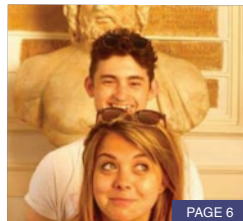


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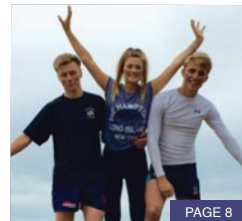
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WELL DONE EXAM RESULTS 2015

The Ashcombe School's 2015 results have maintained the very high standards set over the years. The Headteacher, David Blow said: "We are delighted that both at GCSE and A-level, the exam results continue to show a high level of consistency from year to year and across subjects, with students working hard and achieving highly. →



THE ASHCOMBE SCHOOL, DORKING



A-LEVEL RESULTS

The average points score for candidates was 335 UCAS points and 858 QCA points with half the grades at A*-B. The A*-E% of 96% reflects the school's approach of giving borderline candidates an opportunity to get a grade E. The school has consistently achieved an average score of over 300 UCAS points per student ever since the new A-level arrangements were introduced over a decade ago.

Mr Blow said "As a comprehensive school, our focus is on both achieving outstanding results at the top end, and also delivering high value-added (i.e. the progress made from GCSE to A-level). This year, 4 students gained places at Oxbridge with others successfully applying for courses with strong competition for places. We pride ourselves in offering opportunity as widely as possible by keeping restrictions on entry to A-level courses to a minimum. We have one of the most open entry policies onto A-level courses of any comprehensive school in Surrey. As a result, a number of students who in most institutions would not have been allowed to begin A-level courses have gained commendable grades, thereby giving them access to university places. We are also delighted with the achievement of individual students who have overcome personal difficulties or tragedies with the help of pastoral and support staff".

"One of the key reasons for our success both in absolute and relative terms has been a consistent focus on the interests of the students, developing a broad range of skills and responsibilities. An excellent pastoral team works with the students identifying concerns at an early stage and offering constructive guidance."

There were many outstanding individual results:

- 5 students gained 4 or more A or A* grades (subjects with A* or A grade listed in *italics*, and A* with * after subject) : Heather Boagey (Biology, Chemistry*, French, Maths, General Studies); Fern Osborne (Chemistry, Maths*, Maths

Further*, Physics*); Matthew Shortland (Biology, Economics*, Maths*, General Studies); Matthew Mahoney (Drama, French, Spanish*, General Studies); Charlie Hale (Economics, History, Politics, General Studies).

They will be studying as follows:

Heather Boagey, Medicine, Oxford; Fern Osborne, Mathematics, Durham; Matthew Shortland, Economics and Management, Oxford; Matthew Mahoney and Charlie Hale, Gap year prior to university

- 7 students gained 3 A or A* grades (subjects with A* or A grade listed in *italics*, and A* with * after subject) : Beth Bridgman (Chemistry, Maths*, Further Maths *); William Harris (Maths*, Further Maths*, Physics); Ryuji Mark (Japanese*, Maths*, Further Maths); Ella Knowles (Chemistry*, Maths, Physics); Ben Stowell (Geography, Maths*, Further Maths); Kyle Supra-Wood (Economics, Maths*, Politics); Christopher Wood (Maths, Physics, General Studies).

They will be studying as follows:

Beth Bridgman Mathematics, Oxford; William Harris Mathematics, Oxford; Ryuji Mark Mathematics, Kings College London; Ella Knowles Geophysics, Imperial College London; Ben Stowell Geography, Durham; Kyle Supra-Wood Economics, Nottingham; Christopher Wood Physics, Birmingham.

The Lower Sixth's AS results were also extremely strong

- 4 students gained 5 grade As (Daniel Ashwood, Sophie Dickson, Eve Foster, Alex Nash).
- 7 gained 4 grade As: (Edie Adams, Jamie Addison, Hannah Beresford, India Daniels, Jacob Grant, Munroe Ritchie, Sam Rowlands).



GCSE RESULTS

This is the second year of the new "first entry" rules for measuring the performance of schools in English and Maths together with a further tightening of grading nationally, and so we are delighted to have achieved a "first entry" %A*-C of 80% in both English and Maths. This included 20% achieving A* in Maths (compared with 7% nationally) and nearly two-thirds of the year group gaining A*-B grade.

