

— A Student Newspaper —

# THE HIGH SOCIETY

Friday, 18 November, 2022



The High Society Team wishes you a warm welcome to our new student-led newspaper, established to capture the true essence of school life at Aylesbury High School. Through multiple meetings, discussions, and interviews, the team has worked tirelessly but with unfailing determination to write articles, meet deadlines, and refine ideas, all in the hopes of bringing readers, like you, the latest and exciting news! Without further delay, let us catch you up on what has been happening at AHS so far this year.

# MEET THE TEAM

**Journalist/writer,  
interviewer**

**Yi-Toong**

**Photographer,  
Journalist/writer**

**Georgia**

**Graphics Leader**

**Maryam**



**Akshaya**

**Team Leader, Writer**

**Beth**

**Photographer,  
Writer**

**Scarlett**

**Writer, Editor**

# CREATIVE ARTS



Tiffany and Mrs Medley after the concert

## MUSICAL EXCITEMENT WITH MRS MEDLEY

In July, a concert took place in Olney, a village near Milton Keynes, featuring Mrs Medley and AHS alumna Tiffany Mobisa. 'AG250' celebrates 250 years since the writing of the hymn Amazing Grace by John Newton, which has since become a globally renowned tune.

The concert featured an eclectic mix of performances that ranged from a rendition of English Folksong Suite by the Olney Brass Band that Mrs Medley plays in, to Stormzy's 'Blinded by your Grace' as performed by the Sweet Sound Gospel Choir from Milton Keynes.

Many of the songs performed were written by Newton in order to honour his incredible work. The concert culminated with a performance of Amazing Grace, where all the choirs came together for a fantastic finale. Tiffany - previously an AHS cabinet member - sang the first verse entirely acapella, which Mrs Medley described as "incredible".

Fortunately, Mrs Medley was able to have a conversation with Tiffany after the concert. She is currently working, and plans to continue performing with the Chineke Orchestra. Some students may remember her A Factor performance from last year - Mrs Medley was pleased to see that she still continues to perform. A huge congratulations to Mrs Medley, Tiffany and everyone else who performed at this concert!

Scarlett, 10A

# TO KILL A MOCKINGBIRD



In September, Year 13 English and Drama students went to see a production of *To Kill A Mockingbird* in London's West End. The play is an adaptation of Harper Lee's classic American novel of the same name, adapted for the stage by Aaron Sorkin (of *The West Wing* fame).

The play concerns the lives of the Finch family in the 1930s American Deep South. Adhering closely to the text, the production is narrated by the Finch children, whilst focusing on their father, Atticus, who was famously played by Gregory Peck in the 1962 film adaptation. Atticus is a lawyer tasked with defending Tom Robinson, a black man, against false accusations. The story's relevance stands the test of time, despite its age and lack of focus on the African-American characters themselves. The play's long run time of 2hr 50min allows for plenty of the book's content to be both celebrated and scrutinised, alongside some carefully thought-out stagecraft. The use of scenery and staging allowed for smooth transitions between the Tom Robinson court case and the Finch home or out into the street where the children devise ways to get a look at the reclusive Boo Radley.

Thank you to Mrs Hughes and Mr Braniff for taking time out of their week to accompany us on the trip.

Emma, 13G

# ENGLISH

## THE NEW COLLEGE OF HUMANITIES CONTEST

The New College of Humanities essay contest is a prestigious competition that challenges students in Year 12 to write essays to answer thought-provoking questions.

For the 2022 competition, there were over 6,000 entrants to ten different questions ranging from the Economics question “How has the COVID-19 pandemic impacted inequalities?” to the Art History question “Is it time for museums and galleries to decolonise their collections, and if so, how should they go about it?”

Emma in 13G entered the competition and answered the English question “Why does the modern world need literary critics?” Her essay was ranked by the New College of Humanities in the top 5% of all the entries.

When asked about her essay, she told us that her response “explored the lack of diversity within past literary criticism, and how this has come to restrict how texts have been viewed.”

