



# Aylesbury High School



**Information Booklet 24-25**

**#AHSWalksTall**

# Welcome

I hope you and your family are excited about maybe joining our AHS community, we are certainly very excited about welcoming you to our School for your visit.

We are the only girls' grammar in North Buckinghamshire, and we are incredibly proud of our joyful School and students. Judged **Ofsted Outstanding in December 2023**, the report states:

'Pupils are, rightly, proud to attend this excellent school. They meet its exceptionally high expectations, excelling academically and flourishing into well-rounded individuals. Pupils love learning and embody the school's values of 'boundless aspiration, resilient bravery, curious engagement and selfless generosity'. They rise to high levels of challenge in lessons and are excited to learn more. Pupils develop remarkable independence and study skills through the very deliberate work of the school.'

Within our AHS family, we are unashamedly ambitious for all students. Our girls take centre stage, developing into uniquely talented young adults, who are independent, strong and confident for their futures. Our focus is not only on what is learnt, but also on how it is learnt, which means that our students are encouraged to embrace every role and engage with many of the over 25 subjects that we offer and, as a result, they learn to trust in their own abilities. Again, supported by Ofsted December 2023:

'A meticulously crafted curriculum ensures that pupils build new knowledge and skills at an impressive rate. Support for pupils with special educational needs and/or disabilities is excellent. Teachers' subject knowledge is excellent and pupils achieve exceptionally highly.'

We are a strong and thriving community which embraces diversity, where each individual is respected and cared for. Ofsted December 2023:

'This is a calm and joyful place. Pupils know that they are fortunate to attend this school. They love learning and demonstrate exceptional maturity in all lessons. Pupils are highly respectful of each other. Relationships between staff and pupils are warm and kind, which helps strengthen pupils' exceedingly strong attitudes to learning.'

The School offers wide-ranging, dynamic co-curricular opportunities, which further enable our students to develop resilient bravery, curious engagement and selfless generosity. With over 700 leadership opportunities for our student body, over 100 clubs and societies and over 70 trips each year, that travel to London, or Madrid, or Sri Lanka, students develop strong moral and social characters through the carefully delivered wider curriculum.

AHS is a place of leadership and teamwork, and a place where community and collaboration, innovation and self-efficacy flourish. We are educating our students to become global changemakers—the people we need to help solve the world's biggest challenges. Research shows that students at girls' schools are inspired to become informed, engaged global citizens who lead with courage, competence, and empathy. It has proven that students from girls' schools display stronger community involvement, greater cultural competency, and increased political engagement. Research also shows that girls' schools foster students' voices and encourage students to exercise their voice at a young age; at AHS, students are encouraged and expected to speak their minds. With our valued and respected brother school, Aylesbury Grammar School (AGS), literally across the road, we are able to provide an unparalleled breadth of opportunities and experiences that allows our students to thrive.

Our students evidence our AHS values on a daily basis, they are our greatest ambassadors. So, whilst our results speak for themselves, our students speak for us and **we invite you to come and see this for yourself**. We are a happy school, a busy school, an inclusive school where students can take risks without fear of failure, and we are a high-achieving school. We have boundless aspiration.

Marieke Forster  
Headmistress



# Vision and Mission

It is a privilege to be Headmistress of Aylesbury High School, to lead such an outstanding school and work with such incredible colleagues. Since being in this role, we have worked with students, staff and governors, as well as with some parents, to craft our new Vision, a Vision which clearly and concisely communicates what it is that we believe in, our passion for your daughters' education and what we, as a community, aim to achieve:

**AHS Vision: Developing uniquely talented young adults, who are independent, strong and confident**

For us to deliver this vision, we have a mission statement which gives us the 'bones' for our planning:

**AHS 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.**

In practice, when considering any new initiative, we ask ourselves: Is it ambitious? Will it stimulate creative and/or critical thinking or facilitate dynamic personal development? Does it create a welcoming environment or value diversity? Will it develop our students into independent young adults - will it make #AHSWalksTall, #AHSStudentsWalkTall?

We are truly excited about the future at AHS, and about empowering our young adults. We see this as a journey that we hope to travel with you, as new parents, and with your daughters - both whilst they are with us for their school years and then in future years too, as alumnae #AHSociety of the School.

Thank you for coming to visit us, we hope to see you in the future!

