

AYLESBURY GRAMMAR SCHOOL



Founded in 1598

SIXTH FORM PROSPECTUS 2019-2021



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SIXTH FORM PROSPECTUS 2019 - 2021



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WELCOME FROM THE HEADMASTER



Aylesbury Grammar School is an outstanding school with a reputation for achievement and learning. Our vision is to provide an exceptional education for our students, rich in opportunities within an inspiring and supportive environment, developing the character of our young men in preparation for their future.

We want our students to be challenged to achieve their very best, to flourish in all they do and to share a positive outlook with others. We pride ourselves on the wealth of learning experiences available allowing each individual to develop into an exceptional yet unique young man.

The school has a long history that is celebrated in all aspects of school life, none more so than in our house system which engenders a healthy level of competition. The enjoyment of learning

is enhanced by an exceptional range of curricular and extra-curricular opportunities which inspire our students to participate in school life. Every individual is respected and encouraged to thrive in all that he does, happy in who he is and with the humility to share in others' success.

Our modern world brings many challenges and opportunities for our students and we aim to nurture their habits of learning so that they leave the school fully prepared to embark on their journey to become the leaders of tomorrow. Our students are, for many years to come, most fond of their school with many returning to celebrate and attend the growing number of Old Aylesburian events.

We hope this prospectus will give you a sense of what it means to learn as part of the Sixth Form at Aylesbury Grammar School and invite you to join us in our aim to 'Respect & Aspire'.

Mark Sturgeon, Headmaster

GENERAL INFORMATION FOR SIXTH FORM ENTRANTS

INTRODUCTION

We are very pleased to welcome applications from any student who wishes to continue his studies beyond GCSE at AGS. In past years, both students from AGS and a number of students transferring from local secondary and independent schools to our Sixth Form, have benefited from the range of opportunities available at the school.

You now have some important decisions facing you about next year:

1. Whether to apply to enter the Sixth Form at AGS.
2. What subjects to choose for your Sixth Form course?

This prospectus and the accompanying options booklet are designed to help you make these decisions but remember that there are other resources available as well: The careers advisers, your current tutor and subject teachers, your Head of Year, and your parents. Talk to as many people as you can as it will help you clarify your thoughts.

Qualifications are becoming more and more important today and there are real difficulties facing young people who leave school without them. We are sure that studying for two years in the AGS Sixth Form is the most effective way of advancing to Higher Education and of obtaining suitable and satisfying employment.

In the Sixth Form, students have the opportunity to further their studies in subjects which interest them. While you will inevitably see your course as a means of gaining qualifications, you will also have some non-teaching or, self-directed, time in which to pursue other interests and responsibilities, as well as carrying out further independent study in your chosen subjects.

In addition to choosing your A level courses of study, you are likely to want to engage in one or more of the enrichment opportunities offered at the school. These will help to broaden your outlook and understanding of life as well as helping you to build a comprehensive and meaningful CV.

There will be opportunities for you to assume positions of responsibility and leadership within the school and to participate in and organise school functions.

One very important point to realise is that our Sixth Form does not exist solely for those who are academically very able. Sixth Form life enables everyone to develop their abilities in an individual way, and to get as far as they can in the search for qualifications and a successful future.

SIXTH FORM AIMS AND OBJECTIVES

The aims and objectives of the Sixth Form are designed to prepare our students for the increased expectations of universities and employers. As well as good A level grades, students are expected to build a comprehensive CV including work shadowing, numeracy, literacy and ICT skills as well as developing high levels of self-esteem and confidence, and the ability to set and meet personal targets.

Support and guidance will be given to the individual student who is expected to take responsibility for developing the range of experiences and skills he will need for both Higher Education and employment. It is hoped that by the end of his Sixth Form career, every student will:

- have achieved their academic potential
- be better informed about career pathways and prospects
- have made decisions on the future and achieved an appropriate place in Higher Education or employment
- have developed qualities of leadership, team-membership and independent living
- have developed a range of recreational and cultural interests
- have played an active and positive role in the school community and in the wider community
- have developed core skills in communication, independent learning, problem solving, working with others and ICT.

SIXTH FORM FACILITIES



Our Sixth Form students are fortunate to have access to excellent facilities for independent or collaborative learning. The Sixth Form Centre comprises the Common Room, the Learning Centre and a smaller Sixth Form Study Room. These provide three distinct areas where all Sixth Form students can meet and learn. The Common Room is a social meeting area, whilst the Learning Centre and Study Room are for purposeful learning. Dependent on availability, Sixth Form students may also use the Library or IT rooms for studying.

