

# High Lights



Volume 8 No 8 February 2005

## AHS Girls in the next Harry Potter film!

In early November last year, several students from Aylesbury Music Centre were called by Nick Care (a music centre teacher) and asked if we would like to be filmed in the orchestra for the next Harry Potter film, "The Goblet of Fire". Obviously we said YES!! So???.

On 6 December 2004, Rosalie Bryant, Bethany King and I, along with many others from the Aylesbury Music Centre, went on our first very exciting journey to the Leavesdon Studios in Watford for our first day on the Harry Potter set. We all piled off the coach and were amazed at what we saw; lots of props and people (mainly dancers) sitting eating their breakfast. We too ate breakfast and then went straight to costume and make-up. From there we moved on set having been pampered and were stunned at the incredible scenery.

We all felt the heat of the lights on us and were, after running through the same tune about five times, getting very tired and bored. Though we did see all the celebrities, we were very appreciative when they called a break for lunch. We went back on set then and played through the same tune another 8 times and finally it was dinner. We then got changed out of our clothes and got back on the coach.

We had two more days of this wonderful experience but then it was called to an end. We were all very happy having met many new good friends, but most of all, we were £160 richer!!!

*Elly Moran 9W*



## Winning Miss AHS

At the first audition I wasn't all that sure what to sing, so I sang the first song that came into my head and that happened to be "Killing me Softly". I thought that I had done ok, but loads of brilliant acts had performed before me. When I found out I was in the competition, I was really pleased.

Before I go on stage I get an adrenaline rush that causes me to jump up and down. This occasion was no exception. When I went on stage I could hear my friends cheering. I carried on singing but I was terrified I was going to forget my words. But I didn't! I watched the rest of the acts and prayed that I had done enough. I saw the Chicago dance and thought it was brilliant; they were certain to win.

I felt really nervous as the results were read out. They called out third place and I then thought that if I'm not second, then I was not going to be called out at all. They called out second and I lost all hope. They called out first and I'd won!! I was both amazed and elated. They put a crown on my head, which was 10 sizes too small, but I was still thrilled.

*Tasila Banda 7S*

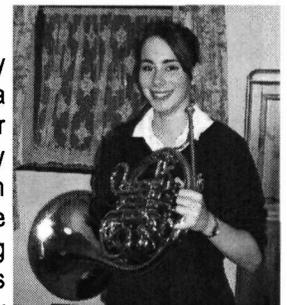
## Congratulations .....

to **Elise Campbell, 10W** who has been awarded the position of principal horn with the National Youth Sinfonia.

*Naomi Payne Cook*

## National Youth Sinfonia

The National Youth Sinfonia is a very high standard chamber orchestra collecting musicians age 18 and under from all over the UK. It is the only National Youth Chamber Orchestra in the country and has performed at the BBC Promenade Concerts, appearing live on Radio 3. They have a week's residential course at Easter and a 3-day residential course in the summer. They perform without a conductor as the orchestra is led from the leader's chair (violin). They have performed in many famous halls, including the Symphony Hall in Birmingham.



*Elise Campbell 10H*

## Off to Kenya

It's a week today (8 February) that we'll be setting off for Nairobi Airport, Kenya, beginning our fantastic journey to Chagaik Secondary School, Kericho. After being chosen to accompany Mrs. Granger and Mrs. Larkham in a visit to our link school, both of us have been unable to think of much else since. We have so many plans and things which we hope to see achieved whilst in Kenya, including making lots of friends, comparing and contrasting teenage life on both sides of the link, showing the CSS students how we live our lives and, in return, hoping to learn a lot more about their culture and ways of life.

We have no idea what to expect as we pull up to the school, but know undoubtedly we will receive a warm reception, and will be greeted by all of the students and teachers we are lucky to be in contact with through the Transcontinental link. Having spoken to girls who have previously visited Kericho, we already have images of the diverse, incredible scenery in and around the school, and thoughts of the wonderful people we may meet. We know we have been given the chance of an experience of a lifetime, and hope to strengthen and enhance the link for both ourselves and all those at Chagaik Secondary School and Aylesbury High.

