



**1985-86 Dragon Tales
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**Alconbury American High School
RAF Alconbury, Huntingdon
Cambridgeshire, England**

Alconbury HS Supplement
1986

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Dragon dramatists entertain, amuse



"Bad guy" Jason Parker threatens "Good guy" Tonya Harper in the one-act play "The Tall Stranger."

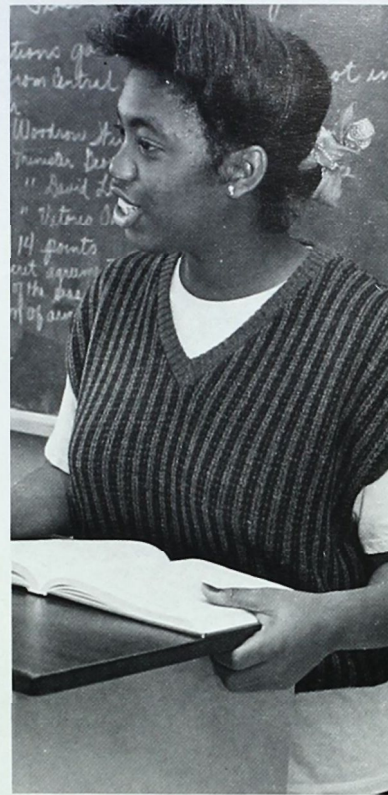
This year the Speech and Drama Festival was held at RAF Croughton March 15-18. Schools from as far away as Iceland, Bermuda and Spain came to participate in the four-day event. Emphasis during the festival was placed on debate. Eighteen teams from five schools competed for first place. Four teams were sent from Alconbury; however, none made it beyond the quarterfinals. A Woodbridge team captured the title.

Other students competed for excellence in solo and duet acting, extemporaneous speaking, dramatic and humorous oral interpretation and original oratory. Senior Tonya Harper fared best among the Alconbury students, capturing second place in dramatic oral interpretation and being commended for her solo acting.

In the spring Mrs. Barbara Reddington's Theater Arts class presented two one-act plays. The first was "The Tall Stranger" starring Don Steele as the hero who saves the day and Jason Parker as the villain. The second play was "Take My Advice" featuring Kenny Sjoberg as "Miss Lovelace," an advice columnist who gives the wrong advice to the daughter of his newspaper's publisher. Mrs. Trudy Hashagen, student teacher and substitute teacher, lent a helping hand in both productions. Both plays were deemed a success.



"Take My Advice" stars (L to R) Katie Eastham, Belinda Byron, Eric Holcomb, Kenny Sjoberg and Susan Booke.



Tonya Harper recites her winning dramatic oral interpretation.



Jim Ross, Alexis Tessaro and Chase Kelly practice for Honor Band.

In October, talented music students auditioned on tape for Honor Band and Choir. Using this recorded cassette, a panel of judges in London chose the most gifted students, six of them from AHS, to participate in Honor Band and Choir.

The selectees were named in January. Tonya Harper, Steve Hill and Linda Jenkins were chosen for Honor Choir. (Unfortunately, Tonya could not participate at the festival.) Chase Kelly, Jim Ross and Alexis Tessaro were picked for Honor Band. Two months of intense practice went into effect for the big performance.

On March 20 and 21, American School of London hosted Honor Bands and Honor Choirs from Department of Defense Dependent Schools all over the globe, coming from as far away as Egypt, Spain and Bermuda.

The talented musicians were united in an excellent evening performance given for students, parents and teachers. For most of those honored it was the highlight of their musical year.

On May 20 the choir and bands performed their third and final concert of the year before an audience of parents and students. The evening featured both junior and senior high choirs and all of the bands under the direction of Mr. William Callaway. This last performance showed just how much the groups had improved since the beginning of the year.

Band, choir honor excellence



The choir performs in the spring concert for an evening audience.



Honor Choir selectees Steve Hill and Linda Jenkins rehearse.

