

Dear Aylesford School Community,

As we approach the end of the 2023/24 academic year, I am delighted to share some highlights and achievements that have made this year truly remarkable for Aylesford School. It has been a fantastic year, and I am incredibly proud to be your Headteacher.



Outstanding Academic Achievements

We began the year on a high note, celebrating record GCSE and A Level results. These exceptional outcomes have led to a record number of students progressing to university and securing apprenticeships. This success is a testament to our students' hard work, the dedication of our staff, and the unwavering support from our parents.

**Thank
you!**

School of Choice

Aylesford School continues to be the preferred choice in our local community. We are oversubscribed in all year groups, with waiting lists in double figures. This year, we received 51 appeals from parents eager to secure a place for their children in Year 7. This overwhelming demand highlights our strong reputation and the quality of education we provide.

National Recognition for Character Development

We are immensely proud of our national recognition for the exceptional work we do in developing character. As a regional hub school for the South East, we lead the way in fostering compassion, confidence, courage, open-mindedness, and resilience in our students. These character strengths are at the heart of our ethos and are essential in shaping well-rounded, thoughtful, and capable young individuals.

Uniform

Wearing school uniform is an important part of what makes a school. Our uniform policy can be found by clicking here <https://www.aylesford.kent.sch.uk/info/students/uniform-expectations>

A letter was sent this week reminder parents/carers about this and if there are any questions about school uniform or you are unsure about what is suitable, particularly for footwear then please contact the school via the school office



Extracurricular Success

Our students have participated in over 150 extracurricular trips and visits this year, enriching their learning experiences and allowing them to develop new skills and interests. These opportunities are invaluable in enhancing their education and personal growth.



Student Happiness and Wellbeing

In a recent survey, 91% of parents reported that their child is happy at school. This is perhaps our most significant achievement, as a happy and supportive environment is crucial for our students to thrive. We are proud to provide such an environment at Aylesford School. When we return we will be working hard to follow up on additional comments and areas of improvement we can make.

***Thank
you!***

Looking Ahead

As we look forward to the summer and the results it will bring, we remain hopeful and confident that our students will continue to excel. I want to extend my heartfelt thanks to each and every one of you—students, staff, parents, and governors—for your hard work, dedication, and support. Together, we have made 2023/24 an unforgettable year.

Wishing you all a wonderful summer break. We look forward to welcoming you back, refreshed and ready for another exciting year at Aylesford School.

Warm regards,

Miss Tanya Kelvie
Headteacher

Worry Button!

Don't forget the school website has a worry button - if you are concerned about yourself or someone else either during term time or during the holidays click through to our website and report a worry. This goes through to our school safeguarding team.

<https://www.aylesford.kent.sch.uk/contact/student-worries>



Student Worries?





2023-24

Character Education Highlights

Character Walk July 2024

Students completing the annual character walk through the beautiful countryside surrounding our school. The walk raises money for local charities and allows our students to build on their resilience, confidence and courage.



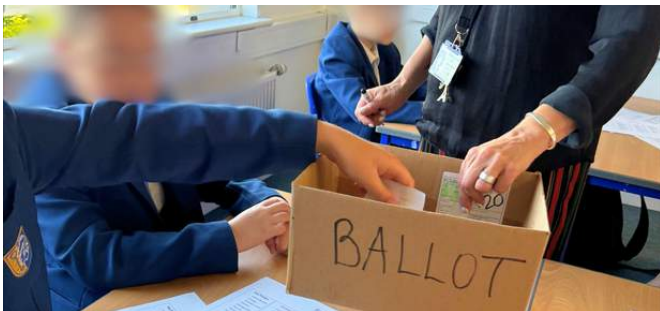
Year 7 Howlett's Zoo Trip

The Year 7 students had the opportunity to visit the wonderful Howlett's Zoo and experience some incredible wildlife and exotic animals up close. Students developed their open mindedness and compassion in considering the role we play in maintaining our delicate ecosystem.



Class of 2024 - Year 11 Prom

We say goodbye to another exemplary cohort of Year 11 students. This year group went out in style and conducted themselves beautifully in what was a fantastic event. Students demonstrated the highest level of respect for their hosts and each other.



General Election Day

Students had the chance to vote for the political party of their choice in a mock GE on election day 2024. There was a diverse range of opinions and views discussed in a respectful, compassionate and open minded manner.





