

Highlights

December 2018



Sports Stars (again!)

Pride of place in Highlights goes to our talented sports teams whose inspiration and perspiration were rewarded in November when *School Sports Magazine* published its annual ranking of state and independent schools.

Our record is:

2013	11th	2014	1st	2015	3rd
2016	8th	2017	Not top 100	2018	3rd

As the magazine reminds readers, being in the top 30 equates to the top 1% of (~3000) secondary schools. The scoring is based on 20 sports, and 120 national competitions, so more weighting is given to success in a range of sports rather than single sports, and to sports with more teams entering. Well done, again, to the PE team plus the coaches, parents and other staff who support our sports teams.

Alan Rosen



Aylesbury High School

Prepare, Challenge & Inspire

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Congratulations

Bebras Global Computational Thinking Challenge

Well done to all the girls who took part in the Bebras Global Computational Thinking Challenge. We have recently received some truly impressive results from the organisers at Oxford University.

Aylesbury High School's average results were notably higher than the corresponding averages for all age groups across the country. Also, our Junior, Senior and Elite participants outperformed the Buckinghamshire and Hertfordshire county results. Particular recognition goes to Sophie Girgis in 8M who not only achieved a score of 173 out of 200 but also ranked the highest in Buckinghamshire with an impressive 114 points higher than the national average. Bearing in mind that within Buckinghamshire alone 3281 students took part in this category, Sophie's achievement of attaining the highest mark is nothing less than spectacular.

Similarly Iona Esslemont lead the way with an impressive 156 in the Junior category, whilst in the Senior category Sreya Wadud achieved 140, both coming top of their categories within the school.

We are also extremely proud of our Elite category participants. Milly Henley and Grace Hammond achieved an outstanding 189 out of 200 points each, which is an impressive 93 points higher than the national average. This is especially pleasing as the participants of the Elite category comprise of some of the brightest computing students in the country. **Mrs Jaggs**

Stop Press!

Congratulations to the 163 pupils who by receiving a grade within the top 10% of the country, have been invited to take part in the TCS Oxford Computing Challenge. An extra congratulation to Grace Hammond and Milly Henley who have both won a place in the National Finals at Oxford University in the new year. **Mr Petty.**



Congratulations

On 1 November a group of A level geographers took part in Aylesbury Vale District Council's Future Town Planners competition. The day provided us all with a thought-provoking insight into the planning process and some of the current challenges faced by our local authorities. As part of the contest, we had to design our own housing development to specific requirements and present our ideas in an AVDC committee meeting. The day was very enjoyable - we came a close second. In the process, we all advanced our presentation skills and returned to school with a new understanding of the importance of urban planning.

Becca Brown 13N



Earlier this term, we entered the Rotary Young Chef Competition - a challenge of creating a menu for a two course healthy meal for two, with a budget of only £10. After some deep thought, we came up with some ideas, and sent in our menus. Within a week, we we heard that we'd been selected to cook our menu at Harding's Restaurant, Aylesbury College. On Saturday 3 November, we entered the kitchens, nervous yet excited at the thought of both what would happen in the forthcoming moments and the fact that we were competing against not only each other, but also older students from other local schools.

We were given two hours to cook our meal, and judged on elements like presentation, creativity, skill and workmanship. After the set time was complete, we took our dishes to the main restaurant area, for the guests and parents to see. While the final decisions were being made, we spoke to the Mayor of Aylesbury Vale and some of the Rotary representatives, exclaiming what a wonderful opportunity this was. Everyone received a prize and certificate, to commemorate and remember this experience, and we are both proud to have been able to represent the school, in such a wonderful event and of our results - Shaiyana coming 2nd and Iona coming 4th.

Shaiyana 8C and Iona 7H

Home and Away

Macbeth Trip

On 16 October, Year 10 and 11 students had the chance to see the RSC production of Macbeth at the Barbican. We are studying Macbeth as part of our English literature GCSE, so it was really useful to see it recreated in the theatre. The production used interesting staging by having a combination of both modern and traditional sets and costumes. The three witches were played by young girls all wearing identical red pinafores with red ribbons tying their French plaits. They spoke and moved in unison and it was very unnerving how doll-like they seemed.

