



# Newsletter 9



## Aylesbury High School

July 2017

## Staffing News

by Mr Rosen, Headteacher

As always at this time of year, we say farewell and thank you to our colleagues who are moving on. Pride of place goes to Mrs Gregory (Religious Studies) who is retiring after 23 years at AHS. Mrs Moran (MFL) is also retiring after 9 years here and we wish both teachers a very happy retirement and thank them for all they have done during their time at AHS. Mrs Waugh (Geography and Head of Year 11), Ms Ahmad (Psychology) and Mrs Sillence (PE and Head of Year) are all moving, with our best wishes, to other posts after 13, 10 and 8 years respectively. Dr Holmes is leaving for a promotion after 6 years, and we wish her well in her new post. Farewell and thank you also to Ms Phillips (Photography) and Mr Phillips (Computing). We are fully staffed for September and I will introduce our new colleagues early next term.

### Year Head and Pastoral Support teams for 2017-18

Y7	Y8	Y9	Y10	Y11	Y12	Y13
Mrs Jarrett	Mrs Saunders	Mrs McReynolds & Miss Kilkenny	Mrs Rust	Mrs Taylor	Mrs Mallett	Mr Ochiltree (& Head of Sixth Form)
KS3 PSA Mrs Ray			KS4 PSA Mrs Faulkner		KS5 PSA Mrs Powton Transitions Coordinator Mrs Sutton	

## Survey Results

Thank you very much to the 750 parents who responded to our survey earlier this term. It was great to receive so many positive comments about the school, but also to hear your suggestions for development. The [report](#) (click on the link) summarises the results and identifies the areas we will work on in our School Improvement Plan next year.

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# Farewell to Cindy Bull, Governor since 2007

by Marne Shutter, Y12 Student

To quote Mrs Bull, "Education is the best gift from one generation to another". It's an incredibly relevant statement, yet after hearing about Mrs Bull's achievements and contribution as Governor and also Chair of Governors, it is an even more meaningful remark.

Mrs Bull's dedication to the Governor role exceeds the basic expectations- throughout, she has managed to balance a full time job in senior management, with children and her AHS governor responsibilities. During this impressive distribution of time and focus, Mrs Bull has managed to transfer her work skills to improve the environment and academic lives of AHS students. Mrs Bull loved seeing students go from strength to strength and the outstanding results of their talents, as well as the 'Outstanding' rating from Ofsted in 2012. Without a doubt, Mrs Bull has contributed to the success of us students and the school as a whole.

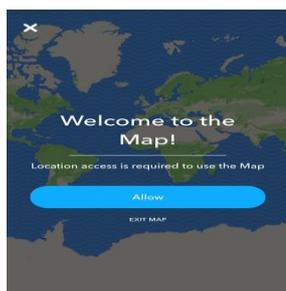
In addition, despite economic restraints, Mrs Bull has sought to encourage all students and their interests, by improving facilities and investing countless hours into the diplomatic running and innovation of our school system. AHS owes much to the pragmatism and determination of Mrs Bull, and even though she still continues volunteer work with the 'Chinnor Village Centre' and her governing role at 'the Mandeville School', we hope she enjoys some of her new-found spare time!

After many exciting and special years, Mrs Bull will wholeheartedly miss working with the students of AHS, and engaging with the range of important decision making to help improve the school. Mrs Bull will be missed very much in return - and as education *is* a gift from one generation to another, I can only thank Mrs Bull on behalf of all the students at AHS, for your determination in improving our education and making it truly valuable.

***-Elections for new AHS governors will be held in the autumn of 2017-***

## Snap Maps

by Mrs McReynolds, Head of Year 8



**To change the settings, pinch the screen when the app is open and this will load the map. Click on the icon in the top right hand corner, where you will be able to tick a box putting ghost mode on.**

Is your daughter old enough to have Snapchat? The minimum age for Snapchat is 13.

There was recently a new update to the SNAPCHAT app. It allowed users to add their location to a worldwide map of Snapchat users. If you do not have location enabled on your phone, you will be asked to turn it on.