Her key focus throughout her essay “focused particularly on literature of a taboo or transgressive nature, and as such, how they have long been marginalised. For this reason, I argued the need for a more diverse and inclusive generation of literary critics.”

This is an awe-inspiring accomplishment, so well done to Emma and thanks to the English department for their support.

Yi-Toong, 13C

A picture of Emma's certificate and her medal





## **PRESTIGIOUS OPPORTUNITY FROM THE ENGLISH DEPARTMENT!**



The definition of a 'Laureate' is a person who is honoured with an award for outstanding creative or intellectual ability within a specific subject.

The English Department is looking to appoint a Laureate, similar to the United Kingdom appointing a Poet Laureate each year. Opposed to writing poems, being the AHS Laureate would include writing articles throughout the year relating to the school community, with the articles published in The High Society.

This opportunity is only open to students in **Year 10** or **Year 12** - don't worry, those in the younger year will get your opportunity as a new Laureate will be appointed each year.

Concerned about the extra workload? Do not panic! The English Department will give you support and guidance about how to go about writing your pieces. If you think you would enjoy writing about our school, go for it!

Information on applying for this role will be sent out shortly - our new Laureate will be announced in the January edition of the High Society, ready for them to write for the following year.

Best of luck to all of those who apply!

Yi-Toong, 13C

## **SERENA, JOSEPHINE, AND LILA: GEORGE ORWELL YOUTH PRIZE**



Serena, Josephine and Lila at the Orwell Youth Prize celebration day.

For those of you who may not know, George Orwell was the author of the well-known dystopian fiction novel '1984' published in 1949 and also 'Animal Farm' which is studied at AHS in Year 9.

The Orwell Youth Prize is a social justice-based writing prize awarded to teenagers aged between 12-18 across the United Kingdom. The 2022 theme was "Coming Up For Air: Writing the Climate Crisis". Serena, Josephine and Lila were all shortlisted for this prize and attended the celebration day in July. Their essays were highly commended by both the assessors and the panel of esteemed judges.

Congratulations to the three of them for their impressive entries!

Yi-Toong, 13C

# HUMANITIES

## YEAR 11 GCSE GEOGRAPHY DORSET TRIP

This half term, our Year 11 Geography students went on the Dorset trip: an annual 3-day field trip at the Jurassic Coast. It's organised to help students collect data, test the theories they've learnt in school, and experience them in the real world. Everyone was well accommodated in Leeson House, a fieldwork centre based near Swanage, Dorset.

The students were guided through multiple fieldwork activities as well as evening teaching sessions with specially trained staff, helping them gain an understanding of not only some crucial parts of the GCSE Geography curriculum, but also gain more knowledge of the local area and heritage of Dorset.

They took off on Friday 14 October, heading straight to Boscombe. Students spent some time in the seaside town and, as part of human geography, got to speak to local residents.

Saturday 15 October was particularly busy, as students headed to Swanage Bay to learn more about physical geography, some students getting particularly soaked by the sea while collecting data on the beach! A long walk later, they got to see Old Harry, where plenty of photography and singing took place (credits to Mrs Carbonaro, Mrs Mills and Miss Peters for finding the Old Harry song and ingraining it in everyone's heads!). Later, students visited Studland Bay and looked at the formation of sand dunes.

On the final day of the trip (16th October), the group visited the famous Durdle Door archway and Lulworth cove. They got to learn about erosional processes and also had some free time to spend together in Lulworth, and ate some great ice cream!

They then returned to AHS, everyone mildly exhausted.

