

Year 7 Welcome Booklet



September 2026

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Dear Parent/Carer

Welcome to Aylesbury High School

On behalf of the Governing Board, we offer you a very warm welcome to Aylesbury High School, judged Outstanding by Ofsted in December 2023. The move to Secondary School is an exciting step for your daughters. In the seven years girls are with us at AHS we aim to develop uniquely talented young adults who are independent, strong and confident. Our mission as a girls' grammar school is to create a welcoming environment which draws the very best from all in our community. We achieve this by providing an ambitious education that stimulates creative and critical thinking, values diversity and facilitates dynamic personal development.

All staff at AHS prepare thoroughly each year to ensure that every student joining us makes a smooth transition from their previous school. Aylesbury High School is a friendly place to be and staff and students alike are particularly attentive to the needs of the new Year 7 students. They are always ready to help them if they look lost, and to provide advice and guidance as necessary.

As you get to know AHS you will quickly become aware of the many opportunities available to our students in school through its activities and facilities, which we continue to develop and improve. The Governing Board works closely with the Headmistress and Leadership Team to continuously improve the school. Our ability to do this is greatly enhanced by the support of parents, and we sincerely hope you too, will support us as you feel able.

Aylesbury High School is a girls' grammar school known for its commitment to all-round excellence. School is not only about academic achievements, important though they are, but also about developing well rounded individuals through a wide range of activities, a quality that both parents and girls currently at the school are quick to highlight and which remains a central theme in our mission. We encourage every student to take advantage of the wide variety of lunchtime clubs, House events and competitions, and other co-curricular activities available so that they develop as a whole person. Students also benefit from the many meaningful leadership roles that they take on.

The Governing Board is well aware of the importance of strong links between school and home. We want the school to be a welcoming environment for all in our community including parents/carers. You will have opportunities each year to engage with teachers at information evenings and consultation evenings. The Headmistress and members of the school's Leadership Team also offer a range of further opportunities for you to come into the school, whether to meet with Year Heads, the school's Special Educational Needs and Disability Coordinator or wellbeing staff, or just to look around and get to know the school better. There are also concerts, performances, sporting fixtures and AHS Association events throughout the year, and we encourage you to come along to support the students and enjoy participating in all these aspects of the school. Our doors are always open to you.

As a school which wishes to continuously improve, we welcome constructive feedback to help us do so. We also welcome praise, not least for our dedicated team of teaching and non-teaching staff; we firmly believe in working together as a community. We believe that education in its widest sense is a joint enterprise between home and school and we look forward to working with you in this respect and to meeting you at future school events.

Yours sincerely

Helen Bush and Kate Weir
Joint Chairs of Governors

Key Dates

By Friday 17 April 2026

Please complete the admissions form which you have been emailed.

Start of May 2026

Parents will be sent their login emails from **EduLink** and **Parentmail**. These are two platforms that we use in school. EduLink is where we record parental contacts, attendance, behaviour, etc. Parentmail is the system we use to send communication home and to make payments (see page 13).

Wednesday 1 July Information Evening 6 - 7.30 pm

This evening is for **parents only** due to capacity in the hall. We will be giving advice on how to make a successful transition from Primary to Secondary, explaining our 1:1 Chromebook scheme and introducing you to Miss Morrin, our Head of Year 7, as well as a number of other key AHS staff.

Tuesday 7 and Wednesday 8 July 2026 Transition Days, 9 am - 3 pm

Please bring students to the main entrance by 9 am and collect them at 3 pm on both days. On the first day, students should wear their primary school uniform. On the second day, they should wear comfortable clothes such as PE kit / leggings / tracksuit bottoms.

These days are a great opportunity for our new students to meet members of their form and to take part in some sample lessons and team-building activities. Further details can be found in the front of the Students' Information Handbook. Students will need to bring a packed lunch on both days. Please do not include any items with nuts due to some students having serious nut allergies.

If you are happy for your child's email address or phone number to be shared with members of her new form, please remind her to bring this information with her.

We are running two days of Summer School on Thursday 27 and Friday 28 August 2026

We will send you more details of this shortly, but please save the date! We have now run this for five years and it has been extremely popular. There will be a range of creative, sporting and team-building activities and it's a great chance to develop friendships and confidence in advance of the start of term.

School Term Dates 2026-27 are on our website [here](#)

Please add these to your calendar and please note that we do not authorise holidays in term time.

Home-School Expectations

Parents, Staff and Students at Aylesbury High School believe that successful education is achieved through a good working relationship between each of us.

There are many important aspects to the relationship between the home and school that lead to a student's successful career in education. Some of these are laid down in detailed rules and policies elsewhere in the school.

The Home-School Expectations recognise that a list of 'dos' and 'don'ts' doesn't automatically create successful learning; success comes from the school and the home working together to support our values of boundless aspiration, curious engagement, resilient bravery and selfless generosity, ultimately promoting achievement and enjoyment, and encouraging participation and commitment.

The greatest success comes from a partnership where everybody contributes and all learn. It is hoped that these Expectations can be used to enhance that partnership and thereby enable all students to be successful, in the spirit of our School Vision, Mission and Values.

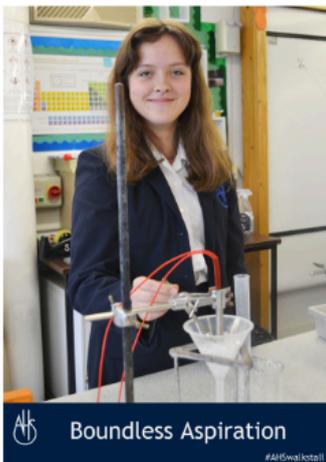
Our Vision:

**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.

Our AHS Values



School Commitment (We ask you to agree to this in our admissions form)

We will:

- Provide a safe, caring and mutually respectful learning environment
- Provide a broad, balanced and high quality education
- Recognise success and reward hard work
- Be aware of individual needs and provide pastoral, wellbeing and SEND support wherever required
- Set realistic and relevant homework
- Provide opportunities for all students to extend their learning outside the classroom and work with the local community
- Give students feedback on their work, discuss progress with them and set targets for improvement
- Communicate regularly with parents and provide opportunities to discuss progress, welfare and targets
- Maintain high standards in behaviour and dress, and promote mutual respect in the school
- Work closely and supportively with parents and students when improvement is needed in behaviour
- Review this Agreement with students, staff and parents every year

Student Commitment

I will:

- Work to the best of my ability
- Attend school and lessons on time and appropriately equipped
- Help to keep the school a safe and cooperative working environment and be willing to take an active role in keeping it clean and tidy
- Have consideration for the learning needs of other students
- Take responsibility for my learning - be organised, meet deadlines and work towards my targets
- Dress according to the school uniform policy
- Behave with respect and consideration for others and be aware of the need for safety in school
- Adhere to the Behaviour Policy and Matrix
- Make the school aware of any problems or concerns that affect me at school
- Make the best of opportunities offered
- Follow the IT Acceptable Use policy and the AI Guide for Students

Parent / Carer Commitment

I will:

- Work with my daughter and her teachers to enable her to fulfil her potential
- Encourage my daughter to manage books and equipment effectively
- Provide an area in the home where she can work in peace and quiet
- Take an interest in my child's work and encourage them to maintain progress and achieve their targets in all subjects
- Commit to supporting the School in the delivery of the full AHS curriculum to my child
- Attend consultation evenings and meetings
- Encourage my daughter to be aware of and respect others' needs and ideas in school
- Support the school's high expectations for attendance by not taking my child out of school unnecessarily
- Reinforce and support School policies, such as our Behaviour Policy and Uniform Policy by encouraging accountability in my daughter and ensuring she attends sanctions as required
- Support the School in their commitment to providing trips by supporting behaviour expectations on trips, completing admin tasks promptly, attending trip meetings, dropping and collecting students promptly
- Alert the school early to changes in circumstances which may affect my child's progress
- Encourage my child to use technology appropriately and responsibly
- Not discuss school matters outside official routes

From time to time, photographs of significant school events are released to the press or included in our newsletter, website or communications. We require your consent to allow your child's photo to be taken and shared and we ask you to give this as part of our Admissions Form.

