



# AYLESBURY HIGH SCHOOL ALUMNI

## January 2019

### 60th Birthday 1990s Assemblies

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aylesburyhighschoolalumni



'Aylesbury High School  
Former Students and  
Staff'. Please 'connect' first  
with Alison Pexton.

Or Visit Our Dedicated Website Page

[www.ahs.bucks.sch.uk/about-the-school/  
alumni/](http://www.ahs.bucks.sch.uk/about-the-school/alumni/)

### AHS 60th Birthday Mugs Are Now For Sale!

£6.50 per mug  
to be collected from AHS only



In celebration of our 60th Birthday, we now have celebration mugs for sale, to order via our online **AHS School Shop** (please click on this link: and use **Alumni** as the 'child's name' on the order form details).

The mugs feature our 60th Birthday logo and they are dishwasher-safe too!

Our online shop accepts Debit and Credit Cards payments.

For further information, please contact Alison Pexton [apexton@ahs.bucks.sch.uk](mailto:apexton@ahs.bucks.sch.uk)

As part of our 'Women Who Inspire' themed 60th Birthday assemblies in January, we welcomed back Alumni from the 1990's, who shared their memories of AHS, and their career choices. Students were keen to hear what AHS was like then and how AHS had influenced their decisions and prepared them for their chosen careers.



Our first speaker was **Alumna Sally Williamson (Adam)**, now Customer and Field Support Manager at Janssen. Sally remembers being very proud coming to AHS and that there were no boys around! She enjoyed the annual Christmas Party, music at AHS and still remembers the adventure of her German Exchange trip.

Her love of science led her to study Natural Sciences at Bath University and enabled her to pursue her management career in the

pharmaceutical industry. Sally told students she believes AHS taught her how to work hard and apply herself. Her advice to students: 'try and do something that you enjoy!'



**Alumna Louisa Allen**, Conduct and Compliance Risk Manager at Santander UK, also has happy memories of being at AHS, and her physics teacher encouraging students to be independent, by tasking them to change a car tyre in the staff car park! Louisa's interest in sciences led her to study Engineering, Economics and Management (MENG) at Oxford University. After graduation she decided to go in to Law and became a solicitor, and this path led her to her career in risk management.

Louisa told students she believes that AHS instilled in her a positive learning attitude, resilience and the ability to give back. Her advice to students: 'be studious and see the joy in the ability to learn!'



Our final speaker was **Alumna Vanessa Mayhead Carter**, Insight Officer at National Trust and Director of VM Insight Consulting. Vanessa remembers the sense of community and friendship at AHS and still has, friendships from school! Always loving languages, she relished the trips to France and Germany and went on to study International Business with Languages at Sheffield Hallam University. After university she worked in advertising, direct marketing and market research before becoming an Insight Manager for major brands.

Vanessa said 'AHS taught me to think big and bigger' - valuable advice for all our students!

We are very thankful to Sally, Louisa and Vanessa for their support and inspiration.

### A Visit From Alumna Valerie Owen OBE

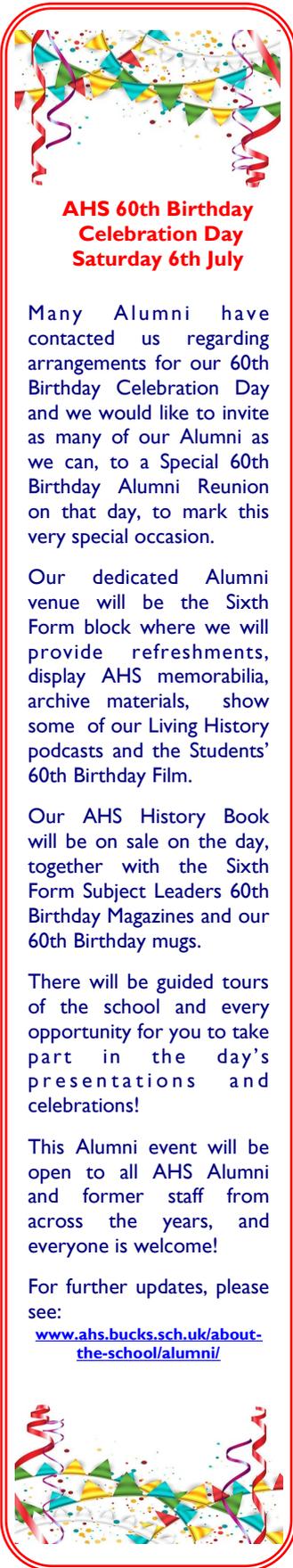
We were very happy to welcome back to AHS once more, inspirational Alumna, Valerie Owen OBE Managing Director of Le Vaillant Owen Consultancy. Travelling in from Dover in Kent, Valerie spent time with our Business Studies students talking about how she started her career in sustainable development and community regeneration, having first



