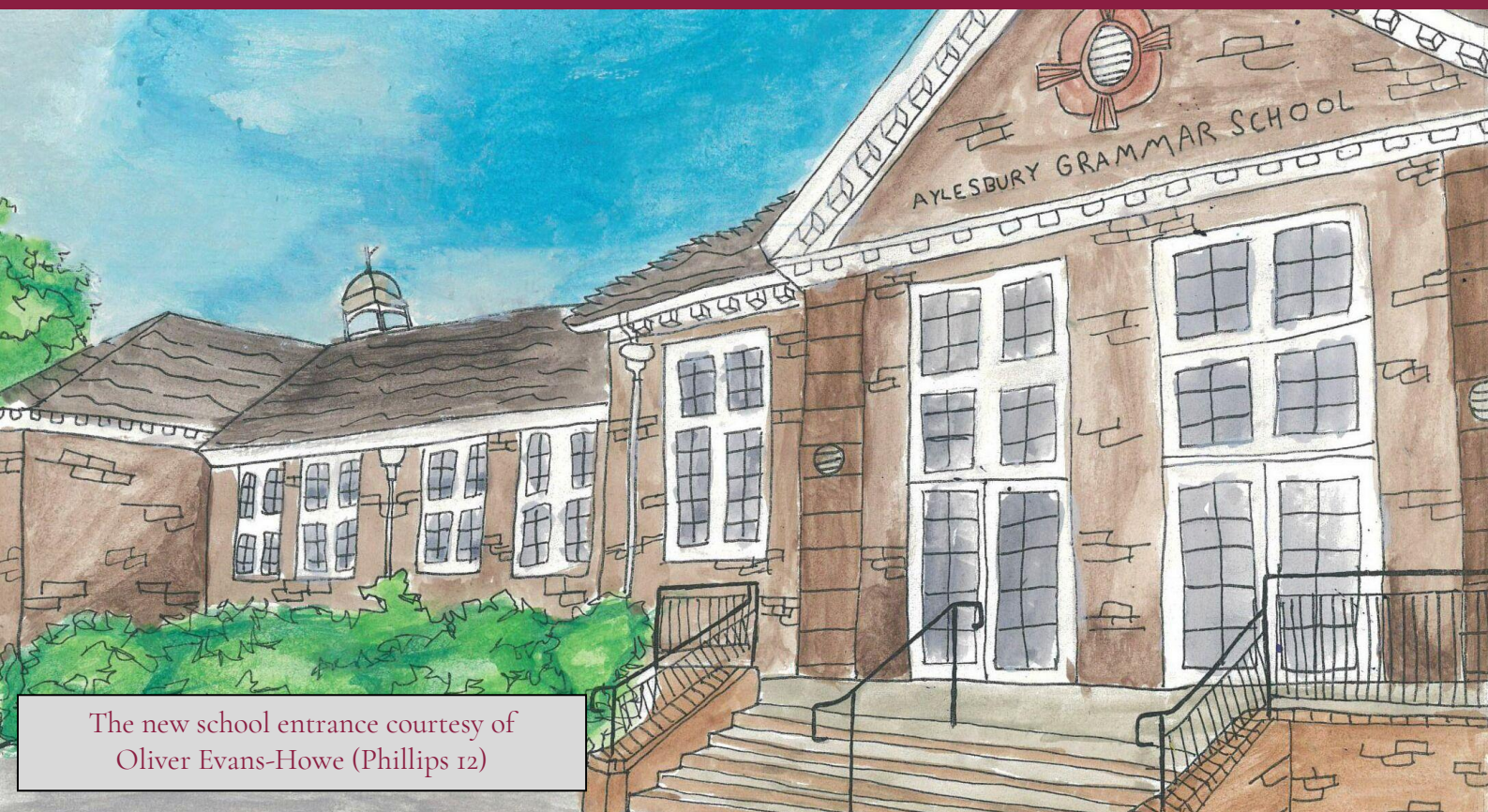




AYLESBURY  
GRAMMAR SCHOOL  
*Founded 1598*

# AGSNEWSLETTER

SPRING TERM 2022



The new school entrance courtesy of  
Oliver Evans-Howe (Phillips 12)



## ***Welcome to the Spring edition of the AGS Newsletter.***

The green shoots of normality have grown a little taller this term as the restrictions of Covid-19 have gradually been reduced and once again all our students and staff have approached each challenge with a great degree of understanding and resilience.

I hope you will enjoy the varied snapshot of what has gone on here in school since January 2022. As always we would love to include everything but if you would like more please do follow us on our various social media platforms (See our 'Ways to Connect' poster on page 15.

