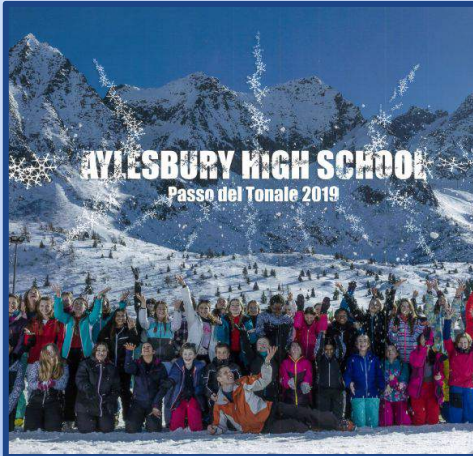


Highlights

Easter 2019



Every breath you take....

Our 'elite' teams have been busy in a whole range of sports this term, and you can read how well they've fared in this edition of *Highlights*, as well as seeing what else has kept us busy this half term.

Perhaps less publicised are the many, many activities which are purely for enjoyment, with a bit of perspiration thrown in.

A lot of them are not competing against each other and focus on personal development and fun. Some of the clubs/sessions are Aqua Club, Aerofit, Boxercise, Fencing, Lunchtime Cardio Tennis and Trampolining, while some of the House events, including Football and the Aqua Gala in Swimming, directly target those who aren't in sports teams or do much extra-curricular sport.

The Sixth Form have a Girls Active lesson which they can choose to take, and we've also strongly promoted participation in triathlons as being for all. So there's no excuse to miss out on some exercise from time to time. Do have a look at the Clubs page on the student homepage, and speak to your PE teacher for more information.

Of course, it's not just sport that raises our pulse rates - look out for Dance opportunities, DofE and various expeditions for both anaerobic and aerobic exercise. Or even, with the better weather, bring a ball to school to let off some steam on the field at lunchtime!

Alan Rosen



Aylesbury High School
Prepare, Challenge & Inspire

For the latest school news, visit: www.ahs.bucks.sch.uk
Follow us on Twitter: @aylesburyhigh

Congratulations

MK Festival of Arts

My journey with the Milton Keynes Festival of the Arts began at the age of six and I still remember reciting my first poem, Adventures of Isabel by Ogden Nash. The adjudicators give detailed reports of each child's performance, which inspired me to begin performing every year at the festival. I also joined LAMBDA lessons to help me improve my technique and skill. This year I performed in two categories - Write and Recite in which I wrote a poem at school and then recited it at the festival, and Humorous Verse where I picked a poem to recite from the internet. Before the competition, my LAMBDA teacher and I worked very hard to perfect my facial expressions and body language. It was hard to perfect the poem, but in the end it all paid off because I won gold for my Write and Recite poem and silver for my Humorous Verse poem. Through all my years of performing I have never won a gold medal in recitation and I am very proud of myself for this achievement.

Suravi Rao 8H



Basketball Success

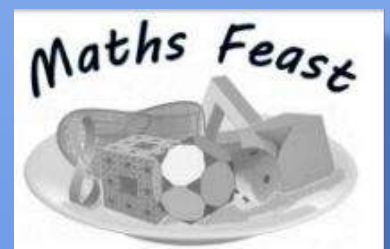
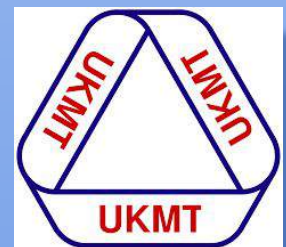
Congratulations to Grace Ashton 11M who recently represented England at Basketball, and has now been selected to attend an U16 GB player review camp in Nottingham over the Easter holidays. Wishing you the best of luck, Grace!

Mrs Arber

Congratulations to all who participated in the UKMT Intermediate Maths Challenge. At AHS we earned a total of 80 certificates from 115 participants including 16 Gold! In addition, 11 students were amongst the top 8000 in the UK & one student was amongst the top 1500 students in the UK.

Congratulations also go to: Sophie Brimmicombe 10A, Zoe Chang 10H, Anisha Jain 10M, and Hannah Davis 10S who represented AHS at John Hampden Grammar School in the Maths Feast.