The Common Room has its own canteen which is open during the morning. It is possible to buy a wide variety of healthy snacks and drinks at reasonable prices. Many Sixth Formers choose to have their lunch there rather than go across to the Dining Hall.

The Professor William Mead Library aims to provide a pleasant environment for study, research and recreational reading. The resources available – books, periodicals, DVDs, and newspapers – reflect and support the school curriculum. Providing an additional venue for private study and an area for information dissemination, the Library is an essential part of Sixth Form school life.



SIXTH FORM STUDY AND SELF-DIRECTED TIME (SDT)

All students in the Sixth Form will have some private study, or 'Self Directed Time' periods on their timetable. If a student is to make the most of his opportunities in the Sixth Form, he must learn to use the SDT periods effectively. Where a student studies three full A levels only, some of the SDT will be supervised by a member of staff.

Study is a very individual activity and there is no one method suitable for all individuals and all subjects. You will find that the questions you are tackling are less straightforward. The approach will be more open-ended with fewer answers that are cut and dried. Adapting to this new approach will be a sign of intellectual maturity.

The pattern of learning will also be different. Your individual learning will arise naturally from classroom study and you will be given more discretion about how you organise your time in order to meet the demands of teachers to hand in your learning tasks regularly.

Learning in SDT is not a substitute for learning at home. To help ensure success, a Sixth Form student must be prepared to spend at least 15 hours a week (excluding the normal school day) on school learning/extra study.

Independent learning will involve reviewing classroom learning, working through self-study units, completion of home learning tasks in order to consolidate understanding and reading beyond the curriculum. Such activities will be invaluable in developing a greater knowledge, understanding and appreciation of your chosen subjects and will support the later preparation for examinations.

SIXTH FORM UNIFORM

The same school uniform rules apply as to the rest of the school - the only exception being that Sixth Form students may wear plain shirts (no patterns/logos) and V-neck jumpers, cardigans or waistcoats in single colours.

SIXTH FORM CURRICULUM

At the heart of all students' Sixth Form curriculum is their A level studies. In addition, we offer a range of other opportunities including further academic research or study, sport, involvement in the local community etc. We recommend that students involve themselves in a range of activities which support their interests and aspirations in order for them to get all they can from life in the AGS Sixth Form.

THE LECTURE PROGRAMME

A lecture series has been running successfully over recent year for both Year 12 and 13 students. We have a range of speakers covering a variety of topics including health, economic, effective study habits, general interest etc. In addition, Year 12 will attend relevant lectures in a series of subject specific talks.

A LEVELS AND OTHER OPTIONS

The following subjects in List A are available for study at A level in the Sixth Form at AGS. List B contains additional options. List C contains the enrichment opportunities available. Students should carefully and clearly indicate which of these they would like to participate in, though these will not be finalised until next September.

To provide maximum flexibility we ask students to indicate their preferences in order of priority and also to provide two reserve options in order of preference. Once we have the information from students we will construct our blocks. In this way we hope to cater for most subject choices but we do need to emphasise that it is unlikely that all combinations will be possible for all students. We will try to accommodate your choices **but we cannot guarantee to do so**. With students studying four subjects at A level, there is bound to be some restriction on subject combinations. In some cases, it may be possible to adjust choices after the GCSE results, though **this cannot be guaranteed** as some subjects may be full by this time.

LIST A: MAIN A LEVELS

Ancient History
Art and Design
Biology
Business Studies
Chemistry
Computer Science
Design and Technology
Economics
English Literature
English Language and Literature
French
Geography
German
History
Latin
Maths
Further Maths
Music
Physical Education
Physics
Politics
Psychology
Spanish
Drama and Theatre Studies

LIST B: ADDITIONAL COURSES

The Extended Project Qualification (EPQ)
Geology AS level
Mathematics AS level
Philosophy, Ethics and Theology (RS) AS level

LIST C: ENRICHMENT

Sixth Form Games
Sports' Leaders Award
Engineering Education Scheme
Young Enterprise
Community Involvement
Work Shadowing

Full details of all the options above (main A levels, additional courses and enrichment opportunities) can be found in the Sixth Form Options Booklet which can be found on the school website under admissions, Year 12.

CRITERIA FOR ENTRY INTO THE SIXTH FORM

Our minimum requirement is **44 points from your best eight full GCSEs** and is the same for internal and external students. This is where a grade 9 = 9 points, a grade 8 = 8 points etc.

Additionally, students should gain a 5 or above in English Language and Mathematics.