Information & Communications Technology

Chromebooks @ AHS

After a lot of consultation and research, and with the support of parents, we moved to a 1:1 system so all our students have been using their own devices since September 2018.

Chromebooks have given our students access to all sorts of exciting educational apps and we have been impressed with how much more collaborative their learning has become. Google Classroom has been particularly beneficial in enabling them to share work and receive feedback - and all of this is available at home as well as at school.

99% of our students now own their own device and are making very good use of them in their day to day learning, with the small proportion of students who did not purchase a device able to borrow one from our library each day.

In the past we have offered a purchase scheme through the school, but parents would now prefer to source their own deal. We are no longer selling Chromebooks through school and ask that parents purchase their own device, ensuring that it is a Chromebook (not a Windows based laptop or Macbook), that it is a UK device and has at least 4GB RAM. Parents will need to purchase an AHS license for £40 - this will be available on ParentMail. Please note that if you replace the Chromebook in the future, you will need to purchase a new license for a new device, as licences cannot be transferred between devices.

What is a Chromebook?

- A Chromebook runs an operating system called ChromeOS (rather than Windows or Apple).
- Chromebooks are made by a range of manufacturers.
- They are designed with the cloud in mind.
- There are thousands of apps and extensions available, many of them free.

Why Chromebooks?

- Very fast startup time (typically 8-10 seconds).
- Excellent battery life (more than enough for a day's use).
- Instant access to Google Workspace (Gmail, Calendar, Google Drive, Google Classroom etc) and virtually unlimited cloud storage.
- Excellent for collaboration.
- The operating system and the Google Workspace apps are regularly updated without you noticing (and for free).
- Very resistant to viruses and Trojans.
- Purchase cost low compared with other devices.

How will students use them?

- Research - individually and collaboratively
- Using Google Classroom
- Approved educational apps
- Google Docs, Sheets, Slides, etc for own use and collaboration
- Google Drive gives access to files at home and school
- Online marking
- Email

Digital Tools, Data Privacy and Due Diligence

At Aylesbury High School, we are committed to providing our pupils with a modern, engaging, and safe digital learning environment. Following a recent upgrade to the school's technical infrastructure, we have conducted a comprehensive review of the digital tools and applications used within our curriculum.

Ensuring Data Privacy

Modern educational software frequently updates its Terms and Conditions to comply with evolving UK data protection laws (UK GDPR). Many of these platforms now require explicit authorisation for student use. To ensure that your child's learning is not interrupted by administrative delays, the school will be acting *in loco parentis* to provide these authorisations on behalf of our pupils.

Our Due Diligence Process

We take our responsibility for your child's data privacy and online safety very seriously. Before any application is approved for use in the classroom or unblocked on our network, it undergoes a rigorous Due Diligence Process. Our IT team evaluate each tool to ensure:

- Educational Value: The application serves a clear purpose in enhancing the curriculum and supporting learning outcomes.
- Data Security: Pupil data is handled securely and is not shared with unauthorised third parties.
- Safeguarding Compliance: The platform meets national standards for digital safety and the "Keeping Children Safe in Education" (KCSIE) guidelines.

What This Means for You

By acting *in loco parentis* for these digital tools, we ensure that teachers can continue to use innovative resources without requiring you to sign individual consent forms for every minor update to a provider's terms. Our priority is to maintain a balance between cutting-edge educational technology and the highest standards of digital safeguarding. We thank you for your continued patience and support as we finalise these upgrades to our school systems. If you have any specific questions regarding our data privacy policies or the applications used in your child's year group, please do not hesitate to contact the school office who will be able to direct your inquiry appropriately.

Guidance on Artificial Intelligence (AI)

In a world where artificial intelligence is all around us, we want to support your child to have the independence, strength and confidence to navigate this fast-developing technology. We will be teaching them about AI, how to use it safely and effectively and how to harness its potential benefits while ensuring they develop the essential skills and knowledge they need to thrive, succeed and #walktall.

In the meantime, the use of generative AI is restricted on the school's systems and we ask that parents ensure that students do not use generative AI tools, such as ChatGPT, for the vast majority of homework tasks. Exceptions to this include:

- where a teacher sets a task and clearly states that students may make use of an AI tool should they wish
- where a teacher sets a task explicitly instructing students to use an AI tool.

We will be continually reviewing this guidance as AI technology and our school systems & policies are developed.

How to acknowledge AI sources

If teachers have made clear that students may use AI sources, then students should acknowledge, describe and reference its use. Referencing AI must include the exact phrase or prompt put into the AI system, and it should be made clear which sections of work have been generated by AI.

What is AI good for?

These tools can help in a number of ways, for instance:

- Answering questions where answers are based on material which can be found on the internet
- Drafting ideas and planning or structuring written materials
- Generating ideas for graphics, images and visuals
- Reviewing and critically analysing written materials to assess their validity
- Helping to improve grammar and writing structure - especially helpful if English is a second language
- Experimenting with different writing styles
- Getting explanations
- Debugging code
- Getting over writer's block
- Personalising learning.

Limitations

However, artificial and human intelligence are not the same; these AI tools do not understand anything they produce nor do they understand what the words they produce mean when applied to the real world. Open.ai, the creators of ChatGPT, have provided helpful guidance for educators and students. In short:

- Whilst their output can appear correct and well written, AI tools frequently get things wrong and can't be relied upon for factual accuracy
- They perform better in subjects which are widely written about, and less well in specialist areas
- They do not always provide references - they create well formatted but fictitious citations
- They can reinforce stereotypes, biases and Western perspectives.

More fundamentally, overreliance on these tools reduces students' opportunities to improve their writing, critical thinking, and evaluation skills - key academic and professional skills which they will need as they progress through their studies and beyond. What these tools can provide, however, is an opportunity to build critical analysis and evaluation skills, perhaps by studying and critiquing what they produce, and making judgements about whether what they produce is actually valid and believable.

AI and academic misconduct at AHS - Guidance to students

Using AI tools to help with such things as idea generation or your planning may be an appropriate use, though the context and the nature of the assessment must be considered. It is not acceptable to use these tools to write your entire essay or response from start to finish.

Also, please bear in mind that words and ideas generated by some AI tools make use of other, human authors' ideas without referencing them, which, as things stand, is controversial in itself and considered by many to be a form of plagiarism. Plagiarism and poor practice can be defined as:

- When you hide something and are not transparent about your approach
- When you take something directly from someone (or something) else and don't reference or acknowledge it
- When you don't use something in an appropriate way.

