



# Aylesbury High School



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# Welcome

Dear Parents/Carers and Students

Thank you for taking the time to read this and considering us for the next exciting step of your journey. Aylesbury High School's aim is: To **Inspire** every student to seek **Challenge**, realise their potential and **Prepare** for the world of today and tomorrow. We believe that this message of '**Prepare, Challenge and Inspire**' runs throughout the school and we hope will become your 'motto for life'.

As the only girls' grammar in North Buckinghamshire, we believe there are real benefits from this single sex education. These include feeling more comfortable in non-traditional subjects, less pressure to conform to gender stereotypes and gaining greater confidence. This is only one side to our story and the geographical advantage of having our brother school, AGS, literally across the road means that our students have a greater social group than elsewhere. Shared experiences include language exchanges and annual joint drama production, as well as music events, visiting speakers and curriculum opportunities; truly the '**best of both**'. Your final joint event is an AHS/AGS Year 13 prom, currently held at Missenden Abbey.

Our academic success is long-established and even though we are often ranked in the best schools in the country and the county, we are a school that constantly looks to improve. This is reflected in the hard work and dedication of our staff, as well as the engagement of our students. There is no doubt that our students are our greatest ambassadors and I sum this up as '**Our results speak for themselves, our students speak for us**'.

I am committed to preparing our students for 'the tests of life, rather than a life of tests' and see our academic excellence as one of three facets we offer:

- Academic excellence
- Holistic view of education
- Safe and inclusive school

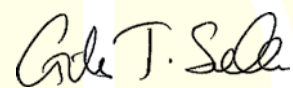
Our wide ranging curriculum (around 25 subjects at both GCSE and A-level) is supported by a wealth of co-curricular opportunities. These include team and individual activities, sports (we are in the top 5 state schools in both 2018 and 2019) and the creative and performing arts, all of which are hosted in the excellent facilities of AHS, AGS or the neighbouring Chilterns. Whatever our students' interests, we aim to cater for them.

Ofsted always comment on our students' outstanding personal development and we play an active role in the local, national and international communities, leading, motivating and caring for others. Ski trips, Duke of Edinburgh Award, Dance trips, World Challenge Expeditions, our Year 8 trip to Aberdyfi and subject Field Trips have meant that our students have travelled to 4 continents in the past few years and we look forward to getting back to that as travel restrictions ease.

Students flourish if they feel safe, motivated and valued. We have placed well-being and inclusivity at the heart of all we do and believe our student support and welfare is outstanding. This support is provided by dedicated, professional staff and other student ambassadors that receive accredited external training.

This prospectus and the website can only give you a flavour of life at Aylesbury High School. To get the best impression of our community, I warmly invite you to join us for our Open Evenings or you can experience the school in action during our Open Mornings.

We look forward to being part of your journey.



Mr Giles Scoble  
Headteacher

'Aylesbury High is an  
outstanding school'  
Ofsted

## Enjoy and Achieve

Choosing the right secondary school is vital; it is an important decision with life-long consequences. AHS offers all the ingredients necessary for success.

We are totally committed to developing the whole person, inside and outside the classroom. The range of experiences and opportunities available is second to none, and our students achieve so well in public examinations because they enjoy and can flourish at school.

The main focus of the school is, of course, the quality of teaching and learning so it is always a high priority each year. We involve students in reviewing our work and greatly value their feedback and insights.

Each student is an individual and has the chance to pursue her interests and talents in an unusually wide choice of subjects, while keeping real breadth and balance in her studies. Not everyone is good at everything, but that's OK!

'My daughters have been  
so happy here. I know  
it was the right school  
for them'

Parent





# Join us and Settle in

Starting secondary school is a big step and we do all that we can to aid the transition process. We aim to visit every Year 6 student in the summer term before she starts at AHS in September. The induction programme commences in July when students spend two days here; they meet teachers and their tutor group, and consequently feel confident about starting in September.

A significant number of students also join the school in Year 12 and they too are encouraged to visit and meet us. After completing their GCSEs, they attend an induction day in the summer where the focus is on meeting fellow students, team building and making the first step to becoming a member of our Sixth Form. Students joining other year groups are also encouraged to visit prior to taking up a place and their Head of Year ensures that they have a structured start.

A strong system of support exists for students at all times; each student is a member of a tutor group and is looked after by a Form Tutor who takes a special interest in her progress and welfare. A Head of Year oversees each year group. Student Ambassadors, a peer support system, is run by specially trained students for students and we also have the services of a student welfare co-ordinator.

We consider parental involvement to be of vital importance. We keep in close touch with parents through our home-school e-mail system, newsletters from the Headteacher, our website, annual written subject reports, regular checks on progress and through the student planner. Equally, parents are encouraged to keep in touch with us and are welcome in school at any time. Parents are also invited to support the work of the school by joining the very active parents' association.