Various techniques were used to build tension throughout the performance, such as a caretaker marking a tally in white chalk on the walls to symbolise each death. By the end of the performance, the walls were covered with the white tally. Before the death of Lady Macbeth, her hands are covered in white chalk dust, which seemed to represent the blood of Macbeth's victims. They also used a digital clock at the back of the set, counting down to Macbeth's death. It was a unique and thought-provoking interpretation of Macbeth which we really enjoyed and would recommend.

Kate Neville & Leah Mohan 10M



Home and Away

A Level German Berlin Trip

Having just spent the past four days zipping around Berlin with German A Level students from AHS and AGS, I feel qualified to label it as one of the most historically conscious cities I have ever visited - although perhaps that was just the slant of our trip. Jam-packed with trips to the Reichstag (the seat of Germany's government), memorials to the Jews, Sinti, and Russian soldiers who fell defending the freedom of Berliners, as well as the last few preserved stretches of the Berlin Wall, including both commemorations to those who died attempting to cross and celebrations of its fall, and German unity today, in the paintings of the East Side Gallery. We explored both communism in the DDR-Museum and modern capitalism in the form of the huge shopping centre KaDeWe, and tied it all together with an exploration of German culture in its finest form - food - at both the Turkish market and Oranienburgerstraße. After all that, half-term came as a welcome calm, but it was a crazy few days not to be missed, even for a couple of hours extra sleep. Thanks are due to both Miss Sheppard and Mr Sloan for a brilliantly busy Berlin trip.

Pippa Prendergast-Coates 13E



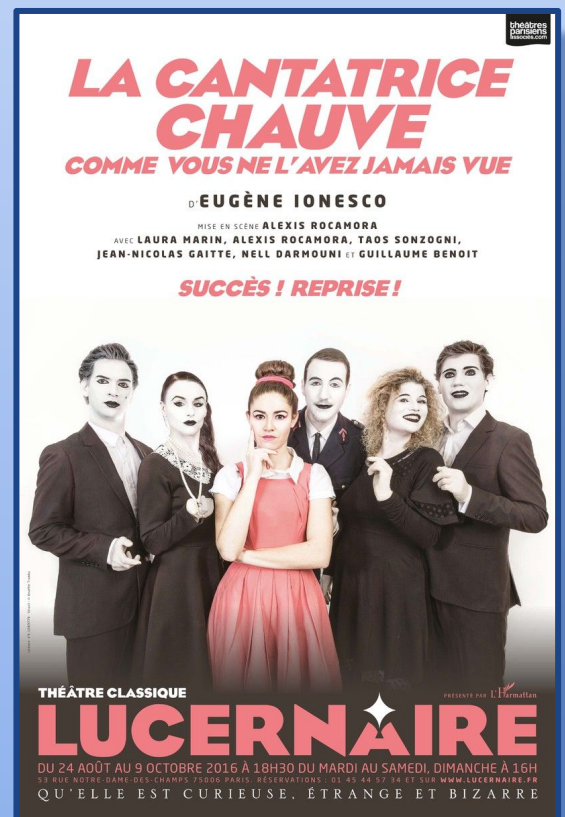
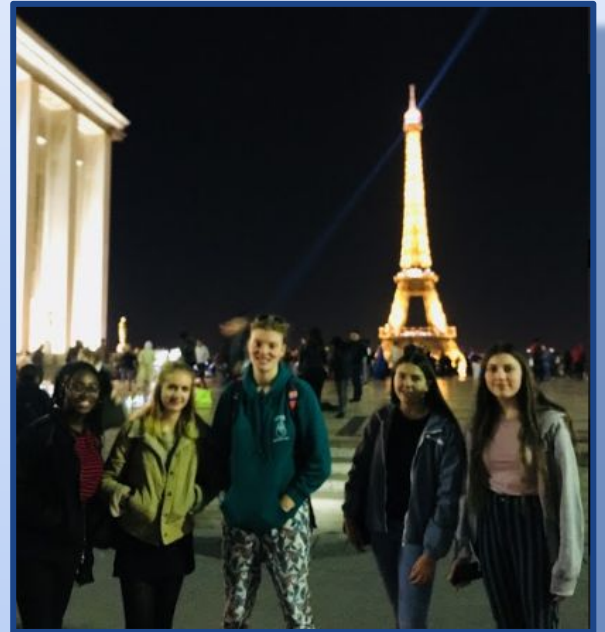
Year 13 Paris Trip

On 28 September, A-Level French students from AHS and AGS, Miss Billon and Mr Crapper left Turnfurlong at 5am to catch a Eurostar train that would take us to the centre of Paris for our action packed weekend trip.