If staff suspect that you are trying to pass off AI-generated output as your own work then it will be investigated and, if upheld, you will be sanctioned for cheating. If this is a Non-Examination Assessment, this is malpractice and may result in disqualification.

Examples of AI misuse include, but are not limited to:

- copying or paraphrasing sections of AI-generated content so the work is no longer your own
- copying or paraphrasing whole responses of AI-generated content

- using AI to complete parts of the assessment so that the work does not reflect the student’s own work, analysis, evaluation or calculations
- failing to acknowledge use of AI tools when they have been used as a source of information
- submitting work with intentionally incomplete or misleading references or bibliographies.

Where AI tools have been used as a source of information, your acknowledgement must show the name of the AI source used and should show the date the content was generated. For example:. The student must retain a copy of the question(s) and computer-generated content for reference and authentication purposes, in a non-editable format (such as a screenshot) and provide a brief explanation of how it has been used. This must be submitted with the work so the teacher/assessor is able to review the work, the AI-generated content and how it has been used. Where this is not submitted, and the teacher/assessor suspects that the student has used AI tools, the teacher/assessor will need to consult the centre’s malpractice policy for appropriate next steps and should take action to assure themselves that the work is the student’s own.

Students are reminded that, as with any source, poor referencing, paraphrasing and copying sections of text may constitute malpractice, which can attract severe sanctions including disqualification - in the context of AI use, students must be clear what is and what is not acceptable in respect of acknowledging AI content and the use of AI sources. For example, it would be unacceptable to simply reference ‘AI’ or ‘ChatGPT’, just as it would be unacceptable to state ‘Google’ rather than the specific website and web pages which have been consulted.

Exam boards have tools to detect AI, which include comparison with previous work to ensure its authenticity. Several programs can analyse written content and determine the likelihood that it was produced by AI. In addition, the JCQ awarding organisations are aware that AI detection will shortly be added to the existing tool Turnitin Originality (<https://www.turnitin.com/products/originality>). This tool features an AI review of a student’s work, reviewing a portfolio of evidence and, we understand, will indicate the likelihood of AI use. The use of detection tools should form part of a holistic approach to considering the authenticity of students’ work; all available information should be considered when reviewing any malpractice concerns.

Protecting your Identity and Personal Data

When using generative AI, safeguarding your identity and personal data is crucial to protect yourself from identity theft, privacy breaches, and potential exploitation. Never share sensitive information like full names, addresses, dates of birth, contact or financial details in any inputs or interactions with generative AI models. Be cautious about the content you generate or interact with, as it could inadvertently reveal personal information.

AHS Acceptable Use Policy

Students will be asked to agree to this when they start in September.

By using computers and digital tools at Aylesbury High School, students agree to abide by the following rules:

General Use of ICT Facilities

- You must not install programs or applications onto school devices, or bring software into school on external devices.
- You must not use school computers, chromebooks and digital tools for commercial purposes (e.g. buying or selling goods).
- School computers, chromebooks and digital tools must only be used for school-related activities and purposes in school.
- You may be liable to pay for damage caused to school owned devices by negligence or misuse.
- You must ensure passwords are kept confidential at all times. Passwords or accounts must not be shared with friends. If you suspect your account password has been compromised, please inform IT.

- You must abide by any rules or restrictions put in place for printing. All printing is monitored and printing privileges may be removed from students who abuse this facility.
- You must not attempt to alter or interfere with the configuration of school computers, chromebooks and digital tools.
- You must not attempt to access, copy or alter the work and files of other students or members of staff.
- You must show consideration for others when using school computers, chromebooks and digital tools and ensure that you do not harm, harass, offend or insult anyone.

Internet and Digital Use

- The internet must only be used for study purposes or school related activities.
- You must not use the internet to harm, harass, offend or insult anyone.
- You must not use the Internet to get, download, send, print or display any materials that are unlawful, obscene or abusive.
- You must respect the work and ownership of people outside the school, as well as other students and staff. This includes abiding by copyright laws.
- Use of chat rooms, forums and instant messaging apps is strictly prohibited in school.
- You must never share personal or sensitive information online, including: your full name, home address, telephone numbers, school name, pictures, photos or any other information that could be used to identify yourself or other students.
- You must be aware that all internet and email usage is monitored.
- The use of generative AI tools (such as ChatGPT) is generally not permitted on the school's systems or for the vast majority of homework tasks, unless a teacher explicitly sets a task allowing or instructing its use.
- You must adhere to the school's AI guidance for all AI-generated content, including proper attribution, acknowledgment, and transparency.
- You must not pass off AI-generated content as your own work; this is a form of plagiarism and constitutes academic misconduct.

These are not exhaustive lists. The school reserves the right to amend these lists at any time. The Finance & Operations Director will use professional judgement to determine whether any act or behaviour not on the lists above are considered unacceptable use of the school's ICT facilities.

Exceptions from unacceptable use

Where the use of school ICT facilities (on the school premises and/or remotely) is required for a purpose that would otherwise be considered an unacceptable use, exemptions to the policy may be granted at the Headteacher's discretion. Applications for such exemption must be made in writing to the Headteacher.

Sanctions

By using computers at AHS, you realise and agree that access to the AHS computer network is a privilege, not a right and that this privilege may be revoked if these rules are broken. Sanctions will also be applied for misuse of AI, which is considered academic malpractice. Additional action may be taken by the school in line with existing practice regarding inappropriate behaviour and if appropriate, the police may be involved or other legal action taken.

Access to ICT facilities

The following ICT facilities are available to pupils, when instructed and supervised by the relevant member of staff:

- Computers and equipment in the school's ICT suites
- Specialist ICT equipment, such as that used for music, or design and technology

Pupils will be provided with an account linked to the school's Google Classroom, which they can access from any device, including their chromebooks, by using the following URL

<https://www.ahs.bucks.sch.uk/>.

- Student and staff passwords should be a minimum of eight characters, including numbers and letters, and all users should consider changing their password at regular intervals, perhaps once a term.
- One should not use one's own name or username as a password, for example smith1
- One should not use one's password on anything you leave unattended
- All users must change their password immediately if they think someone has learned their password
- All users must remember that a school is a public place. They must always make sure they have completely logged off or locked the computer before leaving it unattended. Failure to do so will be considered a contravention of school policy. If an offence has been committed by some other person on their unattended computer, this may be considered as facilitating the Misuse of a Computer, which is a criminal offence

Sixth-form pupils can use the computers in the ICT suites, library or sixth form centre independently for educational purposes only.

Search and deletion

Under the Education Act 2011, and in line with the Department for Education's [guidance on searching, screening and confiscation](#), the school has the right to search pupils' phones, computers or other devices for pornographic images or any other data or items banned under school rules or legislation.

The school can, and will, delete files and data found on searched devices if we believe the data or file has been, or could be, used to disrupt teaching or break the school's rules.

Staff members may also confiscate devices for evidence to hand to the police, if a pupil discloses that they are being abused and that this abuse contains an online element.

