

# Aylesford School

## and Sixth Form College



wonder aspiration respect discipline

## Welcome to Aylesford!

We aim to jump, leap and stride to greater and better things – all the time. We believe in turning potential into reality, in chasing dreams and reaching for the stars! If you believe in the power of teaching and the influence it can have on young lives then we are interested in hearing from you. Our values underpin our determination to create a positive learning environment. See our website for more on our *raison d'être*.

## Location

Warwick is a town of international reputation, famous for its Castle and historic connections. The School itself is on the attractive southwest side, adjacent to the green belt and within easy reach of Leamington Spa, Coventry and Stratford-upon-Avon. Junction 15 of the M40 is less than a mile away and the School is clearly visible on the left on the approach to the town.

## History

The School's origins go back to the late nineteenth century. It was moved from Leamington Spa to its present site in 1964 as a response to overcrowding and the need for modernising. It opened as a School for 400, mainly Warwick students. In time it became a six-form entry Comprehensive School, attracting students from a wider area. A large prestigious housing development near the School will increase the current roll of approximately 850 to 1,000+. We became an academy on 1<sup>st</sup> January 2012 as a result of our desire to become more independent and free to control our own destiny. The school, its staff and governors have been supportive and positive in moving to this new status.

From September 2015 we have incorporated a new Primary School into our facilities and now operate as a 4-18 Academy. This is an exciting development as our third cohort of reception age children joined us in September 2017.

## Accommodation

Subjects are housed in curriculum areas where the clustering of classrooms ensures a team approach and helps a supportive ethos. We are constantly updating facilities and upgrading accommodation to ensure the best that we can for both students and teachers. The school is kept clean and tidy classrooms are well resourced through ICT; the site is a pleasant and attractive place to work.

## School Organisation

There are approximately 950 students on roll, including a Sixth Form of around 100. The teaching staff numbers 60 FTE. The Headteacher is aided by a Deputy Headteacher, an Assistant Headteacher and four Directors, who together form the Senior Leadership Team. The teaching

staff play an active and important part in decision-making processes within the School, largely through, Middle Leaders Networks and staff meetings. Aylesford is open, honest and transparent in organisation, structure, ethos and culture.

## Curriculum

Teaching and learning in the first three years is based on a banding system, with two mixed ability in the majority of subjects. Groups are based largely on ability in English, Maths & Science in Years 7,8 and 9. Foundation subjects are taught within the mixed ability bands. The curriculum at Key Stage 3 comprises:

### Core

English	Art
Mathematics	Music
Science	Drama
Religious Education	Computer Science
Citizenship	French
PE	Spanish
History	Design and Technology – Systems and Control
Geography	Textiles Technology
	Food Technology
	Graphics
	Resistant Materials

During Year 9, there is an extensive programme in which parents also play an important part to assist students in making informed subject choices at 14+. There is a wide 'Core' programme and a limited range of choice within the options system. The curriculum ensures that both breadth and balance are maintained for all until the end of Key Stage 4. The 'Core' subjects are as follows:

English Language and Literature  
Mathematics  
Science, Separate Sciences or Double Award  
Physical Education  
Religious Education  
Personal, Social and Health Education

Students are then able to select four more subjects from the following:

History	Geography
Economics	Computer Science
French	Art
Spanish	Physical Education BTEC
Music/Music Technology	Child Development
Graphics	Food Technology
Product Design	Drama
Business BTEC	Media BTEC

In Years 10 and 11, students follow examination courses, mostly leading to GCSE. The Sixth Form generally points towards GCE 'A' Level and VCE Advanced courses (Business and PE).

The curriculum is delivered by subject departments. School self-evaluation is a valued framework for all aspects of our work and includes a full Performance Management programme, work trawls, line management support and development planning.