The approach of the school over a number of years has been to ensure that all pupils take a broad and balanced curriculum with GCSE exams and not to take "GCSE equivalent" qualifications (non-GCSE exams which get an allotted "equivalence" in league tables such as %5A*-C).

- Outstanding individual results, 49 out of 236 pupils (over a fifth) gaining 2 or more A* grades:

8½A*: Lucy Brett, Kezia Mahony, 8A*: Abby Hubbard, 7½A*: Rebecca Loomes, Florence Young, 6½A*: Gemma Everson, Lauren Jennings, Jessica Beresford, 6A*: Alexia Beale, Rachel Bradshaw, Emily Brewer, Johana Bowhill, Tate McKinnon-Snell, Megan Winslade, Olivia Masters, 5½A*: Gregory Pratt, Beth Waugh, 5A*: Sophie Sutherland, Paolo Elias, Haytham Lebari, Stuart Ellis, 4½A*: Georgie Bridgman, 4A*: Helena Bush, Alice Blair, Molly Fownes-Walpole, Delphine Boagey, Zach Lavender, Leith Osborne, Daisy Thomson, 3½A*: Emily Hornung, 3A*: Eleanor Baldwin, George Warne, Owen O'Donnell, Thomas Jebson, Sam Potts, Robbie Sandle, 2½A*: Eleanor Parnham, 2A*: Toby Britton-Watts, William Thomas, Natasha Wiltshire, Milly Gibbs, Chloe Hillson, Jonathan Reid, Isabel Salter, Stephen Curtis, Madeleine Hudson, Max Hunter, Jessica Collings, Isabel Woodcock. (½ grades come from GCSE short courses, which have the same difficulty but half the topics).

The twenty-one pupils with 5 or more A* grades have demonstrated an exceptional level of achievement across a broad range of subjects.

- 100% of pupils gained at least 1 A*-G and 99% gained at least 5A*-G. This is particularly pleasing because we are a comprehensive school taking the full range of ability with no selection or filtering.

- English Baccalaureate: 38% of cohort (i.e. all of Year 11) obtained A*-C in GCSE English Language AND GCSE Maths AND GCSE Science (x2) AND GCSE Languages AND GCSE History/Geography (but does not count RS as Humanities)

- The percentage of pupils gaining at least 5A*-C is 72% this year (GCSEs only, "first entry", no equivalent qualifications counted)

- The percentage of pupils gaining at least 5A*-C with English & Maths is 68% "first entry" this year (GCSEs only, "first entry", no equivalent qualifications counted)

- "first entry" %A*-C in: Maths 80%, Core Science 75%, Additional Science 70%, English Literature 81%, English Language 80%

- Over 90% of pupils gained at least 1 A*-C grade showing that the curriculum is sufficiently broad and flexible so that virtually all pupils can gain an A*-C grade in at least one subject.

These are outstanding results which have been achieved by a complete cross-section of young people. The Ashcombe School is a local authority mixed comprehensive which offers places to all young people living within the area regardless of academic ability. Examination achievement is regarded as an important aspect of the education we provide but not necessarily the most important aspect and we do not manipulate entry to either courses or exams to improve the statistics.

We believe that a number of factors have contributed to all this success of which the hard work of the pupils themselves, the support of their parents and the skill and dedication of our teachers are the most significant. In addition however, for several years, we have used a system of target setting and monitoring at GCSE in which pupils are given clear indication very early in their course as to the results we expect. This is based on a subject by subject analysis of their previous performance. At the same time pupils are challenged to exceed these targeted expectations. Many pupils have risen to this challenge magnificently. Within this process, regular monitoring allowed us to give encouragement throughout and to address the issues of those who were in danger of underachieving before it became too late.

These excellent results demonstrate the effectiveness of high quality teaching coupled with strong management systems and team work. The Ashcombe School has achieved a consistently high standard of examination results for many years now, but it is not complacent and will seek to build on this achievement.



VIEWPOINT

As the nights draw in, this edition of Accent is a timely reminder of many exciting activities in the summer, and the excellent exam results achieved by the students.

We are entering a period of further change to the exam system nationally, but fortunately the overall principles of GCSE and A-level have been retained, and teachers will be working hard to prepare for the new exams and grading systems. Amidst this external change, we will be, as ever, focussing on what is in our control, and trying to avoid any additional stress on the students caused by changes outside our control.

