



# Aylesbury High School



Information Booklet  
2021/22

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# School Statement

At Aylesbury High School our motto of 'Prepare, Challenge, Inspire' has been incorporated into our school mission of:

**'Inspire** every student to seek **Challenge**, realise their potential and **Prepare** for the world of today and tomorrow'

Our broad and balanced curriculum offers every student a forward looking, innovative and high quality academic experience. We view this academic excellence as just one aspect of the wider enrichment and co-curricular opportunities we offer our students.

We believe in developing the character of our students as well as their subject knowledge. The core values that we want all students to develop are:

- **C**onfidence
- **R**espect
- **E**ngagement
- **A**spiration
- **T**eamwork
- **E**njoyment

In all we do we aim to prepare students for life in a fast changing world where they will play a full and active part in the local, national and international community.

**'AHS is an outstanding school.'**

*Ofsted*

## Aylesbury High School is the best place to:

- ✓ Be inspired by a well-taught, broad and forward-looking curriculum.
- ✓ Achieve excellent exam results.
- ✓ Be involved in the life and leadership of the school.
- ✓ Be challenged to take your place in a fast-moving world.
- ✓ Be well supported by specialist staff to help you to achieve your potential.
- ✓ Make friends, work hard and play hard!

# Admissions

## Criteria & Timetable

Admission to Year 7 is on the basis of the Buckinghamshire.gov.uk selection procedure; this consists of 2 tests taken in Autumn 2021, with elements of verbal, numerical and non-verbal ability. Once the results are published, letters offering a place at the school are sent out from County at the beginning of the following March. Admissions to Years 7, 8 and 9 are handled by Buckinghamshire's Admissions Team and detailed information about the procedure and the school's catchment area can be obtained from the Admissions Section at County Hall in Aylesbury (website: buckinghamshire.gov.uk; email: admissions@buckscc.gov.uk).

Our planned admission number is 180 for Years 7 to 9 and 186 for Years 10 and 11.

Girls seeking admission to Years 8, 9 and 10 at the start of the next academic year and who meet the Testing Criteria will be invited to sit tests in the Annual Testing Round. This takes place in the Spring Term of the year in which admission is sought in September. Details will be available on the school's website from October. Evidence of residence will be required. Late applicants will be considered once any available places have been allocated, and a testing date later in the year will be established for this purpose.

More information on this, and the school's Determined Admissions Policy, can be found on the school's website.

If you are interested in entry to the Sixth Form, you are invited to look on the website to download our Sixth Form Prospectus (from early November onwards), which gives full details on how to apply, and to attend our virtual Sixth Form Information Evening in November.



***'My daughter says: "Choosing AHS was the best thing I ever did".'***

*Ofsted*

## Visiting the School

We hope that you will visit us before making your choice of a school place. Parents and daughters expecting to transfer to secondary school at 11+ are warmly invited to one of our Open Events. These events are usually well attended; since many people travel here by car, please allow plenty of time for parking: the nearest public car park is in Walton Street.

### Year 7 Open Evening

Wednesday 22nd September  
5.30 - 8.00 pm

You and your daughter will be made very welcome on this evening, which will give you an opportunity to tour the school, talk to students, staff and the Headteacher, and to see girls involved in a wide range of activities. The tours set off between 5.30 and 6.30 pm. The Headteacher will talk in the Main Hall at 7.45 pm.

### Year 7 Open Mornings

Thursday 30th September  
Monday 18th October  
Tuesday 19th October  
Wednesday 20th October  
9.15 - 11.00 am

This is a chance for you and your daughter to see the school on a normal day; there will be tours of the school with students, and the Headteacher and senior staff will be available to talk to you. Further Open Mornings will be available during the year; please check the Admissions section on the website.

### Year 12 Information Evening

Tuesday 7th September  
6.30 - 8.00 pm

On this evening you can visit the subject areas to learn about Sixth Form courses that we offer, and this will be followed by talks in the Main Hall by the Headteacher and the Head of Sixth Form.

If you cannot get to one of these events, you are welcome to arrange a visit by telephoning our School Receptionist, who will arrange a tour of the school and a discussion with the Headteacher or a senior member of staff.

## Induction Procedures

After offers of places are sent out at the beginning of March 2021, parents and students will receive a detailed Welcome Pack giving lots of information about the transition into Year 7 and how we operate.

