



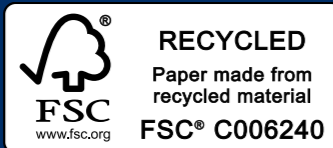
Aylesbury High School Sixth Form
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AHS ixth Form

Prepare, Challenge, Inspire

Aylesbury High School is working hard to minimise its environmental impact. This prospectus is printed on recycled paper, using vegetable-based inks.



A Warm Welcome

Headteacher Welcome:

I am delighted that you are considering joining our school. Sixth Form should be a time of great excitement as you specialise in subjects which you both enjoy and that will pave the way to your future. As the new Headteacher I am looking to continue building on the reputation and success of this 'Outstanding' School.

Our academic success is long-established and we are a school that constantly looks to improve. Our Sixth Form students are our greatest ambassadors and I sum this up as 'Our results speak for themselves, our students speak for us'.

Being the only girls grammar in North Bucks. is only one side to our story and the geographical advantage of having our brother school, Aylesbury Grammar School (AGS), literally across the road means that our students have a greater social group than elsewhere. I believe this allows us to offer 'the best of both' to our students.

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:

- A**cademic excellence
- H**olistic view of Sixth Form education
- S**afe and inclusive school

I hope this prospectus allows you to choose the best Sixth Form for your future aspirations and I encourage you to ask yourself this crucial question:

‘Why would you not want to study here as a Sixth Form student?’

We hope that you will be part of our journey and look forward to welcoming you in September.



Giles Scoble, Headteacher

Head of Sixth Form Welcome:

We are very proud of our Sixth Form and are keen for you to join us here at Aylesbury High School for what will be the final - and possibly defining – years of your school education.

Here at AHS you can get the very best education, with A Levels delivered by enthusiastic subject specialists in a supportive and inclusive environment that values the co-curricular every bit as much as the formal qualifications you will earn.

We work hard to give you the very best opportunities to create your own future. It combines to make this a very special place. We know this to be true, because our students tell us so, most clearly and articulately when they leave at the end of Year 13. They are excited about the next stage in their lives, but they are nearly always very sad to be leaving AHS.

We love to welcome new students into AHS, greatly appreciate the varied perspectives and skills they bring to us, and a measure of our success is that they are every bit as sad to leave at the end of Year 13 as those that have been here since Year 7.

This prospectus will give you a glimpse into life at AHS, and our online extended prospectus will give you all the details and specific information you need to turn first impressions into something more substantive. (www.google.com/ahs.bucks.sch.uk/sixth-form-prospectus-2020).

Our Sixth Form is a happy and successful part of our school and we hope that you will want to join us. Don't hesitate to contact us if you have any questions or need more information about what we can offer you.



Ian Ochiltree, Head of Sixth Form



“In the Sixth Form there is a sense of trust between students and teachers which provides the independence to work hard and succeed.”

- Head Girl



“Hearing about my friends’ [university] application process in different schools and other countries made me realise how lucky I was at AHS and how well prepared I was for university, compared to a lot of students.”

- Student Voice

A Distinctive School:

What Makes AHS Different: The Best of Both

As the only single-sex girls grammar in North Bucks we see the known benefits in our students:

- gaining greater confidence
- feeling more comfortable in non-traditionalist subjects
- unlearning gender stereotypes

The benefit of having AGS across the road means that our students have shared experiences available such as language exchanges, an annual joint drama production as well as music events, visiting speakers, curriculum opportunities and finally ending your Sixth Form with the joint Year 13 prom; truly the ‘best of both’.

A Diverse and Vibrant Sixth Form

We are a large, diverse and vibrant community drawn from across the local community. There is an opportunity for everybody that meets our entry requirements to embrace our vision of learning and progress.

It is extraordinary to see 400 very different students come together to make one cohesive and inclusive student body. We are very proud of all of them, and take pleasure in their successes and achievements, whatever they may be.

A Genuinely Inclusive Curriculum

Our broad and balanced curriculum makes it possible for our students to study the subjects that most interest them, without being restricted in their choices.

With a commitment to a genuine STEAM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts and Maths) agenda, AHS bucks the national trend with students embracing A Levels that may have previously regarded as ‘boys’ subjects. Similarly, in our classrooms, everyone has a voice and the chance to use it, and we’ll encourage you to explore and develop your passion and enthusiasm: this is learning without limits.