Police have issued child safety warnings about the use of this app and time has been used in form time to discuss these concerns and to encourage our students to consider the potential dangers involved; Eg sexual predators knowing their location, providing burglars an opportunity to know when no one is home.

Once you enable this feature it adds you to a global map with potentially every Snapchat user able to see your exact location. Users of the app can also search for locations such as individual schools, with the app displaying public photos and videos sent by students.

The UK Safer Internet Centre said: "It is important to be careful about who you share your location with, as it can allow people to build up a picture of where you live, go to school and spend your time. "Given how specific this new feature is on Snapchat - giving your location to a precise pinpoint on a map - we would encourage users not to share their location, especially with people they don't know in person."

# Heads of Year 2016/17 Overview

## Year 7 by Mrs Jarrett, Head of Year 7

It seems incredible that it has now been a whole year since Year 7 came to us on their Transition Day. It has been lovely to see this year group throw themselves into school life and take hold of all the different opportunities available. This week many Year 7 students took prospective students on a tour around school, and it was wonderful to hear them talk of their pride in AHS.

This term has been very eventful and the students have enjoyed both of the Activity Days. The STEM Day was a great chance to develop their skills and lateral thinking, and I was amazed during the Creative Arts Day at their many artistic and sporting talents. A fantastic number of Year 7 students also enjoyed taking part last week in the Music, Movement and Muses show. I have also been so impressed with their oratory skills during the speaker's corner lunchtime events.

I will miss being their Year Head next year, but am very confident that they will be in good hands with Mrs Saunders. I look forward to hearing about all their future adventures, especially with Aberdyfi coming up!

Many thanks to our excellent team of tutors this year for all that they have done to help settle our new students.

## Year 8 by Mrs McReynolds, Head of Year 8

As we approach the end of term, September 2016 seems like a very long time ago. When I begin to think back over all the adventures Year 8 have had since then, it seems even longer than that! When I consider their achievements in House Dance, public speaking, Geekery Club, horse riding, House Music, ice skating, basketball, Science Club, netball, House Drama, football, art and swimming; as well as all of their achievements inside of the classroom, I have to wonder how they have managed to fit all this, and so much more, into just one school year! They have done so much this year to be proud of and to celebrate. The girls have embraced the demands of Year 8 with confidence, enthusiasm and curiosity and I am sure these attributes will stand them in good stead as we enter Year 9. Whilst many might be anxious or excited about the choices they will make for GCSE options, this will be another year of opportunities for them both inside and outside the

classroom and I look forward to sharing in their successes.

Year 8 have been supported this year by a fantastic set of tutors and this will continue with only one change, where 9H will welcome Miss Oatley as their new tutor in September.

Wishing all of Year 8 and their families a relaxing summer break.

## Year 9 by Mrs Rust, Head of Year 9

Yet another year that has flown by. Year 9 have been a delight once again this year and it has been a pleasure working with them. There have been trips and opportunities galore for the year group and the girls have learned so much culturally but also about themselves and their friends. Option choices have been the main focus and the girls will no doubt be looking forward to September to start these and meet their new friends in G groups. There will, I'm sure, be some initial nerves, but as always we will be there to guide and support.

The first term will be busy, please note Thursday 28 September in your diary for our Parent Information Evening, where you will hear about our revision and study skills workshops that we will be doing with the girls through Elevate. The girls' first session is on Thursday 10 October from 4-5pm.

The team of tutors has been fantastic and I was so pleased that every tutor group chose to thank them for their input in their speeches on Presentation Morning. Our team is continuing with only one change, Mr Morris is moving to a different tutor group and 9M will welcome Mr Baird as their form tutor in September. I wish you all a safe and enjoyable summer.

## Year 10 by Mrs Taylor, Head of Year 10

What a year it has been. It has been lovely to get to know Year 10 and watching them grow this year. They have had a hard year to tackle but each and every one of them has achieved so much to be proud of. They have excelled at the two recent Activity Days, International day and Health Day and always throw themselves into everything they do. They have settled into their option choices and survived their exam week (all of them should be proud of this)!! I am always reading about how many things they have all

achieved in their extra-curricular pursuits, whether it be performing in House Drama, cheering in Sports Day, or pirouetting their way to success in House Dance.