*Sonia Krylova 11H & Freya Macknight 11M*



## TRIPS

**Year 9 Trip to Andernach 2004**

On 8 December 2004, a group of 44 Year 9 students and four teachers (Mr Baird, Miss Middleton, Mrs Cartwright and Miss Cameron) set off on a tiring 13-hour journey to Andernach in Germany, travelling by coach to Dover, crossing over to Calais by ferry and then driving through Belgium and into Germany. We finally arrived at Andernach around 7.00 pm, but although we were tired, we knew it was worth it and looked forward to our first day.

Morning arrived (a little too soon in some people's opinion!) and after breakfast we headed off for our first destination, Trier, where we went to a toy museum and a Christmas market. At the toy museum, we saw a collection of German handmade toys including a collection of toy trains and dolls.

We then went to the nearby German market, which had plenty of stalls selling everything from Christmas decorations to crepes. A lot of us bought our Christmas presents in the market, so our German speaking skills were put to the test! Our day ended very nicely indeed, when Mr Baird and the staff treated us to an ice cream in an ice cream parlour in Boppard. I had an Italian ice cream called 'stracciatella' and a hot chocolate with extra cream; the girls who went on the trip enjoyed many hot chocolates while in Germany – they kept us warm! We came back from our fantastic first day to a three-course meal at the hotel. We then got settled in our rooms and went to bed.



On the second day, we went to a castle, a music museum and another German market. At the castle our guide greeted us and took us around the museum. We discovered a lot of new things about life in the olden days, some of it was a bit disgusting, but still interesting! The tour guide was really knowledgeable about the castle; we all enjoyed listening to what he had to say about it.

Next, we went to a music museum, where we learned about machines that played instruments mechanically. Tom, our guide, showed us

examples of these machines. Among the things we saw were a musical chair and a self-playing piano. I was lucky enough to have the opportunity to play on one of these pianos and I really enjoyed it. The last place we went to was our second German market where we enjoyed more hot chocolate, crepes and had our first experience of observing a glass blower at work. It was a really enjoyable day. We came back to the hotel for another delicious meal and ended the night by filling in our booklets.

The third and final day came and we went to Cologne. It took us a few hours to get there and when we stepped out of the coach, we were taken aback by an impressive gothic cathedral. Situated around this cathedral was an enormous market, at least twice as big as the other markets we went to. All the girls were eager to start shopping in this wonderful festive market and finish off buying their gifts.

On ending our final shopping spree, the group headed off to the chocolate museum, a place we'd all been looking forward to going to! We were shown how chocolate was made step by step from picking the cocoa fruit to moulding the chocolate. We even ate a cocoa bean. The tour ended at the chocolate fountain; everyone's mouth was watering! After sampling the chocolate from the fountain, we went into the shop to buy a few edible souvenirs.

We then drove home, had dinner and the award ceremony began. There were prizes for the worst hat, tackiest postcard, stupidest saying and best booklet. The prizes of chocolate were given out to the winners, including myself and Amy Hinson, who won the tackiest postcard competition. We also said thank you to our coach drivers for being so patient and driving us around Germany, and the teachers for doing such a great job of organising and looking after us for the duration of the trip. We ended the evening with a talent show, with performances such as singing Scottish songs, reading poems, rapping and a pop idol type contest. This was a perfect way to spend our last evening.

The last day came and everyone got up feeling a little bit disappointed that this incredible trip had come to an end. We got on the coach and made our way back through Belgium and France and back to Aylesbury High School to greet our parents. I'm sure I speak on behalf of everyone who went on the trip when I say it was absolutely amazing and we will never forget it.

**Phoebe Tansley 9C**



Sian Brooke as Juliet

**Romeo and Juliet at the RSC**

On Monday 20 December, Mrs Queralt, Miss Milzani and Mr Hewitt took 50 students from Years 10 and 11 to the Albery Theatre in London to see Peter Gill's much acclaimed production of *Romeo and Juliet*. The elaborate theatre provided a fine setting for the superb play. We were struck by the skill of the actors, who portrayed the characters with feeling.

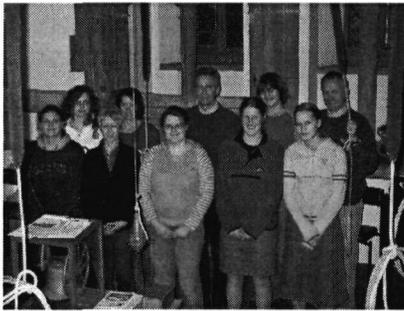
In the *Daily Telegraph's* words: 'Sian Brooke is a heart-stoppingly young and beautiful Juliet...Matthew Rhys has all the required ardour as Romeo...the innocence and trust of the love between the pair wrenches the heart.' We also thought that Mercutio was particularly entertaining. The performance brought the play off the page for us and we thoroughly enjoyed it.