Mrs Lu



Congratulations

MOVE IT!

In March, I was lucky enough to travel up to ExCel, London for 3 days and spend my weekend at the world's biggest dance convention - Move It! It's an event on every dancer's calendar, however it was an extra special event for me because I was chosen to be a Face of Move It 2019 after being scouted last year - definitely one of the biggest and most exciting opportunities I've ever had! Being a face of Move It (like an ambassador) meant that I would appear on the tickets, posters, flyers, website, social media, get to be interviewed and get the chance to dance on the main stage which was such an amazing experience.

Over the 3 days, I took some incredible classes, had a couple of photo shoots, met some famous dancers and performers, performed a solo on the main stage and was interviewed live in front of thousands of people! Miss McKendrick also bought some of the GCSE and AS dance students on the Friday to come and join in the event too so it was really fun to get to see all my friends and experience it together. Although it was one of the busiest weekends I've ever had, it was definitely an experience I will never ever forget and I'm so grateful to have had this once in a lifetime opportunity.

Olivia Francis 10C



Congratulations

This year Move It added an extra event which I was lucky to be part of. A few weeks before, I had auditioned to dance for the Strictly Come Dancing professional, Neil Jones. When I got accepted, the school gave me permission to have the day off to travel to London to rehearse with 25 other dancers from around the country. The next day I travelled back to London to perform in front of over 5,000 people and industry professionals. It was an absolutely amazing experience and I was so pleased to see some other dancers from Aylesbury High School enjoying their time at Move It on a school trip. I'm very thankful for the school's support with my dancing and that the school values everyone's interests.

Eleanor Bye 9C



My team, Dance Connection, was asked by a dancewear company called Squad Dancewear if we would represent their brand at Move It. We jumped at the chance and started rehearsing right away.

Although it was a runway stage we still had to perform a fast, interesting dance. I really enjoyed performing with my friends and was excited to challenge myself. I performed on Saturday and Sunday; both times the crowd was very busy and loads of people were cheering and clapping - it was an amazing experience.

Lily Pike 9M

More Dance Success!

The Great Big Danceoff

'Only two and a half hours on a coach,' they said. 'We can watch the other performers,' they said. 'It's just a bit of fun,' they said. Not all strictly lies; we were indeed on a coach for two and a half hours, we made it to the viewing of about one school, and the fun was always a guarantee with Mrs Livingstone, Mr Braniff AND Miss McKendrick on board - all keen dancers I can assure you.

After spending five long hours on a traffic-plagued coach, with one of those hours painstakingly attempting to smudge on what little makeup we could in the receding March sunlight, we finally made it to the venue an hour after curtain call, only to be called up on stage unstretched, unprepared, unaware of what was going on, fifteen minutes after arriving. Needless to say we weren't feeling quite as ripe and ready to go as we had been five hours before, but we gave it our all!

We must have somehow channelled that wild, ohmygoshwherearethetoilets energy into something the judges found pleasing, for half an hour after even stepping one foot in the building, we were crowned second place and through to the National Finals! A job well done if you ask me, and we only had to spend eight hours on a coach - all the more reason to stretch our legs and win a dance competition!

The news still hasn't sunk in as most of the evening was a mad blur, and if you were to ask one of us what actually happened, we probably couldn't tell you either. Here's to hoping Nationals is more local and we can actually remember it. See you in June!

Roseanna Schmidt Year 13 Dance Ambassador



Home and Away

Spanish Hockey Tour Headlines

I loved the hockey tour. I had such an amazing time and it was a great experience training with teams abroad especially with planes zooming past us whilst we played and somehow, in one of those games, I managed to score! We drew one match and won the rest!.

We got to practise our Spanish as well as spending time with the team and getting to know the years above ours. We also got to play the Spanish sport Paddle Tennis which was a lot of fun.

As well as all the sporting activities, we also visited the zoo and got to hold many animals such as honey bears, snakes, parrots, lemurs and hawks and we even got to stroke a leopard.

At the end of the trip awards were given out to a few people, one of whom was me. So overall my time on the hockey tour was incredible - I would happily go again in a heartbeat.