*'By fostering an inclusive and compassionate community, we prioritise teamwork, valuing others, and kindness. Through collaboration and unity, be empowered to grow personally and academically'*



# Admissions

Applications for admission into Year 7, 8 & 9 are handled on behalf of the Governing Body by Buckinghamshire Council as part of its Co-ordinated Admissions Scheme. If you are interested in making an application for September 2025 entry, full details can be found by visiting the Buckinghamshire Council's website. All enquiries about 11+ admissions should be directed to the Admissions and Transport Team at Buckinghamshire Council.

You can contact them using their Contact Us Form which can be found on their website: [www.buckinghamshire.gov.uk](http://www.buckinghamshire.gov.uk)

The academic suitability of candidates seeking admission into Years 10 and 11 will be assessed through tests taken at Aylesbury High School (or Aylesbury Grammar School) in English, Maths and Science, which are set and administered by Aylesbury High School. Students will be required to pass a minimum standard in all three tests in order to qualify for admission. The tests are carefully prepared and marked to ensure that the same level of ability is achieved as for Years 7,8 & 9, taking into account that the applicants are older.

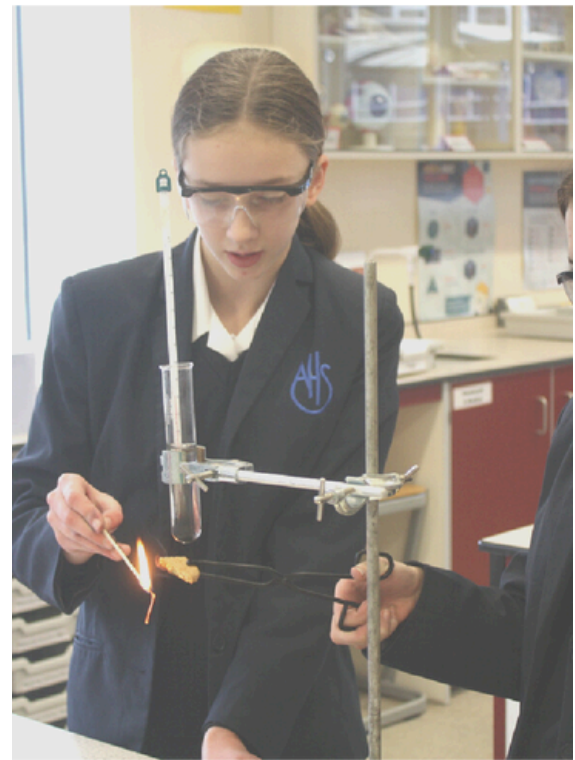
# Induction Procedures

After offers of places are sent out at the beginning of March 2025, 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 in early 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's also an information evening for parents in May which gives the opportunity to meet other parents and hear about how best to make a successful transition to secondary school. We also offer a summer camp during August to further help students in their transition.

For students starting Year 12 in September, there will be an induction day in late June. The day is spent getting to know fellow students. For students entering other year groups, the Head of Year will arrange a tailored programme.

***'We're looking for big ideas and bright futures, underpinned with ambition, rigour and respect for your environment. Walk tall and never lose sight of where you're headed'***



# General Information

## Transport

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

Information can be found at Buckinghamshire Council: School Transport.

## Uniform

We expect 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.

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 and we have adjusted our uniform policy to make this more affordable. We operate a preloved uniform shop to improve our sustainability and also support families with the cost of uniform.

## Our site

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.

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

## Google Reference School

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.



# The Curriculum

“Alongside the inspiring academic curriculum, pupils benefit from the many meaningful leadership roles that they take on”. 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 co-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 creative arts day for Year 7, a STEM day in Year 8, an Apprentice-style challenge day in Year 9, Wellbeing day for Year 10 and a Future Success day in the Sixth Form. In addition, all students follow a Learning for Life (L4L) and careers programme; the latter includes work experience in the Sixth Form, as well as the opportunity to have careers interviews through the school’s partnership with an independent careers adviser.

## Key Stage 3: Years 7-9

In Years 7-9, all students study Art, Computer Science, Design Technology, Drama, English, Geography, History, Learning for Life, Music, PE, Religious Studies and Science. In Year 7, everyone studies French, German and Spanish, before choosing which two languages to take in Years 8 and 9. Science is taught as 3 separate subjects (Biology, Chemistry & Physics) in Year 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 options Google Site is published 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. It prepares students for their next steps and to be the problem solvers of the future in a fast changing world. 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 Studies
- 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  
Computer Science  
Dance  
Drama  
Engineering  
Food Preparation and Nutrition  
Music  
PE  
Textile Design

We provide as much flexibility as possible with regard to option choices and liaise closely with students regarding their choices.



