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Care4Calais - Urgent Appeal

We have been asked whether AHS families could see if they have old blankets and sleeping bags which can be taken to the refugees in Calais.

That means bringing blankets and sleeping bags into school on **Wednesday morning (tomorrow!)** so that they can be collected that morning. This is very short notice but if you can see what you have at home which could be spared, it would make a real difference to the 4000 or so refugees at Calais. Whatever the political aspects of the refugees being there, there is undoubtedly a humanitarian disaster happening, with shelter, water and food in desperately short supply.

VICTIMS OF WAR ARE STARVING AND FREEZING.
#CARE4CALAIS. DONATE NOW.



Have a look at the Care4Calais Facebook page if you want to know more and please see if students can bring in something on Wednesday morning to leave by Reception.

School Funding

School Funding has been in the headlines regularly in recent weeks and there was, finally, a commitment from the government last week to introduce a National Funding Formula. Regular readers will recall that AHS is, every year, one of the lowest funded schools in the country (this year 3rd/3000 secondary school, last year 1st). We *should* be quite lowly funded because our students don't and shouldn't attract *some* of the money that is allocated to education, but we and similar schools in Bucks suffer a triple whammy:

- Bucks is relatively lowly funded (but is not the lowest-funded local authority)
- Bucks then allocates a much smaller than average proportion of that money to mainstream schools
- The formula used to determine how to allocate the money going to mainstream schools in Bucks is significantly different from those used in other authorities.

There is a consultation just about to be run in Bucks (for schools and governors rather than anyone else) which is proposing an adjustment to the local formula so that children in Bucks would be funded more in line with national averages than now. This is good news but the rules on funding mean that it could potentially take five or more years to reach our 'proper' position. The National Funding Formula will undoubtedly overtake that, probably in 2017, but with either a three or five year transition.

At the same time, while the government claims to be protecting school funding, the reality is that a number of items are outside that protection, including Sixth Form funding (down 15% in the last parliament) and something called the Education Support Grant which is rapidly diminishing.

So the funding position for all schools is dire, and especially so for schools like ours; any improvements will be slow and potentially countered by other changes to the overall funding system. Despite that, we have a strong commitment to maintaining our educational standards and providing the best possible environment for learning for everyone. We are not alone in finding finances challenging at the moment and will continue to provide the best possible education for everyone. Thank you for your support!

Mouthguards

Mrs Rust has arranged a fitting of mouthguards for anyone who plays hockey on the afternoon of the INSET day, 4 January. See the poster at the end of this newsletter for some more details. Booking is done at www.opro.com and needs to be done by Monday 14 December at the latest. Please ask your daughter to speak to Mrs Rust if any further assistance is required.

THANK YOU!

This is an extract from a letter received recently:

Dear Mr Rosen,

I am writing to thank you on behalf of all of us at Chiltern Foodbank for your food collection during the recent Harvest period. Altogether over 4.2 tonnes of food was collected ...which will enable us to feed over 470 people with three days food over the coming months.

We are truly grateful for your own collection which amounted to 39.2 kilos and...I would ask you to pass on our grateful thanks to all your parents/staff and pupils for your school's donations.

Dave Worrall

Chiltern Foodbank - Co-ordinator

We also have letters of thanks from:

- St Thomas' Lupus Trust
- Make-a-Wish UK
- One Can Trust
- The PACE Centre
- Helen & Douglas House
- WaterAid

So thank you to everyone who has worked so hard to raise funds for charitable causes – your efforts are much appreciated.

The Pantomime Season - oh yes it is...

If AHS didn't exist it's interesting to speculate whether Aylesbury and the surrounding districts would cease to function! Our students do so much through both voluntary and paid activities, and contribute to so many sports clubs and teams, youth groups, dance, drama and music groups, charities and similar organisations across the region, that it's remarkable that they still manage to do their homework.

At this time of year we also have girls taking roles in the various pantomimes and shows in Aylesbury, Milton Keynes and probably elsewhere, with some very intensive rehearsing going on, so good luck to all of them.

Individual Fundraising

Two Year 11 students are making particular fundraising efforts this year and would be grateful for your support: here are their messages...