As the end of the year drew closer, activities and events brought a fun-filled close. In March the new high school cafeteria finally opened; ABC sports producer Elly Rigor spoke to Dragon Challenge recipients and Quill and Scroll members; and Spring Break gave students a week off.

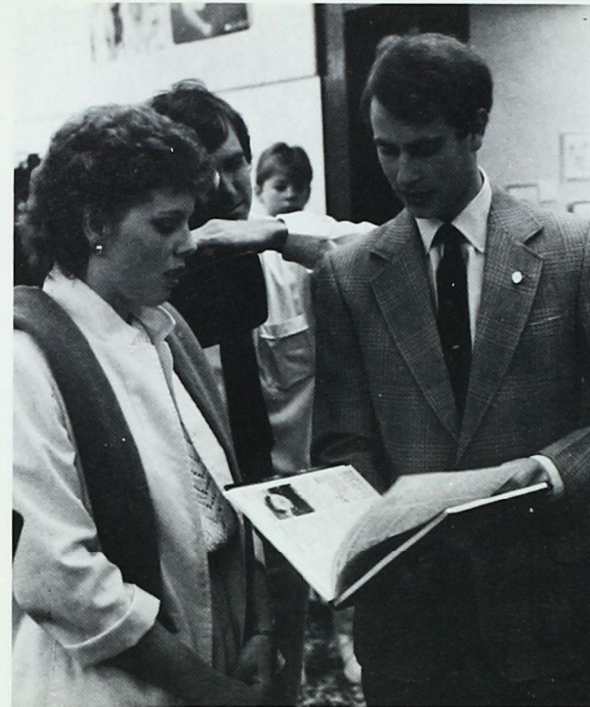
Staff Appreciation Day highlighted a cold, wet April as Student Council gave the staff apples, flowers, lunch and "student teachers." Galaxy returned for another performance. The base tightened security after the U.S. bombing of Libya and terrorist threats. The North Central Association team evaluation and French exchange in France for a week closed the month.

May set 1986-87 in motion with counselors scheduling students, an orientation for students new to AHS next year and an assembly for Student Council candidates. Eighth grade through juniors elected Chase Kelly president and Sandy Downs and Kristi Johnsrud corresponding/recording secretaries. The last assembly of the year recognized dozens of students for their achievement or improvement in academics.

June ushered in yearbooks and finals. A BBC crew and HRH the Prince Edward came to film a TV special about the Duke of Edinburgh's Award Scheme. Senior activities, the Junior/Senior Prom and graduation led to the last day of school- June 12.



Danny Habedank promotes science courses at an orientation for students who will attend AHS next year.



Jennifer Monroe impresses Prince Edward with a copy of the school paper, *Dragon Dispatch*.



Some brave students try out the food at the new high school cafeteria.

Spring events fill days with activity



Most improved recipient T.C. Carr receives a hug from Principal Kay Galloway at the awards assembly.



Michelle Miller and Marshall Cotton take over as principal and assistant principal for Teacher Appreciation Day.

Seniors celebrate end of school



Seniors read a poem at the Baccalaureate.

The end of the school year is always a busy time, but it is especially so for seniors. This year seniors took their exams early- June 2-6. A religious service during which a blessing is given for the graduating students and several Bible verses and poems are read, Baccalaureate was held June 8 in the RAF Alconbury base chapel.

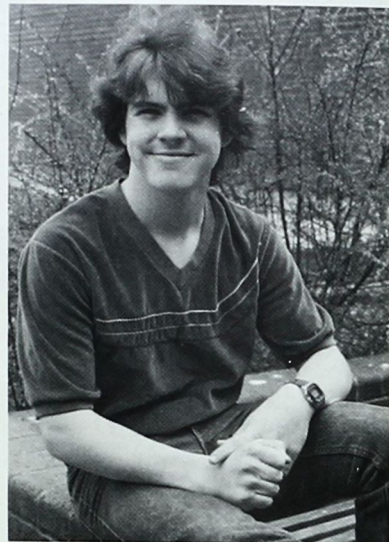
On June 9 the class traveled to Alton Towers amusement park for a day of fun. June 10 the seniors practiced for graduation and then enjoyed a class barbecue.