**Priya Shah & Berni Ivey 11 A**



Sian Brooke and Matthew Rhys

TRIPS



**Christmas Bellringers**

Several students, staff and friends rang the bells of St Mary's, Aylesbury before the Christmas Carol Concert on Tuesday 14 December, thus greeting people as they arrived. It is hoped that this will become an annual contribution to the concert. Ringers are invited to contact the staff at AHS.

(left to right)

Jessica Smith 11H, Louisa Gadsby 13B, Kathy Bentley, Maggie Ferris, Hollie Smith 13B, Simon Lockwood, Katherine Stonham 12T, Gwilym Lockwood (Yr 10 AGS), Sarah Bishop 12T, James Stonham

**National Debating Competition**

It wasn't a glamorous start to the morning – we met in the cold at the Park & Ride. Upon arriving at Oxford Union, we found it swarming with other debaters, which was quite daunting.

All too soon, we were told our positions and were off to separate rooms to get down to some serious debating. The motion of Round One was pre-released: "This House would withdraw London's Olympic Bid". Both the A team and the B team were for the motion. We soon found out what we were up against; the competition was very tough.

Round Two was interesting – "This House would force School to adopt Single Sex Education"; both teams found themselves opposing the motion, and therefore our own school! The B team found themselves against a particularly obnoxious person who believed that girls were rubbish at Maths and Science, preferring Art and Literature. They also apparently can't play rugby! The A team found themselves opposing people who believed that sexual attraction was apparently a negative thing.

The third round was somewhat ... challenging. Whilst waiting to be told of the motion, we were treated to the Sex Pistols' 'God Save the Queen'. We soon found out why – the motion was "This House would

abolish the Monarchy and instate an elected President". The real difficulty was that both teams were opposing the motion! With none of us being Monarchists, this really tested out debating skills! It's safe to say that not many of the competing debaters performed well in that round and we certainly had trouble presenting solid arguments.

The fourth round was the most enjoyable – the motion "This House would ban violent Video Games" definitely got our attention. Both teams were for the motion. The A team opposed one person who believed that 'virtual violence is a satisfying release of anger', which they rebutted with the fact that to find graphically bloody combat and nuclear warfare satisfying is frankly quite sick.

At the end of the day, we all agreed that it had been a challenging but worthwhile day and certainly an experience.

**Results: Team A**  
(Verity Kirkpatrick & Eva Mariscotti)

**Team B**  
(Rebecca Sparkes & Alison Taylor)

Round 1: 2<sup>nd</sup>  
Round 2: 2<sup>nd</sup>  
Round 3: 3<sup>rd</sup>  
Round 4: unreleased

**Verity Kirkpatrick & Rebecca Sparkes, 10C**

**A Mathematical Outing**

Last term Sixth Form mathematicians were so busy going out, we barely had time to tackle our work!

On 24 November, further maths students took part in a Maths Conference at Aylesbury Grammar School. Mathematicians from secondary schools in the area were all invited, and were treated to lectures, new mathematical computer programs and even a chance to use ourselves in an example of real life statistics. It was a wonderful chance to listen to real-life mathematicians, and proved to us once and for all that our teachers are right, and you can use maths outside the classroom!

And if that wasn't enough, on 8 December all maths students went on a visit to Milton Keynes Open University for an annual Christmas lecture, this year on 'Dotty Problems'. The promises of free mince pies lured many of us out, and after an hour of bewildering lectures that we didn't even begin to understand were greatly needed! Everything became clearer after the interval, although it's still uncertain whether that was due to the coffee served with the mince pies, or the explanations of the lecturer. This unusual branch of maths proved to be as fascinating as promised, as we were shown how it is possible to

colour maps in only four colours, the confusing Knights Tours puzzle, and even the riddle of the infamous seven bridges of the city of Königsberg. In this problem the people of Königsberg, who were very fond of walking in the evening, wished to be able to walk over each of their seven bridges once only, and end up in the same place they started.