Erin Thompson 8S



Home and Away

New Erasmus+ Project

Through Comenius and now Erasmus+, AHS has been collaborating with the Lycée Georges Brassens (France), the Institut d'Educació Secundària Massanassa (Spain) and the Liceo Statale Guarino Veronese (Italy) for more than ten years. Taking part in the Erasmus+ programme helps students and teachers to develop personally and professionally: they gain valuable international experience, broaden their horizons, experience new cultures and discover new ways of working. It is of particular benefit to young people who can learn new skills to improve their employability, acquire life skills and develop their confidence.

This year has marked the start of our new Erasmus+ project, which will run until July 2021. This project, called "A StandArt for Europe: Renaissances, Resistances, Dreams", aims at reinforcing the education of young European citizens regarding the artistic and cultural background of their own country and that of their European neighbours. It wants to give students the keys to access and understand the arts.

The first Erasmus+ event this year was the visit of the Italian students from San Bonifacio as part of an exchange for Y10 and Y12 between 17-24 March. They had a wonderful week with their partners, going to lessons with them or taking part in day trips or activities related to our Erasmus+ project, like a street art tour and workshop in East London or a Shakespearean treasure hunt in Stratford-upon-Avon. The highlight of the week was the Erasmus+ day, when 49 French students from our partner school in Rive-de-Gier came to join the AHS and Italian students for a whole day of activities about European art. It was brilliant to see students from different nationalities working collaboratively to learn about their artistic heritage. We are now looking forward to visiting our Italian friends in San Bonifacio next month!

You can follow the project on Twitter at @AhsErasmus and, if you would like to know more, please do not hesitate to get in touch: ebillon@ahs.bucks.sch.uk.

Miss Billon
Erasmus+ Coordinator



Home and Away

Business & Economics Conference

We started our trip with a tour of Paris. Our quirky tour guide showed us the Eiffel Tower, Louvre, Arc de Triomphe and Notre Dame. The next day we got up early and took a shuttle bus to Disneyland. After going on some extremely scary rides, we then went to the Business Live conference where we heard from several interesting business people. The Head of Marketing from Innocent drinks told us about their social media and brand identity. The finance director of Superdry talked through its rapid growth and flotation. Lastly we heard from the Head of UK Operations for Disney about their marketing campaigns, products and use of the media in targeting the UK market. The talks were very interesting as all the speakers told us their personal experiences with their jobs and work experience. We were able to ask many questions at the end which led on to a very intriguing discussion on Brexit.