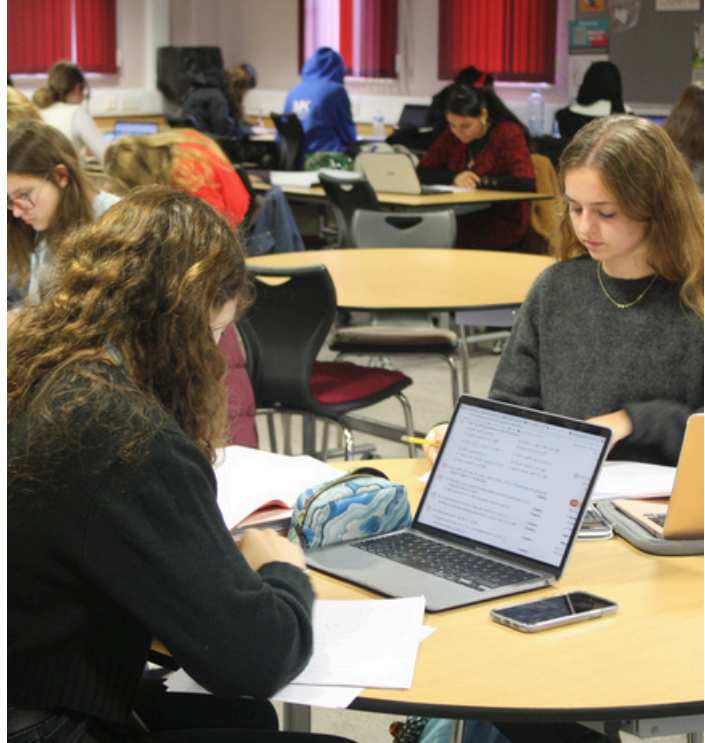
# The Sixth Form

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

In addition, students can take courses in Sports Leadership, AS Film Studies, 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 experience programme and talks on current issues by visiting speakers. 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.

*'In trying to get it right, sometimes you're going to get it wrong. It's never the end of the world. Have confidence that you will learn from it and come back stronger. Fully commit to what you're doing, aspire to achieve a little bit more than you thought you could'*



# Student Support

## Rewards, Recognition & Encouragement

We expect our students to work hard and we like to acknowledge their efforts and achievements. We have a system of merits & school colours awarded for work and effort both inside and outside the classroom. There is an annual Colours Awards Evening where we acknowledge achievements in school colours, sporting successes, contributions to House Activities and also 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.

## Attendance & 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.

## 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.

## 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 student who has an Education, Health and Care Plan will receive on-going help, in partnership with the appropriate external agencies. Students 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.

## 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.

## 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.



# Key Stage 4 & 5 Examination Results Summary

## GCSE

	Students	Achieving 5 grade 4 or better	Achieving 5 grade 7 or better	Average grade
Summer 2024	183	100%	77%	7.3

## A Level

	Students	Achieving 3 grade A* to C or better	Achieving A* to E or better	Average grade
Summer 2024	183	78%	99%	B

*'We live in a dynamic world of variety, diversity and change. Enjoy and engage with respect. Be curious, don't settle with what you know now. Look to embrace difference, seek out alternative points of view, open yourself up to new ways of thinking'*



# GCSEs (9-1)

The most common (mode) grade was an 8, the average (mean) grade was a 7 (7.3),

No. students gaining 10 results at grade 7 or better - 75 (41%)

No. students gaining 8 results at grade 7 or better - 102 (55%)

No. students gaining 5 results at grade 7 or better - 141 (77%)

GCSE	Entries	Percentage of cohort achieving grade									
		9	8	7	6	5	4	3	2	1	U
Art and Design	27	30	19	26	22	4	0	0	0	0	0
Biology	181	29	28	14	18	10	1	0	0	0	0
Business Studies	88	16	27	19	25	10	2	0	0	0	0
Chemistry	181	29	27	14	15	10	4	0	0	0	0
Computer Science	38	18	29	0	29	13	5	3	3	0	0
Dance	15	13	20	27	20	13	7	0	0	0	0
Double Science	2	0	0	100	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Economics	51	12	22	24	22	16	4	2	0	0	0
Engineering	26	19	31	23	19	8	0	0	0	0	0
English Language	182	15	21	32	21	8	2	0	0	0	0
English Literature	182	18	30	35	13	2	1	1	0	0	0
Food Technology	39	13	36	28	18	5	0	0	0	0	0
French	52	42	21	13	10	10	0	2	0	0	2
Geography	67	31	25	30	7	6	0	0	0	0	0
German	43	33	30	28	2	2	2	2	0	0	0
History	70	19	31	22	20	7	1	0	0	0	0
Japanese	1	0	0	100	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Maths	180	28	37	22	11	2	1	0	0	0	0
Music	17	18	41	12	24	0	6	0	0	0	0
Drama	17	0	12	41	24	6	18	0	0	0	0
Physics	181	27	22	17	19	12	3	0	0	0	0
Religious Studies	19	26	47	21	5	0	0	0	0	0	0
Russian	1	100	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Spanish	99	22	33	22	8	10	2	1	0	0	1
Sports Studies	37	8	24	16	32	5	14	0	0	0	0
Textiles	16	19	25	13	38	6	0	0	0	0	0
<b>TOTALS</b>	<b>1811</b>	<b>23</b>	<b>28</b>	<b>22</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0.1</b>
Level 2	Entries	9	8	7	6	5	4	3	2	1	U
Further Maths	94	20	34	20	12	9	2	0	0	0	3



