

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 has increased numbers on roll from approximately 850 to 1,000+. We became an academy on 1st 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 Phase into our facilities and now operate as a 4-19 Academy. This is an exciting development as our fifth cohort of reception age children joined us in September 2019.



School Organisation

There are approximately 1060 students on roll, including a Sixth Form of around 90. The teaching staff numbers 65 FTE. The Headteacher is aided by a Deputy Headteacher, an Assistant Headteacher and five 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

The Primary Phase adopts a 'thematic' approach to teaching and learning, allowing for a broad and balanced curriculum. Class teachers plan termly units, demonstrating clear progression and opportunities to apply knowledge, skills and understanding across subjects.

In the Secondary Phase, 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
Mathematics
Science
Religious Education
Citizenship
PE
History
Geography

Art
Music
Drama
Information Technology
French
Spanish
Design and Technology – Product Design
Textiles Technology
Food Technology
Graphics



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
Photography	IT BTEC
French	Art
Spanish	Physical Education BTEC & GCSE
Music/Music Technology	Child Development
Graphics	Food Technology
Product Design	Drama
Business BTEC	Media
Textiles	Electronics

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). We also offer the EPQ award to Sixth Form Students.

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.

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.

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. Primary students receive visual rewards such as stickers, badges and housepoints. Postcards are sent home to those who have embraced the school values and/or produced outstanding work. In addition to this, class teachers select a student from their class each week to present a piece of work in Friday's Celebration Assembly. Parents are invited to attend these and students are presented with a Headteacher's Award Certificate.

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)

Extra-Curricular activities/visits

The School offers a full range of extra-curricular activities.

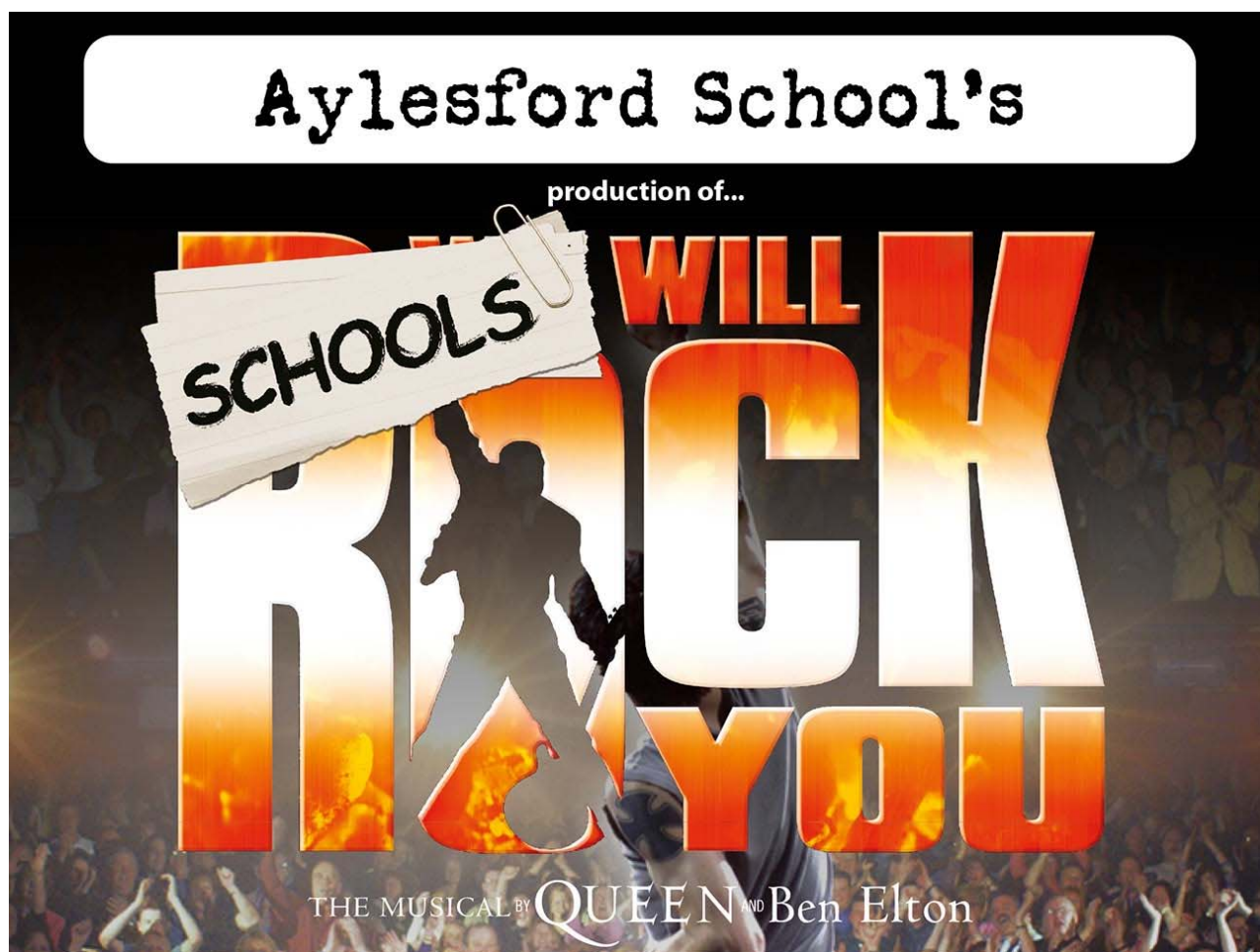
In the Primary Phase:

Sport	Music
Football	Drama
Multi-sports	Theatre visits
Dance	Eco-Club
School Council	School trips

In the Secondary Phase:

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. In the Primary Phase, The Director of Primary Education and Class Teachers have the responsibility for day-to-day management in social and educational matters including pupil progress. In the Secondary Phase, Heads of Student Progress hold this responsibility. Classes/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.



