

# Highlights

Summer 2019



## *Variety is the spice of life!*

As this edition of *Highlights* confirms, students have been engaged in all sorts of activities in the last few weeks, whether competitive or recreational, physical or cerebral, global or local, creative or scientific or environmental.

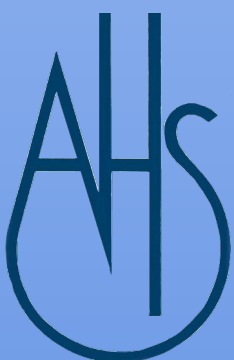
In the competitive/physical/away categories, it's fantastic and humbling to be able to report on yet another national title; as one of about 3000 secondary schools, coming top in anything is quite amazing.

Years 11 and 13 have now gone on study leave and public exams are underway in earnest - thanks to both groups for their imaginative and entertaining last days and our best wishes for the next few weeks.

Meanwhile, teachers and classes are just about to move out to make way for the builders to start transforming ten 1959 classrooms in the Tower Block - the learning environment should be much improved in September.

I hope everyone has a really good break next week.

**Alan Rosen**



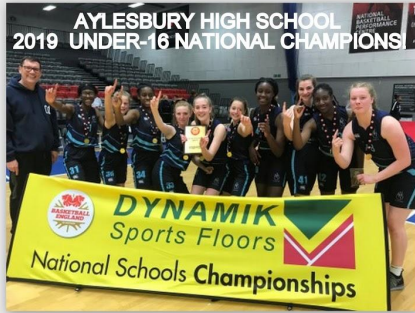
## Aylesbury High School

Prepare, Challenge & Inspire

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# Congratulations to ...



## U16 Basketball National Champions!

After progressing to the finals of the schools championships, AHS took on Reddish Vale in a nail-biting fight to win the title! In the first quarter Reddish very quickly asserted their dominance and were ahead 49-31 by half time. After the break AHS knew they had work to do and managed to reduce the arrears to 10 as the teams went into the last quarter. The final quarter had plenty of drama with AHS playing hard, eventually taking the lead. Up by 3, as the clock went into the final few seconds Reddish Vale hit a very deep 3 to tie the game and the buzzer sent the game into overtime.

Grace Ashton thoroughly deserved her Most Valued Player award, not least during the extra period. Her timely baskets gave AHS a lead they wouldn't relinquish as the game finished 99-98! What a game! Huge congratulations and many thanks to Mrs Arber, Coach Jenner and our very supportive parents!

**Mr Rosen**

## STAAR Programme

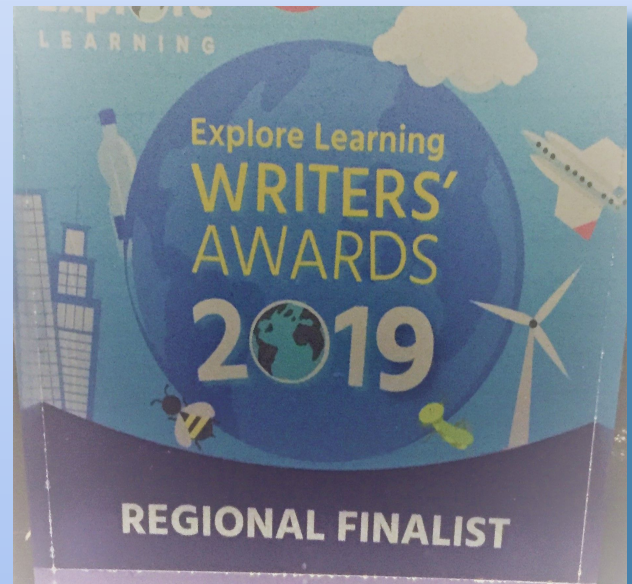
I have applied and been accepted for the STAAR programme, a 4-day aerospace residency designed for Year 10 students based at RAF Cosford. The programme will be looking at advanced aerospace systems and address how the need for solutions to achieve an air mission shapes the way engineers and scientists design aerospace systems. I applied to the programme as I am interested in aerospace engineering, and hope to pursue it as a future career. I thought it would be a useful and interesting experience, and I look forward to going on the residential in late July.