We have found over the years, that having a vast range of extra-curricular activities is not only valuable in its own right, but also helps the students keep a sense of perspective, particularly in the run-up to exams.

This edition highlights the longstanding relationship between the school and a community in Romania, as well as the excellent work by Mr Panting, Mr Mercer and Mr Rayne in developing links with businesses, the Careers Fair (which also gives opportunities for students to find out about further and higher education institutions) and STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Maths) activities.

So, do enjoy gazing on the pictures of blue skies and summer activities whilst closing the curtains on the dark skies, wind and rain outside!!

DJ Blow

D.J. Blow
Headteacher

FAREWELL TO UPPER 6TH....

On 2nd July the Upper Sixth Leavers' Boat trip took place along the Thames and 140 students attended. We were very lucky with the weather, the sun was shining and as we sailed along we were able to take in the lovely sights along the way. The students looked fabulous in their finest attire and everyone had a great evening which was an emotional affair being their last ever school event.



DESIGN & TECHNOLOGY TOURNAMENT



Mr Taylor and Mrs Montgomery took two year 8 teams and one year 9 team to the Warwick school for a Design & Technology Tournament organised by the Rotary Club, in which the teams competed against other schools. The challenge was to cross a river where there was a suspended cable in the form of a test rig. Working in groups with a toolkit and parts they successfully made a mechanical vehicle which ran along the cable to the other side. In addition they had to produce a portfolio of designs and other criteria which had to be met. There was a big buzz of excitement throughout the day with a lot of design changes, even up to the very last minute and after much collaboration, the judges awarded the Ashcombe school Year 9's as the winners in their category. We have held the trophy for two consecutive years running! Pictured are the winners Henry Matthews, Joshua Bremer, Nik Strong and Jamie Hughes with the Rotary Club judges. Congratulations go to all who were selected to participate. Here's to next year!

'HEROES OF ROMANIA'



At the end of the summer term 16 L6th students spent 10 days in Iasi, north-east Romania. They worked on three projects: visiting children from the shanty town in the Little Rainbow Kindergarten, mixing with ex-street boys at The Farm of Hope and building a fence to protect the land from intruders as well as building a house extension for a family in Poieni village.

A lovely story was written by the local media in Iasi. Below is an extract from the article.

"Anonymous Heroes of the Queen

16 teenagers from England chose to spend their summer holidays in the village of Poieni, near Iasi, not to relax, but to carry out a noble action. This year they constructed another room for a house in the village and built a 40m fence to protect the property. The existing room had become uninhabitable and was being used as a storeroom. The mother of this family went to Italy and did not return to her family, so now the father takes care of all the children.

Students from The Ashcombe School have come to Iasi for the past 17 years to support humanitarian causes. They have

built houses and additional rooms, dug wells, built animal shelters and bought animals for families in need... They are our heroes who come from a school in the UK, to support one of the longest running projects in Iasi: a partnership with Link Romania Moldavia Foundation, an organization founded in 1998. This project has become a tradition, building a bridge between civilization and philanthropy in the UK and recognized local needs".

ISLE OF WIGHT

Year 9 students once again participated in their annual trip to the Isle of Wight during Activities Week. All the students participated in a wide range of activities including abseiling, rock climbing and quad biking. Fun evenings were spent on the beach as students played tap-tap, cricket and football, whilst others relaxed by the beach fire. They all fully immersed themselves in every activity and worked extremely well as a team in their selected groups. The weather was perfect throughout the week, the student's behaviour was exemplary and lots of fun was had. The teachers' favourite part was the 'clean' sensory trail!



Y10 BOAT TRIP

To celebrate the end of a successful Year 10, 150 pupils were coached to Kingston for the annual Boat Party in their finest attire and boarded the New Southern Belle at Kingston Pier to dance the night away. The boys looked very smart in suits and the girls had lovely outfits. The tour of the Thames took us to Hampton Court Palace, through a lock and then we docked to receive our Fish and Chip supper. The return journey equalled more dancing! As we disembarked our vessel the staff on board informed us that we were some of the politest customers they had ever had aboard!