Exceptional cases (e.g. candidates without GCSEs because they have been educated abroad, or because they were ill) will be considered individually by a panel drawn from the senior leadership team of the school and chaired by the Headmaster.

In addition, there are minimum requirements to be able to take a subject at A level detailed below.

List A Subjects (Full A levels)	
Subject	Requirements to study the course
Ancient History	Grade 6 in English Language or Literature GCSE (there is no classical language requirement)
Art & Design	Grade 6 in Art GCSE
Biology	Grade 7 in Biology GCSE or Science & Additional Science (or a grade 6 with a strong teacher recommendation)
Business	Grade 6 in Business GCSE or Grade 6 in Maths GCSE and English Language or Literature GCSE
Chemistry	Grade 7 in Chemistry GCSE or Science & Additional Science (or a grade 6 with a strong teacher recommendation)
Computer Science	Grade 6 in Computing GCSE or Grade 6 in ICT GCSE
Design & Technology	Grade 6 in DT GCSE
Economics	Grade 6 in Economics GCSE or Grade 6 in Maths GCSE and English Language or Literature GCSE
English Literature	Grade 6 in English Literature GCSE
English Language & Literature	Grade 6 in English Language or English Literature GCSE
French	Grade 6 in French GCSE
Geography	Grade 6 in Geography GCSE
German	Grade 6 in German GCSE
History	Grade 6 in History GCSE
Latin	Grade 6 in Latin GCSE
Mathematics	Grade 7 in Maths GCSE (or a grade 6 with a strong teacher recommendation)
Further Mathematics	Grade 8 in Maths GCSE
Music	Grade 6 in Music GCSE
Physical Education	Grade 6 in Biology GCSE and grade 6 in PE GCSE if studied One sport practised at a high level
Physics	Grade 7 in Physics GCSE or Science & Additional Science (or a grade 6 with a strong teacher recommendation)
Politics	Grade 6 in History GCSE, or English Language or Literature GCSE
Psychology	Grade 6 in Biology, Maths and English Language or Literature
Spanish	Grade 6 in Spanish GCSE
Drama and Theatre Studies	Grade 6 in Drama GCSE
List B Subjects	
EPQ	A total of 50 points from your best 8 GCSE grades
AS Geology	Grade 6 in Geology or a grade 6 in either Geography or Chemistry
AS Mathematics	Grade 6 in Maths GCSE
AS RS	Grade 6 in RS or Grade 6 in English Language

CHOOSING AN A LEVEL COURSE

Students in the Sixth Form study three or four A level courses from List A. For some opting for three A levels from list A, it may be beneficial to study a further subject from List B. The point score from a student’s best eight GCSEs is used as a guide to ensure that students follow the most appropriate courses for them.

Route A	Route B	Route C
<p>Students who attain from 44 points (equivalent to eight B grades) to 50 points from their best eight GCSEs</p>	<p>Students who attain from 50 points (equivalent to four A grades and four B grades) to 59 points from their best eight GCSEs</p>	<p>Student who attain at least 59 points (approximately equivalent to three A* grades and five A grades) from their best eight GCSEs</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Three A Levels from list A • Additional supervised self-directed study time • Additional enrichment activities 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Three A Levels from list A • One course from list B* • Additional enrichment activities 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Four A Levels from list A • Additional enrichment activities
<p>This is in line with what many students would undertake nationally</p>	<p>* or four from list A including Maths and Further Maths for very able mathematicians</p>	<p>In addition, it may be possible to take up the EPQ at the end of Year 12</p>

In Year 13 it is anticipated that the majority of students will continue with all courses undertaken at the start of Year 12 but it is recognised that students may benefit from dropping a subject. This can only be agreed through discussion with the Head of Year 13. Throughout their time in the AGS Sixth Form the minimum course of study for all students is three full A levels taken from List A, except in exceptional circumstances and with the bagreement of the Head of Sixth Form.

Each academic subject will be allocated eight periods per fortnight in both Years 12 and 13, unless numbers in a subject are very small in which case they may have fewer periods. Students of Further Maths will have more timetabled Maths lessons and will not be able to take a list B subject.

When choosing subjects the following factors should be taken into consideration:

- a) The degree of interest you have in a subject. This is very important if you are going to spend two years studying the subject in depth.
- b) How competent you are in the subject. You should know whether you will like a subject involving a great deal of reading or writing or one based more around problem solving.
- c) Whether the subjects you choose combine together as a coherent group of studies. (For the fourth A level, you may choose a contrasting subject to give you greater breadth).