On the Friday afternoon, we visited the Musée de l'Histoire de l'Immigration, which discussed the ever present topic of immigration in France, and its contributions to French society. The exhibition was extremely informative, and very helpful for the topics of "La société diverse" and "La politique et l'immigration en France" of our A Level. As well as this, we attended a performance of Ionesco's play "La Cantatrice Chauve", which has been running every night in Paris since 1957.

On the Saturday, we visited the Musée d'Orsay and the Invalides, which houses the body of Napoleon and where we explored an interactive exhibition on Charles de Gaulle, the founder of the Fifth Republic of France. My favourite moment of the trip was when we climbed up the Arc de Triomphe - the views were simply stunning. The trip allowed us to thoroughly experience French culture (and Parisian tube stations!). Many thanks to both Mr Crapper and Miss Billon for organising the trip.

Emily Sampson 13R



Year 12 Geography fieldwork at Mop End FSC Centre, Amersham

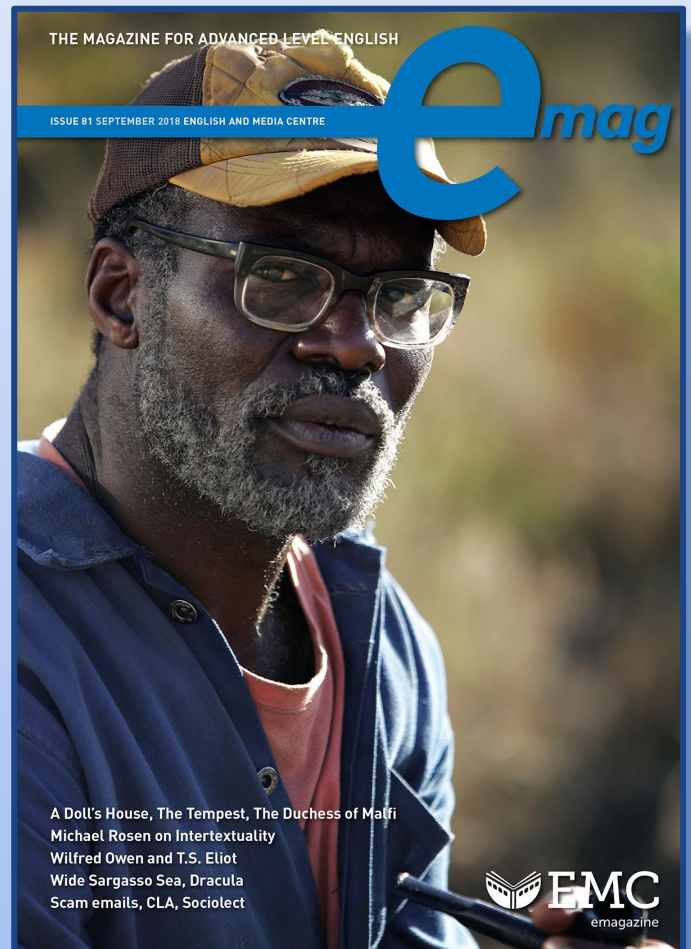
On Wednesday 28 November, students studying A Level Geography travelled to Mop End to carry out experiments linked to the carbon cycle and water cycles. In the morning, we calculated the amount of carbon sequestration within the trees in the River Misbourne catchment, which was interesting as these calculations, based on our field data, highlighted the importance of conserving trees. Within the groups that we were allocated, we had the opportunity to learn about the topic from each other, and get to know each other well, which made the investigation more fun.