***Mr G Dallas - Editor***



## **HOUSE MUSIC 2022**

A jubilant Phillips House, with a similarly ecstatic Mr Goodchild, celebrate their fantastic triumph in this year's House Music competition. Following the inevitable cancellation of the 2021 edition performers and audience alike thoroughly enjoyed this flagship event, showcasing the many musical talents of all six AGS Houses...



# House Music 2022

As February 2022 arrived so did the highly anticipated return of our House Music competition.

Rehearsals had begun in earnest in January and worked through the usual three stages of House Music build-up across all our practice rooms;

1. Noise
2. Noise with occasional recognisable moments
3. Fantastic versions of Classic and modern Rock, Pop and Jazz hits!

This year truly felt like a fresh start especially as we had lost the 2021 edition of the competition due to the global pandemic, and even right up to the competition day itself it was going to be an extremely close run affair with no clear front-runner emerging.

Our adjudicator was OA James Wright (Ridley '00) who had the unenviable task of selecting a winner from the pack and ultimately that honour was bestowed upon Phillips House for 2022.

A great achievement for them and all their hard work and a huge well done to all performers across the board!



## HOUSE MUSIC RESULTS 2021-22



1st – **Phillips**

2nd – **Denson**

3rd – **Ridley**

4th – **Paterson**

5th – **Hampden**

6th – **Lee**

@AGSHouses





# House Music 2022





# National Squash success

On Thursday 24 March both our U14 and U16 squash squads competed in the National Schools Championship which took place at Nottingham Squash Club.

This represented the culmination of a grueling qualification process of local and regional rounds and so just reaching these finals was indeed a fantastic achievement for all our players.

But both teams played to a consistently high level all throughout the finals day and once the schedule of matches had concluded both teams achieved an amazing 6<sup>th</sup> place in the country! A huge result for all the players and hopefully the experience and confidence gained here will be built upon in the future. Thank you to Mr Withey for his expert coaching and accompanying the teams throughout this journey.

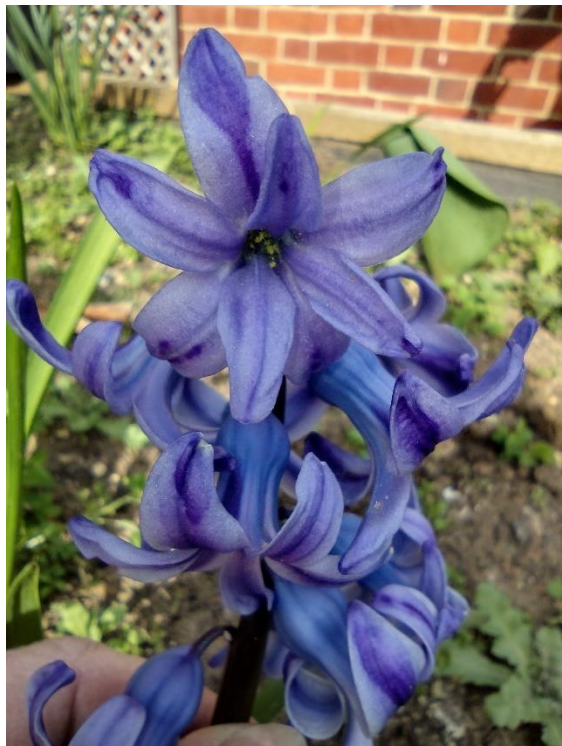


# National Squash success





## Eco-Team



It was in this very Newsletter one short year ago that we announced that plans had been finalised to build our urban flower garden. Our keen bunch of volunteer gardeners have been working hard under the guidance of Mrs Levitt and Mrs Giles to bring the garden area out of its winter slumber and already we have a lovely mix of yellows, purples and greens beaming through. Not to mention the vegetable garden which goes from strength to strength and just to be a little different the team are about to start construction on our very own ornamental Zen garden!





# Eco-Team – Looking for donations, can you help??

We would love to decorate our flower garden and in conjunction with our Art department we are looking for donations of metal watering cans which could be turned into a fantastic Art installation.

Any donations of new, or old (that can be easily cleaned up) cans would be gratefully received as would any glass/plastic beads perhaps from lampshades or costume jewelry. Please message Mr Dallas or Mrs Gunter-Jones if you can help – Thank you!