MEASURE FOR MEASURE

The summer term saw an opportunity for more trips to the beautiful setting of Shakespeare's Globe theatre in London. Staff accompanied 15 lower sixth students to the Globe's new performance of Measure for Measure. The students arrived in the afternoon to complete a tour of the Shakespeare museum; giving them a valuable insight into the life of this most famous writer. This was followed by a social meal at Pizza Express before we strolled along the Thames to watch the comedic performance. Students were in stitches as the Globe proved once again that Shakespeare is highly relevant to our modern day society, and ultimately, humour is eternal. We look forward to taking the new Lower Sixth to see another performance later this term.



ROME/SORRENTO CLASSICAL CIVILISATION TRIP



The Roman sunshine, ice cream and pizzas – not to mention the fabulous sites we saw – charmed and inspired us as we walked our way around ancient and renaissance Rome. We saw the mighty Coliseum; the Roman forum & Palatine Hill; Piazza del Popolo; the Spanish Steps where some of us had an enormously expensive drink in Babington's tea rooms; Largo di Torre Argentina where Julius Caesar died; Campo di Fiori; St John Lateran, Rome's cathedral with the doors from the ancient Curia that Cicero's hands were displayed on; the Ara Pacis and the Capitoline Hill museums.

After visiting Ostia Antica, Rome's one time port, on the way, we then travelled to Sorrento, our base for Pompeii, Mt Vesuvius, Herculaneum and Stabia. The hotel with its private beach and sea provided much needed cooling down as the temperatures rose and it seemed we came home too soon. It was another fantastic trip for Classics students who have seen some of the best ancient sites in the world.

ACTIVITIES WEEK

The Year 9 Art project for Activities Week involved students drawing and creating artwork to a variety of music. This led to a competition to design a large tiled artwork for the music wall, won by Isabel Amer. The design was then created and the site team have subsequently positioned it on the wall.



YEAR 7 & 9 ART PHOTOS

The Year 7 Art activities led by Mrs Dunham involved making sculptures in the woods of Box Hill inspired by Artist Andy Goldsworthy and felt artworks back at the school. The pupils also enjoyed orienteering on Box Hill and sports activities back in school.



CUISINE



Cuisine for Year 9 was a great success. The students enjoyed a number of different cooking activities starting with the traditional one pan Full English on the Monday morning. Then for the barbecue on Wednesday, the students actually made the sausages themselves! One of the highlights of the week was the gateaux competition judged by Mr Blow. On the final day, all participants made a picnic, which was consumed on the field in the sunshine.

CAREERS FAIR 2015

Careers Fair once again emphasised the importance of showcasing the full breadth of opportunities available to young people both in the local area and beyond. As well as many of the UK's most prestigious universities, this year we were able to host Universities of Maastricht and Utrecht to provide insight into studying in the Netherlands. Complementing these were 3 agricultural colleges looking to inform students on the opportunities in land based careers. The local Further Education colleges provided the full breadth of vocational qualifications with a large stand devoted to the Reigate School of Art and Design based at East Surrey College.

The Study Centre hosted a wide range of medical professions from GPs through to an Orthoptist together with Sports related occupations and others in Health and Beauty. The Main Hall offered tremendous depth in STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Maths) based occupations with Epson based WS Atkins providing a super

team of engineers to engage with the students, accompanied by Surrey Satellite Technologies and the National Space Academy for those looking for stellar opportunities. Apprenticeship and School leaver programme information has improved enormously in the last few years and stalwarts Jancett Group, Johnston's Sweepers and Babcock Motor continued to support the event. The Armed Forces are always a big draw and together with the Police were busy throughout the evening alongside the very welcome presence of local government representatives from Mole Valley who have taken a number of our students over the years on placements and apprenticeships.

So whether you fancied a career in the creative industries, something more Maths based like Accounting, or something completely different like the Property sector, there were over 100 occupations represented with whom to chat and find out what was required in their area.



BUSINESS WEEK



Business week was a very exciting week involving a number of Business related games. The Ashcombe Business Game has been designed by Denise Campbell, Chief Executive of Accumina, who developed a range of activities that saw groups of students planning a marketing related exercise. Students are judged by business volunteers.

The Bradford Business Game saw teams compete against each other in the hall to produce a product introduced by the team of volunteers. The groups produce paper booklets and this process helps to outline the full range of processes that are involved in the sales process.