# A Levels (Year 13)

16 students with 3 or more A\* grades

47 students with 3 or more A or A\* grades

Average grade was a B

	Percentage of cohort achieving grade							
A LEVEL	Entries	A*	A	B	C	D	E	U
Ancient History	4	0	25	50	0	25	0	0
Biology	65	20	27	19	18	14	0	0
Business Studies	23	9	17	35	30	9	0	0
Chemistry	60	12	32	30	18	5	3	0
Computer Studies/Computing	10	0	20	40	30	10	0	0
Dance	4	25	25	50	0	0	0	0
Design	4	0	25	50	25	0	0	0
Drama	11	18	9	36	27	9	0	0
Drama (AHS only)	7	29	14	43	14	0	0	0
Economics	24	8	25	25	17	21	4	0
English Language	18	6	22	44	28	0	0	0
English Literature	41	24	12	44	17	2	0	0
Fine Art	6	33	17	33	17	0	0	0
French	11	18	36	36	9	0	0	0
Geography	18	17	6	44	17	17	0	0
German	4	0	75	25	0	0	0	0
History	31	26	13	26	29	6	0	0
Mathematics	88	17	33	17	15	9	7	0
Mathematics Further	13	15	23	23	38	0	0	0
Music	4	25	0	25	50	0	0	0
Music (AHS only)	3	33	0	33	33	0	0	0
Physics	34	6	18	23	24	12	9	1
Politics	20	15	20	35	30	0	0	0
Psychology	57	19	26	41	5	2	5	0
Religious Studies	11	27	27	18	27	0	0	0
Spanish	23	30	26	35	4	4	0	0
Sport/PE Studies	4	0	25	0	50	25	0	0
TOTALS (AHS only)	583	16	24	30	19	7	3	1.2
		94	141	173	111	42	15	7
AS LEVEL	Entries	A	B	C	D	E	U	
Mathematics AS	4	25%		25%	25%		25%	
Extended Project Qualification	Entries	A*	A	B	C	D	E	U
Year 13	9	22%	33%	44%				
Year 12	43	12%	33%	44%	12%			
AS Film Studies	Entries	A	B	C	D	E	U	
Year 12	10	50%	40%	10%				

# Co-Curricular

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 International Links. 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.

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

All students 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, 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 Christmas party for senior members in our local community.

## Clubs & 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 recent years we have become one of the largest schools 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 volunteering via the Primary Outreach programme, visiting and supporting local primary schools.



# Trips & 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
- Design Technology competitions such as 'Rampaging Chariots', Kop 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
- Maths Challenge competitions
- Model United Nations conference
- University conferences
- Residential visits and language exchanges to France, Germany, Spain and Sweden
- Ski trips
- Theatre trips
- World Challenge trips
- Year 8 Personal Development trip to Outward Bound, Aberdyfi in Wales



# Keeping in Touch

## Parents' Evenings & Reports

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

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

Parents have an opportunity to meet subject staff at least once every academic year to talk about their child's progress and performance. This is in addition to termly data reports.

## 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 Headmistress sends home a weekly newsletter which contains important news and information as well as reviews of events and celebrations. We also publish a half-termly High Society magazine which is produced by a group of students across the school. Both of these publications are sent home via email but are also available to view on the school website.

## Aylesbury High School Association

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

## Aylesbury High School Website

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

## Social Media

Follow us on our Social Media platforms for daily news.

 [Twitter@aylesburyhigh](https://twitter.com/aylesburyhigh)

 [Instagram@aylesburyhighschool](https://www.instagram.com/aylesburyhighschool)

 [Facebook@aylesburyhigh](https://www.facebook.com/aylesburyhigh)