**Jessica Duodu 10M**

# Congratulations to ...

Well done to **The English Department**, who were retweeted by Lavinia Greenlaw. Year 7 are using her adaptation of Troilus and Criseyde and had been doing some innovative carousel analysis. Lavinia described the activity as "*The best thing anyone's done with a book of mine. So sharp.*" Great feedback!

Congratulations also to Haniya in 7W who is a regional finalist in the Explore Learning Writers' Awards.  
**Mrs Queralt**



**AHS Computing Department** continues to inspire learners with the Duke Of York Inspiring Digital Enterprise Award. The iDEA award, where our students are able to explore four key topics of the wider digital environment: Citizen, Worker, Maker and Entrepreneur, has generated great interest in participating students.

We are proud to celebrate the success of some of the first students to gain the Silver awards. The following students have received a certificate sent either from Buckingham Palace or Windsor Castle. Well done to Anaya Goodman, Sahithi Vallabhaneni, Jasmine Kendall and Emily Joyce.  
**Mrs Jaggs**



# Congratulations to ...

## AHS pupils inspired by Anthony Nolan to help save lives

A record breaking 113 sixth form students were inspired by Anthony Nolan, a charity that helps to save the lives of people with blood cancer or blood disorders, to register for stem cell donations as part of their 'Hero Project'.

Every day, the charity matches incredible individuals who are willing to donate their stem cells or bone marrow to people who desperately need transplants to save their life.

It is good news that 69% of Northern European stem cell transplant recipients receive the best possible match, however that falls to 20% for patients of a black, Asian or ethnic minority background as there are not enough people from ethnic minority groups on the register. But the Anthony Nolan trust are working hard to combat this.

When asked how they felt about entering their names on the stem cells donor register, the most common answer from AHS pupils was, "it's a great feeling to know that we can help save the life of someone who may not even be related to us and it's amazing that it takes no more than 5 minutes to register to save someone's life".

If you are interested or know someone who would be willing to sign up and save a life, please visit the Anthony Nolan website at [www.anthonynolan.org](http://www.anthonynolan.org)

## Umme Alam 12O



# Congratulations to ...

## The Mayor's Inauguration

Well done to Ellie Haywood and Maurie Rasakulasuriar who both performed at Aylesbury College for the annual Mayor's Inauguration Ceremony on Friday 17 May. They played beautifully on classical guitar, flute and Indian flute.

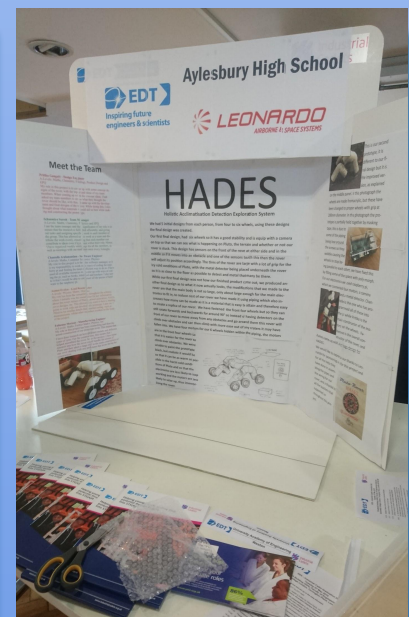
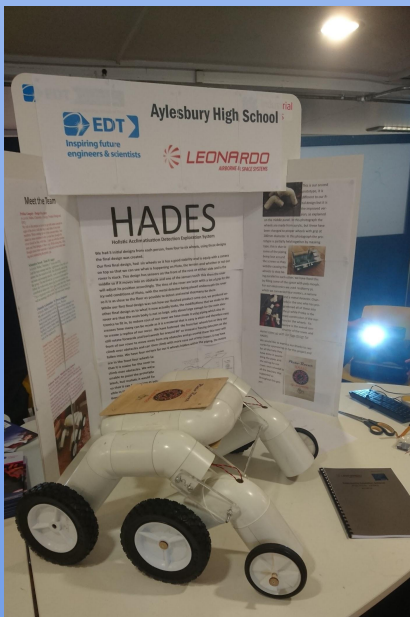
**Mrs Raven**



## The 'Pluto Rover'

Year 12 Technology students, Pritika, Schuamiya, Chantelle, Aumni and Fabienne, presented at UCL last week. The students were very organised and brought all the necessary equipment. They had to present to a panel of judges and were then interviewed in front of their stand. We haven't yet heard the final results, but all of the students have been entered for a Gold Crest Award for their achievement. Congratulations to them all.

