



Aylesford School

Headteachers Newsletter – Term 1

Dear Parents and Carers,

Students have made an excellent start to this academic year and term 1 has been action packed, full of experiences to ensure our students enjoy school and can thrive and meet their full potential.

We are really keen to have positive relationships with students, parents, carers, and the wider community and are really trying to increase channels of communication through class charts, social media and our termly newsletters.

We are always keen to address concerns directly and swiftly when they are raised with us. On Tuesday 4th November from 14:30 – 17:00, I will be holding a tea, coffee and cake afternoon open to all parents. This will be an opportunity to come in and speak to myself to share your experiences of the school.

Follow our socials for the latest news!

If you don't already follow us on social media, I would encourage you to visit our **Facebook page**:

www.facebook.com/AylesfordSchoolKent

It's the best way to keep up to date with all the fantastic things happening at Aylesford and to get a real sense of daily life in our vibrant school.

We also have our own WhatsApp channel – scan the QR Code to get the latest updates. This will be live from the start of term 2.



Aylesford School - Official
WhatsApp channel



Term 2- Key Dates

Friday 14th November – Inset Day - School Closed to Students

Thursday 20th November – Year 8 Parents Evening

Thursday 27th November – Year 11 Parents Evening

Parents Survey – This will be coming out at the start of Term 2

You can find full details of this year's term dates and other key dates on our website.

<https://www.aylesford.kent.sch.uk/info/quicklinks/term-dates>



Safeguarding

Safeguarding students is always our top priority. A reminder that further information can be found on our school website, including school safeguarding lead contact details.

<https://www.aylesford.kent.sch.uk/info/our-school/safeguarding-information>

Students can report any concerns they have through our school worry button on the school website which is monitored by our school safeguarding team.



ClassCharts

A reminder that ClassCharts is used as the main point of parental communication in school – this includes information about attendance, rewards and detentions.

It's essential for all parents to have access to this to ensure you are kept up to date with the latest information about your child, as well as school letters and notifications.

If you have not yet got ClassCharts or need to regain access to the app please contact the school office.

Teaching and Learning Update

At Aylesford School, we are continually striving to provide the very best learning experiences for our students. This term, our focus on developing high-quality teaching and learning continues to grow through our associate partnership with the LSEAT Trust and the use of the Walkthru coaching programme.



Walkthru Coaching: Supporting Great Teaching

Our teachers have been engaging in *Walkthru coaching*, a professional development approach that supports staff in refining and developing classroom practice. Through regular, focused coaching sessions, teachers work collaboratively to develop key strategies that make a real difference to students' learning. As part of being an associate member of the LSEAT Trust, we are working together to implement this programme into our schools for ensuring consistency, reflection, and continual improvement in every classroom.

A Whole-School Focus on Extended Writing

Another focus this term has been developing extended writing in all year groups. Staff have been implementing new strategies to help students write more fluently, confidently, and at greater length in every subject. Whether it's constructing a persuasive argument in English, explaining a scientific process, or analysing historical sources, students are being encouraged to use writing to show deeper understanding and critical thinking.

Exam Readiness: Year 11 and 13 in Focus

Our Year 11 and Year 13 students are now entering a crucial stage in their studies, and we've seen a real push to increase exam practice during lessons for the upcoming PPEs. Teachers are providing more opportunities for students to apply their knowledge for exam style questions, using past papers and model answers, helping them to build confidence, improve timing, and develop effective revision techniques. This focus aims to ensure all students are well-prepared and feel supported as they approach their PPEs.



Looking Ahead

We're proud of the continued effort and enthusiasm shown by both staff and students as we build a culture of reflective practice and academic excellence. Thank you to our parents and carers for their ongoing support — together, we're working to help every student to achieve their very best.



What you can do at home

Parents can support us at home by discussing ideas and encouraging children to explain their thinking in full sentences, to help develop their analytical skills for their extended writing.