Studying Drama at Aylesford School

Key Stage 3

Drama is taught discretely throughout Key Stage 3. We encourage performance skills that build and foster personal confidence and the ability to speak clearly and articulate well in public speaking. The school runs on a two week timetable and all students have two one hour lessons per fortnight. Currently there are six groups in each year 7-9 meaning that there are 36 lessons devoted exclusively to drama in Key Stage 3 per timetabled fortnight. Schemes of work are written but it is expected that the successful candidate will review these and develop as they see fit. It is desirable that Key Stage 3 students have the opportunity to take part in a devised piece/play out of school hours as there are only small numbers that make the cast list for the annual school production mentioned below.

GCSE Drama

The course is currently with Eduqas and is comprised of three units:-

UNIT 1 – Devising theatre (40%)

- Internally assessed, externally moderated
- Students participate in the creation, development and performance of a piece of devised theatre. Students will produce:-
- a realisation of their piece of devised theatre - a portfolio of supporting evidence - an evaluation of the final performance

UNIT 2 – Performing from a text (20%)

- Externally assessed by a visiting examiner
- Students study two extracts from the same text and participate in one performance using sections of text from both extracts.
- Students must submit a brief account of 150 words outlining their artistic intentions – this is not assessed but is necessary to assist the examiner.

UNIT 3 – Interpreting theatre (40%) Written exam: 1hr 30mins

- Section A: a series of questions on a set text.
- Section B: one question, from a choice of two, requiring analysis and evaluation of a live theatre production.
- There are no specific requirements for the course but Unit 3 will require students to attend a live performance which will be arranged by the department.

A-Level

Drama and Theatre Studies Qualification: Exam Board: Edexcel

The course aims to broaden knowledge of theatre genres and theatre history. Students gain a greater understanding of how theatre and plays work and how to 'realise' a text from a directing point of view. Students are required to write about drama and to develop powers of analysis to become an informed critic. The course involves taking part in drama productions as well as studying plays and playwrights.

Component 1 - Devising Theatre

Component 2 - Text in Performance

Component 3 - Theatre makers in progress (written exam)

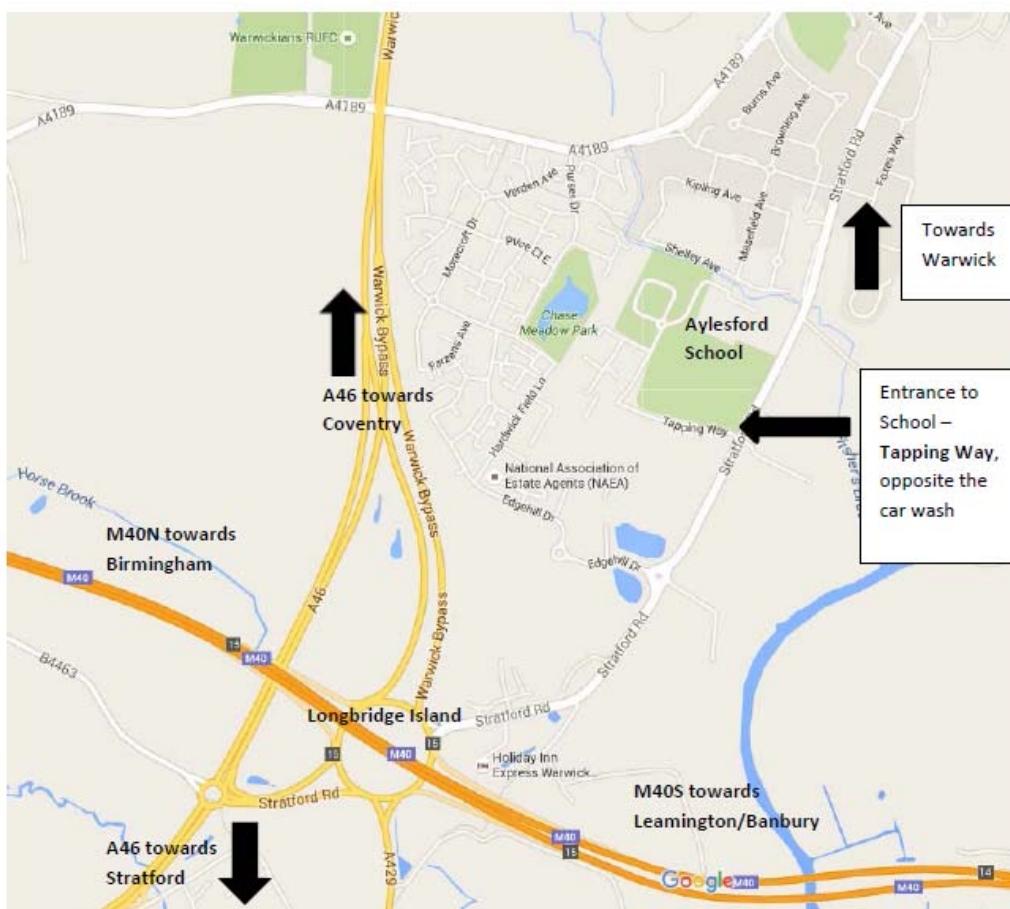
Students participate in a number of workshops and are continuously teacher assessed. Methods of assessment (exams, coursework) Component 2/3 (exam) are internally examined. Component 1 is internally examined and externally moderated. There is no written exam in year 1 of the course.

Extra-curricular

In addition to leading the Drama curriculum the successful candidate will need to direct and produce the important annual school production and ensure all the arrangements from production choice, venue, casting, back stage crew, rehearsal schedule, props, ticket sales and all other things required for a successful musical/play to happen.

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