Arushi Chhibar 11M & Aleyna Wilkinson 11H

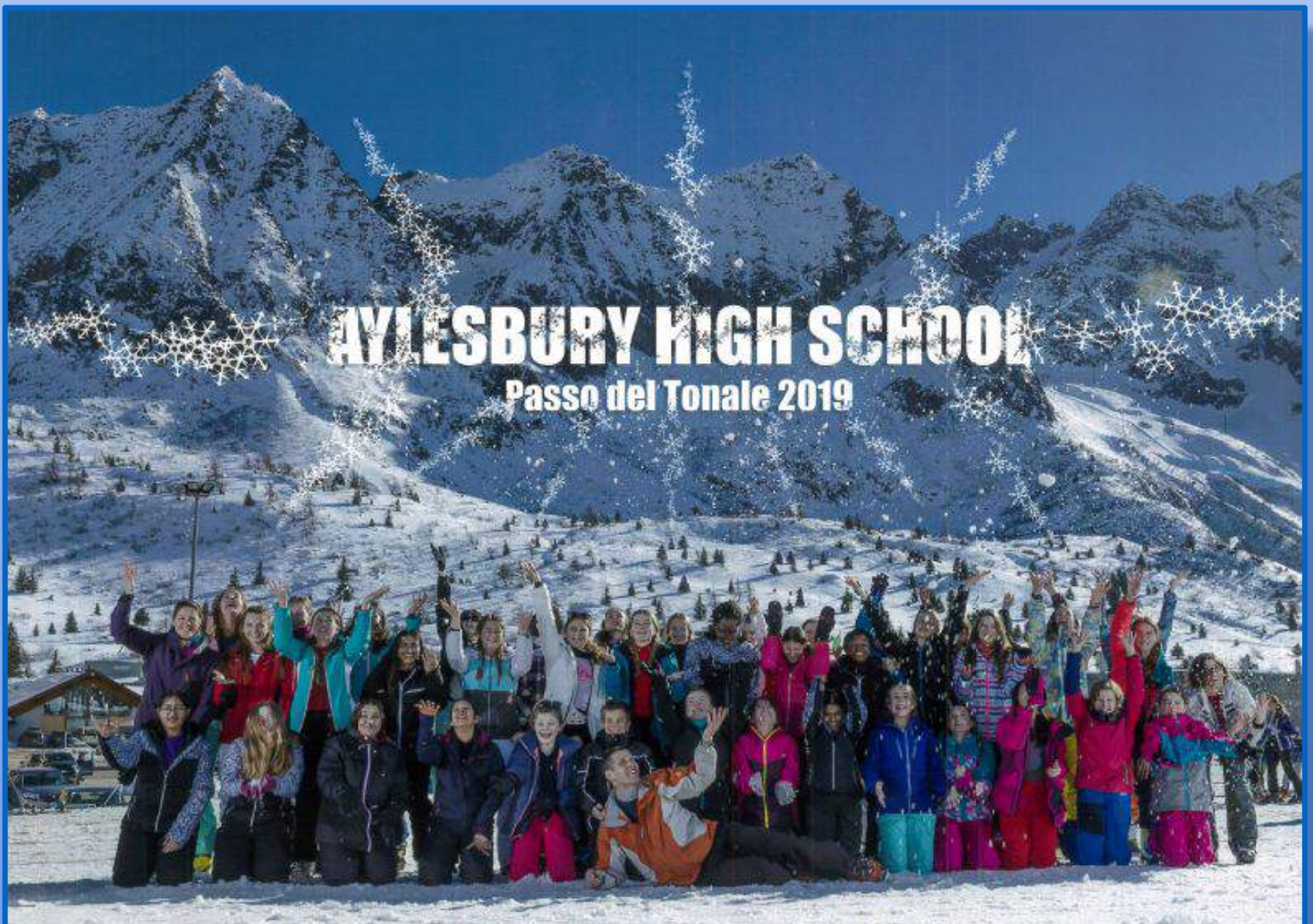


Home and Away

Passo del Tonale Ski Trip 2019

My experience of the February ski trip to Italy was probably one of the most exhilarating residentials I've been on. Of course skiing was the highlight and skiing with my friends made it more fun. Before each skiing lesson, my friends and I would talk about what the instructor had told us we would be doing that day such as night skiing or skiing through a forest. We would all be so nervous about the activity that just talking about it got us excited all over again. At the end of the day, after lessons and dinner, we would usually take part in an evening activity like ice skating outside which we did one night or going to a cafe across the street and having ice cream and hot chocolate. The ski trip was so much fun and I've made so many memories, I would definitely suggest others try it as it is like no other school trip.

Jasmine Grimes 10W



Home and Away

Business & Economics visit to Brussels

Early on a Thursday morning, 20 Business and Economics students travelled by Eurostar to Brussels, Belgium. On arrival we went straight to the National Bank of Belgium where we learnt all about the monetary policy, the benefits of the Euro and how to differentiate between fake and real bank notes, followed by some Irish dancing and burgers at the Hard Rock Cafe.

Next we had a tour around the Stella Artois factory, where we learned about the brewing process along with their distribution to the rest of the world. At the Coca Cola factory we found out about the production process and how Coca Cola grew from a small local drink being served locally to one of the most well known brands globally, along with how they use their packaging in a sustainable way. We also visited Antwerp's port and were impressed with its scale and logistical operations. No visit to Belgium would be complete without some chocolate and we enjoyed seeing and sampling at Chocolate Concepts.

Overall the trip was fun, and very educational, giving us students an enjoyable, first hand insight into what we have been learning about in our A Level specifications.

