

# Aylesbury High School



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# Welcome

Dear Parents and Pupils

I am delighted that you are considering Aylesbury High School. We are a busy, ambitious and forward-thinking community where everyone is encouraged to get involved, to do their best and to enjoy themselves.

There is convincing evidence that girls achieve more in a single-sex environment but that is only one reason for choosing AHS. The experiences that every girl has during her time with us equip her for life in a demanding and fast-changing world, a world that she will play a key role in shaping.

We have a dedicated and extremely hard-working staff team ensuring that students gain excellent exam results at all levels, results that place us amongst the best schools in the county and the country. Ofsted have always commented on our students' outstanding personal development, the excellent Sixth Form and the rich and stimulating curriculum.

The impressive range of subjects offered (around 25-30 subjects at both GCSE and A level) means that particular aptitudes can be accommodated and students are properly equipped to move on to university and life after secondary school.

However, I am convinced that there is much more to school than exam results. Our students play an active part in the local, national and international communities, and they all have the chance to lead, motivate and care for others. Our students have been to a dozen countries on three continents in the past couple of years, on study visits, language exchanges and expeditions, and our thriving links with schools in Europe, Africa and Asia enrich all of our lives.

Whether a student wants to develop her interest and talent in sport, the creative and performing arts or elsewhere, she will find a wide range of opportunities available and excellent facilities.

I am proud of our students, who are the best possible advertisement for the school. This prospectus and our website at [www.ahs.bucks.sch.uk](http://www.ahs.bucks.sch.uk) can only give you a glimpse of life at Aylesbury High School so I warmly invite you to meet our staff and students either at one of our Open Evenings or during a normal school day.

We have an exciting future ahead of us; I do hope you can be part of it.

*Alan Rosen*

Alan Rosen BSc MEd PGCE NPQH  
Headteacher

'Aylesbury High is an outstanding school'  
Ofsted

# Enjoy and Achieve

Choosing the right secondary school is vital; it is an important decision with life-long consequences. AHS offers all the ingredients necessary for success.

We are totally committed to developing the whole person, inside and outside the classroom. The range of experiences and opportunities available is second to none, and our students achieve so well in public examinations because they enjoy and can flourish at school.

The main focus of the school is, of course, the quality of teaching and learning so it is always a high priority each year. We involve students in reviewing our work and greatly value their feedback and insights.

Each student is an individual and has the chance to pursue her interests and talents in an unusually wide choice of subjects, while keeping real breadth and balance in her studies. Not everyone is good at everything, but that's OK!

'My daughters have been so happy here. I know it was the right school for them'

Parent



# Join us and Settle in

Starting secondary school is a big step and we do all that we can to aid the transition process. We aim to visit every Year 6 student in the summer term before she starts at AHS in September. The induction programme commences in July when students spend two days here; they meet teachers and their tutor group, and consequently feel confident about starting in September.

A significant number of students also join the school in Year 12 and they too are encouraged to visit and meet us. After completing their GCSEs, they attend an induction day in the summer where the focus is on meeting fellow students, team building and making the first step to becoming a member of our Sixth Form. Students joining other year groups are also encouraged to visit prior to taking up a place and their Head of Year ensures that they have a structured start.

A strong system of support exists for students at all times; each student is a member of a tutor group and is looked after by a Form Tutor who takes a special interest in her progress and welfare. A Head of Year oversees each year group. Student Ambassadors, a peer support system, is run by specially trained students for students and we also have the services of a student welfare co-ordinator.

We consider parental involvement to be of vital importance. We keep in close touch with parents through our home-school e-mail system, newsletters from the Headteacher, our website, annual written subject reports, regular checks on progress and through the student planner. Equally, parents are encouraged to keep in touch with us and are welcome in school at any time. Parents are also invited to support the work of the school by joining the very active parents' association.