All activities in Business Week were judged with the winning groups being identified at the end of the week. Students are also rewarded for their individual efforts over the week with awards of recognition; also the school acknowledge this by letter to their home. The week relies on volunteers from all aspects of the local community who give up their valuable time to help in this event. This year over 50 people assisted the students

'HIGH FLYING SUCCESS'

Last term approximately half of the Y9 students attended a reward evening at Airhop in Guildford. This was a fantastic opportunity for students to spend time with friends and bounce off steam after working brilliantly throughout the long, hot summer term! Students were rewarded for fantastic attendance, punctuality and effort by having exclusive use of the venue for part of the evening.



DoFE BRONZE

Due to extremely inclement weather, our final bronze expedition was postponed until the first week back in September. The Year 10 students had participated in DoFe with enthusiasm and dedication, and so the assessed expedition posed the final challenge. After a busy week of new timetables and challenges the groups set off into the Surrey countryside; the weather was kind, warm but not stifling; cool, but not sub-zero and the students performed very well. The majority certainly seemed to enjoy themselves; there was an overwhelming number of students keen to sign up for the silver expedition in October. As ever DoFe continues to be exceedingly popular and we all look forward to the new students participating this coming year.

BIRLING GAP/SEAFORD

In September Y11 Geography students visited Birling Gap and Seaford along the East Sussex Coast, using field-work methods to collect data to help understand the coastal processes affecting the area and write a piece of controlled assessment for their GCSE.



DORKING PARTNERSHIP MUSIC CONCERT

The first Dorking Partnership Music Concert took place in July at Priory School in Dorking. Students from The Ashcombe participated alongside those from several other local schools. The concert was preceded by some body percussion rhythm workshops with a professional musician where Ashcombe students worked alongside those from the Priory learning to be Young Singing Leaders. This group then led singing workshops for some of the primary schools before the concert. During the concert all of the schools performed individually (some members of our recently formed Ukulele Club performed using the Partnership ukuleles), the Young Singing Leaders led the junior schools in a performance, and the concert ended with two joint songs from both the

primary and secondary pupils. This was a fantastic event, highlighting community partnership working with our students, leading and supporting the primary school performances alongside students from The Priory.



DENBIES

The orchestra was made very welcome in the Garden Restaurant at Denbies in July. The 28 pupils from all years of the school played many of their favourite pieces, including music from The Hobbit and some Strauss dances to the lunchtime diners and family and friends who had come to support them. It was warm, sunny and a very enjoyable time and the orchestra were also asked if they could play 'Happy Birthday' for one of the visitors to Denbies! This is a piece the orchestra will now need to add to their repertoire



YOUNG SINGING LEADERS



Young Singing Leaders was a group of Ashcombe and Priory students from years 8-13 who worked with a member of a capella group 'Apollo Five' to lead singing workshops with primary school children from the local area. We completed 6 training sessions all 2 hours long with Alex from Apollo 5, in these we learnt the skills we needed for the workshops. On Wednesday, 1st July we worked with primary school students to teach them the Voces 8 method. The Voces 8 method uses different musical techniques and rhythms from around the World. Thanks to Miss Sampson, Alex (from Apollo 5) and Mr Musser (from The Priory) for organising the workshops.

'CATASTROPHE CAMPUS'

A group of 17 students from the Ashcombe School joined students from Bishop David Brown School, Oxted School and Kings College, Guildford to take part in the University of Surrey's 'Catastrophe on Campus Year 10 week'. The week is designed to aid Year 10 student's development in team working, confidence, research and presentation skills. The students were given a brief introduction to disaster management before taking on the role of a team of specialists brought in to manage a disaster that has occurred at a local Surrey school. Each of the 10 groups assigned to disasters such as earthquake, chemical leak and a plane crashing into the school, were made up of a mixture of students from all the schools participating. Each day the groups attended subject sessions covering media, civil engineering, paramedic practice, law and environmental practice. The groups were divided into 2 sets of 5 and gave a presentation of their disaster scenario. Having started the week with a fair amount of trepidation the Ashcombe students went from strength to strength. On the final day they took turns in speaking publicly as part of their group presentation, they all achieved this with great success.



YEAR 7 IN GERMANY

In July we took 200 year 7 students to the Rhineland in Germany! A great time was had by all. Each coach completed the same activities in a carousel which meant that we met each other randomly throughout the week as we ticked off the items on the extensive and varied itinerary. The days were filled with a dazzling array of visits and activities, taking in the scenery, history, food, culture and language of this beautiful region of Germany.