After lunch, we went out again, to carry out more experiments. Firstly we investigated the infiltration rate and the saturation of soils found in different types of woodland. We went on to investigate different rates of interception, comparing larch, oak and sycamore woodlands, collecting results from rain gauges set up all over the site. Although it was raining, we also enjoyed experimenting with the 'storm stimulators' which demonstrate the impact of the same amount of 'rain' (water that we poured down a gutter) on different land surfaces. This trip was very educational and interesting for all of us, and we hope to carry out similar investigations independently. **Rasika Wakhare 12Y**



English and Media Centre Literature Conference

Sixth form English Literature and Language students had the privilege of attending the E Magazine conference on 13 November. The conference's variety of speakers captured many aspects of literature, from the classics to contemporary and from Shakespeare's spoken word to blog-posted poetry. The speakers also made efforts to inspire us to read for pleasure, promoting their new found favourite novels with convincing praise that encouraged many of us to purchase the books or to keep reading so that we could continue to be passionate about our own choices of novels. The conference ended with the sensational writer and broadcaster, Natalie Haynes who had the ability to capture and excite the entire audience about Aristotle's 6 elements of tragedy. Her use of humour and relation of the classics to contemporary culture engaged us all and was the highlight of the trip. All together, the conference provided us with different insights, interesting class discussion topics and an urge to continue to read and enjoy our love for literature. **Ellie Brown 12B**



Design & Technology Clubs 2018



Year 7 design and make a laser cut puzzle while Year 8 and 9 create solitaire games and lathe wands.

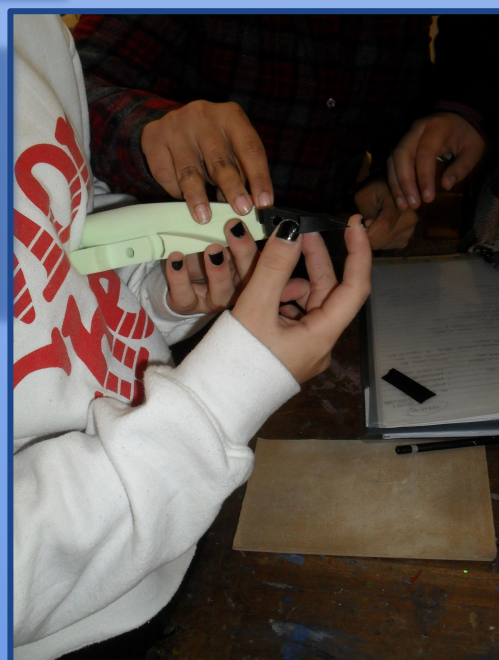


Our Year 9 STEM Bronze award club have been spending time on the computers designing a wastewater energy system.

FormuAHS

Year 12 F1 in schools club have been busy designing their own F1 car.