studied Architecture at Cardiff University. She then was with our Engineering students, participating in their assignment and later took part in our student-led Living

History interview. Valerie kindly brought her OBE to show students, who were very interested to know more about her community involvement, including being the Commissioner of Girlguiding UK.

We greatly appreciate Valerie's continued support of AHS and 'Women Who Inspire'.



**AHS 60th Birthday Celebration Day  
Saturday 6th July**

Many Alumni have contacted us regarding arrangements for our 60th Birthday Celebration Day and we would like to invite as many of our Alumni as we can, to a Special 60th Birthday Alumni Reunion on that day, to mark this very special occasion.

Our dedicated Alumni venue will be the Sixth Form block where we will provide refreshments, display AHS memorabilia, archive materials, show some of our Living History podcasts and the Students' 60th Birthday Film.

Our AHS History Book will be on sale on the day, together with the Sixth Form Subject Leaders 60th Birthday Magazines and our 60th Birthday mugs.

There will be guided tours of the school and every opportunity for you to take part in the day's presentations and celebrations!

This Alumni event will be open to all AHS Alumni and former staff from across the years, and everyone is welcome!

For further updates, please see:  
[www.ahs.bucks.sch.uk/about-the-school/alumni/](http://www.ahs.bucks.sch.uk/about-the-school/alumni/)



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## Carmichael UK: STEM Careers Lunch & Learn

We were very thankful to **Alumna Ellena Tangi**, Marketing & PR Team Leader at Carmichael UK, for arranging for her company to come to AHS for a Careers Lunch and Learn for our students.

Carmichael is keen to further STEM and civil engineering careers for women and arranged many fun and educational activities for the students to introduce them to the many aspects of civil engineering and what it entails.

If your company would like to take part in a similar activity at AHS, we would be delighted to hear from you!



<https://carmichaeluk.com/>

## Our Living History & AHS History Book Projects

When we started planning our 60th Birthday Celebrations, we all agreed that we wanted to leave our school, and alumni communities a legacy of the history of the school, which we could all access, and future generations could build upon for many years to come.

With that in mind, we have been delighted that so many of our Alumni and former members of staff have been keen to be interviewed. The best way that we thought of capturing these interviews was by filming them and we were especially pleased that budding journalist, and Alumni Projects Assistant, Becca Harty (an Alumna too!), volunteered to be our interviewer.

Each of our Alumni visitors to AHS over the past ten months, kindly agreed to be asked questions about their time at AHS, their memories of school and Aylesbury, and what life was like in their particular decade.

What has emerged is a rich kaleidoscope of valuable

history and social commentary on key topics. We were fascinated by what our Alumni had to tell and this is how the Living History project was born. We hope to have the Alumni podcasts available to everyone after Easter.



One of our January Living History contributors was **Alumna Ellena Tangi**. She took time out from the busy Careers Lunch & Learn to share with us more about her choice to study Journalism at University of South Wales, and her inspiration and journey to her current Marketing & PR Team Leader position at Carmichael UK.

We were also very pleased that **David Chaplin** could



spend an afternoon with us, sharing his memories of AHS, and being a teacher at the school for over 50 years.

We decided to film this interview using a green screen, so that the final film footage would feature a nostalgic photograph of the school as its backdrop!

We are pleased to confirm that we are also now in email contact with former Headteacher **Margaret Lambert**, and are also planning to interview **Jane Wainwright** shortly!

We welcome the support of former staff for our 60th Birthday History Book and what we know will be a very interesting read!

## Our AHS Archive

**We hope to announce a very exciting update on our AHS Archive shortly .... more news to follow!**