.

The largest-ever number of certificates & badges awarded for girls achieving their colours

Particular mention to those who won Special Awards on the night:



KS3 Team of the Year

U14 Basketball Team

KS4 Team of the Year

KS4 Badminton team

KS5 Team of the Year

Aberdare Cup Tennis Team

KS3 Sports Leader of the Year

Isabella Johnston

KS4 Sports Leader of the Year

Hatty Bell & Amy Harrison

KS5 Sports Leader of the Year

Hannah Alexander & Roseanna Schmidt

KS3 Margaret Cooper Cup

Macy Cook

KS4 Margaret Cooper Cup

Olivia Robson & Olivia Jophy

KS5 Margaret Cooper Cup

Chloe Osili & Emma Killin

KS3 Girls Active

Amelia Knight & Katharine Esslemont

KS4 Girls Active

Shyamali McGill

KS5 Girls Active

Marnie Shutter

Service to Sport

Isobel Mathews

Outstanding Achievement in Sport

Annabelle Denly, Grace Ashton, Helena Rowland & Katie Garman

Sports Person of the Year

Jessica Mace

Best Newcomer

Madyson Carter & Victorious Ezeh

Coach of the Year

Tracy Smees

Abbie Webb Award

Lucy Gunson

Parent Volunteer Award

Heather Bell & Sally Withey