Students enjoyed a relaxing Rhine cruise, they heard the story of the Lorelei-the lovesick lady of the Lorelei rock who lured sailors to their deaths on the rocks below, they toured the historical Berg Eltz, they walked through woods and along the river in Koblenz, travelled on the Seilbahn-the cable car over the river, had picnics in the park, crawled through some underground caves and tunnels and many even overcame their fear of heights by braving the chair lift ride. We all loved Siegfrieds Musikkabinett in Rudesheim, with the biggest collection of automated mechanical instruments in the world and of course we couldn't miss a visit to St Goar, the cuckoo clock capital of the world.

In the evenings students took moonlight walks along the river, ate Spaghetti Eis, played football, golf and boules and yes, they ate more ice-cream! All in all it was a jam-packed experience of German life and culture.



NORMANDY



Approximately 150 students went to the study centre 'Ma Normandie' for a week of cultural and linguistic activities to improve their understanding of France and its people. Highlights for the pupils included:

- Buying, preparing and serving a picnic lunch from a local market, independently, using French language skills
- Visiting the immersive 360 degree cinema at Arromanches, and seeing the gun placements along the coast, the beaches where the army landed on D Day and the cemeteries where soldiers were buried
- Making bread with Eric, the unforgettable boulanger, and biscuits with the delightful biscuitier and learning about cider and chocolate production on our travel days
- Admiring the amazing Bayeux tapestry which tells the story of the Norman Conquest in 1066, and refreshing ourselves with delicious ice cream afterwards

Highlights for staff included members of the public approaching them to say how impressed they were with pupils' good and respectful behaviour, and the centre telling us that we were their favourite school!

The highlight for Mr Scrivener was being the reigning champion of table tennis for the week. (Or so he tells us!) Félicitations Monsieur!

ATHLETICS DAY 2015

An excellent day of track and field athletics saw many students setting personal bests and a total of 3 school records were broken. Tudor House won the trophy after dominating both the Year 7&8 events.

The Athletics Day is a competitor only event but it is very heartening to see that well over two thirds of the school competing in some capacity and this year the support and sense of fair play was extremely evident throughout. The support from the sixth form Physical Education students and House Captains made the running of the competition very smooth.



The Victor and Victorix Ludorum (the outstanding male and female athlete of the day) was once again eagerly contested but ultimately two athletes, Hayden Young and Isabel Hornung rose above the others. Hayden won the Year 10 100m in a new school record with an outstanding time of 11.01s. He also won the 400m and was part of the York Year 10 relay team that defeated the staff and sixth form teams! Isabel won both the Year 9 girls 100 & 200m events in a faster time than the equivalent winner in Year 10.

The 3 New records were achieved by:

- Year 9 Boys Relay Stuart House
- Hayden Young - Year 10 100m
- Sam Cliff – Year 10 1500m

NETBALL SUCCESS

Sadie Parkinson Year 8 attended the Ashted All Stars Netball Club Tour at Condover Hall in Shropshire where there was a netball tournament for all ages for both clubs and schools and lots of outside activities like abseiling, high ropes, leap of faith etc.



AUTUMN GAMES DAY

On Thursday 1st October pupils from year 7 to year 10 took part in Autumn Games Day, with activities including Basketball, Badminton, Football, Rugby and Netball. The number of participants for each of the activities was particularly impressive, with the vast majority of each year group participating. Students rose to the challenge with great enthusiasm, competing against their opposition houses. House captains provided great support, cheering on their house, photographing the day and supporting their teams. The day involved students from beginners to school team and county players; it was great to see students combining their efforts to create a brilliant atmosphere. Year 10 students made an excellent contribution to organising and officiating all of the activities. Their assistance was invaluable for the PE department, ensuring its smooth running and a very enjoyable and successful day for all! Finally a huge thank you to the PE department for organising and managing what was a fantastic day – the students all thoroughly enjoyed themselves.