'Students are courteous, thoughtful and their behaviour is mature'

Ofsted



'Students are very happy and feel completely safe at school'  
Ofsted





'The ethos of respect between teachers and students results in lessons in which students collaborate productively and learn well'

'Teachers have strong subject knowledge, are enthusiastic and use a wide range of teaching and learning styles'

Ofsted

## Learn Together



'What a fantastic environment for my daughter to learn in'

Parent

'Students enjoy learning and contribute greatly to the success of lesson'

Ofsted



At Aylesbury High School we expect students to work hard and be committed to learning; our students enjoy coming to school. Standards of behaviour are exemplary in lessons, outside the classroom and on school trips.

Our teachers have high quality training to keep them at the forefront of educational knowledge and practice. Using their specialist subject knowledge and experience in the classroom, teachers encourage students to question and develop independent thinking and learning skills. Older students play an important role in educating younger students both here and in our many partner schools. This ranges from student-led assemblies to leading language and sports-based activities with local primary school children.

We treat our students with respect and they respond positively to this approach. As a result, a very constructive working relationship exists between students and staff.



# Create and Perform



The creativity, commitment and talent shown by our students is a constant delight. In sport, they regularly compete at regional and national levels; in the performing arts (Dance, Drama and Music), our outstanding productions and performances are always worth watching.

All visitors to the school comment on our superb facilities including:

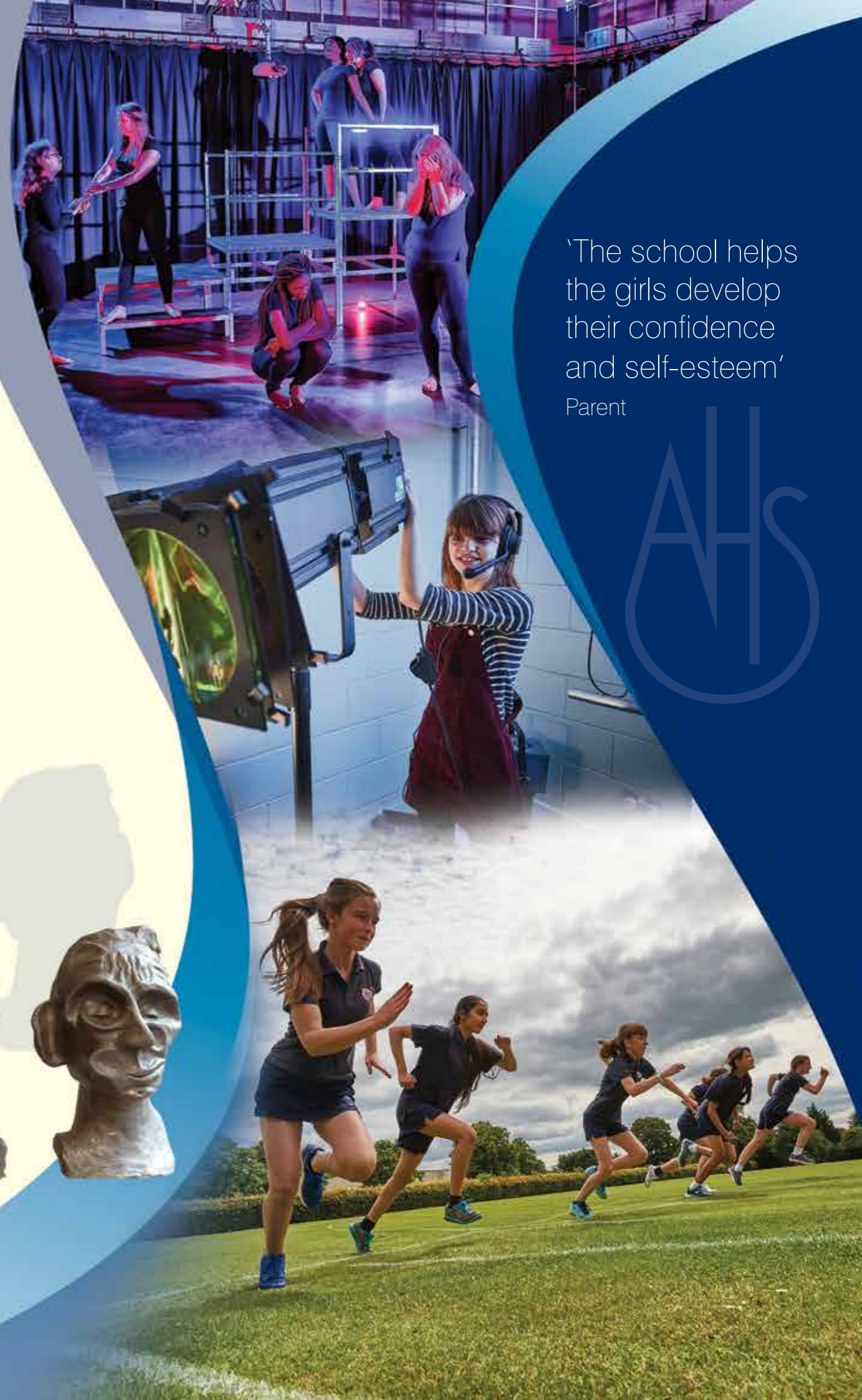
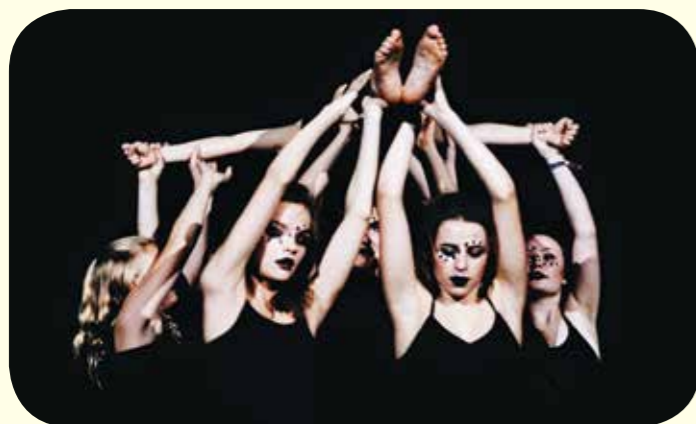
- Appropriately equipped specialist teaching rooms and modernised science labs
- Eight computer suites and the innovative use of ICT across the curriculum
- A specialist drama studio
- Music tuition facilities
- A full-sized Sports Hall, gymnasium, floodlit tennis and netball courts, athletics track and hockey pitches
- A dedicated language suite with two state-of-the art computer rooms and support from foreign language assistants who conduct conversation lessons
- A library run by a full time librarian and dedicated Sixth Form study space
- Attractive green open spaces and pleasant courtyards with trees and seating