'Students are courteous, thoughtful and their behaviour is mature'

Ofsted



'Students are very happy and feel completely safe at school'  
Ofsted







'The ethos of respect between teachers and students results in lessons in which students collaborate productively and learn well'

'Teachers have strong subject knowledge, are enthusiastic and use a wide range of teaching and learning styles'

Ofsted

# Learn Together

At Aylesbury High School we expect students to work hard and be committed to learning; our students enjoy coming to school. Standards of behaviour are exemplary in lessons, outside the classroom and on school trips.

Our teachers have high quality training to keep them at the forefront of educational knowledge and practice. Using their specialist subject knowledge and experience in the classroom, teachers encourage students to question and develop independent thinking and learning skills. Older students play an important role in educating younger students both here and in our many partner schools. This ranges from student-led assemblies to leading language and sports-based activities with local primary school children.

We treat our students with respect and they respond positively to this approach. As a result, a very constructive working relationship exists between students and staff.



'What a fantastic environment for my daughter to learn in'

Parent

'Students enjoy learning and contribute greatly to the success of lesson'

Ofsted





# Create and Perform



The creativity, commitment and talent shown by our students is a constant delight. In sport, they regularly compete at regional and national levels; in the performing arts (Dance, Drama and Music), our outstanding productions and performances are always worth watching.

All visitors to the school comment on our superb facilities including:

- Appropriately equipped specialist teaching rooms and modernised science labs
- Eight computer suites and the innovative use of ICT across the curriculum
- A specialist drama studio
- Music tuition facilities
- A full-sized Sports Hall, gymnasium, floodlit tennis and netball courts, athletics track and hockey pitches
- A dedicated language suite with two state-of-the art computer rooms and support from foreign language assistants who conduct conversation lessons
- A library run by a full time librarian and dedicated Sixth Form study space
- Attractive green open spaces and pleasant courtyards with trees and seating

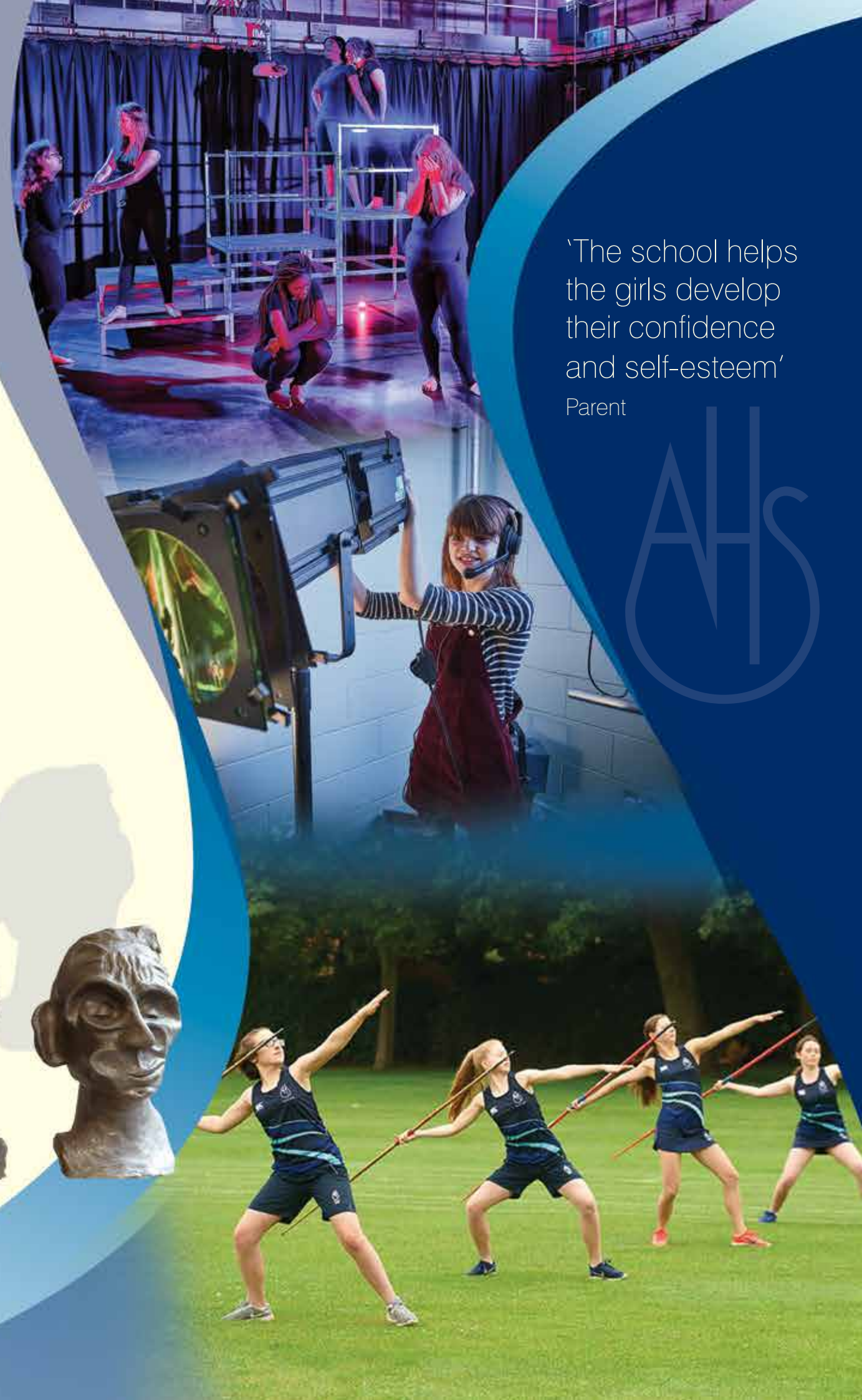
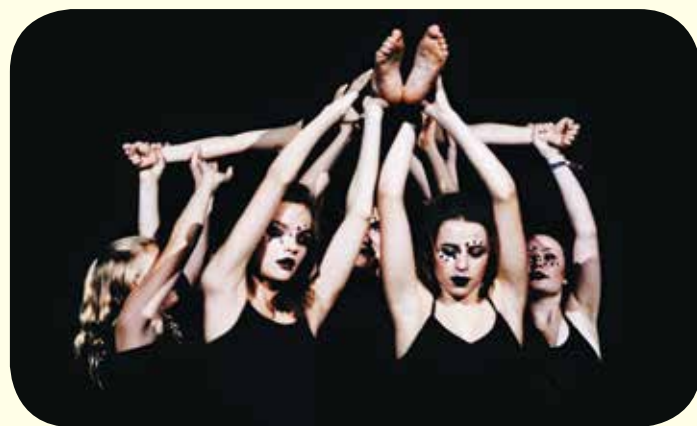
The school has very successful associations with a number of local organisations including the highly acclaimed Aylesbury Music Centre (located on our site), The Vale Federation of Special Schools and Aylesbury Youth Action.