Unacceptable use of ICT and the internet outside of school

The school will sanction pupils, in line with the Behaviour & Exclusions Policy, if a pupil engages in any of the following at any time (even if they are not on school premises):

- Using ICT or the internet to breach intellectual property rights or copyright
- Using ICT or the internet to bully or harass someone else, or to promote unlawful discrimination
- Breaching the school's policies or procedures
- Any illegal conduct, or statements which are deemed to be advocating illegal activity
- Accessing, creating, storing, linking to or sending material that is pornographic, offensive, obscene or otherwise inappropriate
- Consensual and non-consensual sharing of nude and semi-nude images and/or videos and/or livestreams (also known as sexting or youth produced sexual imagery)
- Activity which defames or disparages the school, or risks bringing the school into disrepute
- Sharing confidential information about the school, other pupils, or other members of the school community
- Gaining or attempting to gain access to restricted areas of the network, or to any password protected information, without approval from authorised personnel
- Allowing, encouraging, or enabling others to gain (or attempt to gain) unauthorised access to the school's ICT facilities
- Causing intentional damage to ICT facilities or materials
- Causing a data breach by accessing, modifying, or sharing data (including personal data) to which a user is not supposed to have access, or without authorisation
- Using inappropriate or offensive language

Data security

The school is responsible for making sure it has the appropriate level of security protection and procedures in place. It therefore takes steps to protect the security of its computing resources, data and user accounts. However, the school cannot guarantee security. Pupils who use the school's ICT facilities should use safe computing practices at all times.

Passwords

All users of the school's ICT facilities should set strong passwords for their accounts and keep these passwords secure.

Users are responsible for the security of their passwords and accounts, and for setting permissions for accounts and files they control.

Students who disclose account or password information may face disciplinary action.

Internet access

The school wireless internet connection is secured.

All students are given access to wifi whilst at school and this is in all areas of the school. In Y7-11 we do this through the use of Chrome Education Upgrades which are added to each student's Chromebook. In Y12-13 our students are given codes for the BYOD network and can access wifi this way. The Chrome Education Upgrade gives our IT team more control of what users access. It also allows for updates and apps to be pushed out to all users. All students using the school wifi are subject to the Smoothwall filtering that the school subscribes to. Additionally, we make use of Securly which allows teachers to see the screens of the students in their class and Smoothwall Monitor which alerts the DSL team to concerning activity from students.

Commitment - students will sign up to this in September

Students

- I will follow the Acceptable Use Policy above
- I will follow the school's AI guidance at all times, including the rules regarding when and how AI can be used for homework and assessments.
- I will adhere to school guidance for using AI-generated content, including proper attribution and respect to creators
- I will never input Intellectual Property or Personal and Sensitive data into AI tools
- I understand that misuse of AI, including passing off AI-generated content as my own work, constitutes malpractice and will be sanctioned.

Parents

- Will support the Acceptable Use Policy above
- Will support their child in understanding Intellectual Property rights and responsibilities related to AI-generated content
- Will ensure their child complies with school policies (such as the AI Guide for Students) regarding AI-generated content, including proper attribution and ethical use.
- Will support the school's policy on AI use and understand the implications of academic misconduct (malpractice) for my child's examinations and future conduct.

Digital Safety & Wellbeing: How you can help at home

At AHS, we provide a comprehensive digital citizenship curriculum, but the reality is that the vast majority of online risk occurs outside of school hours. While we educate your daughters in the classroom, we cannot overstate the importance of parental oversight at home. We often find that parents assume their child is "the exception" or "too sensible" to engage in risky online behaviour. However, the pressure of peer validation and the addictive nature of social media algorithms can lead even the most responsible students to make poor choices.

The Impact on School Life

Disputes that disrupt learning during the day almost always originate in late-night group chats or social media interactions. We are seeing an increase in:

- Sleep deprivation affecting academic performance and mental health.
- Peer pressure to share inappropriate images or "nudes," often occurring in the perceived privacy of a bedroom late at night.
- Cyber-bullying in encrypted apps where parental visibility is low.

Our Recommendations for Parents

To ensure your daughter's safety and wellbeing, we strongly urge you to adopt the following "Gold Standard" practices:

- **Managing Screen Time & Digital Balance:** We often hear from students that they feel "tethered" to their phones, feeling an urgent need to respond to notifications immediately. Research shows that excessive screen time is directly linked to increased anxiety and decreased physical activity.
 - **Set Firm Boundaries:** We recommend using the built-in "Screen Time" (iOS) or "Digital Wellbeing" (Android) settings. These allow you to set daily limits on specific apps and schedule "down-time" where the phone becomes inactive.
 - **The 60-Minute Wind-Down:** Experts suggest that all screens should be turned off at least one hour before sleep. The "blue light" emitted by screens interferes with melatonin production, making it harder for your daughter to fall into the deep sleep required for a productive school day.
 - **Model Healthy Habits:** Students are far more likely to respect digital boundaries if they see their parents also putting phones away during mealtimes and family activities.
- **The "Device-Free Bedroom" Rule:** We recommend that all devices (phones, tablets, and laptops) are handed over to parents at a set time each evening and charged in a communal area. This removes the "24/7" pressure to respond to peers.
- **Active Monitoring:** Please do not wait for a problem to arise before checking your daughter's phone. Regularly review her social media accounts (if she has them), privacy settings, and direct messages together.
- **Age Restrictions:** Most social media platforms (including WhatsApp, TikTok, and Instagram) have a minimum age of 13. These limits exist for safeguarding and data privacy; allowing your child to bypass them places them in an environment designed for adults or older teens.
- **Home Filtering:** When students are on their AHS account, their Chromebooks will be filtered and monitored at home. Flagged words will generate an alert to me. BUT students can go on their own accounts at home which will NOT be filtered or monitored by school so it is essential that you provide your own controls at home. Your home Wi-Fi provider offers free tools to block adult content across all household devices.
- Consider giving your daughter a simple phone, rather than a smartphone.

Essential Resources for Parents

[Internet Matters: Setting Controls & Limits](#): Step-by-step guides for iPhones, Androids, and gaming consoles.

[Google Family Link](#): A vital tool for parents of students using Android devices or Chromebooks to set remotely managed "bedtimes" and app limits.

[NSPCC - Online Safety](#): Advice on everything from "sexting" to online gaming.

[Common Sense Media](#): Independent reviews of the apps and games your child is asking to use.

[ThinkUKnow](#) (CEOP): The National Crime Agency's portal for reporting and education.

ONLINE SAFETY

IN JUST 4 SIMPLE STEPS

Keeping your child safe online - and knowing what to say no to and what to say yes to - can feel like an impossible task.

So keep it simple with these 4 Rules.

Protect your child from exploitation by strangers, problems with peers, content that harms their mental health, addictive products, violent and sexual content, poor sleep, reduced concentration and disrupted development.

1

NO SMART PHONE UNTIL YOUR CHILD IS 12

Once you give your child a smart phone it is very hard to go back. Once they've got a smart phone it becomes almost impossible to control or monitor how they use it. So keep it simple: no smartphone. If your child really needs a phone you can get them an old fashioned feature phone for about £30.

2

NO SOCIAL MEDIA UNTIL YOUR CHILD IS 16

Social media can be fun, but it can also be addictive and harmful. The social media platforms are not making sure that they are safe for children to use. So the world of social media is full of content that is dangerous or damaging for your minds, from cyberbullying to pornography. So just keep your child off social media.

3

NO YOUTUBE AND NO TIKTOK

The social media rule includes youtube and TikTok. These platforms are designed to be addictive. They weaken your child's ability to concentrate. It is very hard to monitor and supervise them and there is a lot of harmful content on there. Whilst they are kids, there is plenty for them to watch on things like iPlayer and Netflix.