Wednesday, June 11, was the big day for Class of '86. It was a dress rehearsal at Peterborough Cathedral in the morning and finally, the much awaited commencement ceremony held at the cathedral at 7 p.m. A reception and after-grad parties followed.

AHS welcomes new dragons



'91 L to R- Scott D'Amour, Robin Hummel, Anna Linscott, Lisa Analla, Michelle Haile, Michelle Gagliardi, Kari Yakubow, Kari Spang, Kristy Miller, Theresa Sammons.



'86 Chris Pastorius.



'89 L to R- Kerry Selby, Rochelle Young, Kevin Gates, Trini West, Julie Ladley, Will Marsee.

Most military "brats" know the feeling. They just get settled in and it is time to move again.

Some like traveling around, meeting new people and seeing new things. Others worry about what life is going to be like. Will I fit in? Are people going to be different?

All sorts of questions enter the mind. Even when they arrive the questions still arise. It takes time, but eventually everyone finds his or her place. Soon they feel they were meant to be here.

Moving to England from the United States is hardest. The lifestyle is different as is the weather. We complain at first, then realize it is not so bad. The people are nice and we all fit in.

By leaving during the summer, the transition is easier. Friends are made during the summer and by the start of school, we are veterans. Moving in the school year hurts most. Students leave friends and home and a couple of weeks later they are in a new environment with strange people. Everyone seems to be staring at them. Then that one brave person comes up and talks to "the new kid." From there, it is home free. We have made the transition.



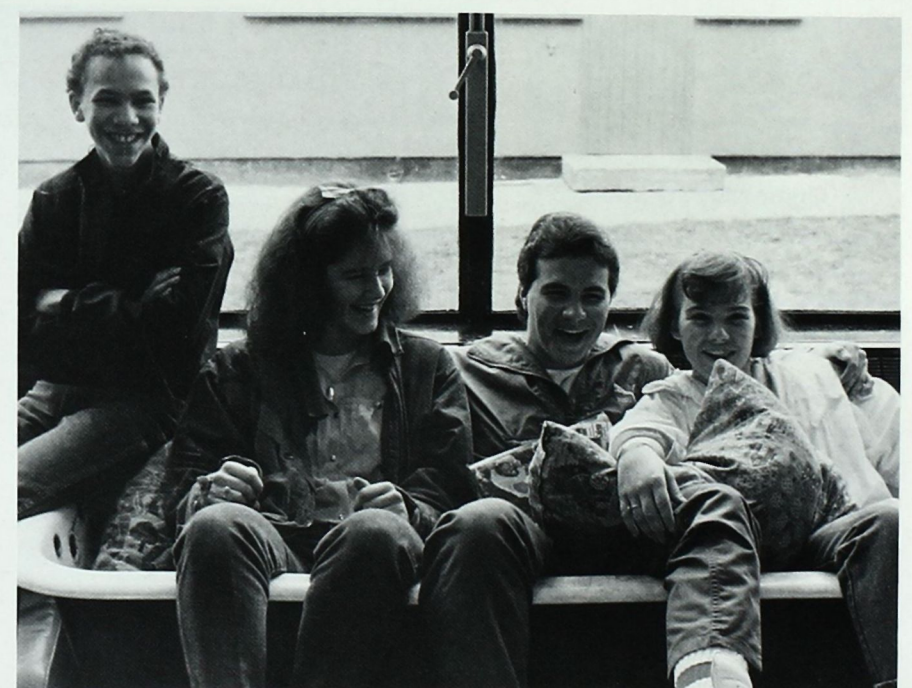
'90 Travis Snider and Shiloh Booth.



'87 L to R- Leann Kitko, Cheryl Wilkins, Audra Blevins, Al Parker,



Ronnie Reed and Denise Dodd.