Curriculum

A reminder that our full curriculum aims and impact can be found on our website by clicking the below link:

<https://www.aylesford.kent.sch.uk/curriculum>

Behaviour Policy Update

Thank you for your continued support as we embed the changes introduced through our new behaviour policy. We've been really encouraged by the positive feedback received so far from both parents and students, and it's clear that these changes are already having a positive impact on behaviour for learning across our classrooms. Looking ahead, there will be a Trust-wide parent survey launched in November by Mr Cater, our CEO, which will provide an opportunity for you to share your views on a range of areas, including the implementation of the new behaviour policy. We really value your input as we continue to improve our school together.



School Uniform

The school's uniform policy **has remained unchanged for the 2025 – 2026** academic year. Please refer to this when purchasing new uniform. We expect all students to be in full uniform as per our policy.

<https://www.aylesford.kent.sch.uk/info/quicklinks/uniform-expectations>

Year 11 Update

Year 11 return to Term 2 with another week of their PPEs (Pre-Public Examinations) left! We've been really impressed with the engagement of this year group with this round of PPEs, with most students attending additional revision before school and also taking

advantage of the after-school revision offer. A reminder that when Year 11 students return after half term, revision will start **on Tuesday 4th November with Option A, and Wednesday 5th November with Option B.**

Year 11 PPE Results Afternoon – Friday 21st November 2.30pm – 3pm (Parents are welcome to attend – more details to follow).

English Department Update

Magic In Maidstone

In term 6 we invited students to take part in a writing competition as part of Maidstone LitFest. We entered the work submitted and one of our students, Evie T in year 9, has been shortlisted for her piece named 'The Song of the Zombies'. This is a fantastic achievement with so many schools and individuals entering. Evie will be invited to a writing workshop with 2 published authors and we look forward to hearing all about it.

Well done to all the students who took part in the competition - there were some excellent short stories submitted.

Year 8 Poet Visit

This term, Year 8 students had the exciting opportunity to take part in a special visit from Paul Cree — a talented poet, rapper, and spoken word artist. During his session, Paul shared insights into his personal journey as a writer and performer, describing how he discovered his voice and inspiring students to think about how they can express their own thoughts and stories through words. Year 8 will be studying poetry later in the year and we hope they will remember this visit when crafting their own pieces.



Sparx Reader

This year, we've introduced Sparx Reader to all year groups — an innovative online platform designed to support and improve students' reading fluency and comprehension. Many students will have already experienced Sparx Reader during lessons, where they've had the opportunity to explore books of their own choosing.

Sparx focuses on accurate reading over speed, encouraging students to engage more deeply with the text. Teachers will set reading homework through the platform and receive detailed insights into students' progress, including completion and comprehension data.

We're excited to see the positive impact Sparx Reader is already having and will be celebrating student successes on the platform in Term 2 — so stay tuned!

Next Term there will be a **Sparx Reader Homework club - all years welcome**. Please feel free to drop in if you need any help with your Sparx after the half term break!

When: Mondays, Wednesdays, and Thursdays

Time: After school until 3:30pm

Where: LRC

Drama Update

School Production: *Bloody Heroes*



We are thrilled to announce our upcoming school production, *Bloody Heroes* — an original play written by Mrs Davies and inspired by Siegfried Sassoon's haunting World War I poem *Remorse*.

Set in the trenches of the Great War, this moving drama captures the courage, sacrifice, and deep tragedy experienced by soldiers on the front line. The Barbara Levy Literary Agency, which manages the copyright for many of Sassoon's works, has kindly granted permission for his poem to be included in the production.

A talented ensemble of Year 8 to Year 10 students are already deep in rehearsals, bringing this powerful story to life with passion and authenticity.

Performance Dates: November 11th & 12th

Time: 6:30 PM

Venue: School Hall

Tickets: £5

Join us for an unforgettable evening of theatre that honours the voices of the past and reflects on the human cost of war.

Update from the Science Department

STEM Visit to Grain

This week, a group of our Year 9 students had the exciting opportunity to visit Grain LNG, one of the UK's key energy sites. During the visit, they toured the facility, met members of the team, and got a first-hand look at the wide range of careers available in the energy sector.