Mr Potkin



Product Design in Action

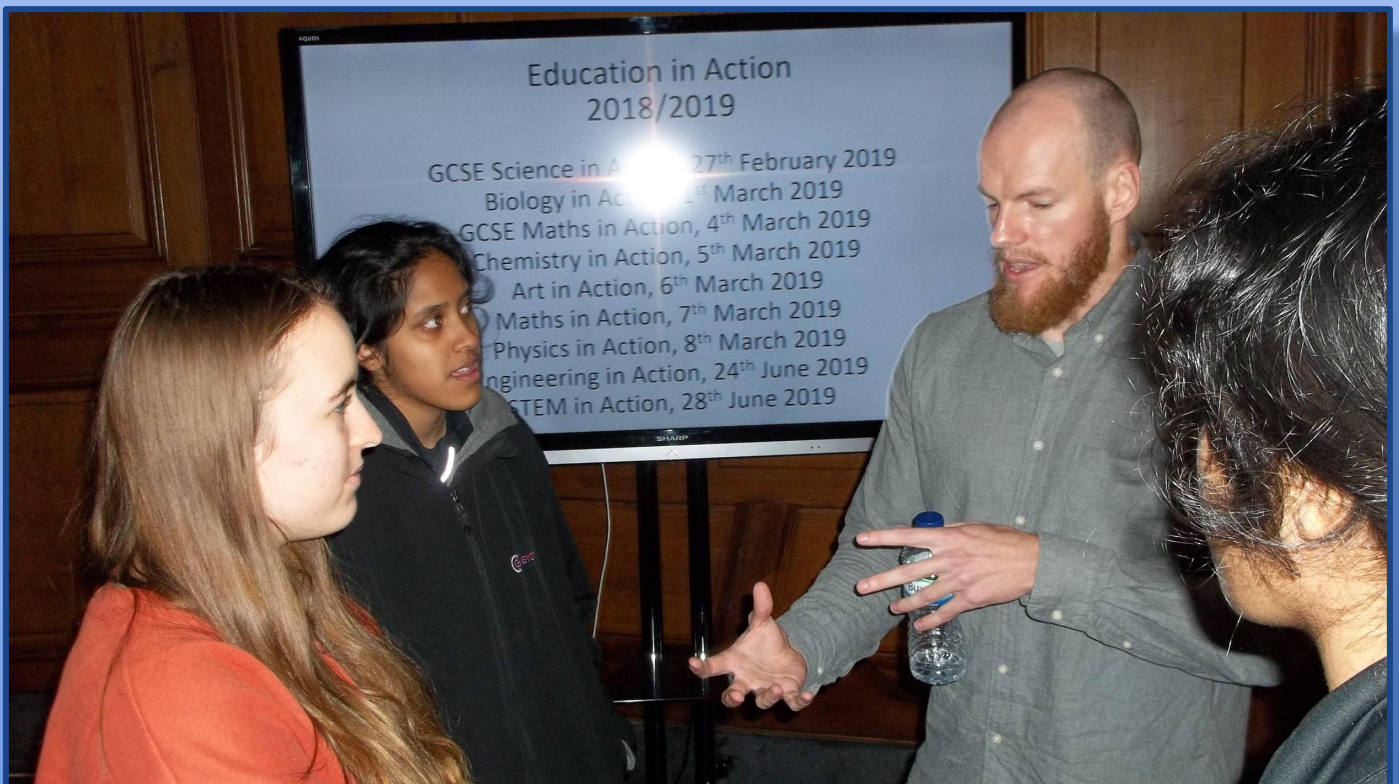
On Tuesday 13 November, Design students from Year 11, 12 and 13 attended the Product Design in Action event in London. We listened to five different, successful product designers, telling us about their lives and successes in the product design business. They also talked about how they come up with ideas and how they work from those ideas to create an actual, real product.

Sam Rogers from Gravity Industries showed us his new jet suit that gives humans the ability to fly both over water and on land.

Another designer called Theodora Alfredsdottir offered us a new way of thinking about product design. The products that she creates tell the story of how they were made and the processes that they undergo. This means each product she makes has interesting qualities which make the user realise the value of each item and the craftsmanship that went into them.

My favourite speaker was Samuel Wilkinson who created a new, more exciting kind of lightbulb. I was really fascinated by how he came up with the ideas and how much his product changed, from the initial ideas to the final design.

Year 11 Design students



Drama

On Tuesday 20 November, 70 students from AHS and AGS took part in the annual Shakespeare Schools Festival at the Grove Theatre in Dunstable. We put on two productions: Years 8, 9 and 10 explored gender roles and stereotypes in *The Taming Of The Shrew* and Years 11, 12 and 13 experimented with physical theatre in *Henry V*. After auditions, 7-8 weeks of rehearsal and one whole cast workshop at the theatre, it was finally the show day. We arrived at the venue that morning, where both casts had their tech and dress rehearsals and were able to watch the other company perform theirs.

To kick off the evening, the *Taming Of The Shrew* performed their piece. All ran smoothly with virtually no slip ups and an enthusiastic roll-call to finish, before the cast retreated back to their dressing rooms. *Twelfth Night* (performed by a younger school) closed the first half and after a brief interval, *Henry V* performed their action-packed piece just as well, pulling off all their stage stunts. Finally another younger school performed the *Tempest* and everyone was called back onto the stage to be congratulated on their achievements. **Hannah Bush 8C**





"BEING A WINNER, GOD GIVES YOU GOOD NIGHT."

The Taming of the Shrew
by Aylesbury Grammar School & Aylesbury High School
at The Grove Theatre, 20/11/2018
appraised by Tory Sandars

I would like to extend my heartfelt congratulations to Aylesbury Grammar School & Aylesbury High School for your fantastic production of The Taming of the Shrew as part of the 2018 Shakespeare Schools Festival. It was a brilliant night of theatre, and I'd like to highlight just a few elements that really stood out.

This production started with a fabulous pre-show, an introduction to the characters and the differences between them. This was a motif that carried on throughout the show, introducing aspects of characters and their character traits. This gave the audience a key insight into the characters and helped with the storytelling of the play.

