

Welcome to Aylesbury High School

Year 9 KS4 Options 2024-2026



#AHSWalksTall



Our Vision

Developing uniquely
talented young adults,
who are independent,
strong and confident.



Our Mission

A girls' grammar school creating a welcoming environment which draws the very best from all in our community. Achieved by providing an ambitious education that stimulates creative and critical thinking, values diversity and facilitates dynamic personal development.



What we value

Creative and Critical Thinking

Belonging



KS4 Curriculum Intent

- We have a broad and balanced curriculum which is ambitious for all and is of the highest academic quality. Our subject choices support students' learning and progression and help everyone to work towards achieving their goals.
- We prepare you for your next steps and also to be the problem solvers of the future in a fast changing world.
- We value all subjects, and place a high regard for the skills developed in Arts and Humanities subjects.
- We ensure there is breadth to every student's curriculum in KS4 as we place a high emphasis in preparing them to be the problem solvers of the future.
- Employers are looking for creative and critical thinkers and we encourage students to have this in mind when selecting their options.



Humanities and Arts

- Since the move to promote STEM subjects in schools, we have noticed a decline in some of our Humanities and Arts options. We very much support our STEM subjects but feel it is a shame that this should be to the detriment of other subjects that develop such important skills in students such as critical thinking.
- Please do look at the page on the Options Google Site that details the skills these Arts and Humanities subjects develop - they are increasingly important in the ever developing digital world!