Niamh Tierney 12O



Home and Away

Tennis

In February I played at an U14 Category 3 Tennis Europe competition in Hannover, Germany. I only played one match (in the qualifying round) that I lost in three sets. It was a great experience to be a part of though, because I had just finished my first term of German and I was able to put to use some of my knowledge! I love to play abroad and the opportunity to go and play at that level in Germany was amazing. With lots to learn and improve on I want to thank the school for allowing me to go and play my tournament!

Amelie Brooks 7S



The Great Big School Clean

Well done to all the Year 7 and 8 students who litter picked in and around AHS last week! We also have brand new recycling bins for outside waste - so please make sure that recycling (and only recycling!) goes in the green bins!

The Eco Group and Mrs Queralt



House Drama 2019

Almost two months in the making and after many rehearsals, the night of House Drama arrived. All the pieces had been created from scratch by the captains, based on a variety of influential quotes by empowering women from Maya Angelou to Emma Watson. The captains developed ideas to create a script for their houses, ranging from the spread and effects of fake news to the impact of social media on young people. These pieces also showcased a variety of theatre with some houses choosing comedy while others focused on physical theatre. There were plenty of nerves on the night mixed with a buzz of excitement to present the results of all that hard work. The weeks of rehearsal and dedication by the cast ensured that the performances were carried out with great professionalism.

As a result of the tremendous hard work by both the captains and performers it was an extremely enjoyable night to celebrate AHS talent and creativity. Congratulations to Lara Hickman (Stowe) who received best performer and Grace McClean (Waddesdon) who also gave an outstanding performance, earning a StageCoach scholarship.

Thank you to Richard Chatterley, Rob Warner and Paige Fox-Rendle for giving up their time to judge the evening and for their great feedback. And finally, many congratulations to Missenden for placing 3rd, Waddesdon for placing 2nd and Stowe who won 1st place!

Emily Critchlow 12B



Belize 2019 Training Expedition

On 23 and 24 March, 19 Year 10s and 11s hiked in the Forest of Dean for a World Challenge training expedition to prepare for their trip to Belize in Central America this summer. The days were full of fun and laughter (don't mention the treacherous mud!) and it was a true team-bonding experience.

The scenery was beautiful, and the first 18 km walk ended with us crossing a wobbly bridge over the River Wye, with our cabin on the other side. In the evening we all sat at the table, laughed and reflected on our adventurous day. On Sunday, we were up early with anticipation and set out for another 14 km of walking. After Sophie's birthday breakfast, we started the day hiking up a steep hill, which in return was rewarding: the views were spectacular and we even saw peregrine falcons.

This expedition taught us leadership skills (as we took turns in guiding the rest of the group) and communication skills, which improved our ability to work as a team. These are transferable skills which we have taken away and will use both on the expedition and in school.

Maiurie Rasakulasuriar 10W



Joint Concert

Choral and Orchestral Concert

Last Friday the AHS and AGS Music departments joined forces to put on a joint concert. We heard from many shared societies, ensembles and orchestras and even the church bats came out to join in with the festivities! The amazing acoustics of the church ensured a thoroughly enjoyable evening and it was lovely to see the year groups mixing together to put on such a variety of entertainment. For our 60th year we were also pleased to welcome back one of our alumna, Freya Firth-Robson, who sang a beautiful duet with Beth Lewin in Year 12.

Mrs Wilkes



Curriculum

House Art 2019

This year the House Art theme was Inspirational Women with our challenge being to create a portrait of our chosen artist. We were tasked to study their style and media and create some research to go along with our piece. Many artists were picked from Mary Quant, Zaha Hadid, Nancy Wait to using the students as the inspiration themselves. We were asked to involve as many of the younger years as possible as House Art is a group project.

As Missenden, we chose to do base our piece on Zaha Hadid, an innovative architect with modern designs. Being the first woman to win the Pritzker Architecture prize and receiving the Stirling Award we felt her a perfect role model to base our art upon. We asked the rest of our house to input pieces in her style and based around her architectural work, with a plan to create a collage of their pieces to form her silhouette. We were overwhelmed with the enthusiasm and number of pieces contributed from our house as well as the high level of ability.