- d) Whether the subjects meet any requirement needed for a career or university course that you have in mind. You should do some research about possible university courses or employment before you make your choices.

FURTHER OPPORTUNITIES

EXTRA-CURRICULAR ACTIVITIES



We offer a wide range of opportunities including a full programme of sport (teams in all major sports which participate in local, county and national competitions), music (there are a range of groups of a variety of genres) and drama (including the annual play or musical which is jointly run with Aylesbury High School).

Sixth Formers play a leading role in debating, sports leadership and subject related clubs and activities. There are also opportunities for those aiming for careers in medicine, engineering, business etc, all of which are helpful in supporting students' UCAS applications.



STUDENT LEADERSHIP

A number of senior students are selected to be Prefects, Senior Prefects, Heads of House or Mentors. These students play a key role in assisting with the organisation of the school and supporting younger students. Sixth Form students take a leading role in the organisation of House Competitions and the Heads boys of both School and House and their deputies are actively involved in assemblies, helping to run the Influential Student Executive body and many other areas of school life. A number of Sixth Form students are involved in subject mentoring or trained to help support younger students on a more pastoral level.

EDUCATIONAL VISITS

There are a large number of trips and visits for Sixth Formers, sometimes to support specific elements of the curriculum or to encourage wider social, cultural and sporting interests. In addition to trips to various parts of the UK, we have run expeditions to Ireland, Washington, Iceland, Java and Malawi and educational visits to European destinations are a regular feature of the school calendar. We also run senior sports tours for a range of sports including rugby, football, cricket and squash.



ADVICE AND SUPPORT

PASTORAL CARE AND THE HOUSE SYSTEM

The Sixth Form at AGS is very large (approximately 400 students) but, despite its size, no one should feel lost in a crowd due to our effective system of pastoral care. Each student will be a member of a Tutor Group and belong to one of six Houses with a Head of House. There are also Heads of Year 12 and Year 13 and a Head of Sixth Form. You will be encouraged to participate in the many House competitions and Sixth Formers are expected to take a lead in organising House assemblies and activities.

HIGHER EDUCATION AND CAREERS ADVICE

In an average year, approximately 90% of our Year 13 students will go to universities and other institutions to study for degrees or diplomas. While we encourage this route, which has obvious advantages for most of our students' intellectual and personal development, we recognise that it may not be the best path for everybody. However, we do our best to urge all students to think seriously and realistically about their lives when they have left school.

Students choosing their A level subjects are given general careers advice and are informed of how that choice may affect their prospects for Higher Education and employment. Throughout Year 12, a course of talks and discussions by the Higher Education Leader and visiting speakers explains the different types of Higher and Further Education and the institutions in which they take place. At certain times it may also be possible for individuals to visit local firms and companies and to attend specially organised careers

evenings or conventions. A Higher Education information evening is also held to provide parents with more information.

During the Christmas term of Year 12, the teaching staff are asked to recommend potential Oxford and Cambridge candidates. Students may also wish to nominate themselves based on GCSE results.

Each candidate for university is allocated to a personal adviser, usually his Head of House, who will assist him in completing a UCAS application as well as providing a reference. Candidates for colleges or alternative destinations are also encouraged to discuss their choices with their teachers, members of the Higher Education team and the Sixth Form team. Advice is also available on the vital question of which offers should be accepted or declined. If requested, Heads of House, Heads of Year and Head of Section would also write references for students going directly to employment.

When A Level results are published, in August, senior members of staff are present in school to advise candidates on their next step.

A comprehensive set of up-to-date sources of information from UCAS (www.ucas.com), prospectuses from the Higher Education institutions and guide books which advise students how to go about applying for courses in Higher Education, is available in the Sixth Form Study Room. Each student is provided with a handbook to guide him through the process.

Throughout the year there are opportunities to listen to visiting speakers on a broad range of topics related to careers and Higher Education.

The support of the Higher Education team is also available to former students who may wish to apply to university after leaving school, perhaps following a GAP year or re-consideration of long-term options.

STUDENT SUPPORT

The Student Support Department is located directly opposite the Sixth Form Study Centre. It is led by Mrs Richards, an experienced SENDCo and Mental Health Advocate who works closely with the Heads of Year 12 and 13 and the Head of Sixth Form.

The Department supports all students with Special Educational Needs and Disability (SEND), including those with Social, Emotional and Mental Health difficulties and is at the forefront of promoting the Whole School Mental Health Strategy (supported by Mind, Bucks). The Department has an open door policy which means students do not need a formal diagnosis to access support. It is an area where students can come to be listened to and supported. This includes support with organisation, study skills and revision techniques.