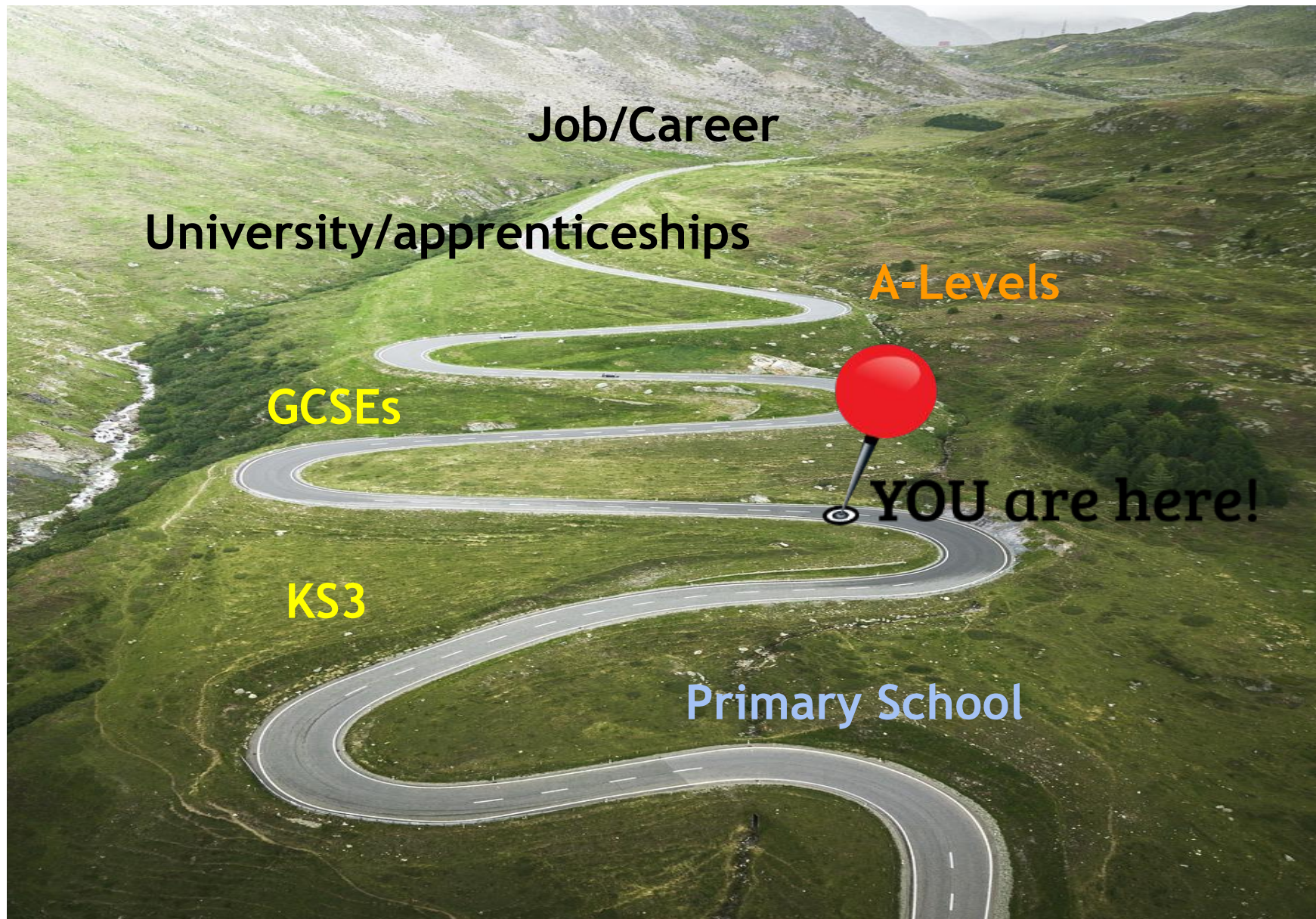
Humanities and Creatives

There are some subjects that have decreasing numbers at AHS but the skill set they give you should not be ignored and we would like to encourage you to think carefully about whether you could select one of these subjects.

Art

The transferable skills you'll gain include:

- the ability to develop individual ideas and collaborate with others as part of a creative team
- strong observational, research and analytical skills
- creative problem solving
- the ability to communicate ideas, visually, orally and in writing
- resilience and the ability to learn from criticism and be objective about your work
- an openness to new influences and concepts



Specialisation/Choices

In Year 9 you study 20 subjects:

Art	Biology	Chemistry	Computing	Dance
Design Tech	Drama	English	Food	Geography
History	L4L	Maths	MFL 1	MFL 2
Music	PE	Physics	RS	Textiles

At GCSE you take 10 from a choice of 23

How NOT to choose

- ★ My friends' choices
- ★ My parents want me to...
- ★ My teachers want me to...
- ★ Because it's a new subject



How to choose

- ★ Do I enjoy the subject?
- ★ Career ideas (careers appointments are available)
- ★ Possible A Level choices
- ★ Do my options give me the chance to develop my creative and critical thinking skills?



Archaeology

★ Essential A Levels?




★ Useful A Levels?

... impact on GCSE choices?

How do I know?







www.ucas.com




Archaeology

University of Cambridge
Fitzwilliam, Cambridge


 BA (Hons)  3 Years

 Full-time  2022-2023




£25k

Average grad salary




N/A


UCAS Tariff






N/A

Student satisfaction



29 course options available 



17 related courses 




Archaeology

University of Glasgow
Gillmorehill (Main) Campus, Glasgow


 BSc (Hons)  4 Years

 Full-time  2022-2023




N/A

Average grad salary




N/A




UCAS Tariff



N/A



Student satisfaction



243 related courses 




Archaeology

Canterbury Christ Church University
Main Site, Canterbury


 BA (Hons)  3 Years

 Full-time  2022-2023




£22k

Average grad salary




104/112

UCAS Tariff



100%

Student satisfaction

32 related courses 

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www.informedchoices.ac.uk

The screenshot shows the top section of the Informed Choices website. At the top left is the Russell Group logo and the text 'Informed Choices'. At the top right are search and menu icons. The main heading reads: 'What you study at sixth form or college can affect your options at university and your future career. Use Informed Choices to help you understand which subjects open up different degrees, particularly at Russell Group universities.' Below this are two circular buttons: a purple one on the left that says 'I don't know what degree I would like to study' and a red one on the right that says 'I know what degree I want to study'. At the bottom of the image is a photograph of a diverse group of six students (three women and three men) looking at a laptop together.