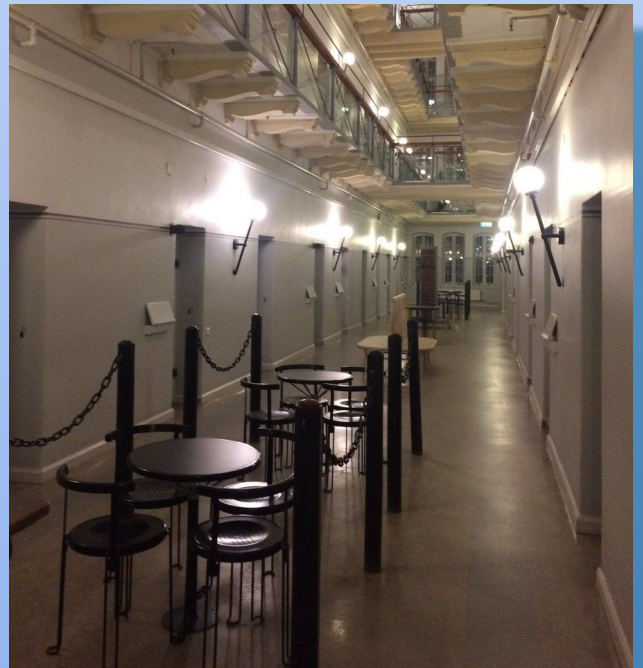
## Mr Potkin



# Home and Away

## Year 9 and 10 Swedish Exchange

We have just bid farewell to 26 Swedish students who we've enjoyed hosting this week. They loved experiencing British traditions such as rounders, clotted cream, punting and fish and chips! Back in April we were lucky enough to stay with them in Granna, where we learnt how to make Swedish delicacies, explored the island of Vissingo and performed as extra members of ABBA while staying in an old prison in Stockholm. Current Year 8 students, look out for information about next year's exchange - details coming in September. **Mrs Queralt**



# Home and Away

## Year 7 Climate Change Talks With David Liddington MP

On Friday 10 May, a group of Year 7s went to see David Liddington MP in his constituency office in central Aylesbury. We took with us 60 letters addressed to him from across Year 7, along with a huge number of posters presenting our suggested solutions to this big issue.

In our interview with Mr Liddington we discussed many of the things that we could do in our own lives as well as actions we can take as a nation to address climate change. I think we could definitely say he was impressed with our work! The posters and the letters we left with him had lots of great ideas that we hope he will take into consideration and he made a few suggestions about things we could do to reduce the carbon emissions of the school. Of course, the Green Flag Eco group is working on many of these ideas already.

David Liddington is very busy being Theresa May's deputy currently so we really appreciated him arranging some time to talk to us. The interview set us thinking about what politicians can and can't do and how we can all put more effort in. Overall, it was a great experience and the group really enjoyed it!

**Harsaa Vijayakumar 7H**



# Home and Away

## Green Flag Eco Group

The Eco group are continuing to work hard to make AHS a greener place to be. After their fantastic efforts last term with litter, they are currently on a mission to get everyone to sort their waste and to make the best use of the general waste and recycling bins we now have around the school.

It only takes a few seconds to ensure that you are using the correct bin - and it's tiny steps like these that can all add up when it comes to climate change. See below for a clear guide to what goes in which bin in Aylesbury Vale.

Although crisp packets can't be put in the normal recycling bins, we now have a specialist collection point for crisp packets in Reception, which is being very well used - thank you - and keep it up!

Mrs Queralt

## YES PLEASE! RECYCLE THESE

Items go in loose, not bagged. Wash and squash cartons, plastics and cans; flatten cardboard to get more in your bin.



