



Aylesbury High School | #AHSWalksTall

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

16 September 2025

Dear Parents and Carers

I hope this letter finds you well, and that you, like us, are excited about the Academic Year 2025/26.

Last year, I wrote reluctantly to our AHS community to ask for help to address a significant shortfall in the funds available to deliver our ambitious curriculum, which is a result of increases in costs across all areas of school life and insufficient government funding. This continues to seriously hinder our ability to deliver our Vision and Mission for your daughters. Our situation, as a grammar school, is particularly tight because we do not receive the significant additional funding that other schools receive.

I was absolutely delighted and grateful to all parents and carers who responded, it was truly a credit to our community, and I would again like to thank those who were able to do so, no matter how small or large their contribution was. I will continue to write to all parents and carers individually also to thank them personally.

As I am sure you are aware, the funding situation has not eased, and actually become harder. Whilst the government made much noise about the funded pay-rise for staff, they did not fund the resultant National Insurance increase, and so we have actually had a further 1.3% reduction to our finances.

I am therefore writing again to ask you to continue or start to make a voluntary contribution of £15 a month per student towards the costs of materials used to deliver our curriculum. For example, contributions will be used towards sports and music equipment, enhanced texts across the curriculum and improved library provision (supporting our reading strategy), and enhanced provision of resources in Modern Foreign Languages.

We believe that the cost of these materials is, at a minimum, £180 per year per student, which equates to a contribution of £15/month. As this would be a voluntary contribution, it can be made tax efficiently so that it attracts Gift Aid worth 25% on contributions received from UK taxpayers. **This request is not to fund any capital projects, it is purely to continue to deliver the extensive and ambitious curriculum as would be expected in this Ofsted Outstanding School.**

Please note:

- There is **no** obligation to make any contribution, it is voluntary. It is important to note that no student will be excluded from an activity simply because their parents/carers are unable to pay.
- We continue to take all actions that we are able to address this shortfall in funding, for example, increasing class sizes in all Key Stages in a controlled and responsible way.
- We continue, with our colleagues in other Buckinghamshire schools, to present our situation and proposed solutions to the local MPs in Bucks and will continue to work with Laura Kyrke-Smith, our local MP, directly speaking to Whitehall.
- We have renegotiated all contracts and 'maxxed-out' our ability to generate income from lettings. An example of highly effective negotiation would be the addition of a food 'pod' for your daughters, to be installed in October half-term, to improve their catering experience at AHS.
- We have actively pursued grants, thus the refurbishment of the food tech room and a large part of the resurfacing of our sports courts. We currently have a grant application in process for more trees around the site, to create better shade for your daughters in the hot weather.

Finally, we are very open in all that we do. If any parent or carer would like to meet with our Chief Financial and Operations Officer to discuss this further, you would be most welcome. Please contact my PA Hilary Osgerby, at secretary@ahs.bucks.sch.uk who can facilitate this.

For any families who feel this request is too much, we would encourage you to consider a lesser amount and to reach out to us to access the support we are able to provide discreetly and confidentially through our [Financial Assistance Programme](#). I truly mean it when I say that we stand together as a community.

We are greatly appreciative of all donations from parents and carers, including the ongoing support from some families before this letter. We will continue to update all donors on how their gifts are being utilised on a termly basis.

Please visit our [Support Us](#) page to proceed with your donation.

Once again, our sincere thanks for your support.

With kindest regards



Marieke Forster
Headmistress