Working alongside students from other schools, they took part in interactive challenges, engaged in thought-provoking discussions on sustainability and the future of energy production in the UK, and impressed everyone with their curiosity, motivation, and self-discipline throughout the day.

A fantastic experience that inspired many and opened up new ideas for future pathways!



Year 7

Year 7 students have made a strong start to secondary science, settling well into new routines and showing enthusiasm for practical work. They have developed good foundational knowledge in topics such as states of matter and are beginning to apply scientific methods confidently.

Year 9

Some fantastic ideas in Insulation projects. Students showed curiosity within their learning, trying to build a house within a budget with their chosen insulator to see if they can beat their competitors. Great Job to Lexi H and Megan O with the best insulation result, with Charlie G being the most creative.

Maths Department Update

It's been a fantastic start to the year in the Mathematics Department. Pupils across all year groups have shown real enthusiasm, curiosity, and determination, tackling challenging topics with confidence and resilience. Lessons have been full of energy and rich discussion, with pupils thinking critically and making meaningful mathematical connections.

We've been especially impressed by the standard of work this term - books are beautifully presented, and the quality of reasoning and effort has been excellent. A special mention goes to Year 11, whose commitment ahead of their PPEs has been outstanding. We wish them the very best as they continue through this important stage of their studies.

Well done to all our pupils for their hard work and positivity - a brilliant start to what promises to be a successful year of mathematics at Aylesford.

Student Success

Well done to the top 20 students in each year with the most character strengths! What a fantastic achievement for Term 1.

Year 7

Marnie	W	7A	98
Ben	B	7B	96
Teddy	E	7D	95
Micheal	W	7D	92
Amber	D	7D	91
Amelia	C	7A	89
Amaya	B	7E	86
Poppy	D S-C	7D	86
Will	S	7D	85
Jack	P	7B	84
Leo	C	7F	83
Hayley	H	7D	83
Jayden	B	7A	82
Poppy	C	7B	82
Emily	F	7F	81
Daisy	M	7F	81
Frazier	U	7D	81
Jack	A	7D	80
Jake	B	7D	80
Harry	B	7D	80



Year 8

Ellie	W	8C	96
Annabelle	V	8C	84
Brandon	Y	8A	84
Isabelle	C	8A	80
Jack	S	8D	78
Sophie	G	8A	75
Belle	G	8A	74
Ashleigh	P	8A	74
Lily	D	8B	73
Holly	G	8E	72
Blossom	R	8A	71
Harry	W	8B	71
Grace	C	8A	70
Dexter	M	8D	69
Amelia	F	8E	67
Milly	S	8F	67
Noah	Y	8A	67
Isabelle	B	8E	66
William	S	8A	65
Leo	A	8D	64



Year 9

Theo	B	9A	81
Gyan	M	9F	80
Evie	T	9A	80
Callum	C	9C	78
Liam	H	9E	76
Bailey	D	9E	74
Roxy	M	9E	74
Harrison	W	9A	73
Abbie	H	9A	72
Jack	D	9A	70
Fin	V	9A	70
Amber	R	9A	69
Toby	W	9A	69
Amelie	A	9C	68
Daisy	F	9E	68
Toby	W	9D	68
Alice	P	9E	66
Ashton	G	9A	65
Amelia	S	9D	65
Harriet	E	9E	64



Year 10

George	D	10B	67
Lois	H-G	10E	66
Theo	P	10E	66
Henley	T	10F	62
Liam	L	10E	60
Benjamin	C	10D	57
Charlie	D	10E	57
Ruby	M	10A	55
Elliot	W	10E	55
Jayk	N	10D	54
Riley	C	10E	53
Alfie	S	10C	53
Preston	Z	10F	53
Maizie	A	10B	52
Olivia	G	10D	52
Rosie	W	10D	52
Leo	P	10B	50
George	W	10F	50
Jessica	H	10B	49
William	P	10C	49