Year 6 students will spend two days at the school on Tuesday 5 July & Wednesday 6 July. The days are carefully structured to introduce the students to their Form Tutor and the rest of their Tutor Group, and make the start of term in September easier. There is also an Information Evening for parents in early May which gives the opportunity to meet other parents and hear about how best to make a successful transition to secondary school.

For students starting Year 12 in September 2022 there will be an induction day on Tuesday 28th June. The days are spent getting to know fellow students. For students entering other year groups, the Head of Year will arrange a tailored programme.

# General Information

## Uniform

We expect our students in Year 7 to Year 11 to wear full uniform throughout the school day, including on the way to and from school. We ask parents to support us in enforcing the uniform guidelines.

We operate our own school uniform shop to facilitate the purchase of correct items of uniform and to supply quality items at affordable prices. Students starting Year 7 in September will receive details of how and when to purchase uniform as part of the Welcome Pack. Full details of the uniform can be found on the school website.

## Accommodation and Facilities

The school is situated on an attractive site on Walton Road in Aylesbury and has the benefit of substantial grounds and playing fields to the rear of the school. Sporting facilities are excellent and include a number of tennis and netball courts next to our Sports Hall.

We aim to provide the best possible environment for learning; in the past few years we have built a new Sixth Form Centre with dedicated study facilities, a state-of-the-art Library and completely refurbished our Science laboratories and Tower Block. Specialist teaching rooms are very well equipped and in addition, there are two large halls which are used for assemblies, concerts and school productions.

As a Google Reference School our 1:1 scheme allows our teachers and students to make good use of the latest technology in their teaching and learning.

Aylesbury Music Centre is situated on our site and a close working relationship exists between the two establishments.

## Transport

In addition to public transport, a substantial network of bus routes is operated by Buckinghamshire County Council to and from the coach park located next to the school.

Information can be found at Buckinghamshire County Council: School Transport.



## Timing of the School Day

Registration	8.45 - 9.05
Lesson 1	9.05 - 10.05
Lesson 2	10.05 - 11.05
Morning break	11.05 - 11.35
Lesson 3	11.35 - 12.35
Lesson 4	11.35 - 13.35
Lunch	13.35 - 14.35
Lesson 5	14.35 - 15.35



***'Teaching is outstanding and teachers show high levels of commitment.'***

*Ofsted*

# Learning at AHS

## The Curriculum

"The curriculum and provision for students' spiritual, moral, social and cultural development are outstanding, including the Sixth Form". This assessment of the AHS curriculum by Ofsted, acknowledges the exceptional range of choice available at both GCSE and A level as well as the fact that we believe that education is about more than simply what goes on in a classroom.

We do not want our students to focus exclusively on academic success nor do we want them to specialise too soon. For this reason, we encourage students to follow a broad and balanced curriculum, develop leadership skills, and participate in extra-curricular activities. Our students enjoy learning and benefit greatly from their teachers' expert subject knowledge and enthusiasm both in the classroom and beyond.

Lessons are supplemented by "Activity Days"- for example a STEM day in Year 7, an Apprentice-style challenge day in Year 10 and a Personal Effectiveness day in the Sixth Form. In addition, all students follow a PSHE, Careers and Enterprise programme; the latter includes Work Shadowing in the Sixth Form, as well as the opportunity to have careers interviews through the school's partnership with Connexions.

## Key Stage 3: Years 7-9

In Years 7-9, all students study English, Maths, Science, Art, Computing, Dance, Design Technology, Drama, Geography, History, Learning for Life, Music, PE and Religious Education. In Year 7, everyone studies French, German and Spanish, before choosing which two languages to take in Years 8 and 9.

## Key Stage 4: Years 10 & 11

During Year 9, students select the subjects they wish to study during Years 10 and 11. A comprehensive booklet is issued and there are information sessions for both students and parents to help with option choices.

The Key Stage 4 curriculum ensures that students retain a truly broad and balanced range of subjects. At its heart is a STEAM agenda of **S**cience, **T**echnology, **E**ngineering, **A**rts & **M**aths reflecting the importance we place on the creative subjects. The current scheme is 6 'core' GCSEs, 4 optional GCSEs alongside L4L (Learning for Life) and core PE.

