



# Aylesford School

**RESPECT** SELF-DISCIPLINE **COURAGE**  
OPEN-MINDEDNESS **MOTIVATION**  
**RESILIENCE** CONFIDENCE **INTEGRITY**  
COMPASSION **CURIOSITY**

## Character Newsletter

### Summer 2018

2018 has been a busy year for Aylesford School as we continue to give students the opportunity to reach their potential in the classroom but also develop the right character they need to be successful in life. Students have had so many opportunities this academic year to develop their character not only in the classroom but with a range of extra-curricular opportunities – particularly as part of the recent Character Week that the school hosted

During Character week students have had the opportunity to develop their courage and confidence by participating in a work shadowing day, students had the chance to test their self-discipline on the Charity walk and also demonstrate a resilient and open-minded approach to problem solving as part of the Engineering day.

It has been a fantastic week and all students should be very proud of their achievements through the week!

#### Charity Walk

Year 7,8, 9 and 12 (and some year 10s!) have taken part in the charity walk as part of character week. The walk was an 11 (ish) mile walk around the stunning countryside just minutes from our



school. For many students this was by far the longest walk they had ever been on. Students took between 5 – 6 hours to complete their walk and looked immensely proud of themselves to cross the line back to school! As well as showing compassion by raising money for charity, students needed to demonstrate great resilience, courage and self-discipline to complete, what a really challenging day



### Engineering Day

Aylesford partnered with Canterbury Christchurch and Atkins Global to bring a really exciting Engineering day to all of Year 7, 8 and 9 Students. This partnership has been developed by the recent changes to the M20 and the smart motorway project. Aylesford students have been involved with

*“the outside speakers were fantastic and engaging. My mentor group thoroughly enjoyed the experience and gained an insight into the application of their subjects to the world of work and problem solving. It has given them a big boost to their confidence as their questioning and inquisitive nature was recognised by the external speakers”*

*A Year 7 Mentor*

some of the early stages of consultation regarding the motorway and specifically the new footbridge which is being built at the bottom of Teapot lane, as well as being invited to design a banner and promote green champion projects as part of mentor time.

The engineering day was a fantastic day and students got to learn more about the M20 smart motorway project, including hearing from the Engineers who came into speak with the students about what a smart motorway and some of the feats of engineering that are needed to be accomplished to achieve the finished M20 smart motorway.

The rest of the day was spent in a range of different workshops, students had the opportunity to work with the Royal Engineers to learn more about bridge building and have the opportunity to build their own bridges. Another workshop allowed students to find out more about the physics of how the bridge is built by using chocolate to construct girders and test them under weights. Other





workshops included K'NEX roller coaster challenge and using computer software to simulate the impact of heavy traffic on road designs.

All students were fantastic all day and enjoyed learning about the different aspects of engineering and learning about possible engineering careers.

A big thank you to our partners at Canterbury Christchurch and at Atkins Global for making this

happens at Aylesford.



### **Work Shadowing**

A large number of our year 7,8 and 9 students had the opportunity to take part in work shadowing for 1 day this week to develop their courage and confidence in a working environment. Students have come back full of enthusiasm about what they achieved and got to do during their time away. Those students who didn't go took part in a mini enterprise afternoon, and all students work exceptionally hard to come up with a product for the theme 'making life easier!'

Our Year 10 students have been on work shadowing for 1 week. The feedback from employers has been exceptional, with plenty of positive comments praising our students for the great character and attitude they have shown towards their placements

### **Green Champion Project**

Students in year 7 and 8 have been working in their mentor groups to create a 'Green Champion Project' – they were asked to come up with an idea that would have a positive impact on environment.

Well done to Harry Aarons (Year 7) for winning the Green Champions competition today at school. Here he is receiving his award from Palma Black from Atkins global.

Harry showed exceptional confidence for a year 7 and was able to present his idea of the 'litter tree' well to a panel of judges.

He was able to articulate how his idea would have a positive impact on the environment and spoke passionately about this issue as well as answering questions from the audience!

The year 8 winners were Barbara, Kiera and Ellis who came up with the idea of producing a vegetable patch that students could harvest food from to then pass to the canteen to be served to students!