It is clear that as a company you have spent time unpicking the text. There was an excellent level of understanding and you were able to draw out the humour brilliantly. A few moments that highlighted this were the tree moment, where Petruccio and his friends popped out to see what was taking place. Coupled with some very fine facial expressions. I also really loved the "gym" scene, where the ensemble took part in a class whilst the rest of the scene took place down stage.

There was also a lovely cross cutting moment between the stereotypical scene of men watching football and ladies drinking tea, this combined with the text and strong reactions from the whole company brought to life the climax of this production. Great work from all of the student technical team.

This production was full of humour, laughter and joy. Congratulations!

Performing Shakespeare's words on a professional stage takes courage, resilience, and imagination. You and your teachers should all be incredibly proud of what you have achieved.

Tory Sandars
**"THIS PRODUCTION WAS
FULL OF HUMOUR,
LAUGHTER AND JOY.
CONGRATULATIONS!"**



"A KINGDOM FOR A STAGE"

Henry V
by Aylesbury Grammar School & Aylesbury High School
at The Grove Theatre, 20/11/2018
appraised by Tory Sandars

I would like to extend my heartfelt congratulations to Aylesbury Grammar School & Aylesbury High School for your fantastic production of Henry V as part of the 2018 Shakespeare Schools Festival. It was a brilliant night of theatre, and I'd like to highlight just a few elements that really stood out.

Wow, such energy and commitment from the whole company - you really got your teeth into this epic text and production. This was a very mature production from all involved. Many professional actors would shy away from such a famous and difficult text, but you did not, you held nothing back and gave it your all on stage for your audience.

It is clear that you have spent time really thinking about your delivery of the lines, you spoke with light and shade and were able to add texture to create vivid and imaginative characters. You declared these lines to the audience and you were also able to switch between power and poignancy creating very believable moments.

A scene I felt was particularly strong and creative was the battle between England and France. Such precision and detailed actions, that combined with your energy and story telling created a sequence of moments that would make any professional physical theatre performer proud.

Well done to the technical and marketing students who helped to bring this piece to life.

This was a bold, brave and brilliant production. Congratulations!

Performing Shakespeare's words on a professional stage takes courage, resilience, and imagination. You and your teachers should all be incredibly proud of what you have achieved.

Tory Sandars
**"THIS WAS A BOLD,
BRAVE AND BRILLIANT
PRODUCTION.
CONGRATULATIONS!"**



Music

GCSE and A Level Music students had a great time at the Royal Festival Hall on 14 November. They were awed by Roberto Prosseda's playing of the unusual 'pedal piano' using both his feet and hands to activate both keyboards and found the London Philharmonic's performance of Berlioz's Symphony Fantastique inspirational. **Ms Raven**

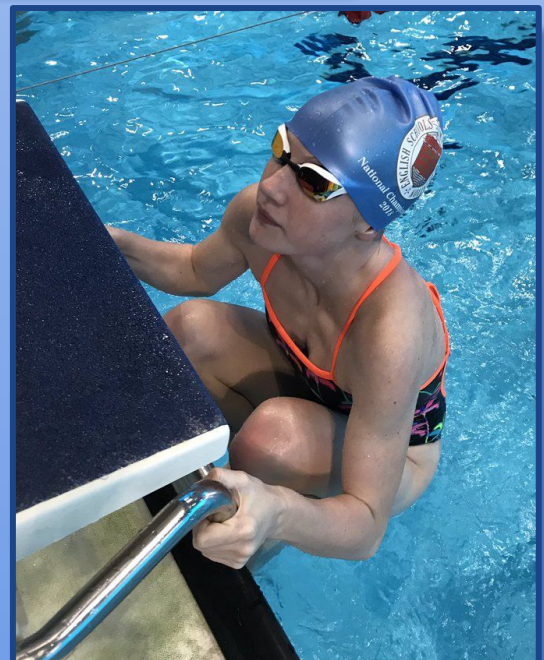


Thank you to all of our talented students and dedicated music staff for two wonderful evenings at the end of term. We thoroughly enjoyed the Christmas concert last week and this week's Carol Service. **Mrs Queralt**