Sports Awards 2024

in July our students were rewarded for their hard work and consistent demonstration of 'Good Character' and sporting achievements throughout the academic year. These awards play a vital role in helping to build the confidence of our students and to allow them and their parents a chance to reflect on the wonderful young people they are growing into. Over 120 students were recognised from Year 7 to Year 13, a testament to the rich sporting heritage of Aylesford School and the importance this plays in building character.



Dementia Cafe

For many years now, Aylesford School and its dedicated students have been working with senior members of our local community to offer an opportunity for generations to come together and support one another. This excellent work has continued in earnest this year with our staff and students receiving widespread support and recognition for the selfless work they do.



KS3 achievement

It gives us great pleasure to share with you the remarkable progress of our KS3 students over the past academic year. As a school we are delighted to witness the exceptional growth in character, academic achievements, and sporting abilities displayed by our students. The dedication and hard work of our pupils have been truly inspirational, and we are immensely proud of their accomplishments.

The ten character traits identified by our school community are fundamental attributes that not only contribute to their current success but also prepare them for future endeavours. We are thrilled to acknowledge that 114 outstanding students have surpassed 300 character points this academic year, reflecting their remarkable personal development.

Throughout the year, our KS3 students have enjoyed a wide array of enriching experiences through educational visits to art galleries, museums, camping expeditions, zoological parks, and the cultural city of Lille as well as many others. These excursions have provided valuable opportunities for our students to broaden their horizons and enhance their learning beyond the confines of the classroom.

As a school, we take immense pride in our diverse range of extracurricular activities, including educational trips and clubs, that foster holistic growth and development among our students. These initiatives are designed to nurture their talents, instil a love for learning, and encourage exploration in a supportive and engaging environment. We currently have 70 students in KS3 who are pursuing the Duke of Edinburgh award allowing them to develop skills, confidence and experiences that can help them in their future careers as well as positively interacting with their own communities.

We are deeply grateful for your continued support in nurturing the potential of our students and fostering a strong partnership in their educational journey. Together, we can empower them to excel academically, develop essential life skills, and prepare for a bright and successful future.

Thank you for entrusting us with your child's education and growth.



**Mrs Michelle
Johnston -
Assistant
Headteacher for KS3**

How can we communicate better with parents at KS3?

The implementation of ClassCharts this year has played a significant role in recognising and commending the character strengths exhibited by our students. This app allows parents to access the logs made by students, attendance marks and homework on a daily basis.

This year we also changed the way we report KS3 progress – you will have received students assessment scores for each subject. We hope that moving away from a statement such as 'working at their level' to providing a percentage score allows parents and students to more clearly see where they are at in each subject.

If you have any feedback about the reporting of grades at KS3 or have found classcharts useful in tracking your child's character strength achievements, homework, attendance and behaviour we would love to hear your feedback so that we can continue to monitor and refine the use of this app.

Please email feedback to Assistant
Headteacher

Michelle.johnston@aylesford.kent.sch.uk. I will not be able to respond individually to everyone's comments but appreciate the time taken to share your thoughts.

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KS4 Achievements and Academic Progress

This academic year has seen a plethora of successful events at Aylesford School, such as the Year 11 Prom, an occasion where students commemorated the completion of their GCSE exams in unison.

The Study Skills event equipped KS4 students with essential study techniques to optimise their academic capabilities. Moving forward, we urge you to aid your child's academic journey by establishing a tranquil study environment at home, supervising their revision schedule, and advocating for regular study breaks to sustain focus and motivation. Students have adeptly discovered effective revision methods this year, sharing these insights to bolster their educational achievements collectively.

The Study Entertainment Night was a remarkable triumph. Rest assured, we are planning more study entertainment evenings for the upcoming academic year. This event offers a relaxed and supportive setting for students to revise, receive academic guidance from teachers, participate in group study sessions, and then unwind for their mental well-being—a critical component for success. We encourage all Year 11 students to participate and reap the benefits of this valuable opportunity.

At Aylesford School, we celebrate not just academic accomplishments, but also personal growth and character development. In recognition of this, our staff have commendably acknowledged students who have shown qualities such as motivation, resilience, courage, and confidence throughout the year.



Mr Byron Walker
*Assistant
Headteacher for KS4
Progress and
Attainment*

We are eager to gather your valuable feedback on the support provided to our students this academic year. The implementation of various strategies has played a pivotal role in fostering academic progress, enhancing self-assurance, and cultivating resilience among students preparing for exams. As parents of the latest cohort undergoing GCSE examinations, we invite you to reflect on the effectiveness of the support measures we have initiated.