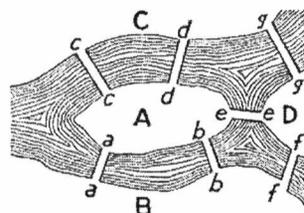


FIGURE 98. Geographic Map: The Königsberg Bridges.

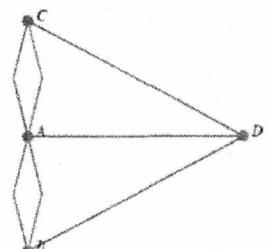
Using this brief map of Königsberg, can you see if this is possible?

An answer is given below.

**Katie Dickson 12Q**

Answer:

This problem is actually impossible, as the multigraph to the left demonstrates. For a person to cross a bridge only once there must be an **even** number of entry points to it, so that they can enter and leave. If there is an odd number then that bridge must be the starting or ending point. However, as you can see every vertex has an odd number, so the problem is impossible.



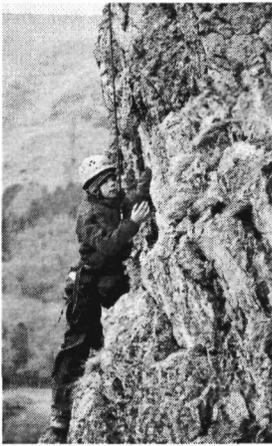
## ABERDYFI 2005

### Aberdyfi Personal Development Week

On Monday 10 January, Ascot, Claydon and Hughendon all went to the outward bound centre in Wales. After a 5½ hour coach journey of reading and singing, we arrived at our destination. We managed to hurl all our luggage up a number of steep hills and slopes, unaware of the challenges we would soon be facing. We were allocated to groups and rooms for the rest of the week. We retired to bed about 10 o'clock that night after a meeting, some fun activities and a tour of the site. This was just a taster of what we would do the following day and the rest of the week.



wanted to bring, as the bags we were provided with had to have a sleeping bag in them as well. Our two instructors, Kathrin and Sarah, informed us that they were having the evening off and we were to have another instructor for our evening activity. That's how we got to do the gorge walk. We were given helmets and torches and we set off into the pitch black with only feeble head torches. Suddenly we were hit with the noise of running water. As soon as we stepped outside, our hearts 'stopped' with the cold. We trekked through tyres and under logs, over logs, under water, through tunnels and over waterfalls all in the gorge. We were soaking and once again exhausted.



We were up at around 5.30 the following day, well just two of us, ready to have a shower and tidy up our room ready for the room inspection early that morning. A few hours went by and eventually the others began to wake up. So when the wake up call came round, our whole room was already dressed and showered. There was a massive improvement in the room as now our belongings were unpacked and our suitcases neatly stacked. We rushed down for breakfast. It was rather overwhelming as we had a choice of a fry up or cereal. A great start to the day! We went back to our rooms ready for the room inspections, but were a bit

disappointed when our so-called 'tidy' room was awarded 3.5 out of 5 (but were grateful to hear others had got a 2). Finally, after hearing the weather presented to us by other member of AHS, the Raleigh group (ours) were piled onto a mini bus ready to be taken to a cliff to rock climb. We were all equipped in our very practical waterproofs and walking boots. We were offloaded and led up a very steep hill to the place where we would soon be climbing. Many of us were trembling and not just because of the wind. This would definitely be a challenge and we would certainly have to push ourselves.



On Thursday it was the day to go to the log cabin but we weren't going to go there until 3.00 so in the meantime we were to do onsite activities. First we did the Trapeze. This consisted of a large pole you had to climb up with wooden pegs nailed into it and a very small surface area on the top which you were to jump off and catch the trapeze, a small bar suspended off a wire.

This was a daunting challenge whether you got a quarter of the way up the pole, half way or to the top. But whatever we did, everyone pushed themselves to their extreme. Then it was off to the log cabin, where we spent a very exciting night sleeping in a cabin with no electricity in the middle of nowhere. We were assigned tasks, whether it was collecting wood or cooking, but everyone worked really well to keep things going.