Other houses had creative ideas such as pieces positioned around a mirror and using broken glass over their pieces in the style of their artist. All of the pieces had their own individual style and represented their chosen inspirational artist very well. It was a very close competition and all the houses made amazing contributions. The final result was that Ascott and Hughenden came joint 3rd with Waddesdon in 2nd and Missenden in 1st. Well done to all of the houses - everyone's work was brilliant.

Hannah Wright & Fiona Bryce 12H



Curriculum

On Friday 15 March, students in KS4 and the Sixth Form had the pleasure of welcoming Baroness Emma Pidding into AHS to give a talk about the role of the House of Lords as part of the House of Lords outreach programme.

It was an engaging lunch well spent as she also explained how she became a Peer. Students were additionally given the chance to ask her some intriguing questions. These ranged from what the House of Lords could do in order to help stimulate a healing of societal divisions caused by Brexit to whether the actions of striking students in protest to the government's policy on climate change were in vain.

Overall, the visit was a fantastic addition to our engagement with the world outside the 'AHS bubble' - especially as the UK enters such curious and uncharted waters politically.

Laila Shah 12M



Curriculum



AHS Geographers explore Aylesbury

On 5 March Year 12 Geographers ventured out into Aylesbury to investigate their 'local place', for our topic Changing Places. The day provided a valuable insight into the impacts of the changes that are taking place within the town centre and the external influences that are driving the regeneration of the Market Town.

The day started with a talk from a town planner who works for Aylesbury Vale District Council. We learnt about the complexities of her job and how difficult it is to get all members of the community on board with new planning projects; for example, many local residents were against the building of the Travelodge Hotel and Waitrose by the Waterside theatre.

We then went out into Aylesbury collecting primary data such as environmental quality surveys to assess the quality of the built environment of Aylesbury, as well as speak to local people to see how the lived experience of residents, visitors and workers has changed over time.

It was great to see that there are many different place identities associated with Aylesbury, and there was even time for an ice cream and a selfie with Bowie!

The Geography Ambassadors

Curriculum

AHS Computing Department Introduces the Duke Of York Inspiring Digital Enterprise Award

As well as the outstanding success that our students have had exploring the countryside with the Duke Of Edinburgh Award Scheme, they now also have the opportunity to challenge themselves in the digital world. Known as the iDEA award, our students are able to explore four key topics of the wider digital environment: Citizen, Worker, Maker and Entrepreneur. This new industry-recognised award program enables students to achieve Bronze, Silver and Gold awards, with a certificate sent from the Palace to your door.

Well done to the following students who have already achieved their Bronze Award:

Ceri Marshall, Maryam Seraj, Alexandra Lambert and Emma Harrington and a special congratulations to Molly Grist who has also achieved her Silver Award.

We will offer time in class for all students from Years 7 to 9 to undertake some of these skills, and will always offer support if your daughter needs any help. However, these tasks can be undertaken at home on a Chromebook or personal computer.

If parents would like to support their daughters in taking part in this challenge at home, you can do so by logging in or signing up at <https://idea.org.uk>.

Students under 13 years of age will require parental consent when signing up for the programme.



Curriculum

Visit to Gresham College Lecture

As a way to gain wider knowledge about our A-level courses outside of the classroom, the year 12 Economics and Business students were given the opportunity to attend a lecture presented by Gresham College in London.

The lecture was titled “The Stewardship Role of Investors” and it explained the concept of shareholders and their role in influencing the behaviour of a business and its directors to add long term value. It covered their financing, examples of success stories and developing corporate objectives and strategy.

Overall, the lecture was very beneficial and informative and we all enjoyed ourselves while learning a lot.

Ishi Prematillake 12B



Squash

2018/19 National Schools Squash Championships

The National Schools Championships, which run from September to April, provide all schools, whatever their standard, a chance to play competitive squash.

The AHS KS5 Team played in the National Finals in Nottingham and came 6th in the country, which was a one place improvement on their seed. A tremendous end to the week for the Squash girls after the KS3 team achieved a fantastic 4th place on Wednesday!

Special mention should go to Hannah Mathews who competed in the U16 Basketball 105-27 win in Wolverhampton on Tuesday, then represented both the KS3 and KS5 team at the National Squash Finals in Nottingham - a very busy and successful week.