An Education Geared To Your Own Interests and Ambitions

We celebrate the fact that our students choose their A Levels from the widest possible range of subjects. We encourage them to critically research their future, using up-to-date resources and tools, and we provide unrivalled support as students turn their dreams into reality.

Nothing pleases us more than knowing that a student has left us to go on to her destination of choice; to pursue a future that really excites her. Whilst we have considerable success at Russell Group universities, Oxbridge and Medical applicants, we value all destinations equally. Our objective is to help every student to find the future that’s right for them.

A Positive and Enabling Culture

There are no limits to what our students can achieve and that positive approach begins in the classroom; with a culture of shared learning. When we ask our former students what makes us special, they often point to the enthusiasm, helpfulness and depth of knowledge of their teachers. If you want to be taught by genuine subject specialists who love to pass on their passion to their students then our Sixth Form is the place for you.

Similarly, our students’ learning develops as they contribute their own ideas whilst listening and respecting the thoughts of others. This is a place to learn and to achieve and we would love you to join us.

A Supportive and Responsive Environment

You will be a member of a small tutor group of just twenty, with a form tutor who will guide your transition and, when the time is right, help prepare you for life after AHS.

We know that some students need support in different ways in order to fulfil their potential. We are proud of a pastoral system that represents a genuine commitment to support every student during their time here.

Our Transitions Coordinator will ease your path into Sixth Form, our Support Central team are on-hand to help students when they need emotional, physical and SEN support, and we are there to advise you on the next steps in your journey into HE or the world of work. Through this support, by the time you leave us in Year 13, you will have become a young adult ready to embrace the world.

An Academic School: Learning At AHS

Aylesbury's Grammar School for Girls

As a fully selective girls' grammar school, we turn academic potential into achievement and success. In addition to A Level qualifications, we will ensure that you learn the skills and develop as a person so that you emerge from AHS as a mature, engaging young adult; ready for the challenges and opportunities ahead.

We provide you with the chance to follow your dreams and to make your own futures. Our Sixth Form is very much the transition point between GCSEs and the world of Higher Education (HE) and employment.

A Level Study

It is about choosing the right courses for you. Most of our Sixth Form students choose to study three A Levels in their two years of Sixth Form. Some students, with strong GCSE results, qualify to study four or exceptionally five A Levels. We will support this ambition and advise you along the way to ensure you are comfortable with your workload.

Our students choose A Levels from a wide range of subjects and wherever possible, we will run a subject if there is sufficient demand. Most students also choose an Extension Subject in Year 12 to complement their examined academic subjects. Full information is available in the extended prospectus on the website: (<https://sites.google.com/ahs.bucks.sch.uk/sixth-form-prospectus-2020>)

We have increased the amount of Learning time in Year 12, and students now have timetables that are balanced between teacher-led time in the classroom - typically between around 15 to 20 lessons a week - and time for private study, whole-school and co-curricular activities.

Private Study, Independent Study and Homework

Our students are going into a world that is changing fast. Whilst they may enter careers that don't yet exist, using technology yet to be developed, core skills will always endure. Our students learn how to be genuinely independent and self-motivated learners. They work hard in the classroom, and appreciate that A Level success relies as much on what they do outside their lessons as it does inside.

Our status as a 'Google Reference School', following our 'exemplary' work with 1:1 devices and BYOD is testament to our commitment to leading modern teaching and learning initiatives.

There are three areas that you can choose to study in during a school day:

- you can browse books and periodicals in our fantastic and well-resourced library
- working quietly in our Sixth Form Study Centre
- in the Main Dining Hall, you can work collaboratively over coffee and a pastry, throughout the day

Whatever your learning style, we have a way of supporting it.

“Teachers’ expert knowledge and enthusiasm for their subject is a key factor.”

– Ofsted



[Being at AHS]
“...is significantly less ominous than it seemed early on this year because there has been such an amazing community of people, from teachers to peers, that have helped me succeed in the new environment I am in. I am so glad that I came here.”

– Student Voice



“As a new student for the Sixth Form, this half term has been a lot to take in, however the students and staff have all been extremely welcoming allowing me to settle in quickly. A- Levels are certainly a big change from GCSEs but it is incredibly enjoyable to spend more time on the subjects that interest you.”

- Student Voice



A Busy School: Co-curricular Life At AHS

AHS Community Engagement

We are a local school, deeply embedded in our community. You will see AHS students supporting primary schools, running local clubs and voluntary groups, competing in local competitions, and volunteering in our hospitals, care homes and community centres.