The school has very successful associations with a number of local organisations including the highly acclaimed Aylesbury Music Centre (located on our site), The Vale Federation of Special Schools and Aylesbury Youth Action.

We are designated as the Teaching School for Aylesbury Vale, which means that we will co-ordinate initial teaching training and support schools in the local area.

Although we are committed to girls' education, there are plenty of opportunities for students to work and socialise with boys. Being adjacent to the boys' grammar school, there are a number of joint initiatives including some shared courses in the Sixth Form, joint visits/exchanges to France, Germany, Spain and Italy, concerts and theatrical productions, and other social occasions - the highlight of which is the Year 13 Leavers' Ball.

'The range of things you can do here is brilliant - there are so many opportunities'  
Student



'The school helps the girls develop their confidence and self-esteem'  
Parent



# Learn to Lead and Experience the World

By the time a student leaves AHS, she will have the necessary qualifications and be able to face future challenges with confidence and ambition.

As soon as a student enters the school, we encourage her to participate in activities and to take on the leadership of some of them.

Typically, she will take part in assemblies and performances, provide entertainment for her peers, parents and members of the local community, take part in charity fund-raising events, get involved in school clubs, House activities and community activities, achieve a Duke of Edinburgh Award, go on a visit in this country, take part in a trip abroad and be able to compare life in this country with a wide range of other countries within Europe and beyond.

An undoubted highlight is the Year 8 residential week where students have the opportunity to really put themselves to the test and develop both personally and as a member of a team.

The very popular House system offers great opportunities for students to participate and lead on the sports field, on the stage, as an artist, or as a cook, to name but a few. We always welcome suggestions for new events from our students.

'Students are very well prepared for their future lives and the social and moral issues they will face'

Ofsted