# PSYCHOLOGY

**Qualification:** A-Level

(2 years)

**Exam Board:** AQA

## About the course

As a psychology student you will have the opportunity to:

- Develop knowledge and understanding of concepts, theories and studies in relation to human behaviour.
- To develop skills of analysis, evaluation and application in relation to research studies and experiments.
- Develop knowledge and understanding of ethical issues associated within the areas of Psychology
- Undertake practical research activities involving collection, analysis and interpretation of qualitative and quantitative data.
- Consider “How Science works” in the study of Psychology.

Modules Studied include:

Social Influence; Memory; Attachment; Approaches in Psychology; Psychopathy and Research methods; Biopsychology; Issues and debates in Psychology and three optional modules covering specific aspects of modern psychological thinking and practice.

## Assessment

At A-Level students are required to sit three 2 hour multi module exams covering the content of all 9 modules and practical skills learned.

## Entry Requirements

A minimum of 5 GCSEs at Grade 4, mathematical and scientific skills are also required.

## Higher Education and Careers

Psychology is classed as a Science A-level and allows for many opportunities in higher education and beyond.

Careers using Psychology include:

Educational, Criminal, Sports and Clinical Psychologists.

The transferable skills developed through the study of psychology such as problem solving, communication, numeracy, knowledge of statistic and a good insight in to human behaviour are all highly valued by both employers and universities

## Additional Information

The course is taught by Mrs Lang. Students will be expected to research Psychology beyond the main text book, carry out their own research and complete questions showing good knowledge of key psychology terminology and theories.

Teaching styles on the course vary from independent work to class discussion; from carrying out your own research topics to present in small groups

This course combines well with many subjects, particularly Chemistry, Biology, Sociology and Law/Politics

## **CPD**

The School is committed to the on-going development of its staff. There is a weekly CPD Programme, currently on Monday twilight that keeps staff up to date on key issues and asks them to explore developments in some depth. We consider active involvement in the teaching and learning process to be the best form of training and support teachers in their role. The staff are the most important resource of any school and we seek to promote an atmosphere that allows them to do their job well.

## **Rewarding Achievements**

The individual efforts of students are recognised. Years 7 and 8 take part in the Gold Run – a system of awarding House Points, which students collect until they receive Bronze, Silver, Gold and Platinum Certificates. In Year 9 and Year 10 Awards take place and recently we have introduced the 'ACE' Award for students in Year 11. Awards are also presented for sporting achievements. In November each year there is a formal Awards Evening, which recognises academic excellence and students' contributions in the community. The school is run so that the rewards system feeds into Houses; Stoneleigh, Ragley and Charlecote. All competitions, events and points contribute to a house total and an annual winner.

## **Business and Industry Links**

Aylesford School has developed excellent links with local employers. Members of the local industrial and business community are often in School to provide their advice and expertise. Projects include:

Annual Day events focusing on History (Year 7) Citizenship (Year 9) International Day (Year 8)  
Year 11 Mock Interviews  
Year 10 Careers talks/Enterprise Days  
Work Experience for Year 12 on request (including Foreign WEX placements)  
Sixth Form Industrial Conferences and UCAS preparation  
Teacher Placements

## **Extra-Curricular activities/visits**

The School offers a full range of extra-curricular activities, including:

Sport	Music
Drama	Continental trips and visits
Skiing	Army courses
Activity Weekends	Theatre visits
Young Enterprise	Duke of Edinburgh Award
School Council	

Educational visits are a regular feature of the work in the majority of subjects and we place great value on residential visits that broaden horizons and help create an independent spirit!

## **Pastoral Care**

There is no strict academic/pastoral divide. Heads of Student Progress have the responsibility for day-to-day management in social and educational matters including pupil progress. Tutor groups are of mixed ability and a Personal, Social and Health Education programme is taught in all year groups.

## School Council

The School Council consists of representatives from each Year. It regularly discusses all aspects of School life, it makes recommendations, and its views are often taken into account before decisions are made.