4

NO GROUPS, NO STRANGERS, NO SNAPCHAT

Just because your child is in your house, it does not mean that they are safe from being exploited by adults or upset by other children. So if they use things like Whatsapp, it's family and close friends only. No one that you don't know, no being in big online groups and no deleting messages. And this includes gaming online.

AND REMEMBER...

Don't rely on your child being sensible and honest online to keep them safe.

Yes, we need to teach them to be those things, but it is not fair or realistic to ask young children to operate safely in an online world that is really not set up for them.

Your child will not thank you for these rules. They will tell you that other children don't have these rules.

But those other children are not your responsibility. It is your job to look after your own children.

The majority of parents worry about their children online - some of them decide that saying 'No' is an option. You can be one of those parents.

If using tech devices is making your child sad, anxious or angry then take those devices away from them.

If they are not following your rules then take those devices away from them.

This might not be easy when they are young, but it will be almost impossible as they get older.

Ultimately you are the adult and you have to decide what is best for your child.

Security of Property

Lockers are available for students from year 7 - 11 for a payment of £50, which covers the use of a combination lock padlock. The lockers are large enough to keep students' books and files securely, plus small items of personal property. You will see the fee for the locker listed on our parental payment system, which is called ParentMail and you will be given your login to this before the summer. Please ensure this is paid **before** September, as padlocks cannot be given out if the fee has not been paid. Students will then receive their padlocks during registration on the first day of term.

Money and Valuables

Students must keep any money brought to school on their person, and should not bring large amounts of cash to school. Payment for school meals, all school activities and uniform items is made through our online facility, ParentMail. In special circumstances, money may be left in the School Office.

NO MONEY OR OTHER VALUABLE POSSESSIONS SHOULD BE CARRIED IN SCHOOL BAGS

PARENTS ARE REMINDED THAT THE SCHOOL CANNOT ACCEPT RESPONSIBILITY FOR MONEY, MOBILE PHONES OR OTHER POSSESSIONS MISLAID ON SCHOOL PREMISES

Mobile Phones and Smartwatches

- Students are allowed to bring mobile phones to school, as they may need to use them on their way to and from school, but they must be turned off and out of sight in school.
- The only exception to this is if a teacher has given permission for a student to use their phone as a learning aid in a lesson.
- If students need to contact a parent urgently during the school day, they should speak to their tutor, head of year or the front office to ask for permission to contact home.
- If a student uses her phone without permission, it will be confiscated for the rest of the day and an after school detention will be given for the following Thursday.
- Students are not allowed to wear smartwatches at school

Home to School Transport

Queries about school transport should be directed to Buckinghamshire Council (01296 387439) unless you are using a private operator. BCC has asked us to advise parents who are not entitled to free transport and who would like to apply for paid transport to visit the [Buckinghamshire County Council website](#) where they can submit an application form.

They strongly encourage parents to submit their application online as this process is quicker and more efficient than by post.

Free School Meals

A reminder to families that you may be entitled to claim for Free School Meals. This is an entitlement for children to be given free school lunches where their parents/guardians are in receipt of any of the following:

- Income Support
- Income-based Jobseeker's Allowance
- Income-related Employment and Support Allowance
- support under Part VI of the Immigration and Asylum Act 1999
- the guaranteed element of State Pension Credit

- Child Tax Credit (provided you're not also entitled to Working Tax Credit and have an annual gross income of no more than £16,190)
- Child Tax Credit if also receiving Working Tax Credit during the four week period immediately after employment ceases, or after a drop in working hours to less than 16 hours per week (known as Working Tax Run On)
- Universal Credit with an annual net earned income of no more than £7,400 (after tax and not including any benefits you get)

Students eligible for Free School Meals have a daily allowance which they can use in the Dining Room. Because of our cashless system, FSM and non-FSM students go through the tills in exactly the same way and are indistinguishable from each other. If the FSM allowance is not spent on a Monday, it rolls over to Tuesday and so on, but it will be reset at the end of the week.

Year 6 students who are currently eligible for Free School Meals are given £100 credit towards their uniform. In subsequent years, £50 can be claimed each year. For students who only qualify for Pupil Premium, any financial support is on a case by case basis.

Pupil Premium, Service Children & Looked After Children

The Government allocates additional money to schools to support children who:

- have been registered as eligible for Free School Meals at any point in the last six years
- have a parent who is in the regular armed services or has been in the last four years
- are in receipt of a pension under the Armed Forces Compensation Scheme (AFCS) or the War Pensions Scheme (WPS)
- are 'Looked-After Children' who:
 - o have been looked after in public care for 1 day or more, or
 - o are adopted, or
 - o leave care under a Special Guardianship Order or a Residence Order.

Please indicate on our Admissions Form if you believe that your child qualifies in any of these categories and we will contact you, in confidence, for details. Support is available for these children with trip costs and educational materials.

The government also provides extra funding to help the school provide additional welfare and support for children of service families who have a parent who is in the armed services or has been in the last four years or who are in receipt of a pension under the Armed Forces Compensation Scheme (AFCS) or the War Pensions Scheme (WPS).

In addition, we have a hardship fund for those not eligible under the Pupil Premium to enable students to take part in educational visits; we would not want anyone to be unable to participate through lack of funds and help a number of families, in confidence, every year. Details are included with every trip letter that goes home and there is a 'Request for Financial Assistance' form under the Parent section of our website.

Mrs Ali (vali@ahs.bucks.sch.uk) oversees our Pupil Premium students in school. If you have any queries about Free School Meals or Pupil Premium, please contact her or use our '[Request for Financial Assistance](#)' form.

Making Payments to School

In order to ensure it is as easy as possible for parents to pay for items and to make our finance administration simpler and more efficient, we use on-line systems to pay for items at school such as school trips, food from our catering service, co-curricular activities and tickets for our events. We do not accept payment by cash or cheque for any of these items.

We use a system called ParentMail for these payments, which also manages our routine email communications home to Parents. The system is complemented by an App for smartphones and tablets

and makes it very convenient for parents to receive emails and notifications and to pay for items by card from home. Please note PayPal attracts higher charges for the school so please avoid this payment method if you can. Further information is available on the ParentMail website at www.parentmail.co.uk.

When you pay by any of our online systems, an email confirmation is sent to you, giving you the reassurance that the transaction has gone through.

You will be sent an email from info@parentmail before the Summer which will contain a link to set up and activate your account. You should also receive an introductory email giving you further information about this system. Please note, if your child is at a school that also uses ParentMail please do not “unsubscribe” from that account as that will prevent you from receiving any emails from us as well. If you do not receive the email from ParentMail, please telephone the school (01296 388222) or email the Data Team at data@ahs.bucks.sch.uk

Cashless Catering System

The school has invested in a Cashless Catering System for the Dining Room to reduce queuing times and provide us with data to help improve the meal service. Students are not able to purchase any food on the school site using cash. There are, of course, water points in the dining room which provide free water.

Cashless catering not only speeds up the service and helps with the continued improvement and development of the catering operation, but eliminates the need for students to bring cash into school that has, on occasions in the past, caused other problems. There is no need for students to carry a card or remember a pin number, as payments are made at the tills using the same biometric system we use in our Library.

