

Highlights

Autumn 2 2019



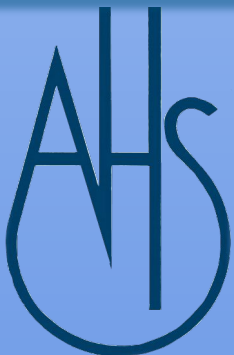
Having completed my first term, I can honestly say that it has been the most enjoyable and exhausting term so far in my career.

I use the term 'STEAM agenda' to highlight my desire to ensure the Creative Arts are not squeezed out of an academic girls' grammar and in my last 'Highlights' I was going to House Dance that evening. I can now report that this was a vintage year with incredible talent and leadership shown by all the students (and staff) that enable this to happen. Claydon pipped Stowe to 1st place, ending their 2-year domination. I think Stowe will want the trophy back next year, but the other 5 Houses will be equally determined.

Last week I also witnessed the best of the Music Department at the Christmas Concert. This showcased our students' talents and our community links with Harding House, whose students also took part. A really special night with the audience clapping along to the beat and Ms Raven 'rocking it' on the drums (as a stand-in due to illness).

The co-curricular trips continue to offer enrichment and this term has seen Modern Foreign Languages (MFL) trips to Europe, a Physics trip to CERN, a Geography trip to the Jurassic coast and local D of E practice expeditions in Waddesdon and Missenden (whatever the weather). There have also been launches of World Challenge (WCE) to Swaziland 2021, a Performing Arts trip to India 2020, as well as the theatre and other trips mentioned in this magazine. I am off to St Mary's tonight to the Carol Concert. Aylesbury High School truly is Academic, Holistic and a Safe and Inclusive place. Enjoy the well-earned Christmas break.

Giles Scoble



Aylesbury High School
Prepare, Challenge & Inspire

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Congratulations to ...

...the 174 students who completed their **Duke of Edinburgh's Awards** this term! In the case of Year 11, three quarters of the year group, an impressive 138 students, achieved their Bronze award, and in Year 12, 34 students achieved their Silver award. This makes AHS the top school in the South East for both the number of students who start D of E and the number of students who then go on to complete and achieve their awards. It is very easy to start the award, but not so easy to get it all finished, particularly when doing it in the midst of GCSE work. To achieve it, they must complete four sections: physical, volunteering, skills and the expedition. AHS students have done everything from being a scout leader to volunteering at a pig sanctuary, from baking to learning Korean, and from cricket to taekwondo. For some, the expedition section is the highlight, but for others the greatest hurdle, as they must independently navigate around the countryside, carrying all their equipment and food, and camp overnight.

All in all, completing the award gives students a great sense of achievement and allows them to take up and get recognition for many new skills that they would never achieve in the classroom. Even more importantly, they make lasting memories and have a lot of fun whilst doing it. AHS staff give up a huge amount of time helping to run expeditions and acting as assessors across the four sections. We also know how important parents' support and encouragement is to girls completing the award, so I would like to take this opportunity to thank parents and staff. Congratulations also go to Ella Chandler and Loulou Cottam who are the first Year 13s of the year to achieve their Gold Award. We look forward to hearing about their award celebration at St James' Palace soon! **Miss Sheppard**



Community Christmas Party



On Monday 9 December, we welcomed 70 local guests to our annual Christmas Party. We entertained our guests with selections from our student talent show, held a quiz, ate lots of party food and also sang some carols. The highlight was a visit from Santa with gifts! We really enjoyed hosting our guests this year and all left feeling very festive. Well done to all the Year 12 students who led the event so brilliantly.

Mrs Jarrett



Fundraising Week



Well done to everyone involved in our Fundraising Week, raising over £2000 for The Teenage Cancer Trust and The MS Society. We've had fantastic performances from staff in our panto and staff karaoke and we have been wowed by our talented students in the A Factor. Thank you to all who performed and to our Year 12 students for leading it. Photo credit to Monisha Tharigoppula.



Christmas Concerts

We have been treated to some wonderful music this Christmas at both our Christmas concert at AHS and our carol service at St Mary's. Huge thanks to all of our music teachers, student leaders and musicians for giving us such a festive end of term!



House Quidditch

We had some amazing witches battling it out to win the House Quidditch Cup this year. This year's final between Missenclaw and Stoweryn was close until Missenclaw's seeker caught the golden snitch. Well done Missenclaw!