My name is Ellie Barker and I am in 11H, I have chosen to complete a skydive soon after my 16th birthday on 19 March in remembrance of my younger sister Jessie who died 9 years ago. Jessie suffered very badly from epilepsy and therefore I have chosen to raise as much money as I can for The Epilepsy Society so they can research much further into this illness and perhaps help future sufferers of epilepsy. So far I have raised £650 which is amazing and I plan to maybe hold a few fundraisers between now and my skydive. However in the meantime I would be very grateful for any small donations. This cause really means a lot to my family and me; it would be lovely to have as much support in this as possible. Ways to donate to my skydive:

- *Online on the Just Giving site: type Ellie Barker and my skydive event should come up or enter <https://www.justgiving.com/ellie-barker123>*
 - *Or simply come and find me in my form room (L16) at break or lunches*
- Thank you very much for reading and thank you so much to anyone who donates!*

Ellie Barker 11H

Each year ever since I was in Year 8 I try to do something small to raise money for Macmillan, a cancer support charity that was especially helpful and generous during my mum's previous battle with breast cancer in 2012/2013. I started doing read-a-thons in previous years, however, this year I realised reading 30-40 books in a month as usual was extremely unrealistic. Instead, I decided to do a sponsored silence (to many of my teachers' delight); one school day a week for five weeks. It's been challenging but extremely rewarding, especially with friends and teachers being so supportive. Currently, I've completed two of the five days!

I would like to raise as much as possible for Macmillan, so if you'd like to sponsor me, please visit my form room, or donate if you see me around school, holding my sponsor pot. I am also trying to see if I can visit form rooms in the mornings. Thank you!

Thank you

Sola Adeliyi 11C

AHS Fundraising Week 2015

As you may be aware, the school has been voting for a charity to raise money for during this year's Fundraising Week.

The chosen charity is being revealed during assemblies this week and preparations are well under way to ensure Fund Raising Week is the best ever!

The week consists of three lunchtime events that are organised by students.

- Tuesday 15 December is our school panto, Tangled
- Wednesday 16 December will be 'AHS Staff Have Got Talent'
- Thursday 17 December will be our student show 'The A Factor'

Entry to the events will be through specially designed AHS Fundraising Week wristbands which are £1 each or all 3 for £2.50 and each event has a different colour. Students will be going round form rooms to sell wristbands during registration and lunch.

Fundraising Week is a fantastic way to end the term, celebrate the talents of our students (and staff!) and also to raise money for a very important charity.

Big Bang Opening & *Building a Brighter Future*

The new Science labs are much appreciated by students and staff alike, with a vastly improved environment for learning. Parental donations have played a huge part in enabling the work to be carried out so we are all very grateful for everyone's support over a number of years.

Next Tuesday sees the official opening of the labs, with a Big Bang celebration in the evening – a report will be in Highlights before the end of term.

We are now turning our attention to our other priorities and we have a long 'wish-list', including the one laboratory that we were unable to re-furbish due to lack of funds. We are definitely looking for parental contributions to update the laboratory and to keep the rest of the school in the best possible shape. Details of how to donate are on the [website](#) – please do consider how much you would be able to donate – all donations are very gratefully received. There will be a communication home early in the New Year as well.

The Giving Machine - please sign up...

Are you doing any on-line purchasing this month?

If so, could you spend a couple of minutes registering at

www.thegivingmachine.co.uk?

*Companies such as Amazon, John Lewis, and M&S will all make a donation to the AHSA, **at no cost to you**, if you go via The Giving Machine to buy anything.*

There are 81 pages of participating companies on the website so the chances are high that any on-line retailer that you use is there – just type their name in, click on it, do your normal shopping and AHS will benefit.

It is completely pain-free so please do sign up before you reach for your credit/debit cards!





THE BEST DEFENCE

Against oral facial injuries and concussion in rugby and other contact sports

OPRO has been providing a unique dental service to schools and clubs for over 12 years.

This year, an OPRO dental professional will visit the school and take dental impressions from all pupils who would like to purchase a Custom-Fit mouthguard. Please place your order a minimum of one week in advance of the visit date in order for your child to be included for the impression taking.

The OPRO dental professional will be visiting the school on:

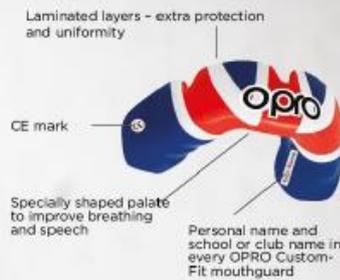
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Stage 1

Add a wearer:

First name *

Surname *

Date of birth

Gender *

Male Female

Do you wear an orthodontic brace? *

Please choose from the list below

Impression method *

School / club visit
 OPD

Start typing to find your school or club

Aylesbury High School - Aylesbury