



# Newsletter 7



## Aylesbury High School

May 2017

Year 13: “Farewell and Good Luck”  
 Year 12: “See you soon and Good Luck”  
 Year 11: “See you in a while and Good Luck”  
 Everyone else: “Keep calm and carry on”

by Mr Rosen, Headteacher

The final days before study leave for Years 11 and 13 were a chance for the students to demonstrate their creativity, having planned their celebrations for some weeks beforehand.

If they devote even half as much energy and imagination to their exams as they did to marking their departures then all will be well in August.

Year 11 chose the theme of Boot Camp, reflecting how hard they feel they have worked in the build-up to GCSEs, while Year 13 dressed up as children’s story characters, perhaps showing a Peter Pan-style wish never to grow up.

Meanwhile, Year 12 (who only have three weeks to sit a few AS exams plus the internal exams in their other subjects) reminisced about what they got up to last year, and started to count the days until they get their chance again next year. The rest of the school looked on in a rather bemused manner as the buildings suddenly sprouted unusual and inventive decorations.

While I don’t hide from the students concerned that these days make me nervous, I am invariably impressed with how they rise to the occasion and would like to thank students and staff for making sure that everything went well. The final assembly for Year 11 and the celebration lunch for Year 13 were both memorable and moving, reminding us how close-knit the year groups become during their time together.

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# Data: Change to how we use 9-1 Grades

by Mr Baird, Curriculum Manager

When we introduced the new 9-1 GCSE grading system for Years 7-11, we included split grades eg 5-/5/5+, as parents and students alike wanted to be able to 'see' the progress that was being made. After having now worked with the system for a while, we would like to make some changes.

We will remove the option for -/+ grades when it comes to reporting LAGs and exam grades. Teachers may still use -/+ grades when it comes to assessing individual pieces of work throughout the year, but we feel that LAGs and exam grades would be best served by full grades.

We will, however, still include split grades to show that students are on the border between one grade and the next, i.e. 6/7. As there will be fewer possible grades without the -/+, we anticipate that the whole system will be simpler to understand for everyone concerned. The [data videos on the school website](#) are currently being amended to further explain this change.

## School Drop-off and Pick-up

by Mrs Hamnett, Deputy Headteacher



There has recently been an increase in the number of parents coming onto the school site in the morning to drop off their daughters. Please help us keep your daughter, her peers and our staff safe by refraining from coming onto the school site, turning around in the school entrances or dropping off on the yellow zig-zags.

Can you also remind your daughters to take care when walking into school and to use the pavements provided rather than walking in the driveways?

## Trips and Visits

by Miss Brigden, Assistant Headteacher

Extra-curricular trips and visits are an important part of our curriculum and there will be many opportunities offered to our students throughout their time at AHS. In order to help parents make appropriate decisions about the trips that are right for their daughter, there is a summary of all the trips typically on offer, on our website. It has recently been pointed out to us that some parents are not aware of this so you may wish you [take a look](#).

## Electronic Exam Results

by Mrs Burchell, Examinations Officer

Students from Y10 and above will receive their public examination results via their school email account on the morning of results day. If your daughter has not received her results by 9am then we encourage her to come into school to collect her results. Students have been asked to provide a stamped addressed envelope if they would like us to send their results home by post.

Please note that your daughter must provide written permission if she would like someone else to collect her results for her on the day. The information sent home by email shows the grade and not the breakdown of results; this information can be obtained by coming into school. Year Heads will communicate this information again nearer the time and information regarding the times that school will be open will be posted on our website.



## Competition

by Mrs Hamnett, Deputy Headteacher

To mark Diversity Week, which is a national awareness week starting 03 July, we would like to encourage students to take a photograph within school of an image that represents diversity at AHS. Images need to be emailed to Mrs Hamnett using their school email by 20 June. There will be three prizes available.

# Equality Conference

by Mrs Hamnett, Deputy Headteacher

Aylesbury High School will be hosting a Gender Equality Conference in collaboration with Buckinghamshire County Council later this term. The event is to raise awareness and share experiences of gender stereotypes with reference to the UN HeforShe Campaign.

