



AHS Open Event Frequently Asked Questions

How do you help students settle into Year 7?

- ★ We contact every primary school to find out about the students who will be joining us and we visit as many as possible and everyone they feel would benefit from a visit.
- ★ We send home lots of information about the school and hold an information evening in May. Have a look at the Year 6/7 page of our website for all the details.
- ★ In July, Year 6 students join us for two transition days, where they meet their form tutor, their classmates and take part in some fun icebreaker activities.
- ★ We hold a summer camp with lots of varied activities and a focus on students getting to know each other.
- ★ In September, our new Year 7 students have a staggered start so they can get used to the school.
- ★ Our dedicated Head of Year 7, Miss Quesne and our experienced team of Year 7 tutors offer excellent support, which is enhanced by support from dedicated Year 9 buddies for each Year 7 form. Our Learning For Life programme focuses on topics such as making friends, finding out who is who around the school and how to get organised for secondary school.

What kind of pastoral care do you offer?

As well as Miss Quesne, our Head of Year 7 and our experienced team of Year 7 tutors, our Pastoral Deputy Headteacher, Mrs Queralt, oversees pastoral care in each key stage. Mrs Westcott, our Mental Health and Wellbeing Lead, heads a team who offer specialised support to any student who needs it, and our Matron is another excellent source of support. We are also very proud of the student-led support available: All Year 7 forms are assigned Buddies from Year 9 who are there to help with any questions or worries and we also have a fantastic team of sixth form Student Ambassadors who offer drop in sessions at lunchtimes and one to one mentoring.

What support do you offer for Special Educational Needs?

Mrs Crafts, our SENDCo, is joined by three Learning Support Assistants and you can read all the details of the fantastic support they offer on the SEND page of our website.

How diverse and inclusive is AHS?

At AHS, we are proud of the diversity of our students and staff and committed to promoting a positive and diverse culture in which all are valued and supported to fulfil their potential irrespective of their age, disability, race, religion, belief, sex or sexual

orientation. Read all about the fantastic work of our Inclusion and Diversity Ambassadors on our website.

What is your approach to bullying?

Bullying of any kind is unacceptable at Aylesbury High School. We strongly believe that all students should:

- feel safe
- enjoy both their lessons and free time out of class
- be able to achieve their full potential
- experience a safe, friendly, respectful and inclusive environment
- have positive self-worth and confidence in themselves
- develop essential personal and social skills
- become good citizens.

Please see our key information page of our website for our anti bullying strategy and other important policies.

What are the advantages of single sex education?

We are the only all girls' grammar school in the north of the county. However, we are lucky enough to be right next door to our 'brother' school, Aylesbury Grammar School, who we work closely with giving your daughters the 'Best of Both'. Our students collaborate on activities such as music groups, joint drama productions and trips, as well as some joint lessons in the sixth form.

Will a grammar school be too academic for my daughter?

Whilst the academic element of AHS is important, it is only one aspect of our school, where a real value is placed on the importance of co-curricular activities. We are consistently named as one of the top sporting state schools in the country and offer a wealth of sporting clubs. Art, Dance, Music and Drama are highly valued and there are many opportunities to take place in clubs and ensembles, joint concerts and productions with AGS and our much anticipated House events throughout the year. Lessons are differentiated and support given to students that need this. We find that our students flourish in the school and enjoy the academic stimulation, but that our broad and balanced curriculum and our co-curricular provision give them a really well-rounded education. Read more about our curriculum and our co-curricular activities on our website.

What sorts of clubs do you offer?

Lots! Please see the brilliant range of these in our clubs booklet on our website.

What opportunities are there to go on trips?

In more normal times, we offer a whole host of trips, although we obviously needed to make some changes last year. Year 7 have a team building trip to the Green Park activity centre in their first month, a theatre trip and there is an opportunity to go to France in the Summer term. A highlight of Year 8 is the Outward Bound adventure in Aberdyfi, West Wales. As students progress up the school there are further possibilities, such as

exchanges with schools in France, Germany, Spain, Italy and Sweden, visits to our link school in India, Duke of Edinburgh, ski trips and World Challenge expeditions, Turing project trips abroad and numerous field trips.