Mr

Braniff



Year 11 Geography Field Trip

On Friday, 8 November, the Year 11 geographers headed to Boscombe and completed the Human side of our fieldwork. An example of the fieldwork we carried out was the environmental quality survey, based on the abundance of graffiti, litter, vandalism and building quality, in different 100m by 100m areas. The idea was to show how the regeneration, which was centred mainly around the seafront and the places closest to the beach, had an impact on the whole surrounding town. We also completed a survey in the area, talking to shoppers about their views on different areas of the high street.



Saturday was spent in Swanage assessing the success of the new coastal defences which have been created within the bay. This involved taking measurements from uprights on either side of each groyne - and getting thoroughly soaked through in the process! Later in the day, when we had dried out, we walked along the beach at Studland and learnt about the sand dunes there. One of the many highlights of the trip was seeing Durdle Door on the Sunday; the weather allowed us to have stunning views of the arch and also a lovely time on the beach.

German Trip to Berlin

The A level German Berlin trip this year had so many highlights. Even though it was only four days in the capital, the amount we experienced could have lasted us a fortnight. No one can say that we didn't make proper use of the time we had in Berlin! Even though the days were long, the experience was invaluable. It was unlike any other trips to Germany that I've done with school. We went with 8 boys from AGS, and by the end we were all a tight knit group, even though I hadn't met half the people on the trip before in my life.

Now, I definitely feel more confident speaking to people in German, as we all did a presentation on a landmark whilst there. Berlin is overflowing with history, you can quite literally stumble over it in the streets thanks to the Stolperstein (or tripping stones, commemorating victims of the Nazis). The museums were brilliant, with tons of knowledge for us to try and absorb, however I believe the best highlight of the trip was Amplemann. Amplemann is the man on traffic lights telling people when to cross. A certain design was used by East Berlin and when the West took over they requested that Amplemann was left alone. We have since had an Amplemann day where we wore all our Amplemänner badges and T-shirts to school.

We all had a brilliant time in Berlin and owe the teachers who ran it, a big thank you. Lots of us hope to go back one day to explore much more of the rich history surrounding the city.

Sophie Stewart 13M



German Christmas Markets

Last week, 45 girls and 4 teachers travelled across France, Belgium and Germany to experience culture, taste food and do some Christmas shopping. After an 11 hour coach journey, we finally arrived, dragging our suitcases to our hotel Bergschlößchen in Boppard, Germany.

On Thursday, we took a pleasant walk along the river Rhine into the main square of Boppard to explore. Later, we drove to Trier to look around and shop at the Christmas markets. The next day, we travelled to Cologne (Köln) where we shopped around bustling stalls, had a tour of the chocolate museum and enjoyed some delicious ice cream.

On Saturday, we had a tour of Marksburg castle which included a torture chamber that brought a grinch-like smile to Mr Baird's face. We later visited a music museum and even more Christmas markets in Rudesheim before heading back to the hotel. On our final night, winners were announced for competitions including worst postcard and tackiest hat, as well as a talent show that lacked much talent. Overall, it was an enjoyable experience that we won't be forgetting - and we are very grateful to Mr Baird for organising this great experience.

Raahi Patel, Aadya Dube, Amitha Anilkumar, Jessie Parnell 9M



Drama

Year 7 trip to The Lion King

We all really enjoyed this superb performance! It has amazing physical theatre and phenomenal acting which takes this Disney classic to a whole new level. It is astounding to see the colourfulness and brightness of the show and the battle of good vs evil kept us on the edge of our seats.

We were gripped from the start with the spectacular opening song 'Circle of Life' with African drums and the orchestra playing. As the elephants marched, the birds swooped and sung, the leopard pounced and the antelope bounced from side to side through the auditorium to the front of the stage.

Over all I really enjoyed my experience going to the Lyceum - especially the spectacular and grand costumes and how the actors used them to portray their roles and the lively songs. Do go and see this if you haven't already!

Bella Burnett 7W



Dance

IDO World Championships

Last week I went to the IDO World Championships in Germany where I represented Team GB. It was an amazing experience and opened my eyes to a new level of dance. In the run up to the competition we trained loads and had to learn new dances very quickly. One of the most exciting moments was when the team and I were given our Team GB tracksuits during a Sunday rehearsal.

During the week in Germany I completed my solo on Monday which was very nerve wracking since the arena was huge and I had never been on a stage that big before by myself. A couple of the Team GB dancers got through to the semi-finals, which is a massive achievement, as we were not expecting to get a next round. We were against such talented dancers and I was grateful just to participate - it is an experience that will stay with me forever.