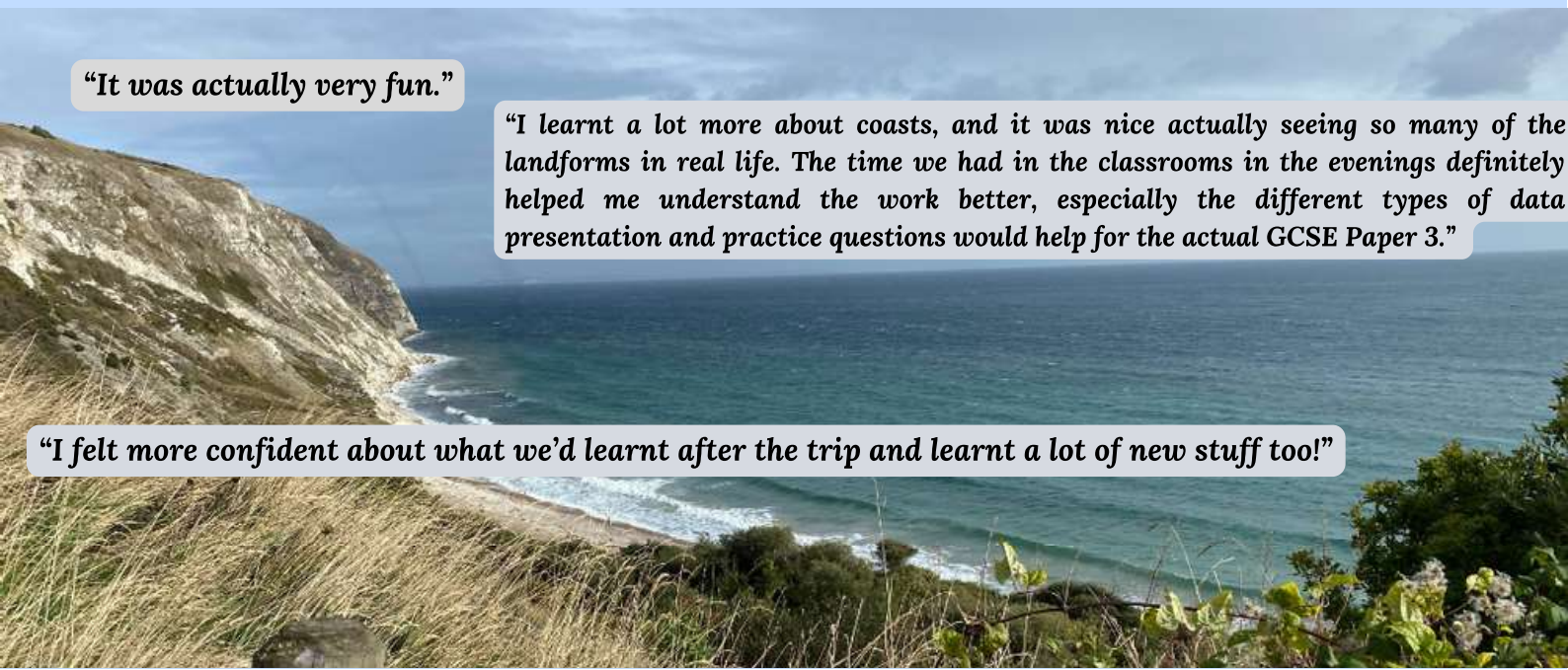
Akshaya, 11A

Here's what students had to say about the trip:

*"It was actually very fun."*

*"I learnt a lot more about coasts, and it was nice actually seeing so many of the landforms in real life. The time we had in the classrooms in the evenings definitely helped me understand the work better, especially the different types of data presentation and practice questions would help for the actual GCSE Paper 3."*

*"I felt more confident about what we'd learnt after the trip and learnt a lot of new stuff too!"*







# INCLUSION AND DIVERSITY

## DIWALI CELEBRATIONS



The Year 11 ID team and Mrs Queralt organised a spectacular Diwali celebration at AHS on Monday 17 October. After weeks of exhaustive planning during lunchtime meetings and dedicated work after-school, we put together an informative assembly, beautifully decorated our main hall with fairy lights, arranged a glow stick sale and henna stall to raise money for the Rosie May Foundation (our school charity), adorned the paving stones with rangoli that has become traditional at AHS, and of course, we danced our heart away during our showstopper Diwali disco. It was wonderful to see everyone come together to celebrate as one big community at AHS, where nobody hesitated to join in, perhaps due to the electric South Asian playlist that tempted everyone to dance! We are definitely looking forward to celebrating more events, and we put careful attention into improving and expanding with each year bringing bigger inclusive celebrations and more fun for the AHS community. To close, I wanted to say an honest, genuine thank you to everyone who joined in; we'll keep working hard to bring back the massive crowds of energy and smiles that we are always grateful to see. Chaitanya, 11M.