Plastic bottles (lids off), tubs, pots and trays



Tins, cans and aerosols



Newspapers, magazines and shredded paper



Paper, envelopes and phone directories



Milk, juice and soup cartons



Glass bottles and jars (lids off)



Foil, clean and scrunched up



Cardboard, greeting cards and wrapping paper (without foil or glitter)

## ✗ Items that **DON'T** recycle include...

- ✗ Plastic plant pots or toys
- ✗ Sharps/needles
- ✗ Plastic foil or glitter
- ✗ Containers for engine oil or paint
- ✗ Pet bedding or litter
- ✗ DIY items - MDF/Man made wood
- ✗ Nappies
- ✗ Carrier bags
- ✗ Broken glass or china
- ✗ Polystyrene eg food trays or cups
- ✗ Textiles and bedding



# Home and Away

## Erasmus+ Italian Exchange

On 28 April, students from Year 10 and 12 participated in the second part of the Italian exchange, staying with our host families in San Bonifacio with students from the Liceo Statale Guarino Veronese. Over the course of the week, we visited Verona, Sirmione and Lake Garda and Venice. Friendships were quickly rekindled as we re-joined our exchanges and students were quick to settle in to their respective homes for the week. Our first day was spent at Soave, visiting the beautiful world-renowned Rocca Sveva vineyard estate.

The next day, we departed for Verona, the city setting of Romeo and Juliet. Everyone engaged in producing costumes and table mats using stamps and Lino printing for the play at the Verona Fine Arts Academy, working with the art students to decorate Romeo's "Juliet 4 Evs" tunic and Juliet's "Death to Love" dress (while Dr Falls and Miss Billon competed for best artist - we'll let you guess who won). During the course of the week, the talented students from the Liceo also performed "Twelfth Night" in Italian for us to watch; their amazing talent for acting, singing and slapstick more than made up for the language barrier.

We also visited Lake Garda and Venice, where we saw the Bridge of Sighs, the Grand Canal, and more gondolas than you can imagine. Despite the rain returning once again to remind us of home, Venice remained beautiful. Unfortunately the end of our week came around too soon, and saying goodbye to our exchanges on the last day was definitely the lowest point of the trip. Many of us will be staying in contact with our exchanges and we hope to possibly meet up in the future - if only for the ice creams!

**Emily Reynolds 12H & Maddie Pearce 12O**



# Home and Away

## Duke of Edinburgh training weekend

Immediately after school, we headed down to the Sixth Form Study Centre with excitement and anticipation. After getting dressed, a quick breakdown of the itinerary and putting up tents (in the howling wind) we trundled down to Tesco to buy meals and snacks for the week. All of us were surprised about how much food you can get for £20! We then cooked super noodles on the Trangias and then tried to sleep, which was difficult due to the cold weather - but we made it through the night!

6 AM! The sun was blazing, birds shrieking and teachers calling to get up and make breakfast. After the struggle of getting out of our sleeping bags and making our way to the bathrooms to wash up as best we could, breakfast was a relief. That hot chocolate was perhaps the best I've ever tasted.

Following a training walk with members of staff on Saturday, Sunday saw us having to walk on our own and rely on our navigation skills. We did get lost once, but quickly found our way back!

Once we had arrived at our destination we were greeted by our school bags, parents and were allowed to eat our emergency rations - I had been looking forward to that Wispa bar all weekend!

Although it was raining and windy, it was still an unforgettable weekend - we had learned many useful skills and had a real sense of achievement at all we had managed to accomplish.

**Martha Godivala 10S, Aliza Ali 10H and Maha Liaqat 10A**



# Home and Away

## Year 7 trip to Calais & Boulogne

On 10 May half of Year 7 went on a trip to France. To get there we had to take a ferry from Dover to Calais, which was very exciting. The view of Dover from the ferry was amazing as you could see the beautiful snow-white chalk cliffs stretching across the coast.

On the first day we went for a short walk around Calais and learned about its fascinating history, before heading to the beach to eat our lunch. The beach was enormous and extremely beautiful, with soft golden sand and calm sea that was as blue as the sky on a sunny day. It was very windy but nobody cared as everyone was having so much fun!