What is a typical timetable for a Year 7?

You can find information on this in our new student guide on the Year 6/7 page of our website.

How much homework would a Year 7 get?

We have a homework timetable, so the maximum they would get is two 30 minute pieces each day.

How do I get a place at AHS?

Children are eligible to be considered for admission to Aylesbury High School in Year 7 if they meet the required qualifying score of 121 in the Buckinghamshire Secondary Transfer Test (STT) or have been deemed qualified by a Selection Review Panel (or, in exceptional circumstances, an Admissions Appeal).

Children sit two test papers in the autumn of the year prior to proposed admission.

Children sit both papers on the same day. Each test paper is approximately 60 minutes in length including an introduction and practice examples. The STT assesses verbal, non-verbal and mathematical skills. The child's scores in each of the three skills areas are age-standardised to ensure children are placed on an equal footing regardless of when their birthday falls in the year. The three age-standardised scores are then added together to give the child's Secondary Transfer Test Score (STTS). Children need an STTS of 121 or more in order to automatically qualify for a grammar school place.

How many students do you take in Year 7?

Our planned admissions number is 186. Students are split into 6 form groups and are mainly taught in those form groups in Year 7.

How do you decide which 186 students get places in Year 7?

Our over subscription criteria are applied in this order:

1. Looked after girls and previously looked after girls.
2. Girls who qualify for Free School Meals and live in the catchment area of the school.
3. For the main point of admission, sisters of girls who will be on the roll of Aylesbury High School at the date of the applicant's entry to Year 7 in September.
4. For the main point of admission, sisters of boys who will be on the roll of Aylesbury Grammar School at the date of the applicant's entry to Year 7 in September.
5. Sisters of girls who have previously been on the roll of Aylesbury High School.
6. Girls living in the catchment area of the school as at and continuously from 31 October of the year preceding entry to Year 7 in September.

Do you take students from out of catchment?

The catchment area map is on our website. Once the above rules have been applied, then any further places will be offered in distance order, measuring from the geocoded point of the family's normal home address to the geocoded point of the nearest of the school's three main entrances, using the Local Authority's measurements, offering the closest first.

Can I appeal if I don't achieve 121 in the test?

Parents of any child who does not achieve the qualifying score of 121 may apply for a Selection Review if they believe that their child would have met the qualifying score but for particular circumstances regarding their participation in the selection testing process. The Selection Review will be carried out by a panel comprising of serving Secondary and Primary Headteachers, supported by a clerk. The Panel will consider each written application received and, where appropriate, will obtain advice from an Educational Psychologist prior to making a decision. The Selection Review process will take place before places are allocated and children who are deemed qualified by the panel will be eligible for admission to any of the Buckinghamshire grammar schools. If your daughter qualifies for Pupil Premium funding and is unsuccessful at the Selection Review panel, we are allocating 6 places for those who score between 115 and 120.

What are the deadlines for applying?

See the [Buckinghamshire Council Timeline](#) for applying to secondary school for entry

All students who attend a Buckinghamshire primary school will be automatically entered to take the Secondary Transfer Test. If you attend independent schools in Buckinghamshire and non-Buckinghamshire Primary schools, an application for testing should have been made to Buckinghamshire Council, the Test Administrator for all the Buckinghamshire Grammar Schools, by 25 June. In addition, all applicants must notify their home Local Authority of their preference for the school prior to the closing date of 31 October.

When will I hear if I have a place?

You will hear which school you have been allocated on National Offer Day on 1 March.

What can I do if I have qualified, but don't get a place?

After places have been allocated, parents will be entitled to make representations to an Independent Appeal Panel if their child has been refused admission because the school is full. Aylesbury High School has contracted Buckinghamshire Council to manage appeals on the school's behalf.