[gdallas@ags.bucks.sch.uk](mailto:gdallas@ags.bucks.sch.uk)

[bgunter-jones@ags.bucks.sch.uk](mailto:bgunter-jones@ags.bucks.sch.uk)





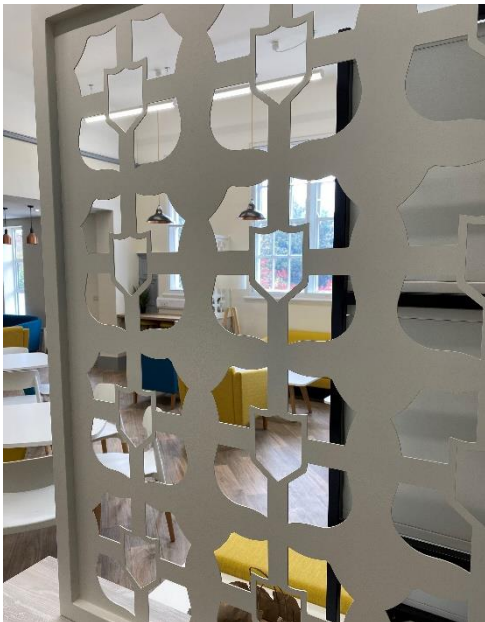
# Staff Welfare



The final phase of the remodeling of the front of the school was completed soon after the Christmas holidays 2021.

This included the unveiling of our fantastic staffroom, designed to accommodate all our teaching and non-teaching staff both as a space for working, meeting and refueling during this and all future busy school terms.

This is an important aspect of staff wellbeing and a key part of our renewed staff welfare strategy. This ensures AGS continues to be a supportive and understanding employer of adults in addition to all that we aim to provide for our students.





# AGS History

With the founding of AGS dating back to 1598 clearly a great deal has happened since then! Staff and students come and go and all of us who inhabit these buildings, classrooms and walk the corridors now are simply the current custodians of this great institution we call Aylesbury Grammar School.

For those who would like to find out exactly how we have arrived at this point, we try to highlight some of the interesting periods and moments in our nearly 425 year existence, how the school functions and to this day interacts with the local area and community.

If you would like to see some of what has been unearthed and rediscovered do please head over to our History page on the school website where you will hopefully find some interesting stories and articles from the wider AGS timeline. And, if you ever have a question with a historical context you would like to know the answer to, please get in touch – we always love a challenge!

**Mr G Dallas**

**[gdallas@ags.bucks.sch.uk](mailto:gdallas@ags.bucks.sch.uk)**

Please follow on Twitter: **[@agscommunities](https://twitter.com/agscommunities)**

**AGS HISTORY PAGE:** **<https://www.ags.bucks.sch.uk/about-us/history/>**

**WALTON ROAD GETS A NEW SCHOOL (1907):** **<https://www.ags.bucks.sch.uk/wp-content/uploads/2021/10/HISTORICAL-SCHOOL-EVENTS-AGS-SITE-OPENS.pdf>**

**THE BIRTH OF THE HOUSE SYSTEM (1920):** **<https://www.ags.bucks.sch.uk/wp-content/uploads/2021/11/AGS-History-The-birth-of-the-House-system-1920.pdf>**

**Mr PALMER BRODIE & THE BRODIE HOUSE TROPHY (1938):** **<https://www.ags.bucks.sch.uk/wp-content/uploads/2021/10/HISTORICAL-SCHOOL-EVENTS-MR-BRODIE-AND-THE-BRODIE-TROPHY.pdf>**

**THE GREAT FIRE (1953):** **<https://www.ags.bucks.sch.uk/wp-content/uploads/2021/10/V2-HISTORICAL-SCHOOL-EVENTS-FIRE-OF-1953.pdf>**



# Year 8 Food & Nutrition – Around the World



Our budding chefs in Year 8 created some fantastic dishes for their Food & Nutrition for their 'Around the World' task which took place this term.

Clockwise from left:

Spanish paella  
Thai green curry  
Japanese rice balls  
Georgian meat dumplings

If you would like to see more from our Food & Nutrition team please follow them on Twitter: [@AGSNutrition](https://twitter.com/AGSNutrition)





# Year 7 Food & Nutrition – Breakfasts at Home

And not to be outdone in any way, Year 7 students displayed a similar level of creativity and cultural diversity in their 'Breakfasts at Home' task.

A wonderful array of foodstuffs to start our busy days with!