Later on we went to a bakery where we learned how to make croissants and bread. It was so much fun and we learned a lot about the bakery and how to say the ingredients in French. Afterwards we all got a croissant and a pain au chocolat which were incredibly delicious. We also visited a lace museum where we learned about the history of lace.

The next day, in Boulogne, we went to the market to face the challenge of speaking in French. With a 25 euro budget, we had to speak entirely in French so that the people at the market would understand us. Soon, after managing to buy food, we walked to eat outside the aquarium. There were many different sea creatures to see in the aquarium and we also got to touch stingrays. We looked at sharks, fish, crocodiles, penguins and lots more. But when we had seen everything in the aquarium, it was time to say goodbye to France, before starting our long journey back home.

**Bethan Colclough-Moss 7S, Natasha Arukgoda 7W and Nicole Orimoloye 7H**



# Sport

## Triathlon Activator Training

On 1 May 14 pupils from Years 9 and 10 took part in a British Triathlon Activator course. Jon Cowell, who is a British Triathlon coach and an Ironman world champion, came in to talk to us and to provide us with the skills, confidence and knowledge to be able to lead triathlon-based activities. We talked about health and safety, watched inspirational videos of the top triathletes and planned and took part in bike, running and transition sessions.

I really enjoyed taking part in the course and I'd definitely do it again. Throughout the day we learned so many new things and I especially had fun planning and carrying out an activity on the running aspect of triathlon. We gained skills like organising, communication and to never give up. The inspiring videos taught us to always keep pursuing your dreams and let nothing get in your way and if you're feeling down at any point, don't worry because family and friends will always have your back and will support you no matter what.

**Dejannae Shelukindo 9W**



Coach, Jon Cowell, was really impressed with our trainees: 'Thank you for another excellent day working with your students at AHS. Once again, your Activators were exceptional in their contributions throughout the day and produced some of the best – and most imaginative – practical sessions in the afternoon. It is also worth noting that I thought their participation in the practical sessions was outstanding.' Well done! **Mrs Carey**

# Sport

## Bucks School Games Triathlon

On Friday 17 May, a number of Year 9 and 10 sports leaders assisted in running the second ever Bucks School Games Triathlon. It was a great way to gain experience in both timekeeping and interacting with other students, as well as increasing our confidence not only on poolside but also on track.

Prior to the event, we received a training day by British Triathlon, lead by Jon Cowell, a record breaking triathlete, who helped us understand how best to approach the event. It gave us a real sense of achievement after the triathlon to know that we had successfully coordinated the event. The appreciation that the members from Leap gave us, made us happy to have helped and taken part.

Overall, it was an experience that will definitely benefit us in the future and thank you to all the teaching staff that helped during the event.

**Emma Clarke and Katie Hartmann 10H**



# Sport

## Cricket

On Thursday 2 May, our U15 cricket team took part in our first ever hard ball cricket match hosted by Bradfield College with Dr Challoners and Godolphin and Latymer. Despite the rain, it was a great day, with most of the team getting a wicket and some amazing batting from Hannah, our inspirational captain, who got over 60 runs!

Sophie's excellent run for the ball also stood out - but gravity threw her off the side of the pitch and down the extremely brambly slope (twice)! We were also very impressed with her amazing accidental splits!

There were some excellent wickets from catches by Jo (bowled by Isabella ), Hannah (bowled by Mya) and Katherine (bowled by Hattie), one LBW (Ellen) and bowls (Elena, Jo, Hattie, Hannah, Ellen.) Inaya, our youngest player, batted against girls 3 years older than her! We can't forget our sensational wikis, Georgie and Isabella, blocking (almost) every ball. And last but not least our all-rounder Jessie with stopping fours and some precise bowling.

None of this would have been possible without our lovely teachers Mrs Jackson and Mr Phillips (who used girls' coats to keep his shoes looking pristine!) and we are very grateful to them for giving up their time for us. Our team may have returned with some bumps and bruises but I think we can all say we were proud of our achievements.

## Hattie Foden-Ellis 8C