The next morning we returned from the cabin to do a teamwork task of Jacob's ladder; a large series of poles about 1½ metres apart. As a group of three, we had to get as far up as we could, slightly daunting but great fun. Then it was time for the 'grot pot', a large pond-type thing filled to the brim with mud and water. There was a small plank going across it; six of us had to stand on the plank in any order and then had to rearrange ourselves in alphabetical order. So I, having to be at the opposite end, went first. We were doing all right when suddenly one team mate decided to push another team mate in but I grabbed on and so a series of five of us fell in; it was slimy and smelly.

By the second day we were all exhausted but grateful to receive a 5 on our room inspections, thanks to piling up our towels neatly and the fact that a room mate bribed the rather tuneful instructor to give us a higher score (even after he put her socks in the bin as he said they had too many holes in them, but that's another story). We were all pleased to hear we were having a slightly more relaxing day. With the weather being too windy and cold to do water activities, we headed down to the beach for some shopping and sand sculptures. We got back to face packing for the log cabin where we were to go the next day. We were limited with the amount of beauty products and sweets we



We did do lots more activities, all of which needed strategy, teamwork and a lot of courage. The week was great, something we will always remember. We all got to know lots more people and we even found more out about our closest friends. We were really sad to be leaving. The centre was absolutely great and the teachers from AHS were brilliant.



Alex Broad 8C

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**MISCELLANY**


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***"Make Poverty History in 2005. Make History in 2005. Then we can all stand with our heads held high."***

These were the last words which Nelson Mandela spoke before stepping down from the podium in London's Trafalgar Square after speaking in front of thousands on a day which was significant for those who support the "Make Poverty History" Campaign.

"Make Poverty History" is a coalition of over 200 charities, campaigns, trade unions, faith groups and celebrities who want (how the website describes it) "TRADE JUSTICE. DROP THE DEBT. MORE AND BETTER AID." The white band craze has swept across the UK showing Tony Blair and other UK MPs that we, the citizens of this country, really do care about giving justice to Africa.

On Thursday the 3<sup>rd</sup> February I was given permission by Ms Alinek to take a day off school to take part in a "Make Poverty History" rally. A few days before I had seen on the "Make Poverty History" website that Nelson Mandela was to be speaking in front of a crowd of thousands in order to promote trade justice, and as Nelson Mandela said it is not "free trade" which so many poor Africans want, but "fair trade", something which gives them independence and treats them fairly. Something which any citizen of this world deserves.

There was a big build up including Jamelia who simply came onto the stage and performed her single "Stop" for us. Although Jamelia did not speak I felt that it was important that a woman who could indeed become a role model should come and sing to us although I would have liked her to say a few words.

Then Bob Geldof geared the crowd up for what we had been waiting for, he said that "some people described him as the President of Africa but [he] thought that President of the World would be more appropriate"- a statement with which I could not agree more. I could not believe that I was standing so close to Nelson Mandela! As he started to speak the whole crowd fell silent, as if they were under his spell. We were totally under his spell as he made a speech which although wasn't very long, it seemed to last forever, however, throughout the whole thing we were hanging off his every word.

Once he had made his speech all 9000 of us cheered a man who had turned the 3<sup>rd</sup> February into a day none of us would forget. Mr Mandela presented 8 children with a large white band which he told them to take with them back to Scotland, where the G8 summit is due to be held in July this year.

2005 is an important year for UK as, apart from us hosting the G8 summit in July in Gleneagles, the UK will be holding the chair of the European Union. Also, in the beginning of September, the UN are meeting to discuss the Millennium Goals set in 2000 in which it states that they aim to halve the number of people living in poverty by 2015. We were told at the rally that this year would be our chance to change something, we can show Tony Blair and Gordon Brown what we really feel; wearing white bands and sending emails and postcards to them (available on the "Make Poverty History" website) are just two methods by which we can do this.

As Nelson Mandela said: **"Make Poverty History in 2005. Make History in 2005. Then we can all stand with our heads held high."**

**Laura Hoskins 12R**




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***Art & Design in Progress***

You might have seen large pieces of white canvas being hurriedly carried towards the N2 art room recently by Year 12 students. In fact, you might have been batted down the corridor with one! They are preparing and are now realising their final studies in the AS Art & Design course. It is a very stressful time for the students as they have to produce two final pieces of work in response to the course, a 'portrait' and one based on 'structures and spaces'. So far, all are going well.

Look out for the finished results later this year when the AS Art & Design exhibitions are displayed around the school.