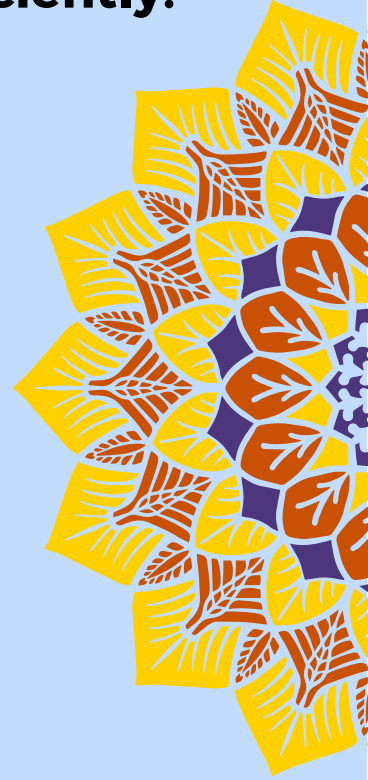


**A huge thank you in particular to the following students who organised the event so efficiently:**

Chaitanya 11M  
Swini 11C  
Rifaah 11H  
Mishi 11H  
Vee 11H  
and the brilliant lighting team  
Olivia 11H  
Vidula 11M  
Anushka 11M  
Aanya, Year 12

**And to our talented dancers:**

Chaitanya 11M  
Rifaah 11H  
Swini 11C  
Mishi 11H  
Anushka 11M  
Norah 11C  
Elsha 13M  
Ann Maria 10S  
Mita 10C  
Sophia 10A  
Krissy 8H



# LANGUAGES

## FRENCH TRIP TO PARIS - 30 SEPTEMBER



In the early hours of Friday morning, A-Level French students from AHS and AGS set off for Paris! We headed up to Montmartre and the Sacré-Coeur to admire the patrimoine of France.

We then meandered around the Musée d'Orsay, admiring all of the art from Monet's Water Lilies to Francois Pompon's Polar Bear. We spent the evening taking a "petite balade" around the Champs-Élysées, window shopping. Then, after climbing 284 steps up the long spiralling staircase of l'Arc de Triomphe, we could finally take in the gorgeous sights of night-time Paris, including the sparkling Eiffel Tower!

The next day, we visited the Panthéon, where we reunited with former AHS teacher Madame Billon. We explored the underground labyrinth of crypts, a place built to honour those that had passed away fighting for the new chapter of French history. We visited the beautiful Jardins du Luxembourg and also presented our thoroughly researched work on famous French icons buried in the Panthéon, such as Victor Hugo and Louis Braille. We saw Napoleon's tomb and also visited the Musée de l'Armée where we looked around the exhibition of Charles de Gaulle. In the evening, we travelled to Notre Dame, walking along the Seine as the sun set.

Many thanks to Mr Crapper and Mrs Lemonde for guiding us through Paris - we were exhausted afterwards but it was truly an unforgettable experience!

Jenny 13K, Mae 13K & Keshina 13B

# OUR VERY OWN GERMAN YOUTH UK AMBASSADOR



She also mentions how beneficial the entire application process has been, noting that it has provided her with "good interview practice" and that she intends to continue with her role into A-Levels.

Students here at AHS constantly strive for success, whether that be academically, athletically, or in other ways. That is why we are so pleased to announce the recent appointment of one of our Year 11 students, Emily from 11C, as a UK German Youth Ambassador.