As we draw near to the conclusion of this academic year, it is crucial for us to assimilate your insights to ensure that the upcoming two cohorts can maximise on your constructive feedback. Together, we strive to guarantee a successful and fulfilling academic journey for all our students.

Your candid feedback is essential to us, and we genuinely appreciate the time and effort you take to convey your thoughts. To complete, we kindly request you scan the QR Code provided.

Thank you for your continued support.





We are excited about our Sixth Form renovation project and have received so many donations from the general public- we are overwhelmed with our communities generosity. I have tried to contact everyone individually to thank them for their kindness, but just in case I have missed anyone out- A MASSIVE THANK YOU. We will put some before and after pictures up when the renovation is complete to show you the difference you have made to our students and Sixth Form areas- We really appreciate it.

We are also really looking forward to our new year 12's starting in September after a positive Sixth Form induction, and to take our current year 12's into year 13. We have many thrilling trips planned for next year, one every term, and we hope that you will join us. Studying, academic progress and success will always be a priority for our Sixth Form students, but we all need some fun and time away from our studies from time to time to ensure that we keep our wellbeing in check.

We are super proud of our new Sixth Form Leadership group this year, which has been established by Mr Neeve. You have provided us with many insights and have started to bring about change, which we hope you will benefit from next academic year. We are making changes to 6th Form Mentor Time, own clothes day once a week, A new rewards system, and students will each be receiving a lanyard- to name but a few. These are changes that are occurring because you have spoken out, got yourselves heard and have shown phenomenal character. A 6th Form news letter detailing all the changes will be sent out to parents in the first week of the new term.



***Mrs Amie Dighton
Associate Assitant
Headteacher for KS5
Progress and
Attainment***





This year saw the creation of two new student leadership groups. The Character Ambassadors are leading changes to the life of the school and the Curriculum Ambassadors are helping within departments to develop a student focused curriculum.

The Character Ambassadors have shown great leadership in discussing positive changes that could be made in the life of the school, feeding back their ideas to SLT and seeing changes to what is offered at mentor time and lunch time. They have shown great integrity and compassion when taking the lead in the school's dementia cafes and worked to ensure that the money raised in our charity walk this year has gone to the school's choice of national and local charities as well as funding school initiatives to help the students directly. I am looking forward to this continuing to develop next year so that all students can have a say in how the school is run.

Meanwhile, our curriculum ambassador team have been looking at the learning taking place in the classroom and offering student voice to leadership and heads of department to allow us to understand their views. As a result of their input we have taken some of the successes they reported from Maths and Science and begun to implement these in other subjects.

Aylesford school is part of the Character Education Trust (CET) and proud to be the holder of the Quality Mark Plus award for Character Education. We work closely with the Association of Character Education (ACE) and the Jubilee Centre to ensure that we are the fore front of Character Education, much of which is demonstrated by the wonderful trips, opportunities and experiences that our students have at Aylesford.

We are also a Regional Hub School for Character - This means we've been identified as one of the leading schools nationally for Character and a model of good practice to share with other schools.

Find out more about the work of ACE and the Jubilee Centre by clicking the links below

<https://character-education.org.uk/>

<https://www.jubileecentre.ac.uk/>



**Mr Phil Neeve -
Associate Assistant
Headteacher for
Student Leadership**



**Mr Dave Wright -
Senior Assistant
Headteacher for
Character Education**

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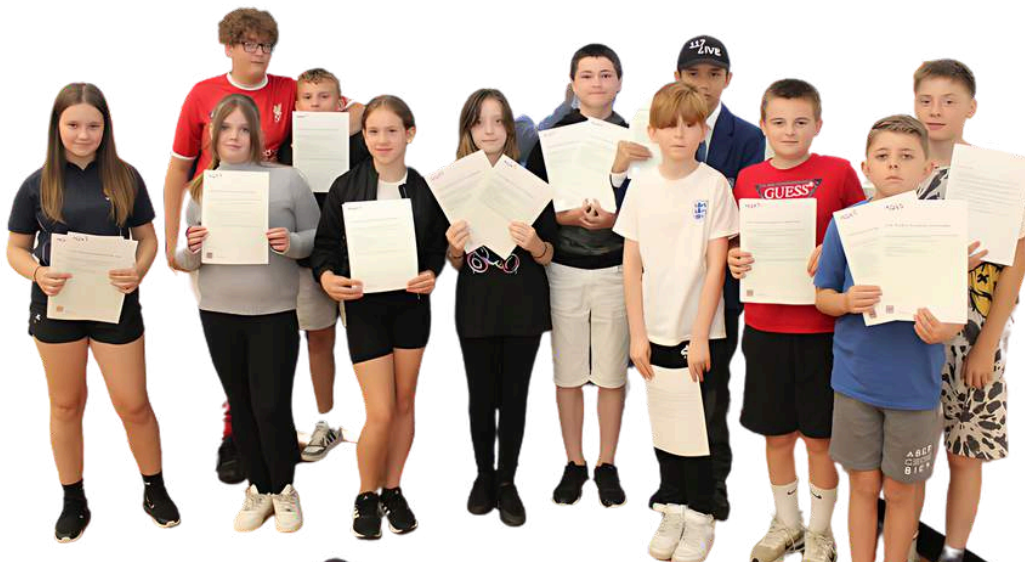
This term, 80 of our students were successful in receiving an AQA award. The AQA unit award scheme allows all students to engage with learning and have their achievements formally recognised. Students are rewarded with a certificate each time they successfully complete a unit of learning. They can build up a portfolio of certificates to evidence their skills, knowledge and experience.