I hope that they have all enjoyed this year and are able to look ahead to the next. Year 11, brings many things to look forward to, leavers day which brings lots of reminiscing, Prom and not forgetting the leavers' hoodies. I hope that they all have a much needed and well deserved relaxing holiday and come back refreshed for Year 11.

## Year 12 by Miss Weir, Head of Year 12

With the UCAS process already underway and our two recent Activity Days firmly focused on what lies beyond AHS, Year 12 are bound to feel like they've already skipped forward to their final year! As their attention turns towards personal statements and applications they should be reminded of all their outstanding achievements and celebrate their successes in what has been a fantastic year.

Year 12 should be commended for how well they have navigated the rigours of the first year of A-Level study whilst maintaining a very active presence within school, in the many clubs and societies available, and outside school on excursions, sporting activities and various placement opportunities. Unlike other year groups, Year 12 is tasked with the organisation and running of many clubs and societies. Of particular note are the various House events throughout the year in which they continually rose to the challenge creating spectacular displays which imaginatively showcased the vast array of talents of all who participated; a real treat for the many audiences they entertained.

I'm sure Year 12 would agree with me in saying that this was all made possible thanks to the unwavering support of the staff around them and a fantastic team of tutors who took equal delight in each of their accomplishments. It has been a true privilege to work closely with this year group as their Head of Year and I wish them a restful summer break before their return in September to embark on their final year at AHS.

## Result Days by Mrs Burchell, Examinations Officer

- Exam results will be sent to the students' school email addresses
- A Levels will be sent by 8am on Thursday 17 August and GCSE results will be sent by 8.30 am on Thursday 24 August.
- Should there be any email problems, we will post a message on twitter @AylesburyHigh in which case, students will need to come into school at the times stated below.
- The results sent home will **not** contain unit marks but will be overall grades only.
- Should students require more detailed information, they will need to come in at the following times:
  - On Thursday 17 August, school opens at 9am **for Year 13 students only**.
  - Students in Year 12 may collect results **after** 10am if they wish.
  - On Thursday 24 August, school will be open at 9am **for Year 11 students only**
  - Year 10 students may collect their results **after** 10am if they wish.
  - Year 11 students will also be sent an online form to confirm their intentions for 2017/18, including subject choices. These must be completed and returned promptly please.
- After midday on both results day, any stamped addressed envelopes will be posted. Those unstamped can be collected from Reception at the start of the Autumn Term.
- Any students wishing to discuss their choices are welcome at the following times, no appointments are necessary:
  - Thursday 24 August between 9am and 3pm
  - Friday 25 August between 9am and 3pm
  - Wednesday 30 August between 9am and 12pm
- **Please note that no student's results will be released to any other person, including parents or relations, without a signed letter of authorisation from the student. A text message or email is not acceptable. Results cannot be given over the telephone.**

## ParentMail by Mr Marshall, Support Staff Director

### Changes at AHS to on-line communications and payments

You should hopefully have seen my communication about AHS moving to ParentMail for our on-line payments and parent communication system. We are quite excited that this will streamline the bulk of our communications with parents and give you all the information on trips in one place. The key advantages include:

- an integrated system for both letters home and payments
- a user-friendly phone app
- for parents with children at more than one school using ParentMail there is only one login required
- as a bonus, we estimate we will save over £2,000 a year by switching - money which we can put back into student resources.

Initially you will get an email from ParentMail, possibly as early as the afternoon on 20 July, which will contain the process to set up your account. We anticipate you being able to pay for meals, trips etc on ParentMail from 1 August.

We will close ParentPay to new payments at approximately 1430 on 21 July to allow us to reconcile the cashless catering accounts and start the transfer of balances to ParentMail.