Easter Holiday Sports

## **Easter Squash Camps April 2022**

**April 12th 13th 14th 19th 20th 21st 25th**

9.30am Registration & Warm up

9.40am – 11.00am Technique, routines, fitness

11.00am — 11.15am break

11.15am — 12.30pm Match play & tournament

**Cost £30 per day**

**Sessions taken by D Withey**

**England International Level 3 Advanced Squash & Racketball Coach**

**To book your place**

Email: [dwithey@ags.bucks.sch.uk](mailto:dwithey@ags.bucks.sch.uk)

Tel: 07990 536117

Website: [www.darrenwithey.co.uk](http://www.darrenwithey.co.uk)



## The Aylesburian Annual Fund

Thank you to those parents who continue to support their child's School – the Aylesburian Annual Fund is making a huge impact and it is wonderful that you are motivated to help.

Donations to our School are our lifeblood. They enable us meet essential needs and to enrich the learning and teaching at AGS. They help to make us the School we are today and will enable us to plan refurbishments and improve some of our facilities that are no longer fit for purpose. Contributions can be regular or one-off donations, but given our precarious financial position, absolutely any level of donation makes a significant difference to each and every one of the students and staff at AGS.

We are trying to make supporting AGS as easy as possible as we know everyone is busy. Earlier this week you will have received a mailing from the School's Development Office to remind you to support us if you can. Please read it and click on the links in the email or follow the links below. It really does take just a minute to set up your support.

We hope you can see the benefits of this fund and how the projects they facilitate are an integral part of our fantastic heritage and our future. We have been nurturing character since 1598 and will continue to do so for many years to come, inspiring and enabling our students to flourish throughout their lives.

Please consider supporting us if you can.

***Alison Cox, Development Director***

## How to give...

- Contact the Development Director, Alison Cox [acox@ags.bucks.sch.uk](mailto:acox@ags.bucks.sch.uk) Head up your email with TAAF and Just say 'YES' - she will then contact you.
- Go to <https://www.ags.bucks.sch.uk/support-us/the-aylesburian-annual-fund/>
- Scan below to set up a regular donation on our community site (scroll down to donate now)



- Or simply log onto your ParentPay account where there is the opportunity to donate

...Thank you!

# Easter Holiday Sports

To Book:

Please contact...

Mike James, Director of Tennis

[mikejames@everyball.net](mailto:mikejames@everyball.net)

07958 008312

Seb Callcut, Everyball Head of Camps

[sebastian.callcut@everyball.net](mailto:sebastian.callcut@everyball.net)

07872 559532



Teen  
Tuesdays



## Free Holiday Tennis Camps on Teen Tuesdays

### BOOK NOW

[www.everyball.uk](http://www.everyball.uk)

[Booking Link](#)

Follow the link, select Junior Camps and on the booking form for your selected week, select Teen Tuesday.

### 13 or older (or will be soon)?

Join our Junior Holiday Camp on Tuesdays for free throughout the Easter and Summer holidays. And bring a friend! No tennis experience needed.



# Ways To Connect



**Twitter**

Follow our main account:  
@AGSFounded1598  
Departments and more!  
@AGSHeadmaster  
@AGSCommunities  
@AGSLearner @AGSHouses  
@AGSPTA @AGSSportandPE



**LinkedIn**

Follow our company page:  
Aylesbury Grammar School



**School Website**

Discover more at:  
[ags.bucks.sch.uk](http://ags.bucks.sch.uk)



**Facebook**

Like our Aylesbury Grammar School page



**Instagram**

Follow us @AGSFounded1598

# Year 12 Speakers Programme



As part of our ongoing Year 12 Speakers Programme we were fortunate to welcome Professor Dr. Funke Abimbola MBE for her fascinating and wholly thought-provoking session on Diversity, the barriers faced within various parts of society and how we might work towards understanding and overcoming them. This was Dr. Abimbola's second such visit to AGS and we certainly hope it will not be the last!



## Regional Handball & Swimming



Swimming continues to go from strength to strength and at the recent regional gala (High Wycombe), the Junior and Inters squads claimed their section wins. With the Seniors finishing second it meant that AGS won the overall event.

Well done to all those involved (pictured on dry land – left) and thanks to Mr Gibbs for organising the teams.

On 8 March our U13 Handball team (pictured right), making their debut in the National Schools competition, won their pre-regional tournament and have now won the right to progress to the South-East regional finals.

The slightly more experienced U15 squad (pictured next page) match that feat, winning their pre-regional event and meaning we need to book a larger coach for the journey to the South-East regional showdown.

A fabulous result – well done all and good luck for the next stages.





We hope you all have a restful Easter break and we look forward to seeing everyone back, recharged and ready for the Summer term on Tuesday 26 April 2022 ...(INSET day on Monday 25 April)







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Nurturing Character since 1598

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