Schools from all over Buckinghamshire are being invited to send along student representatives from Y9 or 10 to help establish a network of Gender Equality Ambassadors.

We are delighted that Wing Commander, Sarah Maskall from the Royal Air Force has agreed to be our keynote speaker on the day in addition to assisting our successful He4She Campaigners Elena, Amy, Jess and Emily with planning workshops for the students to engage in.

If any parents would like to offer any support in the planning or delivery of this event, please email [nhamnett@ahs.bucks.sch.uk](mailto:nhamnett@ahs.bucks.sch.uk).

## Chair of Governors - Update

by Mr Chaudhry, Chair of Governors

In my role as Chair of Governors, I took the opportunity to spend a day at school earlier this month and the fact that it coincided with Year 13s last formal day at school made it even more interesting, especially given that one of the students was my daughter! I took the opportunity to catch up with the Headteacher, the Support Staff Director, Head of Sixth Form, meet the new Development Director and review the Governor page of the AHS website.

It's been a busy term from a Governor's perspective. The Resources Committee met to review the budget and receive an update on the main projects we have been supporting this year, namely the major repairs to the flat roofs and the replacement of the main block boiler house. These are considered essential to maintaining the fabric of the school and in these difficult financial times (you may have been aware of the press coverage on the National Funding Formula and the work of our Headteacher in securing a more equitable share of funding for Bucks schools) we have had to manage these projects very closely. The work of the Resources Committee, chaired by Parent Governor James Chandler and ably supported by Keith Marshall and Sara Taylor has enabled us to ensure we are on track and crucially on budget.

The Personnel Committee, chaired by Parent Governor Kate Weir continues to review and monitor the key policies of the school. This term the Grievance, Discipline and CPD policies were reviewed and approved. The Teaching & Learning Committee, chaired by our former Chair of Governors Cindy Bull, was given a SEND update and reviewed the policy whilst also receiving an update on the school's 'Learning Mentor' programme.

As we look forward to the rest of this academic year and specifically our last Full Governing Body committee meeting on 3 July, the Governing Body will take the opportunity to spend the whole day together at school. We will look to observe lessons, meet the Support and Teaching staff and most importantly, take the opportunity to meet the students.

As you may be aware, the Governing Body is made up of Parent, Community, Staff and Co-opted Governors who all have a defined period of office. At the start of the next academic year I expect to have vacancies for two Parent Governors. If you are interested in being a Governor at AHS and have any questions, please don't hesitate to contact me. In addition, later this term I also plan on being at the Year 8 Consultation Evening, the Year 7 Presentation Morning (to give the Governor Vote of Thanks) and the AHS Midsummer Music, Movements and Muses evening. So please don't hesitate to come and chat.

**It will be 2095 before  
worldwide gender equality  
is reached**

Think progress should happen quicker?  
Here is your opportunity to change that, for both boys and girls.

**Wednesday 12th July  
09:15 - 13:00  
Aylesbury High School**

**Gender  
Equality  
Conference**

# Subject Ambassadors for 2017/18

by Mrs Wilkes, Assistant Headteacher

Following on from the Student Leadership announcements made in the previous newsletter, we are pleased to congratulate our Subject Ambassadors who were informed of their appointments in April. Our Subject Ambassadors support the academic departments in the school and help to promote their subject to others. This could take the form of creating displays, running clubs for younger students or representing the department at an Open Evening. The successful applicants are as follows:

ART:	Isobel Hine, Joanna Nicoll, Keisha Pearce & Sarah Smith
BIOLOGY:	Srishti Agarwal, Katie Bowers, Abbie Harper, & Lucy Wilkinson
BUSINESS:	Georgina Crump & Gemma Davis
CHEMISTRY:	Vanessa Bond, Charlotte Gross, Ashleigh Partridge, Lucy Philip & Ashnaa Sasikaran
COMPUTING:	Rachel Dodds & Harshini Eluri
DRAMA:	Jessica Smith
ECONOMICS:	Aleeya Asim, Anna-Louise Honey & Tanaya Patil
ENGLISH:	Lara Bell, Rea Patel & Marnie Shutter
FOOD:	Megan Gilbert & Cara Saunders
FRENCH:	Emily Francis & Folu Ogunyeye
GEOGRAPHY:	Adele Beardmore, Francesca Gregory, Ellie Hardings & Eleanor Prebble
GERMAN:	Bethany Arrowsmith & Vitalia Belecciu
HISTORY:	Anna Beveridge, Beth Easton, Rosalind Fell, Libby Moreton, Grace Stockland & Daisy Williams
MATHS:	Niamh Austin, Qaqamba Mda, Karina Talibzhanova & Mimi Veness
MUSIC:	Elena Stamp
PE:	Annabelle Denly, Julia Rushmere, Chantelle Trzeciak-Hicks & Meg Westrope
PHOTOGRAPHY:	Holly Lamkin & Carys Jones
PHYSICS:	Jenna Cleaver, Sarah Critchley & Maisie Glock
POLITICS:	Grace Carson, Eleanor Cullen, Tarun Heran, Arianna Koffler-Sluijter & Stephanie Mee
PSYCHOLOGY:	Katie Hanbury, Jessica Payne, Charlie Reynolds & Sophie Robinson
RS:	Phoebe Unsworth
SCIENCE:	Ruchika Madhotra, Laiba Pervaiz & Ellen Watts
SPANISH:	Ella Giles
TEXTILES:	Amy Chennells & Eve Kent



## Digital Parenting

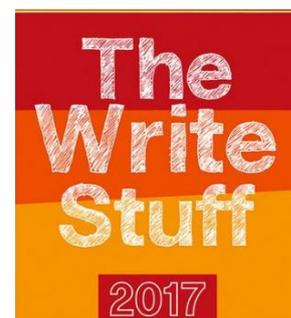
by Mrs Hamnett, Deputy Headteacher

Visit [Parentzone safety & privacy settings](#) for advice on setting safety and privacy settings for social media apps such as the ones shown above.

## Short Story Competition

The Write Stuff short story competition is open to girls aged 11 – 16 who live in the UK closes on 07 July at noon. See the link below for further details on prizes and maximum word count.

<http://www.barbarataylorbradford.co.uk/thewritestuff/>



# An interview with our new Development Director

by Anita and Eleanor, Year 10

Mrs Pexton is the school's newly appointed Development Director as of the last three weeks. Her job description includes roles such as; supporting Mr Rosen and the senior leadership team, developing facilities, enhancing the education experience, fundraising and establishing business and community links. Mrs Pexton has worked in development roles in education for the past ten years, most recently as Young Enterprise Manager for Oxfordshire. Prior to this Mrs Pexton worked in marketing and business management roles for international companies such as 'Kimberly Clark', 'Bunzl', 'Vodafone' and 'Adecco'. Her degree in International Marketing and German, paired with her significant experience in this area, makes her a greatly valued asset to the school.

The school currently runs one large fundraising project; this year it is the 'In Our Element' campaign for the renovation of S17. Mrs Pexton hopes to build wider links with external businesses and companies who would be interested in supporting the school. With the coming General Election, education and school funding is a pivotal point of discussion, and she hopes that we as a community are able to continue improving and enhancing the student experience at AHS. Government funds and grants are intended to cover staffing and basic facilities. Therefore she recognises that we require additional funding in order to provide the best facilities and educational experience; while we have valued donations from parents, she also appreciates that we cannot rely on parents alone.



Moreover Mrs Pexton's ambitions to build links with the community extend beyond Aylesbury to our worldwide community of Alumni. By utilising the social media platform LinkedIn, she hopes to reach out and grow our community of Alumni. By doing this she aims to provide students at this school with inspirational figures, as well as a tool to build knowledge and understanding of employment opportunities through informative career talks. As a school we recognise that students are going to have a wide range of occupations throughout their lives.