'88 L to R- Bjorn Haile, Heidi Talley, Rick Analla, Stefanie Wratchford.

A learning experience might be what you could call the gymnastics season. Most of the gymnasts had never before competed in the sport, but by year's end, they had improved considerably.

Under the guidance of Coach Cindy Schroeder, the 19 girls took on the more advanced gymnasts from other schools in the United Kingdom and pulled off some surprises. In the end, the Dragons even had one U.K. Champion.

Nikki Griffin put it all together in the U.K. Tournament May 17 and came away with the overall title in the Division One Advanced Level. Others fared well but no one else quite made it into the medals. Division Two Advanced gymnast Robin Wilcox did well during the year but faltered in the Tournament. However, all the girls can be proud of what they have accomplished this season.

Right: Donnessa Myers concentrates as she demonstrates her expertise on the balance beam.



Gymnasts flip for school

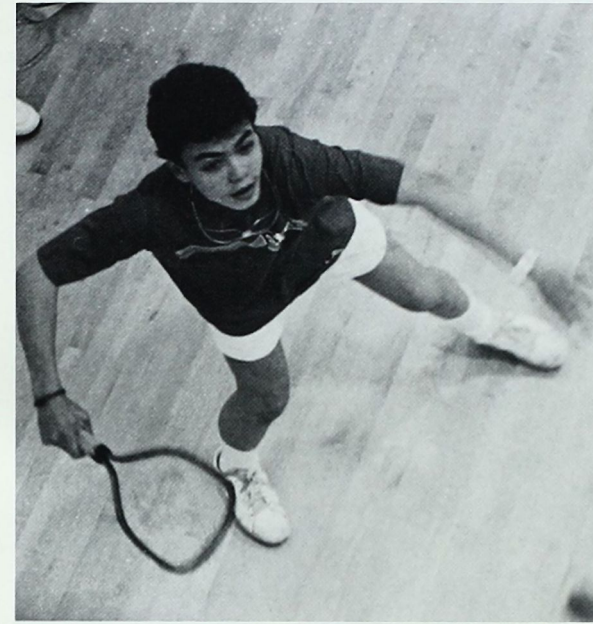
Gymnastic schedule

26 Apr	ASL at AHS
3 May	Lakenheath at AHS
10 May	AHS at London Central
17 May	Championships at ASL

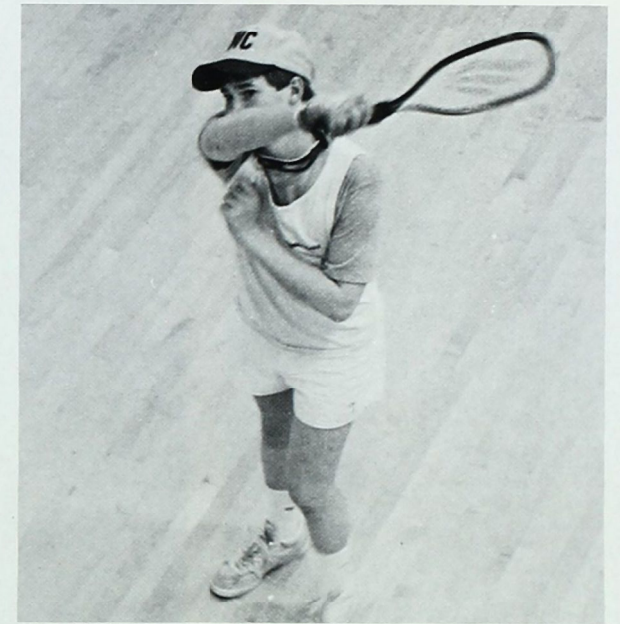


(L to R) Row 1: Lucinda Schuettpelz, Jennifer Young, Nikki Griffin Row 2: Kerri Musico, Kari Spang, Danica Gunn, Angela Evans Row 3: Kristi Johnsrud, Mendee Emigh, Melissa Chuculate, Katie Eastham- manager Row 4: Cindy Schroeder- Coach, Jenny Colucci, Robin Wilcox, Michelle Miller, Shannon Coleman.