Emily has received continual support from the school, liaising with Mr Baird, who initially emailed the council to enquire about the opportunity on her behalf. As a student planning to take German at A-Level, Emily applied with the intention to further her understanding of German culture, and notes that being a UK German Youth Ambassador has facilitated this.

UK-German Connection created this programme with the aim to strengthen the relationship between young people and their respective non-native cultures. Emily has already attended several meetings where they have discussed the ways in which social media can help broaden the program's outreach, and how to make their newsletter more engaging in order to attract younger audiences.

If you are interested in the programme, you can find out more on the UK-German Connection website, Facebook, Instagram and Twitter accounts, or contact Mr Baird.

Emily speaks highly of her experiences in the programme so far, noting that she was "really pleased" to find out that she had been elected and that she is "really enjoying it".

Georgia, 11S

# MATHS

## THE MATHEMATICAL OLYMPIAD FOR GIRLS & THE SENIOR MATHS CHALLENGE

This half term, students in Year 12 and Year 13 had the opportunity to take part in The Senior Maths Challenge, a 90 minute, multiple choice challenge. It is a difficult paper, testing students' mathematical and problem solving skills in a very different format to the style of questions that students are used to.

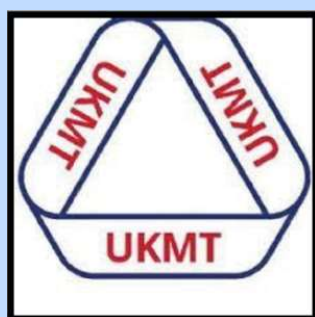
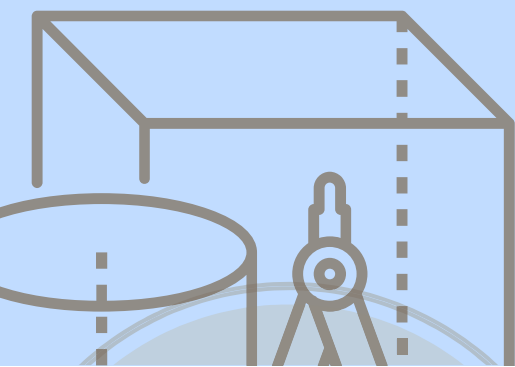
Students can be awarded Gold, Silver & Bronze, and this year we have had 4 students win Gold: Hannah 13J, Abby 13G, Cenyujia 13K & Rosa 12C. On top of this, we've had 11 students awarded the Silver award.

Those who have been awarded the Gold Award, will progress onto the next level of the Maths Challenge, The Andrew Jobbings Senior Kangaroo, which is to be written on 16th November.

We wish all the students taking part, the very best of luck!

AHS has also put forward 4 candidates from the Sixth Form to take part in The Mathematical Olympiad for Girls; a difficult 2.5 hour long challenge sat in the main hall. From this, we have had 3 distinctions, which is the highest award to achieve in this Olympiad.

Congratulations to everyone who took part, we're very proud of all of them!  
Georgia, 11S