### Core

- English Language GCSE
- English Literature GCSE
- Mathematics GCSE
- Biology, Chemistry, Physics GCSEs
- Learning for Life (L4L) which covers PSHE, Citizenship and Religious Education
- Core PE

## GCSE options

Students choose 1 subject from each block of languages, humanities and creative subjects with a 'free' choice for their final option subject.

### Languages:

French  
German  
Spanish

### Humanities:

Business  
Economics  
Geography  
History  
Religious Studies

### Creative:

Art & Design  
Computing  
Dance  
Drama  
Engineering  
Food Preparation and Nutrition  
Music  
PE  
Textiles

We provide as much flexibility as possible with regard to option choices and classes will only run if there are sufficient numbers. We liaise closely with students regarding their choices.

## The Sixth Form

The vast majority of our students continue their studies here in the Sixth Form and are joined by a number of students from other schools. They can select from an impressive list of A level subjects, which currently includes:

Art & Design	Further Mathematics
Biology	Geography
Business	German
Chemistry	History
Computer Science	Mathematics
Dance	Music
DT: Product Design	Physical Education
Drama & Theatre Studies	Physics
Economics	Politics
English Language	Psychology
English Literature	Religious Studies
French	Spanish

In addition, students can take courses in Sports Leadership, AS Photography, AS Maths and the Extended Project Qualification (EPQ), as well as a range of extension studies such as our Primary Outreach Programme.

The taught curriculum is supplemented by a work shadowing programme, talks on current issues by visiting speakers, and a community involvement programme. We provide excellent support for students planning to enter Higher Education or employment.

Full details of Sixth Form courses and life in the Sixth Form are available on the school website.



**'Teachers' expert knowledge and enthusiasm for their subject is a key factor.'**

*Ofsted*

# Student Support

## Rewards, Recognition and Encouragement

We expect our students to work hard and we like to acknowledge their efforts and achievements. We have a system of merit marks and commendations which can be awarded for work and effort both inside and outside the classroom. Each year group has an annual Presentation Morning or Evening where we acknowledge not only academic and sporting success but also contributions to House activities and services to the community.

## Sanctions

We treat our students as young adults and individuals and they respond positively to this approach. In the classroom there is a purposeful working atmosphere in which students can learn effectively, free from disruption. We expect high standards of behaviour. If this is not the case we have a range of sanctions which we can employ such as a lunchtime detention or a report card. Fixed-term and permanent exclusions are very rarely used but are available if the need arises. We enjoy strong parental support and always try to communicate any concerns that we may have to both students and parents, so that we can work together to resolve issues.

## Bullying

Bullying is not tolerated and is dealt with swiftly and effectively. It is essential that any concerns are reported to the Form Tutor or any member of staff so that action can be taken.

## Pastoral System

Every student belongs to a form, with the initial of the House to which they belong - Ascott, Claydon, Hughenden, Missenden, Stowe and Waddesdon. Attached to each Year are a Head of Year and a Pastoral Assistant who closely monitor the progress and welfare of their year group. Senior members of staff at the school also oversee different year groups. We supplement our pastoral support by providing access to a student welfare co-ordinator and an experienced counsellor as necessary.

## Safeguarding

The school follows national and local guidelines for Child Protection. The safety and well-being of the students in our care are of paramount importance.

## Special Educational Needs

We liaise with primary schools about any provision that has been in place prior to joining us. Students are assessed for special needs in Year 7 and, if appropriate, we implement an individual programme of support. A girl who has an Education, Health and Care Plan will receive on-going help, in partnership with the appropriate external agencies. Girls with specific learning difficulties receive individual help from a specialist teacher whom we employ within the school. The special needs provision is led by our Special Needs and Disability Co-ordinator.

We also have a wide range of opportunities available to stretch the most able students, with entry into local and national competitions and challenges, as well as trips and visits designed to meet individual interests.

***'The very few students receiving support for disabilities or SEN make exceptional progress.'***

*Ofsted*

## Homework

Homework is an important part of learning at AHS. Students will receive regular homework that increases through the years they are at the school. Homework timetables can be found on the school website.

## Attendance and Holiday Requests

We know how important regular attendance is for success at school and we are grateful for parents' support in this. We closely monitor attendance and liaise with parents whenever we have concerns. There are clear procedures regarding lateness or absence which are available from the school. We strongly discourage taking holidays in term-time.