Racquetball hosts UK Tourney



John Andreoli hits the ball off the back wall.



Chris Metsala gives the ball a forehand.



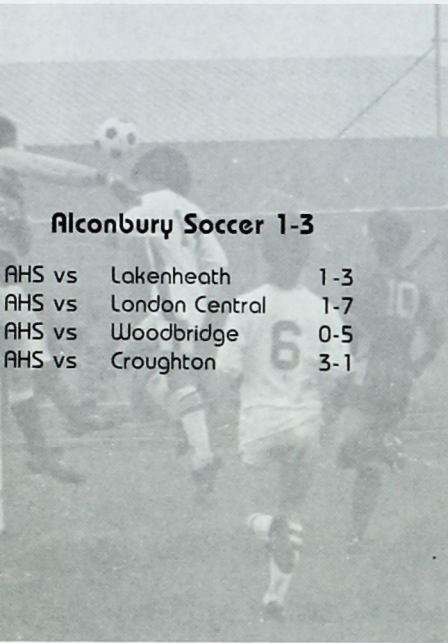
(L to R) Row 1: Jeff Davis, Greg Peterson, Lonnie Burden, John Ruzzeni Row 2: Kerri Musico, Julie Greer, Leanne Emigh, Danny Dickinson, Eric Hemeon Row 3: Jerry Sirmans, Doug Dynes, Darran Frey, Tom Boutwell, Kenny Graham, Jason Pugh Row 4: Phil Chapman- coach, John Pryor, Jeff Schnurr, Wayne Colwell, David Lawson, Curtis Stokes, Mark Clayton.

Playing racquetball became a year-long sport for many Dragons who joined Coach Phil Chapman in the fall and continued until the tournament in May.

The annual U. K. Racquetball Tournament May 23-25, sponsored by Coach Chapman, attracted players from throughout the island to Alconbury's base gymnasium. Students grades 7-12 participated along with the adults.

Winners for the 13 and under competition were Chad Kelly and Audra Goode. Mark Clayton won the 14 and older category for students.

Soccer gets its kicks



Alconbury Soccer 1-3

AHS vs	Lakenheath	1-3
AHS vs	London Central	1-7
AHS vs	Woodbridge	0-5
AHS vs	Croughton	3-1



(L to R) Row 1: Bryan Sander, Jerry Sirmans, Myra Allen, Nancy Bedingfield, Marc Hashagen Row 2: Russell Clements, Pete DuBois, Jeff Parker- captain, Darren Musico, Charlie Kuhl Row 3: Darran Frey, John Reilly, Brian Kruschwitz, Danny Habedank, Lou Hashagen- coach Row 4: Eddie Flanders, Doug Dynes, Kenny Sjoberg, Don Steele, Steve Hill.

The 1986 Alconbury soccer team started with high hopes for this season, but losing top players was once again combined with inexperience to result in the Dragon's downfall.

The squad first traveled to RAF Feltwell to face the Lakenheath Lancers. Alconbury played well but could not make up a two goal deficit and fell 3-1.

The championship hopes were dashed when the visiting London Central Bobcats, eventual champions, thrashed the Dragons 7-1. They beat the rest of the league but Alconbury was disappointed after playing badly at home.

Woodbridge was the third game and it was the battle for the cellar. Neither team had won and AHS showed nothing losing 5-0. It was the end of the Dragon consecutive scoring streak at thirteen and virtually the end of the year.

Playing Croughton before the home folks did something for the team. They finally showed skill and determination against the U.K. runners-up. Winning 3-1 was the final score and the Dragons had never played better producing an unheard of Alconbury defensive performance.



Left wing Sean McKenna leads the Dragon attack.



Jeff Parker shoots for the goal.



Marshall Cotton plays the net.



Andrea Rioux strives to return the ball during a doubles game.

The only championship team at Alconbury was, for the first time ever, tennis. The girls' team, led by the doubles duo of Andrea Rioux and Vanessa Bennett, clinched their title in the tournament May 17.