	Stuart	Tudor	Windsor	York
Y7	32	47	35	30
Y8	35	39	32	35
Y9	30	39	30	34
Y10	34	38	30	27
Overall	131	163	127	126
Place	2nd	1st	3rd	4th



SURREY SPORTS PARK



On 30th September Miss Retter took 10 students from the Year 11 GCSE PE course on a trip to Surrey Sports Park as part of the Coco5 'Be Inspired' event. The event was to highlight to students the importance of keeping hydrated whilst participating in physical activity and introduce them to a variety of alternative activities. Students completed a 20 minute session in Ice Hockey, Rugby, Netball, Mixed Martial Arts, Boxing and Boot Camp with ambassadors of Coco5, including Nick 'HEADHUNTER' Chapman (MMA European Champion), Surrey Storm, Guildford flames and chief ambassador Sir Ian Mcgeechan (Former British and Irish Lions Coach). Students found the day enjoyable and informative, as it highlighted to them the importance of looking after their bodies in order to enable them to be the best athletes possible.

STEM

Pfizer Day

In recent months, staff at The Ashcombe and Pfizer have been working together to develop a new business game that Pfizer can use to make students more aware of the varied career options available within the pharmaceutical industry.

Students participated in 4 workshops that looked at identifying compounds using infrared spectroscopy, the history of the pharmaceutical industry, mind mapping and marketing. Students thoroughly enjoyed the day and The Ashcombe are extremely grateful for the time and effort that Margaret Mortlock and her team from Pfizer put into organising the day.



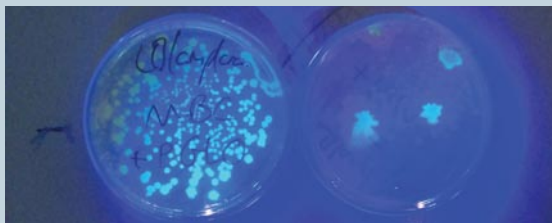
Mr Rayne collecting the Business Volunteer Award from The Mayor of Reigate and Banstead on behalf of Pfizer in recognition of their business day held at The Ashcombe

STEM growing fast

A focus on STEM related extra-curricular activities and a drive to get more students on STEM courses is proving popular with students.

Over the past 2 years The Ashcombe School has been developing their support for students who are considering

a future career in a STEM subject. STEM covers disciplines that involve Science, Technology, Engineering or Maths and has been identified in recent years as a sector within the UK where there is a shortage of qualified students either taking up STEM course post 16 or at university. .



Schools therefore have a responsibility to try and engage students at an earlier age to the STEM world outside of the classroom and highlight the opportunities available post-16 and beyond. With this in mind The Ashcombe have had a STEM Coordinator (Mr Rayne) in place for 2 years whose role has been to develop an ongoing programme to enthuse students and increase uptake.

Rare Disease Day @ Royal Holloway

Rare Disease Day was a fascinating experience as we were able to broaden our scientific knowledge. Not only did we learn more about diseases such as cystic fibrosis but also rarer diseases such as Backbone disease and Duchenne Muscular Dystrophy. We were also introduced to the



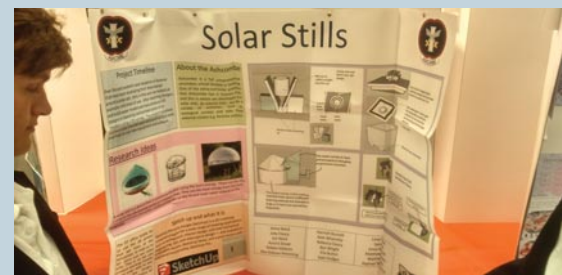
personal effect that living with a disease has on the sufferer and surrounding family as well as some of the cutting edge research into potential treatments and cures.

We took part in a workshop that looked at the inheritance of recessive diseases and how to work out the likelihood of a particular gene being inherited.

The whole day was a very interesting look at all parts of university life and showed us how the college is working at the cutting edge of medical research.

Success @BigBang

Students in Y7, 8 and 10 attended the BigBang SouthEast at the end of June. As well as visiting the various stands in the exhibition students saw 2 shows – the first entitled The Ugly Animal Roadshow looking at the conservation work of less glamorous animals and the second about genetically modified organisms and superheroes!



The Year 10 students presented the Science Club on 'Solar Stills'. They were judged on project content and presentation and were awarded the runner's up prize in the Intermediate Science & Maths category. This means we have been invited to present our project at the National BigBang Fair at the NEC in March as one of South East representatives.