## Teaching & Learning Update by Mrs Tominey, Teaching & Learning Mentor

Over the last few months I've been carrying out an audit of where our strengths as a school lie. Each department or area of the school was asked to come up with what they consider their Unique Selling Points (USPs) to be. I then worked with three focus groups from Years 8, 10 and 12 to ask them what they particularly valued about each subject area. Next term we'll be looking at comparing teachers' perceptions with those of the students. In the meantime, however, a clear picture has emerged from the students as to what they really enjoy in their lessons at AHS.

AHS students like it when:

- They can relate their learning to the world around them and cover a broad range of topics
- There is a relaxed atmosphere in the classroom with fun activities
- The lessons are interactive
- They get the chance to be creative
- They work in groups or as a pair
- They have the chance to express their opinions in discussion
- There is a choice of task or the way in which they carry out a task
- Technology is used to support their learning and make it more fun
- Different abilities are accommodated
- There are trips to support their learning
- They can track their progress through effective marking
- There is a variety of different types of assessment
- There are frequent opportunities to practise exam skills
- They are given clear guidelines on how to revise

# Aylesbury Vale Teaching Partnership

The culmination of the 2016-2017 AVTP Newly Qualified Teacher (NQT) Twilight Programme was celebrated last week with NQTs from across 8 Aylesbury Vale schools completing the programme and looking forward to well-earned summer holidays! Thanks to Waddesdon School's Sam Jones who led a session on challenging and supporting students which the NQTs were particularly inspired by!



The inaugural AVTP Pastoral Leader Continuing Professional Development (CPD) Day on 19 June saw 7 colleagues from across 5 schools come together to cover sessions including leading a pastoral team, using external agencies and effective use of data. Thanks goes to Aylesbury Vale Academy's Emma Kitter and several staff from Aylesbury High School for running these sessions.



'Leading Learning and Teaching' was launched by Gurdeep Singh at Aylesbury Grammar School on 20 June to bring together leaders from across a range of secondary schools to share good practice and discuss current teaching and learning focus areas in schools. It is hoped that this launch meeting will roll out in to termly meetings of leaders next year.

## Possible visit to India 2018

by Mr Rosen

We have been invited by our friends at Wylie Memorial High School to visit them over February Half Term to strengthen our partnership, to collaborate with their teachers on teaching techniques, and have a fairly small group of students working on a joint project. The trip has been offered to Years 9 to 12 (next year's 10-13) but we don't quite have enough to make the trip feasible. The details are on the website at the moment on the [Year 11 page](#) and I am particularly looking for a small number of additional representatives of the current Years 10, 11 and 12, to boost our numbers. Given the holidays it's going to be difficult to make much progress until our return but students are invited to get in touch with me if they are interested in taking part, and then we will need to move fast in September to secure flights etc.



## BBC Any Questions? @ AHS by Mr Rosen

Last week we were asked if we would host Radio 4's Any Questions? on **Friday 8 September**. We are still working out the details so **tickets are likely to be available from the week commencing 13 August** – please keep a look out on twitter @AylesburyHigh and the school website for how to book the (free) tickets.

The following is taken from the AQ section of the BBC website:

### ***Some Background On The Show***

*Any Questions? is the flagship political panel programme that goes out live on Friday evenings at 8pm on BBC Radio 4 (repeated on Saturday afternoons at 1.10pm). It was first broadcast in October 1948 and its current chair is Jonathan Dimbleby. Each week Any Questions? visits a different part of the country with a diverse panel of four speakers who answer questions from the audience. The programme provides the opportunity for people to challenge leading politicians, policy makers, writers and thinkers.*

### ***Approximate Time Guide to the evening***

18:30	<i>Doors open to the public</i>
19:25	<i>The venue's welcome followed by the BBC's warm-up at 19:30</i>
19:45	<i>The BBC producer calls the questioners to the front row</i>
20:00	<i>BBC Radio 4 News</i>
20:02	<i>Live broadcast of Any Questions? (ends 20.50)</i>

On arrival you are invited to hand in your ticket which has a space to suggest a question, and the production team very quickly select which questions to use to ensure a good balance across the programme

## IT plans by Mr Rosen

It has been a frustrating term as our IT infrastructure hasn't been nearly as reliable as we would have liked. This has been for a variety of reasons, including (we think) a rodent, probably a squirrel, gnawing through a cable, a water leak knocking out the electrical circuit that powered the internet and a big problem with our server that has taken considerable efforts to resolve. Apologies to everyone who has been affected by these issues. Over the summer there is going to be a lot of work carried out to provide a much improved system by September which will be capable of supporting our ambitious plans as outlined in the last newsletter.