As mentioned above, the system for crediting your child’s meal account is ParentMail. You simply top up their account in advance online and as they use the canteen service, the correct amount is deducted from their account. The minimum top up is £10 and the maximum is £100; as a guide, the dish of the day currently costs approximately £3.00. The system automatically sends you an email you when the balance drops below a specified amount (but you can switch off this notification). There is a daily ‘spend limit’ of £8.00 automatically programmed into the system to prevent excessive use.

The dinner money item should be made live on your child’s ParentMail account after the induction day in July, and we would recommend that you add a credit to the dinner money item at this time to ensure they will be able to use the Dining Room on the first day of term.

We use a biometric system in both our Library and Dining Room to speed up their processes and reduce queuing times. The system works by taking measurements of the finger, but it **does not** capture a complete image. This means that a fingerprint cannot be constructed from the data. Schools cannot use biometric information for any reason other than for the express purpose for which it was collected. In order to use the cashless system and the library, students will need to be registered on the biometric system. For the majority of new students joining us in September, this is achieved during the induction days in the Summer Term. Further information is available on our website.

School Website

Please do have a good look at our [school website](#), where you will find lots of useful information. The [Entry to Year 7](#) page includes all the information you need at this stage.

You might find these other pages useful:

School policies:	Governance & Policies Please note our Behaviour Policy and Behaviour Matrix which sets out any sanctions given for behaviour incidents
ParentMail:	ParentMail login
Uniform Shop:	SWI Schoolwear Guide to Online Ordering

School Calendar: [What's on](#)

You might also like to follow us on our social media platforms for our latest news.
Instagram: [@aylesburyhighschool](#) Facebook: [@aylesburyhigh](#)

School - Home Communication

EduLink provides an integrated school information platform which allows us to communicate about students' reports and achievements. ParentMail is used for most routine communications about trips, events etc.

For this reason, it is very important that you fill in your details carefully on the Admission Form, and ensure that you have added a unique email address and a unique mobile number for each parent/carer that has parental responsibility and mark them both as priority 1. If these details aren't provided, neither platform will release login details to you.

For families where neither parent has an email address, paper copies of letters can be provided. Please contact the school in this instance and we can provide you with a paper copy of the Admission Form. We recommend you add @ahs.bucks.sch.uk and info@parentmail.co.uk to your safe senders list in your email app to avoid important emails ending up in your junk folder.

Learning for Life

Students have a Learning for Life (L4L) lesson each week. Year 7 L4L starts with a focus on settling into secondary school and making friends and then moves on to topics such as citizenship, internet safety and puberty. Year 7 complete the 'Bounce Forward' Resilience Programme during their L4L lessons, which helps them build resilience, feel good about themselves and handle difficult situations. If you would like further information about the content of these units of work, please contact the Head of Year 7, Miss Morrin, Our L4L Lead, Ms Gamero, or look at the information on the school website.

Pastoral Support

We have a very comprehensive system for supporting all students throughout their time at AHS.

Key staff are:

- Your child's Form Tutor
- The Head of Year: for Year 7 this is Miss Morrin cmorrin@ahs.bucks.sch.uk
- Please note that from September 2026 Miss Morrin will be Mrs Gent! cgent@ahs.bucks.sch.uk
- The Key Stage 3 Pastoral Support Assistant, Mrs Sheed dsheed@ahs.bucks.sch.uk
- First Aid Administrator, Mrs Randall krandall@ahs.bucks.sch.uk
- The Wellbeing Lead, Mrs McNally smcnally@ahs.bucks.sch.uk
- Our Wellbeing Assistant, Miss Brunt lbrunt@ahs.bucks.sch.uk
- Our SENDCo, Mrs Crafts mcrafts@ahs.bucks.sch.uk
- The Deputy Headteacher with pastoral oversight, Mrs Queralt hqueralt@ahs.bucks.sch.uk

The school supplements support signposting students to online and external agencies. Please see the student support page on the website for further details.

Medical Conditions and Administration of Medicine to Students

Please tell us about any medical conditions or medicines being taken as part of the admissions form. But if your daughter does have a specific condition, you will also need to complete our [Individual Healthcare Plan \(IHP\) Submission Form](#). This is particularly important for conditions such as anaphylaxis,

diabetes or chronic asthma, but it is important that we are aware of all medical conditions. If you have any queries about this, please contact Mrs Randall, our First Aid Administrator (krandall@ahs.bucks.sch.uk)

If your daughter will be carrying life saving medication such as epipens and inhalers (or similar products) please fill in: [Parental Request for Student to Carry Medicine for Students with Life Threatening Conditions](#)

All other medicines must be handed in and stored centrally with the first aid administrator. You will also need to complete this form: [Parental Agreement for the School to Administer Medicine](#)

Paracetamol

We are unable to distribute medication to students without parental permission. When students have headaches or period pains they may come and ask for pain relief. We stock Paracetamol tablets (not Calpol). Paracetamol can only be given to students who have permission from their parents. If you give your permission for your child to be given Paracetamol, please tick the appropriate box on Edulink. Only one dose will be given in the course of a school day and only after 12.30 pm to ensure that 4 hours has elapsed since any medication was taken before school. Students are always asked about recent or current medication. Please note that, if we do not receive your permission, we will be unable to give your child paracetamol if she requests it.

Illness and Absence

We regard good attendance as extremely important and monitor our students' attendance patterns closely. We regard attendance under 95% as a cause for concern, and the school will contact parents if it is in danger of dropping below 90%. In Years 7 to 11, if a student's attendance over a period of five weeks is under 85% and causing concern, we will write to parents/carers about our duty to alert the County Attendance Team. If attendance does not subsequently improve, action will be taken with external agencies as appropriate.

Our [Attendance Policy](#) can be found on our website on our Key Information and Policies page. Please familiarise yourselves with its contents.

In particular, please note that all absences must be explained by a parent telephoning our dedicated Absence Line on **01296 388230** on **each** day of the absence, **before 9am**, followed by a letter if the absence lasts for five or more days. Alternatively, you can email the Pastoral Support Assistant for your child's Key Stage each day. For Key Stage 3 this is Mrs Sheed: dsheed@ahs.bucks.sch.uk Please include details of your child's name, form and the reason for absence in your message.

We are not able to authorise any holidays during term time. Medical and dental appointments should be booked outside school hours whenever possible. If it is necessary to make the appointment during school hours, the school must be informed in advance via the [Key Stage 3 Leave of Absence Form](#) on our website and we ask that students do not miss a whole day.

Punctuality

Our school gates close at 8.40 as students should be at their tutor rooms by 8.40 am every morning. Our tutor period runs from 8.45 - 9.10 am. For the purposes of official registration, if a student arrives after 8.45 am, she is considered to be late to school and her minutes late will be marked on the register by her tutor. Students must sign in on the sheets by reception if they arrive after their tutor period has ended or if they are returning to school after an appointment. Late arrival at school, when not caused by bus delays, must also be explained by a letter or telephone call from a parent.

School Visits

School trips and visits are an integral part of our curriculum and we believe that they enable students to learn in ways which complement their classroom activities. We are also pleased to be able to offer a wide range of optional trips and visits for sport, drama, music, personal development and other purposes, both in this country and overseas. More information on our [Trips and Visits page](#).