Rioux and Bennett won the doubles championship, defeating a tough London Central opponent in the final. Samantha Jones made the singles final, but lost to a Lakenheath foe. Belinda Byron also did well in singles. Melissa McMillon and Lisa Horton showed good form all year too.

The boys' team, depleted by last year's graduation, placed fourth in the conference. Mike Malone and Aaron Stoke held their own in singles while Pete Escue and Jon Harris were tops in doubles. Shane Davis and Bob Richardson were stable in their first year playing together.

The good news for Coach Pat Buckler is that most of the team is returning.

Tennis serves Alconbury



(L to R) Row 1: Vanessa Bennett, Samantha Jones, Gemma Jones, Bob Richardson Row 2: Mike Malone, Lisa Horton, Michelle King, Jennifer Monroe Row 3: Brian Roth, Melissa McMillon, Michelle Gaymon, Anthony Battista, Pat Buckler- Coach Row 4: Jimmy Dickinson, Aaron Stoke, Jon Harris, Pete Escue, Shane Davis, Belinda Byron.



Tennis Schedule

19 Apr	AHS at Lakenheath
3 May	London Central at AHS
10 May	AHS at Woodbridge
17 May	Croughton at AHS

The Dragon Track and Field team, led by Coach Richard Schramm, seemed poised in 1986 to make a run at the championship. Unfortunately injuries and other setbacks dashed that hope. However, the team did have many individual successes.

Senior Billy Flanders lowered his school record in the 1500 to 4:29 with a great run in May. Miles Daisher pole vaulted his way to second in the United Kingdom with a school best of 9'6". Eric Holcomb, who like Daisher will return next seson, bested his own record in the 800 with a time of 2:13. Guy Williams did not disappoint fans in breaking the 400 record. He blazed the lap in 53.1 seconds. Wayne Colwell capped off the boys' records with a new mark in the discus event.

The girls' team was also blessed with fine athletes. Tabatha Jones, who last year was the fastest girl in Europe, came down with mononucleosis in the winter and found track season difficult. She did however manage third place in the 100. Sharon Mitchner was a fine addition to the team as she did well in the triple jump and long jump. Diane Luckfiel broke the school record in the 1500 by 10 seconds in the championships. Bonita Crews did well in the championships by nabbing sixth place in the discus. The 4 x 400 relay team captured third.

Overall the boys finished sixth while the girls were fourth.



(L to R) Row 1: Dick Schramm- Coach, Trina West, Karen Moss, Sandy Downs, Jeanne Bartel, Ussanee Neimsin, Kevin Gates, Tabatha Jones, Susan McKown, Tressie Wilson- manager Row 2: Tracy Howard, Bonita Crews, Elena Battista, Julie Ladley, Michael Crook, Harold Brooks, Ronnie Reed, Marie Treubig, Matt Majors- manager, Billy Flanders Row 3: Diana Luckfiel, Kristin Stafford, Eric Holcomb, Lynette Byron, Karen Anderson, Kamalir Velez, Casey Easter, Bethany Ragle Row 4: Keri Sinerson, Clint Calzini, Kelly Anderson, Rick Analla, Miles Daisher, James Monroe, Tony Carter, Wayne Colwell, Guy Williams, Alex Kuhn.

They're on the right track



Track Schedule

26 Apr	Lakenheath, ASL at Luton
3 May	Woodbridge, AHS, ACS at ASL
10 May	AHS, Lakenheath, Woodbridge at ACS
17 May	Championships at Wormwoodscrub



Tony Carter reaches for the ultimate distance for discus throw.



Female athletes of the year, Andrea Rioux and Tabatha Jones, show off their trophy.



Winter sports: Clint Calzini, Miles Daisher and Tony Carter pose in their human totem pole.

Champions lead AHS



Fall sports: Row 1: Andrea Rioux, Taneaia Yarbrough, Sean McKenna Row 2: Tony Carter, Guy Williams, Shane Davis, Billy Flanders.