Huge thanks to Coach Darren Withey and our parent helpers for supporting the girls in their journey to the National Championships.

Mrs Arber



Athletics

England Athletics Indoor Championships

Congratulations to two of our students who achieved amazing results in Sheffield last month. Emilia received National Competition Gold for the 300m U15 Girls with a new UK best time of under 40 seconds and Mary attained a personal best of 9.97 seconds in the U15 Girls 60m hurdles thereby reaching her end of next year target of under ten seconds a year early.

Mrs Arber



Cricket

Lady Taverners' Cricket

On 14 March we played the county finals of the Lady Taverners' Under-15 Cricket tournament at St. Thomas Freemantle School. To get to the finals we had won our group at the South Bucks tournament earlier in February. At the finals we beat Thornton College and St. Thomas Freemantle on our way to reaching the deciding game against Dr Challoner's. This was a gripping match, but unfortunately we came up just short of their total of 108 runs.

The team of 9 girls: Hannah, Jade, Gracie, Daisy, Poppy, Isabella, Georgie, Elena and Hattie really enjoyed the day and played superbly as a team. Thank you to Mr Phillips and Mrs Jackson for organising and running the trip - we hope to be back next year and to make it the regionals!

Gracie Brown 10A & Jade Williams 10S



Handball

On 5 March the AHS handball team went to Stoke Mandeville to compete at county level, in the hope of reaching the regional round. Seven other schools met in the hall where previous handball players and the organisers explained the tournament and went over the rules. We went through a warm up led by Mr Boersma, and made sure our goalie, Yi-Tong, was ready to save goal after goal, as she usually does. As a team, we had two main schools we aimed to beat. We were given positions, and throughout the day some positions were swapped and different players worked well in different positions; this is something we are still discovering and working out which position is to our strengths. Lucy had a sheet recording goals, and almost every player made the sheet!

We began playing St Michael's who provided good competition, however after thorough team talks from Miss Hunter and Mr Boersma, we won the game. In fact, the team continued to win every match we played, despite our concern that SWBGS or The Royal Latin might beat us. Our success was due to the support from our coaches, making sure we kept our arms up and had a tight defense, as well as attempting a tactical attack.

The day was an exciting experience for students who are taking handball as a GCSE sport, as well as students who came to represent our school, and the result of making it to the regional round is an even more exciting prospect for the team. We hope to train hard during the lead up to Regionals, and hopefully win a few more matches! With our gold medals around our necks, the team thanked the leaders and took a team selfie with Miss Hunter, to whom we are grateful for organising the event, and look forward to some more play to blow her away.

Mia Boersma 10C



Cross Country

The Year 7 National Schools' Cross Country Championships, organised by England Athletics, took place on Saturday 23 March at Prestwold Hall, Leicestershire.

The event saw young athletes and clubs battling it out to be crowned champions of their county. Huge congratulations to Year 7, Payton, who came 58th out of 216 with a personal best - and to the Bucks team who came first overall!

Mrs Arber



Basketball



U19 WOMEN'S NATIONAL FINAL Charnwood v Aylesbury

For the six Year 13 students and their parents, it was an emotional return to the National Basketball Performance Centre in Manchester, with Ella, Morgan, Natalia, Chloe, Mollie and Ciara playing in their last game for the school. They were supported by our next conveyor belt of basketball talent in Grace, Ella R, Isobel, Macy and Onye.



The girls gave their all in the first quarter but Charnwood managed to stretch the score to 19-6 with three minutes to go. The second quarter saw Aylesbury start strongly and kept Charnwood scoreless for the first seven minutes but the basketball academy girls fought back to go into the break with a 12 point lead. By the end of a very strong third quarter from Charnwood the scoreline read 61 - 35. Aylesbury gave a fantastic performance and continued to fight with the final score ending the game on 74-60.

Our girls achieved an honourable second place in the National Finals to go alongside their three National titles. A great record and all the girls should be so proud of leaving their shirt in a better place!

Farewell, thank you and good luck to numbers 6, 8, 11, 12, 22 and 23!

Mrs Arber