## Aylesford Fund Raisers

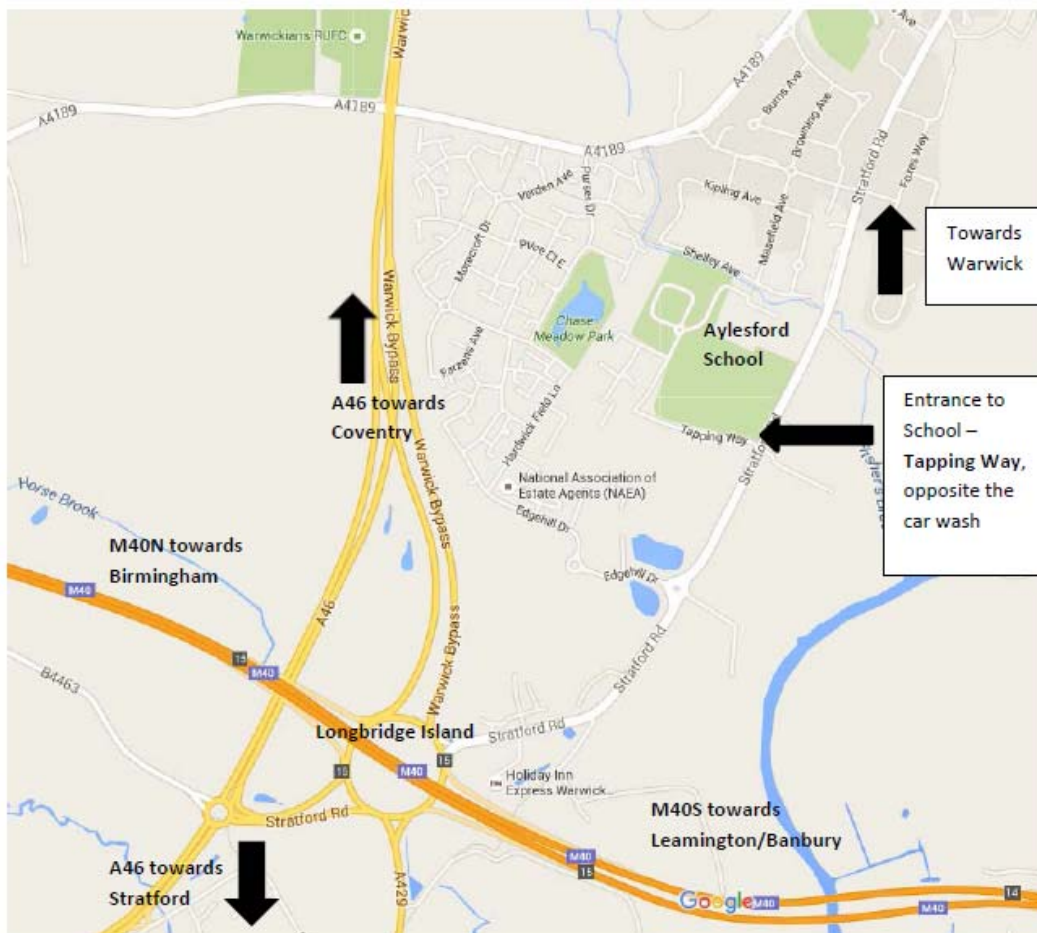
There is a long-established and active fund raising committee which supports a number of School activities and which raises substantial sums of money for the School. Almost £5000 is raised each year by the combined efforts of students, parents and staff and the money raised is ploughed back into additional resources for the benefit of the students.

## The Future

Aylesford is a thriving, energetic place to teach and learn. On the basis of demographic changes and planned housing development, the future of Aylesford School is assured. We look forward with excitement to the continuous challenges that will arise in the years ahead.

## Aylesford School location:

Aylesford School & Sixth Form College, Tapping Way, Warwick, CV34 6XR



To find out more about our school visit [www.aylesfordschool.org.uk](http://www.aylesfordschool.org.uk)