Swimming

On Saturday 17 November, the junior swimming team from Aylesbury High School went down to the London Aquatic Centre to compete at the 2018 ESSA finals. With an early start, we got down to the pool with plenty of time, and had the chance to familiarise ourselves with the pool, which was exciting and such an experience to swim in. After our familiarisation session, we had lunch in Westfield, which gave us time to catch up. Back at the pool, we were excitedly watching all of the other teams race their relays, waiting for ours to come. When we had done our race, 50m medley, we watched the scoreboard intently, to see our result. We moved up a couple of places in the competition, and overall came 27th in the country. The day had come to an end, and yes, we were tired, but it was all worth it, for such a good experience, and a great day.

Connie King 8C



Cross Country

On 10 November our fantastic cross country team, competed in the regional final ESSA in Oakley. The juniors and inters woke bright and early enthusiastic about the day ahead. After 1 hour on the coach we arrived in Oakley. First, we set up and put our bags down in a dry spot which was hard to find. Next we walked the long, treacherous course and made sure we were certain of the route. Mary, the junior team captain, warmed the Junior team up so they were ready to race. 10H20 came and it was time for the junior race to begin so we made our way to the start line in order to get a good place at the front.

The race began; it was a tough course as even though it was quite flat, it was really long. The juniors' results were really strong with Mary placing 7th, Payton 8th, Tamsin 28th, Aoife 33rd, Iona 37th and Olivia 38th. Amazingly the juniors placed 3rd, qualifying for Nationals. The inter race started at 11H00. The team consisted of Millie (14); Laura (19); Issy Johnston (27); Hannah (32); Emilia (34); Lauren (38). The inters had a tough race against some really fast teams. They came an amazing 5th place, unfortunately not making it through to nationals. But both teams ran a fantastic race to be proud of.

Aoife Patel 7W



On Saturday 24 November, AHS's Junior Cross country team were lucky enough to compete in the ESSA Cup final. It was an amazing day. First we walked the course. Then we watched the inter girls race. Next it was our race. Butterflies flew round our bodies, our hearts skipped a beat.. then 'beeeeeeep... We were off. Racing down the straight trying to get the best starting position. With many hills, it was a tough race but we all completed it. With our top runner coming 74th we came 25th overall. The best part of that day has to be Prezzos in which we went to to celebrate our fantastic achievement. Overall we had the best day ever and we hope we get that same opportunity next year.

Mary Drewitt 8C and Olivia London 7S

Netball

U14 English Schools Netball Tournament

We started off against Thornton, a team we had played a lot before and although having a slow start, we managed to pull off a win against them. We won the next two matches against Stowe and Ousedale, two teams we had never played before. Our last match was against Mandeville and although thinking we had lost, we had actually won the match 7-3. Through to regionals!

Hannah Mathews 9S



U16 English Schools Netball Tournament

On 10 November the U16 English Schools netball team participated in the county tournament. After an early start, our first match was against Ousedale and we began very well, working as a team to get the ball down the court and score. They started to pull back slightly in the second half but we ended with a convincing win. Our second match was against the Grange and we managed to achieve another win. In the final match we played Stowe, which was the toughest game of the day, which would decide the winners. The score was very even throughout, with each team working really hard to win this important match. At the end of the second half our team managed to edge ahead, performing under the pressure to narrowly win. After a successful day, with our team playing well together, we won the tournament. This means we will advance to the next stage, which is the regional round in January, hopefully to continue achieving and improve our play further.

Jessie Mace 11W



U19 English Schools Netball Tournament

The U19 netball team travelled to Stowe School for the County netball round. We started well with our first game against Ouesdale, winning by a considerable margin. We then played Akeley Wood, we started slowly and the game was quite even at half time but in the second half we picked up our game and won comfortably.

The third game was against Waddesdon School; once again we won and were in a good position going into the final game. Our final game was against Stowe; this was also when torrential rain began! It was a tight game and we had to work hard to secure the win. After winning all 4 games we are going through to the regional round in January! **Hannah Alexander 13A**



Staff Panto!



Cinderella

The A Factor



Well done to everyone who organised, took part in and supported our Fundraising Week this week. Your donations are being split between your nominated charities: World Vision, Orphans in Need, Curly Tails and The Ummah Welfare Trust.

Merry Christmas!