Students may participate in activities within the 'Local Learning Area'. These activities are part of the normal curriculum, including co-curriculum, and take place during normal school hours. They do not require parental consent and follow the [Local Visit Procedure](#). We are fortunate in having so many staff who give a lot of their time, expertise and energy to make these opportunities available to students. We are, of course, also grateful for your support, especially where parents accompany us on trips and visits which would be hard or impossible to arrange otherwise.

Financial support is available for those eligible for Pupil Premium and whenever there is a need; details of how to apply, in confidence, are included in every trip and visit letter that goes home.

Consent, Contact Details and Medical Information for Trips and Visits

In order to make life easier for everyone, the school will use the contact details and medical information provided by you in the Admissions Form for all trips and visits during your child's time at the school, so please ensure that you tick the permission box for Trips. You will be reminded in the details for each trip and visit of how to inform the school if any changes need to be made to these medical or contact details. If a student needs to take medication on a trip then this [medication form](#) will need to be submitted to our First Aid Administrator no later than 2 weeks before the trip.

In the detailed information about each trip and visit you receive, we will also ask you to confirm that you have received the details and that you give your consent. This may be done by making an on-line payment through ParentMail or completing a reply slip. International trips and visits may require a separate, more detailed, consent form to be completed at the time.

School Code of Conduct for Students On Residential Visits

It is usual for students to behave in a very responsible and co-operative manner during residential visits. However, to avoid any misunderstanding, we think it is helpful for both parents and students to be aware of our expectations and we hope parents will discuss this with students so that they fully understand the implications before signing the agreement form.

Please see our codes of conduct for school trips on the [Trips and Visits page](#) of our website.

Please note that further rules of conduct will apply on specific trips. Where this is the case, these rules will generally be described in the trip letter to parents or at a briefing.

Any damage incurred by students will be the financial responsibility of parents. In any extreme case of misbehaviour, parents will be contacted. If this results in a student being sent home, parents will be required to bear the extra expense and to arrange an escort, if necessary. If a student is extremely homesick and parents request return, extra financial liability will also arise.

The Headmistress is particularly keen to ensure that parents realise that the organisation and supervision of all residential visits is undertaken by staff on a voluntary basis, with staff often giving up their weekends, evenings and time with their own families to facilitate the trip; she hopes parents will discuss with their children ways in which they can show appreciation.

If you would like to discuss any aspect of trips and visits your child may make, please do not hesitate to contact Mrs Lisa Greenway who is the school's Education Visits Coordinator at lgreenway@ahs.bucks.sch.uk

Music at AHS

Music is an integral part of life at Aylesbury High School and a wide variety of music-making activities are available to all. We are fortunate in receiving an enthusiastic, highly talented intake of students who contribute keenly to musical events and who also take responsibility for organising many ensembles.

Co-curricular music includes several ensembles which rehearse weekly, some of which are joint with students from Aylesbury Grammar School: Choir, Jazz Band, Symphony Orchestra, Junior String Ensemble (Good Vibrations), Percussion Ensemble, bands/pop groups and more! On some years, tours abroad are also arranged.

Senior students are responsible for organising the House Music Festival in which each House presents a short programme of musical items, reflecting the enthusiasms and musical strengths of their members. There is an adjudication and celebratory concert.

The concert schedule includes recitals, a Christmas concert, a Carol Service at St Mary's, the House Music Festival, Joint Choral/Orchestral Concerts with AGS, a Summer Showcase and our large-scale school Musical, as well as various performances at local homes, hospitals and churches throughout the year.

Music Tuition

Aylesbury High School actively encourages as many students as possible to receive instrumental tuition as part of enriching their education; a considerable number of the students take up this opportunity. Lessons are given in our dedicated music practice rooms during the school day. The tutors are not employed by the school, but work on the school premises during school time under a formal agreement having undergone the requisite safeguarding checks. If you would like your child to receive instrumental music lessons from September, please complete this [Google Form](#) which you can also find on the Admission to Year 7 page of the website.

The relevant music tutor will contact parents directly during the summer to confirm arrangements for September, and thereafter all administration of lessons, fees etc. will be a matter for the parent to discuss with the tutor. Parents will need to contact the tutor directly to discuss matters of tuition but if there are problems, then Mr Warner is the point of contact at AHS.

The AHS System

As is common practice, music lessons are timetabled during the school day on a rotation to prevent students missing the same school lessons each week wherever possible, and the number of music lessons for pupils is limited to two sessions per week to prevent excessive disruption to other studies. Please note, it is not possible to arrange a set weekly lesson time (e.g. during a particular subject lesson or lunchtime) for Year 7 to 11 students. Year 12 and 13 students should arrange their lessons during a study period. Students will not be allowed to take occasional lessons within school with other tutors not listed or organisations except by prior arrangement with the Headmistress.

It is the student's responsibility to check the instrumental lessons timetable on the website (found in the Music section of the Student Homepage) the week before each lesson to confirm the time, and then to notify their class teacher if they will be missing part of their lesson. The student must also arrange with the relevant teacher or her friends to pick up any set work she may have missed. They should also check the website timetable before school on the morning of her lesson in case there has been a last minute change.

Once students reach the appropriate standard we expect that they will join at least one of the school's ensembles which practise together at lunchtimes. These are very popular and are where the joy of music creation really comes into its own.

Costs

Individual instrumental lessons are not funded by the government so this option is provided at a charge to parents. The following pricing structure has been agreed with all the tutors, and this is reviewed annually:

30 minute individual lesson, 10 lessons per term, £205 per term

Pupils will not be able to start lessons until their parent has submitted the form. Please note that the contract for lessons is entirely between you, the parent, and the tutor and the School will not enter into any dispute over fees. A 30% school contribution is available for Pupil Premium students.

Notice to Cease, Continuation Next Year and Exam Years

You should give your tutor at least a half term's notice to cease lessons or you will be liable to pay the following term's fee. The tutors will assume that, unless informed otherwise, a student will continue with their lessons the following year; if this is not the case, notice should be given before the Summer half term break.

In Years 11 and 13, students sometimes opt to stop lessons during their summer term to concentrate on their exams. The tutors will assume that students will be continuing lessons unless the correct notice to stop is given.

Instrument	Current Tutors
Clarinet	Mrs Hazel Hellewell
Flute, Saxophone & Piano	Mr Louis Dunham
Percussion (Drum Kit & Orchestral Percussion)	Mr Cameron Sinclair
Violin, Viola & Piano	Mrs Elizabeth Stahlmann
Violin & Viola	Mr Tom Horn
Classical Guitar	Mrs Paula Child
Acoustic & Electric Guitar	Mr Rai Scalia
Piano	Rev Susan Fellows
Oboe, Bassoon & Piano	Ms Marian Baker
Voice & Piano	Ms Felicity Davies
Voice & Piano	Mrs Kate Warner
Voice & Double Bass	Ms Jess Price
Cello & piano	Mrs Wheeler
Brass	Mr Steve Kitchen

Instrumental Purchase

The school is able to purchase instruments on behalf of parents taking tuition in school time, thus saving VAT. Please contact Reception for further information on 01296 383222.

Examinations

Students may be entered for Associated Board Examinations and Trinity Examinations, and other boards at the discretion of the instrumental teacher. Exams attract an additional fee.

Contact Information

For further information or advice regarding music tuition, timetables etc, please contact Mr Warner, Director of Music (mwarner@ahs.bucks.sch.uk or 01296 388222). Tutors should provide parents with their direct contact information and to facilitate this, we will provide the tutors with your email address or telephone number from our records when requested.