## National Funding Formula update by Mr Rosen

The Secretary of State announced her proposals for the long-awaited funding formula, to take effect from the 2018-19 financial year onwards.

We are very short of details at the moment but it is looking as though the SoS's statement was, to put it mildly, incomplete. She said that, "This formula settlement to 2019-20 will provide at least £4,800 per pupil for every secondary school" but it appears this isn't true for schools such as ours. I have asked the Education Funding Agency to look into this and clarify. In any case, we are expecting more details on the implementation of the NFF in September.

# Chair of Governors Update by Mr Chaudhry

As we approach the welcome relief of a summer break for teaching and support staff, students, parents and Governors, it's worth highlighting the busy academic term we have had.

Governors have supported a range of school events and activities during this last term. As well as holding our various Governing Body meetings (Resources, Personnel and Teaching & Learning) we have given the 'vote of thanks' at the Years 7-10 Presentation Mornings, the welcome address to our new Year 7 parents, supported an Open Evening and importantly from the Governors' perspective had the opportunity to spend a day at school as a full Governing Body. The Governor feedback from that day included;

- At the Presentation Morning it was great to hear the students talking about their own forms in such a positive way.
- It is good to see the school in action and I was impressed by the diversity of activities.
- There was so much high energy around the school (despite being so close to the end of the year).
- Students were engaged in research projects and other interesting tasks in all lessons.
- Impressive use of technology to support learning and consolidation. It was nice to see non-traditional teaching and learning styles.
- Breadth of activities planned by teachers to ensure that all girls' needs are catered for.
- Students keen to share with us what they were working on.

At the last Full Governing Body meeting of the academic year I announced that we would, unfortunately be losing four long standing Governors (Cindy Bull, Sarah Marsh, Jane Blagg and Jane Lewis) all of whom have made significant contributions to the development and success of the school. Cindy had been a former Chair of Governors, most recently was Chair of the Teaching & Learning Committee and had been an AHS Governor for over 10 years. Sarah was a former Chair of the Teaching & Learning Committee and our Maths Governor, Jane Lewis had been our SEND, disabilities and Pupil Premium Governor and Jane Blagg had recently been our Deputy Chair of Governors.

As I look forward to the next academic year the key challenges will be setting our school budget, agreement of the revised national funding formula, completion of the existing building programmes, working with the Senior Leadership Team to implement the School Improvement Plan (SIP) and importantly recruiting three Parent Governors and a third Staff Governor. I am keen to build on the skills set of the Governing body and would particularly welcome parents who can bring strategic development, marketing, accountancy, financial and project management expertise. If you are interested in becoming an AHS Governor or simply want to know more about what's involved, please don't hesitate to contact me ([achaudhry@ahs.bucks.sch.uk](mailto:achaudhry@ahs.bucks.sch.uk)) or any of the Governing Body. Full details of the application process will be in the Sept 17 Newsletter.

Wishing you all an enjoyable summer break.

## Term Dates 2017/18

Term	First day of term	Half term	Last day of term	Other days to note
<b>Autumn 2017</b>	Wednesday 6 September	Monday 23 - Friday 27 October	Friday 15 December	INSET 1: Monday 4 September INSET 2: Tuesday 5 September INSET 3: Friday 6 October
<b>Spring 2018</b>	Wednesday 3 January	Monday 12 – Friday 16 February	Thursday 29 March	INSET 4: Tuesday 2 January
<b>Summer 2018</b>	Monday 16 April	Monday 28 May – Friday 1 June	Friday 20 July	Bank Holiday: Monday 7 May

Please note that these dates will be different from other schools both inside and outside Buckinghamshire