## In Our Element Fundraising Campaign for S17: More Sponsors Needed!

by Mrs Pexton, Development Director

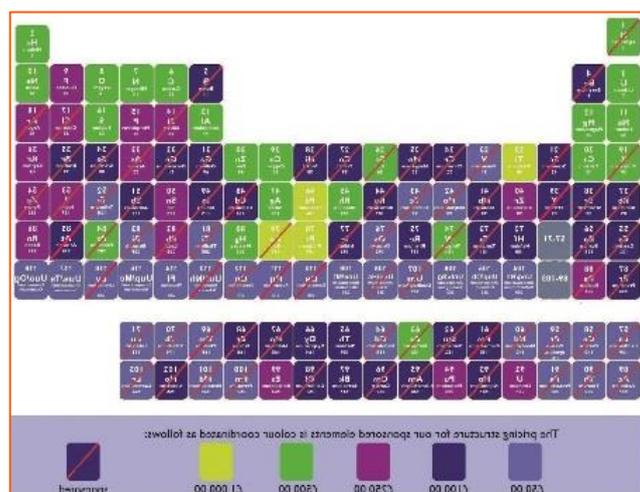
**First of all, thank you to all those who have generously sponsored an Element so far – your support is very much appreciated.**



At the beginning of the year we set our S17 fundraising sights high and although getting closer to our donation target, we still need more support to enable the refurbishment to go ahead. S17 is the final science laboratory left to refurbish and this work includes the essential (but costly) installation of new laboratory ventilation, mainly for A Level Chemistry practicals. Our student

scientists from Years 7 to 13 will greatly benefit from this refurbishment and have confirmed how much they are looking forward to S17 matching the other labs.

Elements of all donation values are still available for you to sponsor. If you would like to sponsor an Element please download and complete the *Sponsor an Element Form* from our [website](#) and return it to the Development Office. Alternatively, please contact me, [apexton@ahs.bucks.sch.uk](mailto:apexton@ahs.bucks.sch.uk) for further information.



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# Ex-Students Update

by Mrs Pexton, Development Director

## AHS for Team GB 2020

Congratulations to Jo Hunter (2009), who has been selected to join the 33-woman GB hockey squad focused on the next Olympic Games. What an inspiration to all our hockey players!



Meanwhile, Lauren Thomas has returned from University in Michigan to pursue her Olympic hockey dream for Team GB. We are thrilled that she will be coaching our teams on a Thursday evening at RAF Halton too - a great asset for our current students.

## From World Challenge School Trip to Charity Career

It is often said that your school experiences beyond the classroom shape your future. A great example of this is Jess Turner, who participated in an AHS World Challenge trip to Madagascar with Mr Rosen in 2007.

Eight years later, she returned to Madagascar to work for a women's economic development charity. ['Stitch Sainte Luce'](#) is a women's embroidery business project, geared towards community development through providing embroidery training for women. With an emphasis on sustainability, the new skills help women earn a living and alleviate the chronic poverty faced by their families.



During her time in Madagascar, she went back to Soatanana to visit the project that AHS was working on as part of the World Challenge trip. It



was a mammoth 10-day trip, driving from the very south up into the Highlands with women who had never left their town. Quite the experience! The AHS mural, painted by students and showing the life cycle of a silk worm, was still there nearly ten years later!

## Reporting the news in the US

Rajini Vaidyanathan (leaver in 1997) is currently in Washington DC, working as a News Correspondent and anchor for the BBC. In recent months, she has presented recent stories including extensive live coverage of the protests and riots in Ferguson, the battle against ISIS, the Wikileaks trial, and the Ukraine crisis, as well as the election and inauguration of the 45th US President. Prior to her posting to Washington, she was a correspondent for the BBC in Mumbai, and [wrote an article](#) about what it was like returning to work in the home country of her ancestral family.

Current AHS students, participating in the Politics trip to Washington earlier this year were able to meet Rajini and hear about how she translates current events into (not fake) news for public consumption.