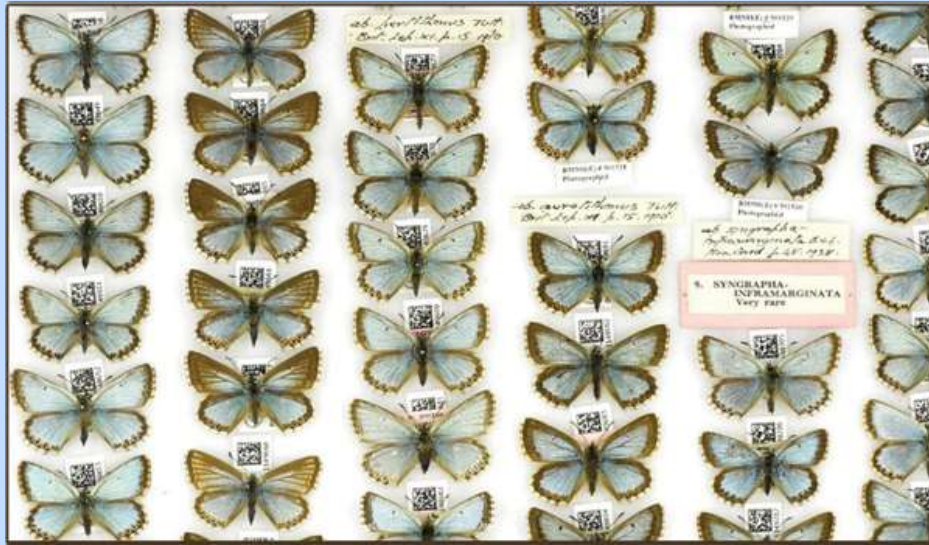




# SCIENCE



## ALL THINGS BIOLOGY



This half term, AHS were lucky enough to have Dr Tom Hartman from School of Life Science at the University of Nottingham deliver a fascinating talk about how and why species have adapted over time.

Explaining his office, he described being sat surrounded by salvaged museum specimens from the natural world. This allowed him to illustrate what

each of these very specimens tells us about the changes regarding both the distribution and abundance of different species in our world.

Objects ranging from moths, molluscs and even gulls provided a fascinating talk from Dr Hartman to AHS students. These items, some even collected hundreds of years ago, provided a treasure trove of knowledge about DNA, pollution and population change that was professionally presented from Dr Hatman to our students. Fear not if you missed this opportunity, as the second half of the Autumn term comes with many more Biology-related opportunities.

Biology Symposium, a discussion group where students discuss current issues and questions, has returned. This half term, topics such as the ethics of genetic modification in humans and the pros and cons of Dr Google have been discussed. If this is something you would enjoy, they meet on Tuesday in S5 led by the Biology Ambassadors.

Furthermore, there are a couple more talks happening available for students to attend. Dr Charlotte Edwards-Gayle will be talking about research and careers in biochemistry through monthly MARS Society UK talks hosted in the Harding Hall. Dr Raza will be coming to AHS on November 22nd at lunch to talk about his work related to infectious diseases and Microbiology at the Milton Keynes University Hospital.

As always, similar to most subjects, Biology Clinic is always open for students in KS4 and KS5 to ask for support from teachers and Ambassadors every **Tuesday** in **S2**.

Yi-Toong, 13C

# FROM AYLESBURY TO MARS



Here at AHS, we have several science and STEM-related opportunities throughout the school. Recently, we were incredibly lucky to have members of **The MARS Society UK** visit AHS to give STEM-related talks to students. Those who attended were able to learn about the prospect of living on Mars by discussing topics such as biochemistry and its importance in research on Mars.

The MARS Society is the largest and most influential space advocacy organisation in the world: we are extremely grateful to have had the opportunity to host their speakers and have our students learn more about such an important topic.

Speaking with two students who attended the talk, Inaya (11S) and Diya (11M), it was evident that the topics discussed were interesting and engaging - with subjects such as careers in biochemistry, their importance, and understanding molecular structures and functions being discussed. "It was amazing what people that went knew, it was a great talk, and we learned lots", whilst Diya added, "The talk was very interesting, and it was nice that people who attended were all interested in the topic."

If you are interested in the topics mentioned above, you can find out more about The MARS Society UK on their website, Facebook, Twitter, or Instagram.

Georgia, 11S

# WHAT'S BEEN GOING ON IN CHEMISTRY?

The QMUL poster competition was established with the aim of giving exposure to minorities and their contributions within chemistry.

Whilst still in Year 12, Simra, Sindhu and Saira decided to enter the competition. As Saira notes, "we typically only hear about cisgender white men working in chemistry, which is disappointing", the team discovered Asima Chatterjee, a female Indian scientist who specialised in organic chemistry. Along with many other outstanding achievements, she most notably developed the anti epileptic drug 'Ayush-56'.