In Year 13 we commit two hours a week of curriculum time to our well-regarded 'Community Involvement Programme', which takes every student into a placement within the local area.

It comes as no surprise that we are the top D of E school in the South-East, with 23 girls gaining the Gold Award last year alone.

An Acclaimed School for Sport

This is one of the best schools for girls' sport in the country. That's not just a claim, it was a judgement delivered by School Sport magazine which has consistently ranked AHS amongst the very best state schools for Sport. Our successes include national finalists - and champions - in a variety of sports. We run competitive and participative sessions in a huge range of different sports and all Sixth Form students get the chance to participate in 'Girls' Active' as part of their curriculum timetable.

A Creative School

If you want to sing, dance or play an instrument, this can be the place for you. If you love Art or Photography, or if you love to act, we want you to bring your talents here. You can celebrate your creativity in curricular A Level studies and also in a huge range of House events and co-curricular clubs and opportunities. Many of these are in conjunction with our neighbours and friends at Aylesbury Grammar School.

A Challenging School

Our focus on developing confident, articulate and mature young women means that we take every opportunity to stimulate their minds and challenge their thinking. In recent years we have hosted a formidable array of visiting, and often high-profile, speakers and our Sixth Form speakers' committee works hard to bring interesting and relevant guest speakers into school.

As well as hosting Radio 4's 'Any Questions' programme, in recent years we have had talks from Robert Guest, Foreign Editor of The Economist, acclaimed sculptor Martin Jennings, 'Undercover Economist' Tim Harford, author and former minister Chris Mullins, local music promoter (and impetus behind the famous Friars Club and David Bowie statue) David Stopps, as well as community activists like Amnesty International and Extinction Rebellion. Our local MP David Lidington relishes his annual Q&A with our Sixth Form.

A School of Leaders

As well as being role models and an inspiration to our younger students, our Sixth Form students are our school leaders. That journey begins as soon as you join our Sixth Form, and by the time you head into Year 13 you could be our Head Girl or a member of our 'Cabinet'. You might be a House Captain, or a Student or Subject Ambassador, leading House events around the school. This Sixth Form gives you the chance to develop leadership skills that will go with you, wherever life takes you after AHS.

“The combination of students, staff and extensive resources means that sixth form allows you unlock potential that you didn't even know you had!”

- Student Voice

A Successful School: Results And Destinations

Exam Results

In 2019, 41% of A Level grades were A*-A. We want you to fulfil your academic potential and our commitment to you is that we will do all we can to help you do just that. We will celebrate your successes and measure ourselves against your progress. Your qualifications ultimately give you choices, giving you the best chance of determining your own future.

Destinations

We encourage all our students to research their futures carefully, and we want you to look at some exciting alternatives as well as focusing on university choices. We do all we can to help you pursue the right course for you in the future; whether that be Higher Education, apprenticeships, employment or a gap year.

Nevertheless, most of our students do choose higher education - we might send 190 applications in a typical year - and you will find AHS alumnae at universities across the UK - and beyond - studying the subjects they love.

“The curriculum and provision for students’ spiritual, moral, social and cultural development are Outstanding, including in the Sixth Form..”

“Students make outstanding progress in all years...”

“Students are very well prepared for their future lives.”

- Ofsted

Higher Education

We know that all students are unique and a one-size-fits-all approach doesn't address this. We tailor our support to your needs and we know that simply getting started on that road is sometimes the hardest part, so you can expect our support from your first day in Year 12. Our students tell us that the support that they are able to draw on is second-to-none, and part of what makes AHS a special place.

It is the very wide range of different destinations that our students choose that we regard as the measure of our success as a Sixth Form, and we celebrate them all. Russell Group universities make up nearly 50% of our destinations, with over 60% going to universities ranked in 'the top third in the UK'. There is more detail in our online extended prospectus: (<https://sites.google.com/ahs.bucks.sch.uk/sixth-form-prospectus-2020>).

Apprenticeships and Employment

The world of post-18 education has changed enormously, and we work very hard to ensure that our students can access the most up-to-date information and opportunities in apprenticeships and degree apprenticeships too. We know this works, as there are now AHS students on prestigious programmes in some of the country's most blue-chip employers, learning skills, earning qualifications and charting their futures in ways that were unimaginable a few years ago. If this is your chosen route we will support you every step of the way.



“The teachers are really supportive in giving you the tools required to learn on your own and they also encourage you to actively find resources that can extend your knowledge beyond specifications.”

- Student Voice