**Kate Watkins**

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***Fund Raising before and after Christmas***

Fund Raising Week is always a great way to end the Autumn Term. We use the money raised to fund a party for local Senior Citizens. They really look forward to an opportunity to be together and particularly enjoy the company of the young people they meet while they are here. The party took place on the Monday of Fund Raising Week and was organised by year 12 with contributions from years 7 and 8 (Christmas Cards and Table Decorations) and hosted by year 9. Entertainment was provided by people from all years.

Then the serious fund raising began: Top of the Pops on Tuesday was won by the Cabinet with "YMCA", Miss Middleton and Miss Ryder sang "Car Wash" to win Teacher Karaoke on Wednesday. Thursday's House Captain Extravaganza was postponed to Monday because of a partial power failure in the school. The final event, Miss AHS is reported on the front page. A total of almost £2000 was raised. Congratulations all round!

The party cost nearly £1000 so the Cabinet and School Council had to decide how to distribute the remainder. We had a collection for the Tsunami Disaster in the new term which raised £656 and was made up to £1000. This left £600 which was split between the Agape Project in Kenya and Florence Nightingale House in Aylesbury.

**Nina Gregory**

## SPORT

## Sports Hall

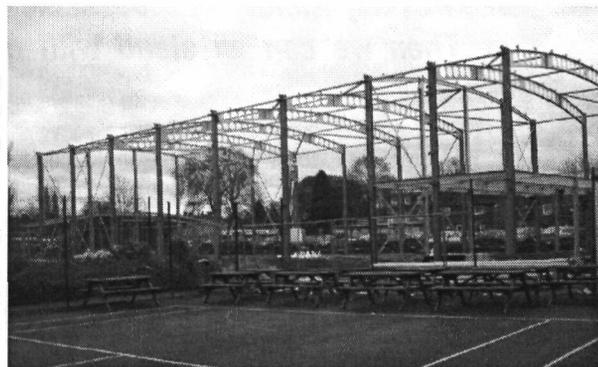
The Sports Hall has started to rise from the ashes of the Huts! Since the beginning of January, building work on the Sports Hall has progressed rapidly and a huge, impressive, meccano-like structure has appeared by the side of the tennis courts. We hope that the Sports Hall will be ready for use in September.

Although by the Autumn Term we will have a building, we will not have any new sports equipment. We are still busy raising money with the help of our Patrons, parents, students and friends. If you have not already done so, please do consider giving a donation to help us to buy the sports equipment our students will need.

There will be a number of fund-raising events over the next few months. Year groups and tutor groups have come up with all sorts of ingenious ideas to support the Appeal and the whole school will be taking part in an Aerobathon on Tuesday 22 March.

Another date for your diaries is an evening Fashion Show on 28 April, providing an exciting opportunity to buy ladies', gents' and children's clothes just in time for the summer, at prices of up to 50% off those in the High Street. Clothes will be ex-retail chain stores such as Gap, Next, Laura Ashley, Marks & Spencer, Tammy Girl, Principles and Debenhams. More details later in the year.

**Angela Wall**  
Sports Development Fund Manager



## Year 9 Netball team



This year's Year 9 premier netball team has been extremely successful so far with an unbeaten season. We were entered into the "county round of National Schools Netball."

On 20 November we played the first county round at John Colet School in Wendover. We won all of our games, playing extremely well despite the cold weather! A special mention must be made of Natalie Arnold and Freya Hawkins who joined our team for the tournament coming from Year 8, and who both played exceptionally well.

**Abby Webb, 9W**

## Netball

We still have a large number of girls taking part in netball and we would like to congratulate everyone for their continued effort at both training and in the matches. Everyone is welcome to come along; it would be great to see even more new faces either just at training or to take part in school matches.

Netball results since Christmas:

Seniors v Waddesdon	Won 20 - 9
Yr 11 vs Grange	Lost 12 - 22
	Player of match: <b>Molly Wilkinson 10S</b>
Yr 10 vs Vandyke	Won 9 - 2
Yr 9B vs Tring	Won 35 - 0
	Player of match: <b>Danielle Barden 9M</b>
Yr 9A vs Grange	Lost 5 - 20
	Player of match: <b>Catherine Franks 9M</b>
Yr 9B vs Vandyke	Won 7 - 4
	Player of match: <b>Rachael Evans 9C</b>
Yr 8A vs Waddesdon	Won 34 - 2
	Player of match: <b>Brogan Robinson 8S</b>

We look forward to more matches after the February half term!!