The competition offered an opportunity to research content beyond the A-Level course, with Simra remarking that she "didn't know about any of the things [they] included in the poster beforehand". After winning an excellent fourth place, they received £100 for the school's chemistry department and a £50 Amazon voucher each. Reflecting on how useful the competition will be before their university applications, Sindhu notes that she'll "definitely include it in [her] personal statement". Well done on your amazing entry!

The Chemistry department's recent achievements don't stop there - four Year 13 students completed a 5-hour-long Chemistry Youth Online Summit on November 2nd. The programme focused on forensic science and involved having insightful discussions with other like-minded 16-18 year olds about topics such as the limitations of DNA. Shreya from 13H learnt lots about the field, highlighting the fact that "in the media we see true crime depicted as a very fast process [...] but it can be dangerous to overestimate the power of DNA evidence in this way".

Don't be afraid to apply to chemistry-related programmes that sound interesting to you - subject teachers are always willing to offer their guidance!

Beth, 13H

SAIRA, SINDHU AND SIMRA, AYLESBURY HIGH SCHOOL



## ASIMA CHATTERJEE

### CHATTERJEE'S BACKGROUND

A female Indian scientist born in 1917 who's research consisted of plant & synthetic organic chemistry.

1944 - Chatterjee became the second Indian woman with a doctorate of science

1961 - The first woman to receive the Shanti Swarup Bhatnagar award in chemical science.

### WHAT EXACTLY DID SHE DO?

- Developed the anti-epileptic drug, 'Ayush-56' from an aquatic fern
- developed an Anti-malarial drug from blackboard tree, Swertia, Picrorhiza kurroa and Karanja seeds.
- spent 40 years of research on alkaloids which are now used in chemotherapy to prevent cell replication.
- Chemically researched coumarins, discovered fruit + bark of said tree can treat gastrointestinal disorders



### SCIENCE NOT SILENCE

Spent own personal funds when India was struggling in the scientific field.

She is an inspirational woman for many young desi women and girls, who broke social, scientific and research barriers and earned the respect of many known scientists, peers and countrymen.

1. Scientificwomen.net, 2022.  
2. The Stemettes Zine, 2022.  
3.3. Arahna, The Better India, 2022.  
4. Google Arts & Culture, 2022.



# ● ● ● TECHNOLOGY ● ● ●

## EXCITING THINGS IN TEXTILES


Year 10s got the chance to experience an online workshop with Nikki Parmenter, a well known textile artist who works on commissions for galleries, churches and cathedrals. During the workshop, students learned how to create pieces in the artist's style and had the opportunity to ask questions. The artist spoke about her life and influences whilst helping students learn techniques using sewing machines, PVC, free machining and trapping with cellophane.

Currently, the pieces are just standalone, but the workshop gave the students an opportunity to produce research and responses and this is a good jumping off point for their projects. As well as teaching them experimental techniques, the workshop allows students to experience research from a primary source which is important in adding enrichment to a practical subject.

Year 11 Art and Textile students completed an in-person workshop. The school recently bought 2 printing kits from the artist Liam Biswell, so he came in to talk about how to use the printing sets and to show examples of his work. This kind of workshop develops local artist links and means students can use the skills they are learning in their work. The workshop also allows students to ask questions such as what paint works best, meaning they can get the most out of this equipment in their coursework.

Beth, 13H





Well that's the end of our first edition of 'The High Society'. Thank you for reading and thank you to everyone we interviewed! We are excited to keep you informed on the goings on in school and all our successes.

But the most important thing is that YOU read and get something out of this publication we are putting together.

So, we have created this Google form for you to express your opinions.

**[https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSeO5iJDJ9ebt4AQ210Cunp7Zj90bjUiUAkHxaqQnGiwGda21A/viewform?usp=sf\\_link](https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSeO5iJDJ9ebt4AQ210Cunp7Zj90bjUiUAkHxaqQnGiwGda21A/viewform?usp=sf_link)**

If you could please fill it out that would be incredibly useful.

Thank you all,

**The High Society Team**