Year 11

Jack	H	11F	58
Ethan	F	11F	55
Lacey	M	11F	55
Ruby	T	11D	55
Riley-Jayne	B-W	11F	54
Evie	P	11D	50
William	S	11F	50
Toby	B	11F	48
Zachery	L	11D	47
Willow	A	11D	45
Ruby	B	11F	44
Annie	B	11D	44
Muhammad	K	11F	44
Tyron	K	11F	43
Mali	R	11E	43
Maea	S	11C	43
Isabella	D	11C	42
Finn	G	11C	42
James	D	11E	41
Samuel	L	11F	41

6th Form

Zila	S	12A	29
Emily	M	12A	26
Holly	R	12A	23
Grace	T	12A	19
Maggie	J	12A	18
Olivia	M	12A	16
Ava	B	12A	15
Emilia	W	12A	15
Jamie	M	12A	14
Kayla	T	12A	14



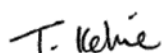
Update from Kent Police

Kent Police have asked us to share the following statement regarding enforcement of the law around E-Scooters.

The police are obliged to take action against anyone who is caught repeatedly using an e-scooter illegally or in a way that causes a nuisance to others. In these circumstances, the police have the power to seize the e-scooter under Section 59 of the Police Reform Act/165 of the Road Traffic Act.

You risk a £300 fine, six penalty points endorsed on your driving licence and the E-Scooter being seized. If you do not currently hold a driving licence at the time of the offence, you may be prosecuted and may have to go to court, whereby the fine can increase and your ability to obtain a driving licence in the future may be affected. If you purchase an E-Scooter, it can only be used on private land with the landowner's consent.

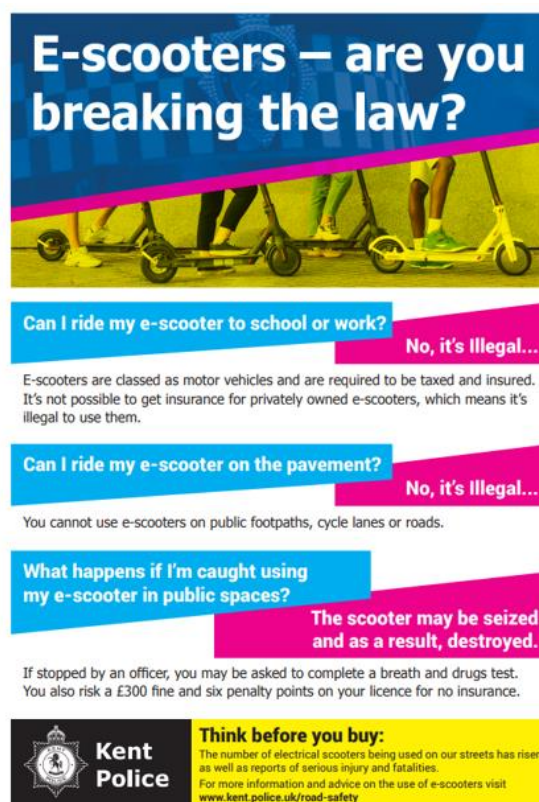
Yours sincerely,



Miss T Kelvie

Headteacher

Aylesford School



E-scooters – are you breaking the law?

Can I ride my e-scooter to school or work?
No, it's Illegal...
E-scooters are classed as motor vehicles and are required to be taxed and insured. It's not possible to get insurance for privately owned e-scooters, which means it's illegal to use them.

Can I ride my e-scooter on the pavement?
No, it's Illegal...
You cannot use e-scooters on public footpaths, cycle lanes or roads.

What happens if I'm caught using my e-scooter in public spaces?
The scooter may be seized and as a result, destroyed.
If stopped by an officer, you may be asked to complete a breath and drugs test. You also risk a £300 fine and six penalty points on your licence for no insurance.

Kent Police
Think before you buy:
The number of electrical scooters being used on our streets has risen, as well as reports of serious injury and fatalities. For more information and advice on the use of e-scooters visit www.kent.police.uk/road-safety