**Kerry Carpenter & Val Frith**

## County Cup Basketball

U15 vs John Colet	Lost 18 - 54
	Player of the Match: <b>Heidi Jenner 10S</b>
U13 AHS vs John Colet	Won 16 - 13
	Players of the Match: <b>Megan Cooke &amp; Freya Hawkins 8C</b>
Seniors vs John Colet	Lost 54 - 27
	Player of the Match: <b>Suzie Dudley 13R</b>



## Hockey Results

Y8 vs Sir Henry Floyd	5 - 0	
Y8 vs Wycombe High School	1 - 0	<b>Players of the Match</b> <b>Ruth Oxlade 8W</b> <b>Lauren Thomas 11S</b>
Y10 vs Cedars	0 - 3	<b>Sammy Graham 10A</b>
Y10 vs Wycombe High School	2 - 0	<b>Sammy Graham 10A</b>
Y10 vs Vandyke	0 - 5	<b>Natalie Gomm 10S</b>

## County Tournament U16 Hockey

vs Sir William Borlase	2 - 0
vs Wycombe High School	4 - 0
vs BHS	1 - 0
vs Royal Latin	1 - 1
vs Ousdale	1 - 0
vs Waddesdon	1 - 1



Player of the Tournament: **Katherine Fenner 11M**

**SPORT**  
2 minute interviews

Name: **Jo Hunter**  
 Form: 9W  
 Favourite sport: Hockey  
 Other sports played: Athletics, Netball, X-country  
 Clubs/teams played for: Aylesbury Hockey & Athletics; County - Bucks  
 Best sporting achievement: South Trials - Hockey  
 What do you hope to achieve in 2005? Make the South team  
 Favourite sports star and why: Kelly Holmes – she's inspirational

Name: **Esme Kinghorn**  
 Form: 9S  
 Favourite sport: Basketball  
 Other sports played: Athletics  
 Clubs/teams played for: Chiltern Pumas; Bucks; South of England; AHS  
 Best sporting achievement: Coming 2<sup>nd</sup> in the regional tournament; and coming 3<sup>rd</sup> in Portugal representing South England  
 What do you hope to achieve in 2005? As I have been selected for try-outs for England, I hope to make the team.  
 Favourite sports star and why: Michael Jordan because he plays well and he made a few World Records throughout his whole career

Name: **Hannah Beezer**  
 Form: 11H  
 Favourite sport: Mountain Boarding  
 Mountain boarding is like skateboarding with all-terrain wheels, suspension and snowboard grips down hills; you can do jumps and tricks, etc.  
 Other sports played: Athletics  
 Clubs/teams played for:  
 Best sporting achievement: Don't go into competitions – I just do it for fun.  
 What do you hope to achieve in 2005? Get better at it  
 Favourite sports star and why: Kelly Holmes because she's a good runner



Name: **Lottie Lodge**  
 Form: 11C  
 Favourite sport: Riding  
 Other sports played: Hockey, Football, Netball, Rounders, Athletics  
 Clubs/teams played for: OBH Chilterns PC – Football, X-country running  
 Best sporting achievement: Winning at Bucks County Show. Double clear at Blenheim—Pony Club show jumping  
 What do you hope to achieve in 2005? Ponies UK in juniors. BE Eventing  
 Point to pointing 2006  
 Favourite sports star and why: Bob Champion – overcame cancer to be top at sport

Name: **Clare Leathers**  
 Form: 13S  
 Favourite sport: Golf  
 Other sports played: Netball  
 Clubs/teams played for: County Ladies (1<sup>st</sup>) Golf; Ellesborough GC Ladies  
 Best sporting achievement: Represented England 'B' team at British Girls; reached the Faldo series final; reached final of Flight 2 at English Girls Champs  
 What do you hope to achieve in 2005? Win a National ladies tournament  
 Favourite sports star: Tiger Woods



## SCIENCE

### AS/A2 Students Physics Conference

A whole day of Physics!? Sounds like many students' worst nightmare. However 45 of us crazy enough to take this subject on in the Sixth Form, willingly headed off to London to this year's conference in the Emmanuel Centre, Westminster, on Tuesday 7 December.