The scheme boosts confidence, increases engagement and improves motivation, helping students to make progress on their lifelong learning journey.

This week there were many entries including: Community work involving the RBLLI, reading interventions, Communicating in French, exercise and health and beauty and professionalism. The students celebrated with parents by enjoying refreshments and collecting their certificates. Well done to all involved!



Mrs Chayla Duff
SENDCO and Assistant
Headteacher





Character Strengths – Top 10 Students

We are proud of all of our students! Each of them show moments of fantastic throughout the year, however some students really do go above and beyond and have shown great character all day, every day! A big well done to the students below:

Dylan	Kerkham	7F	351
Roxy	Macklin	7E	346
Miya	Jumis	7F	338
Ruby	Austen	7B	324
James	Kinlan	7A	321
Abigail	Kenward	7F	320
Daisy	Foster	7E	310
Katie-Marie	Hooker	7A	308
Ellarose	Perrin	7F	308
Leo	Eggleton	7B	303

Year 7
**Top Ten Character Strength
achievement awards 2023-24**

William	Payne	8F	465
Ariyan	Patel	8F	441
Alfie	Atwell-Hanna	8E	441
Elise	Florey	8E	428
Jacob	Connor	8D	415
Zachary	Harding	8C	409
Jenson	Mullins	8F	401
Jacob	Town	8C	398
Tyler	Taylor	8C	365
Harley	Brown	8D	355
Ollie	Wiles	8E	355

Year 8
**Top Ten Character Strength
achievement awards 2023-24**





Riley-Jayne	Bennett-Warrener	9F	371
Annie	Beresford	9D	332
Katie	Payne	9D	329
Lacey	Morley	9F	322
Stephen	Lowe	9D	319
Ruby	Thomas	9D	316
Evie	Parrish	9D	309
Isabella	Durling	9C	307
Finn	Garrott	9B	305
Summer	Bailey	9F	301

Year 9
Top Ten Character Strength
achievement awards 2023-24

Charlie	Smith	10B	294
James	Coates	10B	272
Evie	Stewart	10B	269
Jack	Vardy	10A	268
Denzel	Molina Portela	10A	249
Emilia	Woodger	10D	248
Brooke	Ryan	10B	247
Maggie	Johnson	10B	244
Amy	Bartholomew	10F	240
Phoebe	Russell	10E	238

Year 10
Top Ten Character Strength
achievement awards 2023-24





**AYLESFORD
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Term 6 Newsletter

2023-24 end of year highlights



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Best Wishes & GOOD LUCK

We wish the best of luck to colleagues moving on to new roles, particularly Mr Groom and Mr Cooper, who have both been here for longer than any of our students!

Mr Groom has been a valued member of staff at Aylesford School since 2009 with a significant part of his time here as Director Of Sport, having achieved a huge amount in the PE department and most recently also leading on developments in KS3. With numerous teams, cups and hundreds of students going on to experience sporting success under his guidance and instruction. Mr Groom has also supported the development of an exceptional team in his staff and will be handing over to another of our esteemed colleagues to continue the work.



Mr Cooper has been a PE teacher, progress leader and most recently a member of the leadership team, working with KS4. He has also forged numerous links with sport in our local community and continues to support the development of Rugby both in and out of school. He has completed nine years of service and taught hundreds of students in this time, helping them to have healthy attitudes towards exercise and life.



We also say farewell to Mr George, Mr Noel, Miss A White, Mrs Awotale and Miss Barratt, wishing them the best for their future endeavours and thanking them for their service.