We are designated as the Teaching School for Aylesbury Vale, which means that we will co-ordinate initial teaching training and support schools in the local area.

Although we are committed to girls' education, there are plenty of opportunities for students to work and socialise with boys. Being adjacent to the boys' grammar school, there are a number of joint initiatives including some shared courses in the Sixth Form, joint visits/exchanges to France, Germany, Spain and Italy, concerts and theatrical productions, and other social occasions - the highlight of which is the Year 13 Leavers' Ball.

'The range of things you can do here is brilliant - there are so many opportunities'

Student



'The school helps the girls develop their confidence and self-esteem'

Parent





# Learn to Lead and Experience the World

By the time a student leaves AHS, she will have the necessary qualifications and be able to face future challenges with confidence and ambition.

As soon as a student enters the school, we encourage her to participate in activities and to take on the leadership of some of them.

Typically, she will take part in assemblies and performances, provide entertainment for her peers, parents and members of the local community, take part in charity fund-raising events, get involved in school clubs, House activities and community activities, achieve a Duke of Edinburgh Award, go on a visit in this country, take part in a trip abroad and be able to compare life in this country with a wide range of other countries within Europe and beyond.

An undoubted highlight is the Year 8 residential week where students have the opportunity to really put themselves to the test and develop both personally and as a member of a team.

The very popular House system offers great opportunities for students to participate and lead on the sports field, on the stage, as an artist, or as a cook, to name but a few. We always welcome suggestions for new events from our students.

*"Our young people are growing up in complex times, with a great many opportunities, but also new challenges. As the leaders of two exceptional single sex schools we are in a unique position – geographically and socially situated side by side - to be able to offer our students the best of both worlds. They are given the time and space to grow through unselfconsciously being involved in many opportunities across each School whilst benefiting from the specialist teaching provided. Our goal is for the students to share new experiences and gain different perspectives from each other, through their varied interactions. Developing social skills that are of enormous benefit to all our students who leave us as confident and well-mannered young adults, better prepared for life ahead, with a mutual respect for all aspects of society."*

**Mark Sturgeon**  
Headmaster  
Aylesbury Grammar School

**Giles Scoble**  
Headteacher  
Aylesbury High School

'Students are very well prepared for their future lives and the social and moral issues they will face'

Ofsted