Lily Pike 10M



DT

It has been a very busy month in Design and Technology. We have had Technology House competitions for Years 7, 8 and 9. The Years 7 and 9 teams of four were required to build the tallest cantilevered structure spanning a gap. It was a tense time building and constructing but in the end Missenden won in Year 7 and Stowe came first in Year 9.

Year 8 House Technology was won by Ascott house and along with the Years 7 and 9 winners will go on to represent AHS at the Aylesbury Hundreds Rotary Club Technology Tournament next February.

Mr Potkin has entered around 100 students from his current Years 7 and 9 classes into the BP Ultimate STEAM competition. This year the theme is Wearable Technology. In groups of 4 students they prepared a presentation and designed a new piece of technology. There are some very innovative designs ranging from virtual reality contact lenses to GPS trackers built into trainers for young children. The winning team will be invited to the BP Upstream Learning Centre in Sunbury where they will be able to see the latest technologies in development, win prizes and work with material scientists and engineers to build their own designs turned into a working prototype.

A team of 6 Year 12 students have been working with mentors from the company Leonardo Selex in producing a Raspberry Pi-controlled landmine-detecting vehicle. They will be attending a workshop at UCL in January to start building their machine.

The F24 racing team is using the winter season to raise sponsorship, successfully bringing on board Fronius, RS Design and Technology Services and have given a presentation to the Rotary (Hundreds) Club of Aylesbury who are very keen to get involved. Designs have been completed and production of the new car has begun - we are hoping to put the car on the track for the new race season.