***'Students are very happy and feel completely safe at school; their attendance is high, their behaviour exemplary. Girls are polite, kind and welcoming.'***

*Ofsted*

# Key Stage 4 and 5 Examination Results 2021

## Summary

### GCSE Results

	Students	Achieving 5 grade 4/C or better	Achieving 5 grade 7/A or better	Average Grade
Summer 2021	183	100%	88%	7.6
Summer 2020	185	100%	88%	7
Summer 2019	184	99.5%	72%	7

### A Level Results

	Students	Achieving A*-C grades or better	Achieving A*-E grades or better	Average Grade
Summer 2021	185	93%	99.7%	A/B
Summer 2020	200	95%	100%	B
Summer 2019	196	88%	100%	B

***'Students make outstanding progress in all years.'***  
*Ofsted*



# Co-Curricular Opportunities at AHS

We firmly believe that education is about far more than what goes on in the classroom and this is reflected in the wide range of trips, visits and other activities that are on offer.

## International Links

The school has links with a number of schools in Europe, as well as in India.

The school runs exchanges to France, Spain, Sweden and Germany and numerous other trips abroad.

## Music

Instrumental lessons are available to all students. Tuition is given by private music teachers and staff from Aylesbury Music Centre which is based on our site.

Instrumental lessons in groups with tuition are available on flute, clarinet, oboe, bassoon, saxophone, trumpet, horn, guitar, violin, viola, cello and double bass.

Private music teachers also give individual half hour lessons and tuition is currently available on the following instruments: piano, percussion, drum kit, voice, flute, clarinet, saxophone and violin. Some lessons in pairs are available for some instruments.

Girls who receive tuition are expected to belong to a school band or group of their standard and to take part in concerts.

All girls who play an instrument or sing are welcome to participate in the rich musical life of the school. We aim to achieve the highest standards across the widest range of musical activities and to have fun.

## The House System

The House system offers students the opportunity to get to know students from other year groups and take part in a rich variety of House Competitions. These include various sports, drama, dance, music, art, gardening, cooking, and making a film in a foreign language. One of the things that is distinctive about our House system (and why it is so successful) is that it is run by Sixth Form students and is also an excellent vehicle for the development of leadership skills.

## Fundraising Week

A series of events is held during the lunch breaks for one week in the Autumn term, with proceeds going to charity. These include a talent show and a karaoke competition, but by far the most popular event is the teacher karaoke competition. Students also organise a party and presents for OAPs in the local community.

## Clubs and Lunchtime Activities

Students can choose to attend clubs and lunchtime activities, details of which can be found on the AHS website under What's on/Extra Curricular. In addition, some subjects offer enrichment or additional support sessions. Most of these clubs and activities are at lunchtime, with some taking place after school.

Students in Year 10 and above can take part in the Duke of Edinburgh Award scheme. In 2020-21 we were the largest school in the SE in terms of students participating, and more importantly completing the DofE awards. We also offer Year 12 students the possibility of being involved in the Young Enterprise scheme.

***'Students of all ages came up with long lists of exciting things. These and a plethora of other events and activities add much to students' excellent spiritual, moral, social and cultural development.'***

*Ofsted*





# Keeping in Touch

## Trips and Visits

We believe these play a vital role in our students' education and want all students to have participated in a trip by the time they leave AHS. Initially, the trips are predominantly to places in the UK with visits further afield as students progress through the school. We would not want anyone to be unable to take part in a trip because of financial circumstances and have a fund available to support those in need. What is on offer varies from one year to another but the list below shows a typical range:

- Art trip to Amsterdam
- Art galleries
- Dance trip to our partner school in India to take part in their dance festival
- Design Technology competitions such as 'Rampaging Chariots', Cope Hill, Soapbox Challenge and The green power electric racing car
- Duke of Edinburgh Award expeditions to the Chilterns, Cotswolds and the Peak District
- Geography field trips to Devon and Iceland
- Higher Education conference and University open days
- History and Politics trip to Washington
- Maths Challenge competitions
- Model United Nations conference
- Open University conferences
- Residential visits and language exchanges to France, Germany, Italy, Spain and Sweden
- Ski trips to Europe (Italy 2021 cancelled because of Covid19, Spain 2022)
- Theatre trips
- World challenge to Belize and Eswatini (Swaziland)
- Year 7 Personal Development and bonding trip to Kingswood Green Park
- Year 8 Personal Development trip to Outward Bound, Aberdyfi

## Parents' Evenings and Reports

We know how much parents value being informed about their daughter's progress. We publish a calendar for Consultation Evenings and Reports but parents are welcome to contact us at any time if they have queries about their daughter's progress.