Not quite sure what to expect, we arrived – a little late, due to the London traffic - at the conference with anticipation. Having been hurried through doors labelled 'Latecomers will not be allowed into the hall once a lecture has started', we sheepishly found somewhere to sit and listen.

The first lecturer spoke about particle physics and cosmology and the formation of the universe. Luckily we hadn't missed too much of the beginning, however I think many of us would still have been just as confused even if we had listened from the start. The next speaker brought us back down to earth with advice and tips on how to succeed in Physics exams. This was a useful lecture as the man speaking was a Chief Examiner. After the break we returned to listen to an interesting lecture on Einstein's brain. The speaker showed us pictures of the brain, which had been removed after he died, and 'chopped up into small slices' to analyse. Upon examining the brain, there turned out to be nothing obviously different about it – in fact it was a little smaller than an average person's brain. However further research is being carried out ...

The last speaker before lunch was your typical crazy physicist (he even had the crazy grey hair that stuck out as if he were connected up to a Van de Graaf generator!). He enthusiastically danced round the stage creating different sounds with drain pipes, slinky springs and electronically manipulated his voice to demonstrate sound in different acoustics. The lecture was very enjoyable and informative, until the speaker got a little too excited and managed to blow a fuse, and so

could not finish his talk, which was a shame.

After a great morning, we escaped to buy some lunch in Westminster and then returned back – on time – hoping for an exciting afternoon following the brilliant lectures from the morning.

During lunch, some of us stayed in the Emmanuel Centre and ate our packed lunches and some of us went and had a look around the area. At 2:30 pm, we all gathered back into the Lecture Hall, found our seats and sat waiting for the next lecture.

Dr Ilya Eigenbrot from Imperial College, London gave a talk on "Lasers: unravelling the mystery". He talked about how lasers worked, when they were invented and brought some of his most prized possessions. He also talked about the uses of lasers such as cancer treatment. His talk was very interesting and very useful as he explained the various aspects of physics behind lasers.

We then had a 10-minute break where we were all able to stand and stretch our legs etc. We then sat back down for the last but most certainly not least, talk about juggling.

Dr Colin Wright from SOLIPSYS Ltd was very enthusiastic and very funny. He demonstrated a selection of patterns and skills of juggling, whilst at the same time explaining how to juggle and how to use maths to develop and discover new tricks. Everyone thoroughly enjoyed his presentation.

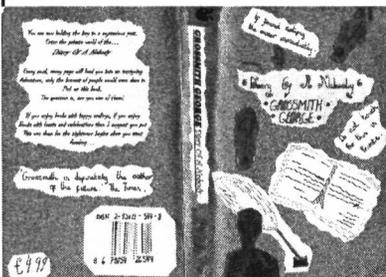
The day ended at 4 pm. The huge number of people at the conference all squeezed through the doors and left the Centre whilst our school gathered in the front foyer. We all returned to the coach, exhausted but with more Physics knowledge than when we started out.

**Leena Chavda 12T & Helen Palmer 12L**

### Reading Week

Every January the English department holds a reading week, where our classes read books and activities on a particular theme. This year we focused on history and students enjoyed varied titles, from

*Oliver Twist* to Bill Bryson's *A Short History of Nearly Everything*.



*Nobody*, and Lauren Neill 7M, Eleanor Macintyre 7M and Natalie Cox 7H were runners up.

Year 8 produced posters to encourage boys to read. Well done to Hannah Spinks, Hannah Twinberrow, Madeleine Thompson and Rachel Minott from 8A and Andrea Ditchburn, Harriet Moore, Lois Edwards and Danielle Rutter from 8S for their imaginative entries.

**Harriet Queral**



### Blasting Rockets

On the freezing lunchtime of Monday 20 December, Mr Moss came over to Aylesbury High and did a rocket display on the field. We had a small Science Club audience but some big explosions!

The first rocket to be let off wasn't really a rocket but we still had a big reaction and explosion. It was made of coke and alka seltzer shaken up together – we all got a bit rained on!

The second was water to which we added more and more pressure until it exploded. I was the unfortunate victim to be holding the bung on the rocket that was attached to the pump!

We had a few technical hitches with the next rockets but did not get one launch out of it. We attached the wires to connect the rocket to try and launch it – again – and it shot into the air! Worth standing in the blistering cold after all.

**Jessica Hemming 8C**