Spring sports: Sitting: Billy Flanders, Vanessa Bennett, Andrea Rioux, Guy Williams Standing: Miles Daisher, Sean McKenna.

Although Alconbury athletic teams did not do extremely well in 1985-86, 11 students were selected for All-Conference teams.

Tony Carter, Shane Davis, Sean McKenna and Guy Williams made the squad in football. Williams, a senior, became the first Dragon named to two different positions. Billy Flanders ran his way onto the cross-country team and Taneaia Yarbrough and Andrea Rioux overpowered the opposition in volleyball.

Heading the winter selections, Carter led the basketball team in scoring and then took them to second place in the U.K. tournament. Miles Daisher and Clint Calzini, both juniors,

dominated their weight classes in wrestling. Daisher then went on to finish second in Europe while Calzini place fifth.

In the spring McKenna was selected to the All-U.K. soccer team. Daisher, Flanders and Williams also made teams for the second time by breaking school records in track and field. Vanessa Bennett and Rioux took the womens' doubles championship in tennis. Finally, Nikki Griffin won the overall title in the U.K. Division One Advanced Level in gymnastics.

Carter, Rioux and Tabatha Jones were selected as the schools' Athletes of the Year and honored with trophies.

On Prom Night June 7, 160 people attended the party held at the Duke of Bedford's home, Woburn Abbey. The festivities were enhanced by the beautiful setting of the estate.

The dance, sponsored by the Junior Class, began at 7:30 p.m. and lasted until 1 a.m. Upon arriving the students walked around the beautiful gardens surrounding the Abbey. Shortly afterwards everyone sat down and enjoyed a wonderful dinner. After dining, dancing and photographs filled the rest of the evening.

The Prom Court, announced by dance chairman Bob Richardson, were Michael Malone and Aine Tucker, king and queen, and Peter Escue and Alisha Boswell, prince and princess. The theme song for the dance and the crowning was "Leaving Me Now" by Level 42.

After leaving the Abbey at 1 a.m. the students headed to the Chicksands Club for an afterprom party. For five more hours they danced and ate. Finally at 6 a.m. they were served breakfast and the 1986 Prom had come to close.



Students get into the groove at the Prom.

Prom magic lights up night



Formal students tour the impressive formal gardens of Woburn Abbey.



Long dresses add to the dancing.

As graduation arrives for Class of '86...

Seniors step up into the world



Seniors' expressions show nervousness as they prepare to graduate.



Helen Brundege walks down the aisle to "Pomp and Circumstance."



Peterborough Cathedral awaits the Class of '86.



Mr. Bill Callaway directs the senior choir members in the class song, "There's Nothing We Can't Do."

The end of four hard years of work for the 63 members of the Class of 1986, graduation was held at 7 p.m. on June 11 at Peterborough Cathedral in Cambridgeshire. Valedictorian Salena DiMatteo and Salutatorian Danny Habedank spoke to staff, parents and friends. The guest speaker for the event was Mr. Edward Storey, a local historian and poet.

Musical selections "Memories," "On Top of the World" and "There's Nothing We Can't Do" added to the occasion, which was followed by a reception and after-parties.

Tears fill last day

*The day breaks not: it is my heart,
Because that you and I must part.*

John Donne



Above right: Students crowd in front of the school to say farewell to friends.

Above: Heidi Talley and Kristin Stafford say good-bye to each other until they meet again one day.

Right: Hugs are a familiar sight on the last day of school.

The last day of school, June 12, was filled with happiness of no more teachers, no more homework and no more school! Some students even skipped the final day entirely. But when the half day ended at noon, sadness and tears took over as everyone hugged each other good-bye. Some were friends who would return to AHS next school year and maybe be here during the summer. Others were friends who were moving back to the States or another country- perhaps never to be seen again- but with promises to keep in touch. At 12:10 the buses departed, the school doors were locked, and school year 1985-86 had officially come to an end.