School Library

The Library provides resources for student use including books, journals, DVDs, access to online subscriptions, including eBooks and audiobooks, as well as scanning and printing. The full catalogue is available on a system called Oliver on the school network.

Students borrow resources using our biometric system. This involves scanning one finger and storing a unique code. We find that this system is very accurate and easy for people to use. We do not store any fingerprints and we cannot recreate a fingerprint from our codes. If you have any questions about this system, please feel free to contact the Librarian, Miss Watt at: library@ahs.bucks.sch.uk or 01296 388204.

Year 7 students may borrow up to seven library items. Overdue charges are issued for late returns, charged at 2p per day for standard loans. Overdue charges for other loans vary and students can check them through the library google site. Textbooks are also issued via the Library. It is important that students put their names into these books as soon as they are issued. These books are to be returned at the end of the year otherwise invoices for replacements are issued.

We are constantly trying to improve the quality and quantity of resources available. All students are welcome to suggest ideas for resources. Homework After School Club runs in the Library, Monday-Thursday, 3.30-4.30 pm.

Swimming at Aylesbury High School

PE Curriculum

We are extremely fortunate at Aylesbury High School to be able to offer Swimming for Years 7 - 9 at the Grammar School Pool. As the only subject that can save a child's life, students will have the opportunity to not only improve stroke technique and stamina, but also develop their aquatic skills, Self-Rescue and Rescue skills (we work through the RLSS Rookie Lifeguard Programme). They will be able to play Water Polo and perform Synchronised Swimming skills along with a range of water-based individual and fun team challenges such as Aqua Quidditch! Club swimmers are given the opportunity to undertake drills and try new aquatic skills. In Year 9 and above, students are also given the opportunity to train to become Aquatic Leaders and our older students support younger students as leaders in Year 12. As well as this, we run an after-school Aquatic Club for Year 7's; a great way for them to get to know others whilst having fun and improving their aquatic skills.

We have worked incredibly hard with our students to provide a swimming programme that is not only enjoyable but also tailored to a range of abilities. We hope the students agree!

Kit (Swimsuits, Goggles)

For all swimming activities, both lessons and co-curricular events, students will need a one piece swimsuit; (leggings and long sleeved costumes may be worn for cultural or religious reasons); a swimming hat and towel. Students with long hair may require a large hat. These are now available online (sites such as Amazon). Lahtak hats are a good option. Whilst they are not considered to be essential, we recognise that children who swim frequently, or whose eyes are susceptible to irritation, may prefer to use goggles for swimming. When goggles are used, they should be made of unbreakable plastic or rubber materials. The British Standard for the manufacture of goggles includes the requirement that the packaging should contain instructions regarding the safe putting on or removal of goggles. Your child should be taught to put them on and remove them by slipping them on/off the head and not by stretching the retaining band. If you wish your child to wear goggles, please give your consent on the Admissions Form. Prescription goggles may also be worn (these can be purchased from most opticians). Students may be asked to remove goggles for some activities such as Water Polo or Self Rescue.

As for PE lessons, Swimming is a part of the AHS curriculum, thus compulsory. If students are unable to swim for any reason, they will require an email from home. In order to ensure that the control measures in place at the Grammar School Pool are sufficient, we request that parents inform the school if their child has a stomach bug that requires medical advice and ensure that their child does not use the swimming pool for 14 days after the bug has cleared up.

Extra-Curricular Swimming

Please make sure that you inform us about your child's swimming ability on the Admissions form. This will enable us to set an appropriate programme during lesson time. For club swimmers, there are a range of opportunities to represent the school, such as the regional team relay Swimming Gala (English Schools Swimming Association) and Wycombe league or inter school galas during their time at the school.

For non-club swimmers, House Swimming offers a range of swimming races plus fun aquatic challenges, races and Water Polo.



The Aylesbury High School Association (AHS A)

Calling all AHS Parents!

At AHS we have a very active and highly sociable parent-teacher association that comes together to organize fund-raising events to support the school's on-going development.

Thanks to our packed calendar of events for both parents and students, we have raised thousands of pounds, which we've used to buy a range of specialist equipment to enrich and enhance the students' school experience. From staged seating, digital visualisers and sound equipment to blast chillers, vinyl cutters, art storage and drying equipment, and even a trampoline, our fundraising has benefited the students in a wide variety of ways!

Most importantly, we've also had a lot of fun at the same time!

With everything from Quiz Nights and Social Dinners to School Discos and Summer Balls, there is always plenty going on. We even have a monthly cash draw called the 50/50 Club.

All parents are welcome to get involved with the AHS A. Even if you only have a small amount of time available, we welcome your support, your ideas and your suggestions. So come and join us! This is your chance to get involved in AHS school life.

*"It's great to meet up with other AHS parents!
It's so useful for keeping myself up-to-date with what's happening at the school."*

To find out more, please visit our [section](#) of the school website.

Alternatively if you have any questions or if you are interested in joining us, please email us at ahsa@ahs.bucks.sch.uk.

Dining Room

Opening Times

Breakfast: 08:00 - 08:30 hrs

Break: 11:10 - 11:30 hrs

Lunch: 13:30 - 14:15 hrs

Our catering provision is run by an external caterer, who provides a service at breakfast, break and lunch. Food can be purchased in the Dining Room, from the Catering Trailer or via the Pre Order app.

In addition to a choice of a hot meat, vegetarian and vegan main meal at lunchtimes, you also find everyday:

- A choice of sandwiches, rolls, baguettes and wraps
- Jacket potatoes with a choice of fillings
- A selection of drinks, dessert and fruit pots and homemade cakes and biscuits

More details of what is available is on the school website on our Dining Room page.

Allergies

We encourage students who have a food allergy to speak with the Catering Manager, who will be more than happy to discuss suitable items available on the menu.



Pre Order Service

Students are able to Pre Order items for lunch, which is ideal if they have an activity. The offer includes items such as; sandwiches, baguettes, wraps, paninis, hot and cold pasta pots, cakes, fruit and drinks.

Orders are placed via the 'Fusion Online' app. When they start in September, students will receive an email, to their school address, which will contain their unique Onboarding code, along with details on how to download the 'Fusion Online' app and how to set up their account login (the service is also available online at <https://fusion.crbcunninghams.co.uk/>).

Orders are then collected at lunchtime, from the designated pick-up point in the Dining Room.



Packed Lunches

If students do not wish to have a meal from the Dining Room, then a packed lunch can be bought in from home.



Miss C Morrin / Mrs Gent
Head of Year 7
cmorrin@ahs.bucks.sch.uk

**Who's Who
for Year 7
at AHS**



Mrs H Queralt
Deputy Headteacher
hqueralt@ahs.bucks.sch.uk



Mrs D Sheed
**Pastoral Support
Assistant for KS3**
dsheed@ahs.bucks.sch.uk



Mrs K Randall
First Aid Administrator
krandall@ahs.bucks.sch.uk



Mrs S McNally
Wellbeing Lead
smcnally@ahsbucks.sch.uk



Mrs Miranda Crafts
SENDCo
mcrafts@ahs.bucks.sch.uk



Mrs Y Ali
Learning Support Asst. PP & FSM
yali@ahs.bucks.sch.uk



Miss L Brunt
Wellbeing Assistant
lbrunt@ahs.bucks.sch.uk