Mr Potkin & Mr Cook

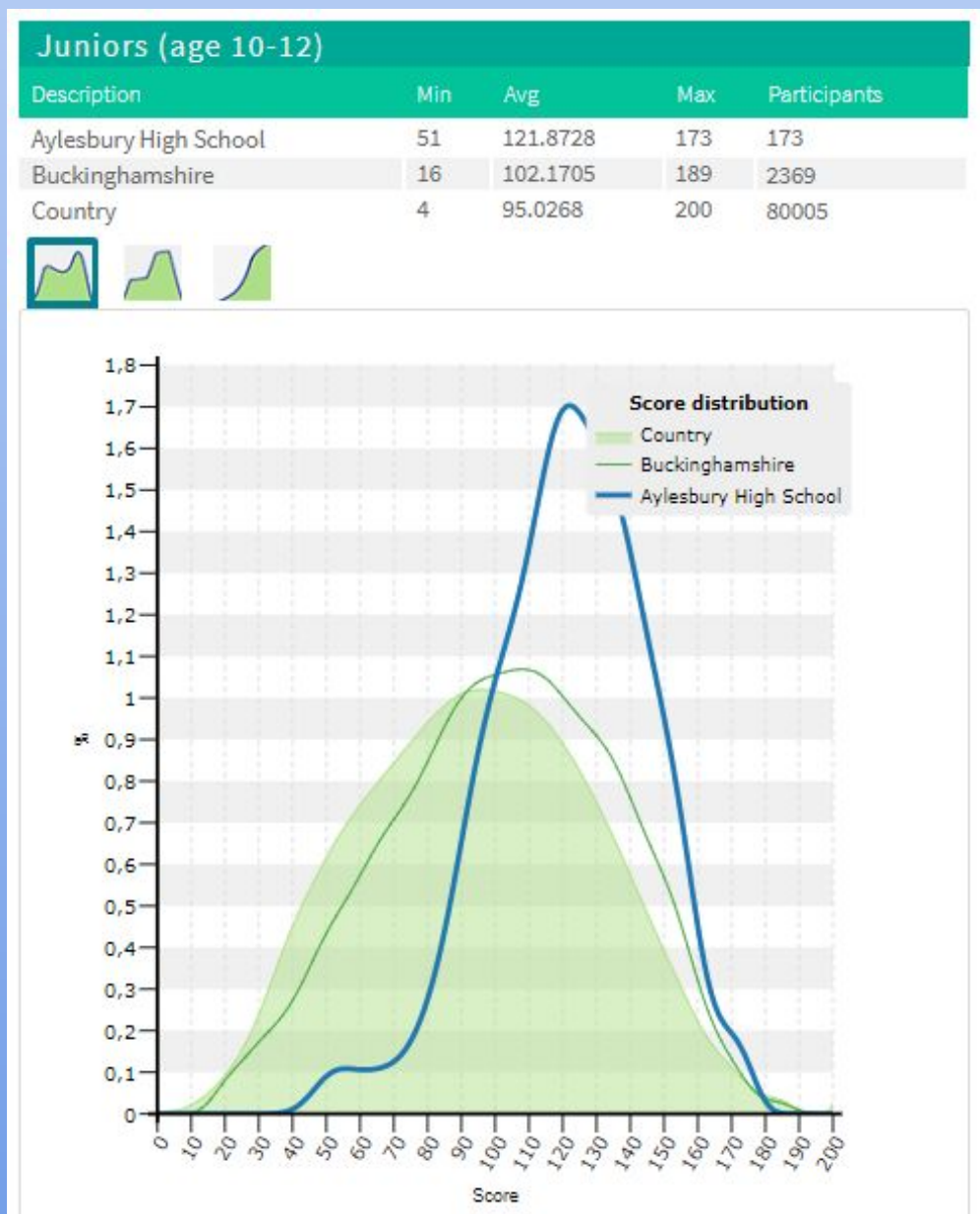


Computing

Official 2019 Challenge Results

I would just like to say a huge congratulations to the students in Key Stage 3 who participated in the 2019 UK Bebras Challenge. Through their hard work and dedication, a total of 130 AHS students achieved a score placing them in the top 10% of the country! These students have been invited to compete in the TCS Oxford Computing Challenge, which is an enormous accomplishment in itself. Good luck girls!

Mr Petty



Handball

On Friday 15 November the U15 Handball team travelled to Sir Thomas Fremantle to compete in the first round tournament. It was the girls' first time playing in a competitive environment but thanks to some fantastic coaching in the weeks building up, from Poppy Parkes and Natalia Moren in Year 12, the team was well prepared. This was displayed with some brilliant performances resulting in 5 wins and 1 draw. We came up against some tough competition from Shenley Brook End, but AHS kept a cool head and was very unfortunate to only come away with a draw. Overall we finished second place on goal difference, but an excellent performance with great composure. A great start to the handball season.

Miss Lancaster



Netball

English Schools Netball

On Saturday 16 November the U14 and U16 Netball teams competed in the County Round of English Schools, with support from many many parents and our coach Sarah.

The U16s started with a convincing win over The Grange and Shenley Brook End and a tough draw against Stowe. The final match was against John Colet, with friendly rivalry against Miss Hunter! The game was close with us going ahead, then the Colet, then us, but with a final flourish, the Colet won by one point. The day ended in a well deserved qualification to Regionals in January. The U14s were a few women down from the start of the tournament but played really well together for the first time. Their incredible goal difference against Sir Thomas Fremantle meant a qualification to the Regional Rounds in January. We can't wait!

Miss Daniels



Badminton

On Thursday 21 November, our English Schools Badminton Teams travelled to Sir Thomas Freemantle School to participate in the local round for the English Schools Badminton Competition. We had two teams entered for both age groups and both teams performed excellently. The two schools we were up against were Sir Thomas Freemantle and John Colet. The format was that we played two singles matches and two doubles matches. For both teams, we had a 100% win in our first match and managed to maintain this win percentage throughout both our matches in both teams. Both teams played very well and there was high quality badminton from both AHS teams. This victory means that both our teams will be heading to the County Round of the tournament.

Yi-Toong Yee 10H



Year 12 Sports Leaders

The Level 2 Sports Leaders qualification is an opportunity for Year 12s to do as an extension study. So far we have had an introduction and learnt how to adapt games and practices to make them accessible for those of different ages to us and those who may be less able. To put this into practice, we have been planning and leading sessions to Harding House students. Harding House is a school just down the road and is for Sixth Formers who have additional needs and need extra support. We have led cricket, basketball and football skills and game sessions.

Although the first two weeks were a little cold playing outdoors, both us and the Harding House students thoroughly enjoyed it which continued further as they developed their skills (but in the warmth of the Sports Hall for the next activities). They have developed their hand-eye coordination, by dribbling, shooting, passing and hitting balls of all sizes in each discipline and then their sportsmanship in games situations. This was especially prevalent in the football games by Harding House students recognising and allowing less able team mates to have the opportunity to kick the ball.

As leaders we have learnt to make the sessions inclusive, give praise (we're still working on feedback) and blow whistles successfully. The Harding House students make the sessions - they are lively, full of fun, willing to engage - but simply they are always happy and smiley.

Ruby Hancox 12D