The first point of contact occurs in September of Year 7. This is very much a social occasion, run by the AHSA (the parents' association), where you can meet the parents of other students in the tutor group, as well as your daughter's Form Tutor.

Parents have an opportunity to meet subject staff at least once every academic year to talk about their daughter's progress and performance. This is in addition to an annual written report.

## Communication with Parents

The vast majority of everyday correspondence is done via email, eg information regarding school trips, reminders about information evenings, etc.

## Newsletters

The Head teacher sends home a weekly newsletter which contains important news and information. There also contains reviews of events and celebrations. These publications are sent home via email but are also available online.

## Aylesbury High School Association

This is the school's very active and successful parent/teacher organisation and all parents automatically become members when their daughters join the school. It organises a variety of social events for parents (and their daughters). All profits from these events are passed to the school.

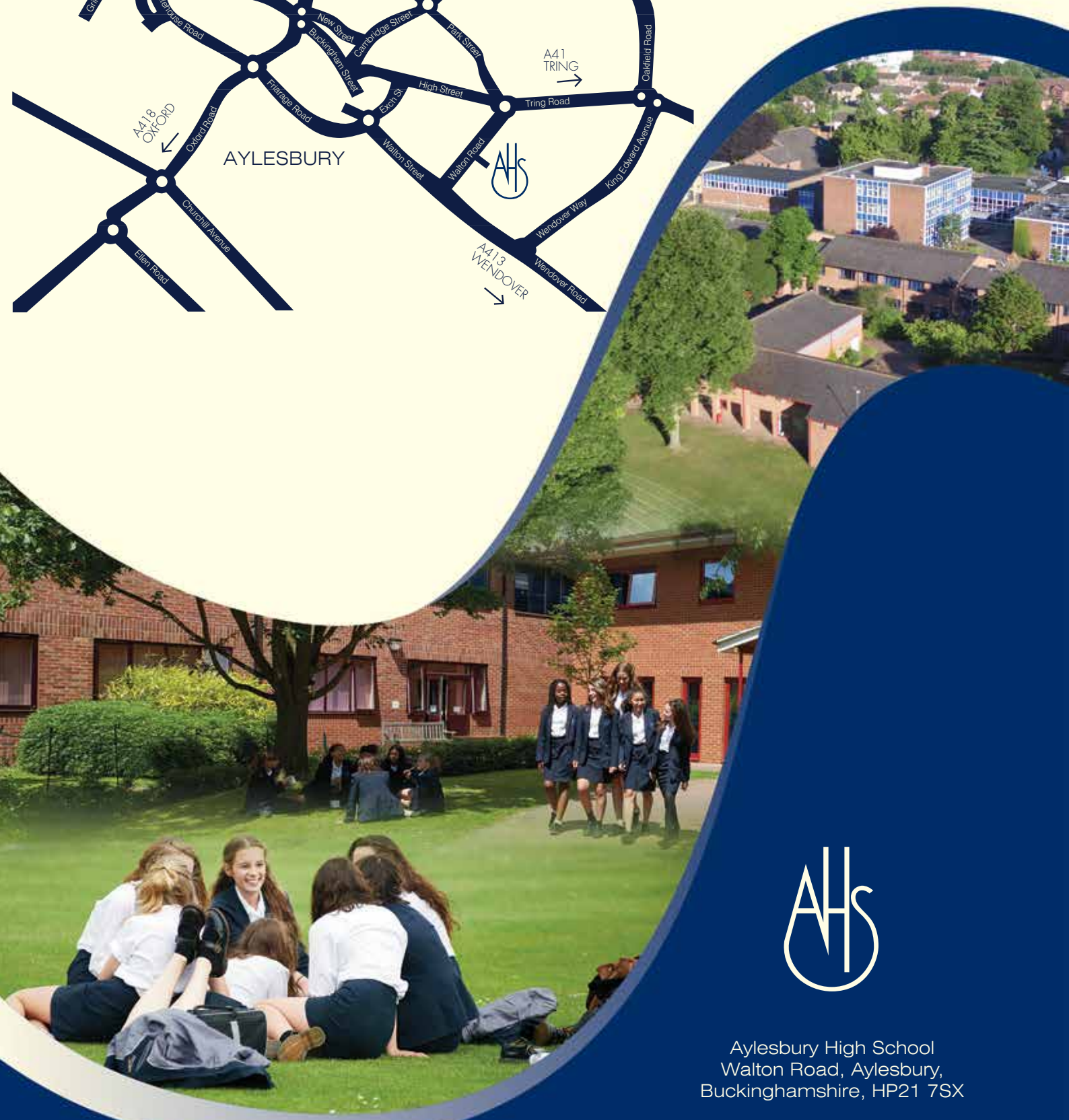
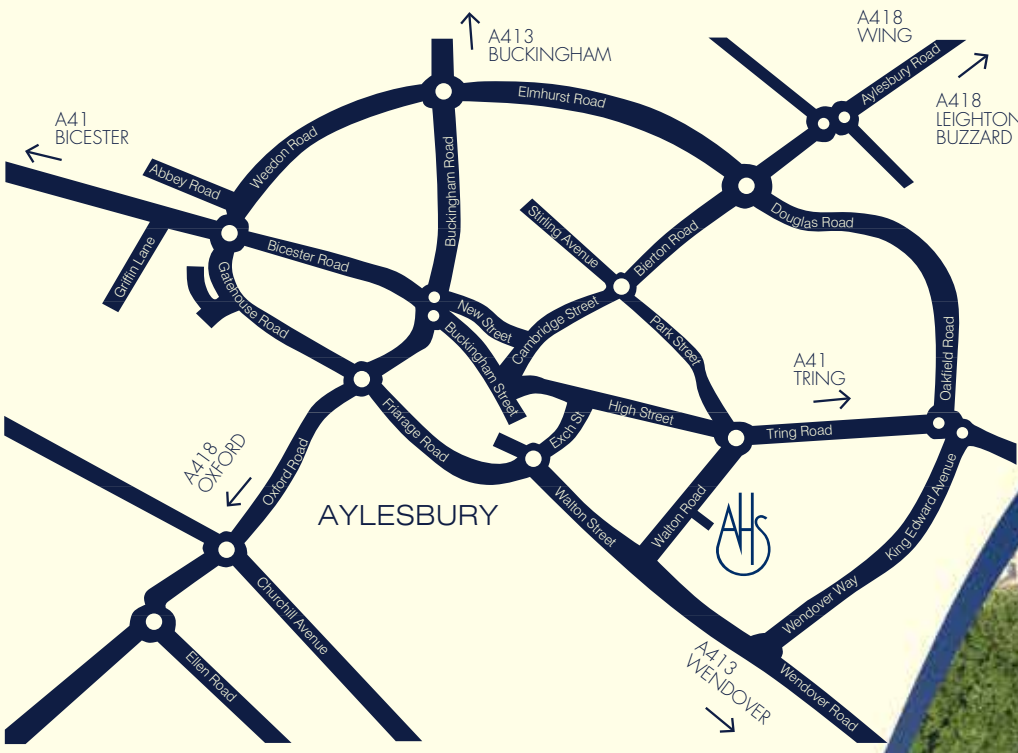
[www.ahs.bucks.sch.uk](http://www.ahs.bucks.sch.uk)  
and @AylesburyHigh

Our website contains news and information for parents and students, including a section devoted to the AHSA.

Our Twitter feed is displayed on the homepage of the website but you can also follow us directly to keep up to date with what is going on. Some departments (such as PE) also have their own Twitter addresses.

***'Excellent links have been forged .... many parents praise the school's good level of communication with them.'***

*Ofsted*



Aylesbury High School  
 Walton Road, Aylesbury,  
 Buckinghamshire, HP21 7SX

Tel: 01296 388222  
 Fax: 01296 388200  
 Email: [office@ahs.bucks.sch.uk](mailto:office@ahs.bucks.sch.uk)  
 Website: [www.ahs.bucks.sch.uk](http://www.ahs.bucks.sch.uk)  
 Twitter: @AylesburyHigh