A big well done to all students who presented in front of their year groups - it is not easy to stand up and present your ideas in front of a large group of students but all students who took part showed great courage and confidence and did exceptionally well

### **M20 Smart Motorway – Banner Design competition**

A big well done to Cally and Poppy in year 7 who won the schools banner design competition.



Students were invited to design a banner to let the public know that the Teapot Lane footbridge would be closed due to the smart motor works taking place.

With over 400 entries from the school, Cally and Poppy's design beat out all the competition to claim first prize! Their banners have been made and are ready to be put up on the footbridge!

Both students were extremely motivated and produced a great banner! Well done to both girls!



### iFly Trip

Around 100 of our students attended the iFly centre in Basingstoke to take part in indoor skydiving, skiing and rock climbing. It was a fantastic day with years 7,8 and 9. All students had a brilliant day and behaved impeccably throughout. Students and staff showed immense courage, confidence and resilience in the face of 130mph winds!



### Activity Day

Students opted to take part in a range of different activities for 1 day during character week. Students had the opportunity to engage themselves fully for the day and really develop their skills and interest in just 1 area. We had students taking part in a food and drink camp where they spent some time learning



how to make speciality mock tails as well as a range of different breads. Other students opted to develop their skills in the Japanese art techniques and produced some stunning work through the day.



We also had creative make up, football and cycling camps, as well as a number of ICT based activities including coding and #realnews – an opportunity for students to document the day and turn it into a news report about the events that had been happening.



Other students took part in a dance and

drama camp and spent time putting together a number of different creative pieces to share with everyone else at the end of the day.

Students in science had a great day, causing explosions and cutting things up, including lambs heart and also a rat. A group of Year 8 and 9 boys opted into the pallet to planter day and worked hard in the workshop all day to produce some really great garden planters! As you can see from below they are really proud of their end products!





## Graduation

Just before character week we had a year 7 – 10 graduation ceremonies in school. Students who had shown great character through the year (evidenced through character strengths they have collected through the year) had great attendance to school and were making good progress in lessons.

Over 200 students attended the ceremony and over 200 parents joined us to help celebrate the achievements. In addition to the students that we celebrated as part of the graduation Mr D Cuff chair of governors gave out 2 awards for each year group that he wanted to specially recognise for their outstanding effort in school.





## Year 7 Camp

On Friday 13<sup>th</sup> July 62 year 7 students and a number of staff from Aylesford set off to Wrotham school for the annual year 7 camp.

Lots of fun was had by all and students had some great opportunities to test and develop their strength of character in a range of different activities, from teambuilding and sports activities through to shelter building and a camp fire. Students got the opportunities to make new friendships and develop existing ones.

A great time was had by all (Staff included), and no doubt many memories will be taken away by students and staff





## Character Strengths

A big well done to the following students who have finished the year as the top students in their year group for Character Strengths! Well done to everyone!

### Year 7

Smoker Kate	7A	308
Leach Evans Poppy	7B	305
Cameron Lola	7B	300
Manley Mabel	7B	300
Lakeland Maia	7A	287
Burt Tobias	7B	277
Back Gracie	7B	273
Mercer Shaun	7B	270
Woolmer Lillie	7C	269
Grantham George	7B	264

### Year 8

Aldridge Alfie	8A	405
Zsiboras Barbara	8D	313
Orsler Joshua	8C	310
Smith Abigayle	8E	308
Hackett Hannah	8E	291
Blumsum Adam	8C	285
Webb Ella	8C	279
Wood Amy	8B	273
Greir Sonny	8E	260
Curtis-Barnes Isabel	8B	257

### Year 9

Nicholson Isabel	9D	329
Ireland Callum	9B	292
Stewart Mia	9E	279
Winchester Ayla	9D	275
Acott Lucia	9D	269
Yardley Mae	9C	255
Simms Alana	9A	251
Gilliard Ebony	9D	243
Sewell Lucy	9D	241
Webber Thomas	9A	240

### Year 10

Clutterbuck Rebecca	10F	198
Lee Jenson	10A	178
Hewitt Oliver	10D	174
Goodrum Regan	10A	171
Clifford Izabel	10D	168
Riches Jack	10A	167
Sahin Emrah	10E	164
Martins Kieran	10B	162
Fazzani Che	10F	154
Horn Kolby	10F	154

Well done to each and every student at Aylesford School – what a great year 2018 has been!

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