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In addition to the above, the Department works closely with a number of external agencies, both NHS and private, including CAMHS (Children and Adolescent Mental Health Services), AuTC (Autism Teaching Company) and Everlief.

SIXTH FORM BURSARY FUND

Full time students over the age of 16 whose annual household income is £25,000 or less may be eligible to apply for a Sixth Form Bursary. Application forms are available from the school website and should be submitted to the school Finance Manager as soon as possible after registration in September of Year 12 and Year 13. Applications are made to the Sixth Form Bursary Fund Committee, and it is they who will inform students of any bursary grant. Further information is available via the school website (under Parents; Letters and Forms).

THE APPLICATION PROCESS

APPLICATIONS FROM STUDENTS IN YEAR 11 AT AGS

Students in Year 11 at Aylesbury Grammar School should complete the internal application form which can be found on the school website under admissions, Year 12.

TIMETABLE OF EVENTS FOR YEAR 11 STUDENTS AT AGS

Wednesday 3 rd October 2018	Year 11 Parents' Information Evening about Sixth Form entry
Thursday 8 th November 2018	Year 11 Parents' Consultation Evening with subject teachers
Tuesday 20 th November 2018	Prospective Sixth Form subject fair
Friday 7 th December 2018	Deadline for provisional A Level subject choices
3 rd – 16 th January 2019	Year 11 Mock GCSE exams
February 2019	Meetings carried out with individual Year 11 students to provide guidance on A Level subject choices
Friday 1 st March 2019	Final deadline for making A Level choices
Thursday 9 th May 2019 (TBC)	Study Leave begins
Friday 28 th June 2019	Sixth Form orientation day. It is essential to attend if you wish to return to AGS Sixth Form
Thursday 22 nd August 2019	GCSE examination results

Friday 23rd August 2019

Meetings with Mrs Venning and Miss Treherne for students who wish to change their choice of subjects

Wednesday 4th September 2019

Transition Day – term begins for Sixth Form students

APPLICATIONS FOR NEW ENTRANTS

Students not currently at Aylesbury Grammar School should complete the external application form which can be found on the school website under admissions, Year 12.

You can apply at any time after the Open Evening and the deadline for applications is **11 January 2019**, though late applications will still be considered. Once we have received your application we will contact your current school to request your predicted GCSE grades.

We run a Sixth Form Orientation Day on Friday **28 June 2019** for applicants to the AGS Sixth Form. Applicants who are likely to fulfil the criteria for entry into the AGS Sixth Form will be invited to attend by **31 March 2019**.

After places have been allocated in August, if we do not give you a place because we are full, but you still really want to come here, you can tell us that you want to be on the waiting list. The waiting list will be kept until the end of the second week of term and, if you have not heard from us by then, you will know no place has become available.

A student who has qualified for entry into the Sixth Form will in most cases be able to study the subjects for which he is qualified, but this will be dependent on there being sufficient places in the classes provided for each subject. The school reserves the right to refuse access to subjects when planned classes are full.

Only in exceptional cases will any place be offered in Year 12 starting after September, or at any time in Year 13, because of the nature of the A level course.

Age of Admission

The normal age of admission to the Sixth Form is 16 years. If special circumstances dictate, we will consider applications from students aged 15 or 17 years but we do not accept applications from those who are younger or older than this.

This document should be read in conjunction with our Admissions Policy, available on our website.

TIMETABLE OF EVENTS FOR NEW ENTRANTS

Tuesday 20 th November 2018	Open Evening for to Sixth Form entry
Friday 11 January 2019	Deadline for external applications
Friday 29 March 2019	Invites for Sixth Form Orientation Day sent
Friday 28 th June 2019	Sixth Form orientation day.
Thursday 22 nd August 2019	New entrants should telephone or visit the school to confirm your GCSE results and that you will attend a meeting the next day. A copy of your results will be required.
Friday 23 rd August 2019	Meetings for new students with the Head of Sixth Form.
Wednesday 4 th September 2019	Transition Day – term begins for Sixth Form students

Students who have joined the AGS Sixth Form from other schools have done extremely well in the past, contributing to the success of our A level results, including 19% of grades at A*, 49% at A*/A and 73% at A* - B in 2018 – full details can be found on the school's website. The table below shows the number of A levels external entrants have gained in recent years

Year	Number of Students	Number of a levels passed, including EPQ				
		4+	3	2	1	0
2016	26	9	17	0	0	0
2017	22	11	11	0	0	0
2018	33	9	23	1	?	?



Founded in 1598

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