RUSSELL GROUP | Informed Choices

What you study at sixth form or college can affect your options at university and your future career. Use Informed Choices to help you understand which subjects open up different degrees, particularly at Russell Group universities.

I don't know what degree I would like to study

I know what degree I want to study

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GCSE Structure

- ★ 2 year linear course
Exams May-June 2026
- ★ Reduced Non-Exam Assessments
- ★ More demanding content
- ★ Preparation for post-16
- ★ Grades 1-9



Core GCSE Subjects

All students will study the following 6 GCSEs:

- ★ English Language and English Literature
 - These are both taught in English lessons
- ★ Mathematics
 - Some students will also complete a Level 2 qualification in Further Mathematics
- ★ Biology, Chemistry, Physics



Core non-GCSE Subjects

All students will study:

★ L4L

- Including RS, RSE and Careers

★ Core PE

Optional GCSE Subjects

We have four categories and students must choose one from each:

- ★ MFL
- ★ Humanity
- ★ Creative
- ★ Free choice



MFL Options

- ★ French
- ★ German
- ★ Spanish



Humanity Options

- ★ Geography
- ★ History
- ★ RS

Additionally:

- ★ Business
- ★ Economics



Creative Options

- ★ Art
- ★ Computer Science
- ★ Dance
- ★ Drama
- ★ Engineering
- ★ Food Preparation and Nutrition
- ★ Music
- ★ Physical Education
- ★ Textile Design



Free choice

Students can choose any of the options above



How does my timetable work?

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25
English							Maths						Biology				Chemistry				Physics			
Students have 7 lessons of English across the fortnight							Students have 6 lessons of Maths across the fortnight						Students have 4 lessons of Biology across the fortnight				Students have 4 lessons of Chemistry across the fortnight				Students have 4 lessons of Physics across the fortnight			

26	27	28	29	30	31	32	33	34	35	36	37	38	39	40	41	42	43	44	45	46	47	48	49	50
Creative Option					Humanity Option					MFL Option					Additional Option					PE				L4L
Students have 5 lessons a fortnight from one of Art, Computing, Dance, Drama, Engineering, Food, Music, PE or Textiles					Students have 5 lessons a fortnight from one of Business, Economics, Geography, History or RS					Students have 5 lessons a fortnight from one of French, German or Spanish					Students have 5 lessons a fortnight from one further choice from any of the option blocks					Students have 4 lessons of PE across the fortnight (students have the option to gain their Level 1 Sports Leaders Award)				Students have 1 lesson of L4L across the fortnight

Will I get my choices?

- ★ Yes, probably. There are no pre-timetabled option blocks at AHS
- ★ Rarely, some combinations are impossible
- ★ Changes get harder the later they are made: research now!
- ★ If classes are oversubscribed, we prioritise the main MFL, Humanity and Creative choices over the Additional Choice and we would also ask students who have selected similar subjects such as Business and Economics to choose just one of these.
- ★ If a class is still oversubscribed after this is taken into account, we will take applications in the order they are submitted on the Google Form.



Next steps

Monday 26 February

Options Fair for students

Friday 1 March

Q&A assembly with Mrs Wilkes

Options form opens at 4pm

Monday 11 March

Options form closes at 6pm



What can parents do now?

- ★ Keep in touch with us
- ★ Help your daughter with attendance and organisation
- ★ Support your daughter at home
 - Space to work
 - Balance (Home/School, Work/Play)



Useful Resources

- ★ The [Options page](#) of the school website
 - The slides from this evening and the link to the Options Google Site will be shared here.
- ★ The [Subjects page](#) of the school website
- ★ [Informed Choices](#)
- ★ [The UCAS website](#)



Any Questions?

