



Aylesford School

Aylesford School Summer Newsletter – July 2020

As the academic year draws to a close again, it's always good to take time to reflect and celebrate all of our achievements and successes.

2019/2020 has been a roller coaster school year: The Queen visited Aylesford in November, we had an Ofsted inspection in February and we sadly had to close our doors early due to COVID-19 in March, and yet amongst all of this our students continue to make us proud with everything they do, showing great character in and out of the classroom.



START DATES

Year 7 – Wednesday 2/9/2020

Year 8 – Tuesday 8/9/2020

Year 9 – Monday 7/9/2020

Year 10 – Friday 4/9/2020

Year 11 – Thursday 3/9/2020

Year 12 – Wednesday 2/9/2020

Year 13 – Thursday 3/9/2020

We are looking forward to opening our doors fully in September and welcoming all of our students back into our school and working together to resume some sense of normality with our learning.

I would like to take this moment to thank all of our wonderful students and parents/carers for their continued support through this academic year and particularly the last 4 months.

Yours Sincerely

Miss T Kelvie

The Queen Visits Aylesford



All of our students had a fantastic opportunity in November to go the RBLI to watch the Queen arrive to open a new care facility for the residents.

This was a once in a lifetime opportunity for our students to catch a glimpse of the 93 year monarch in what will no doubt be one of her last visits to Kent, and certainly her last to Aylesford.

Not only did we get a great view of the queen arriving and leaving the RBLI village, we were lucky enough to have her take off in her helicopter from the school field!

This was an incredible day for staff and students and certainly one that will long be remembered in the history of the school.

Ofsted Visit – ‘Good’ In every area!



In February 2020 we were visited by a team of Ofsted Inspectors. The team judged the school to be a Good school, a fantastic achievement and a testimony to the hard work

and collaboration between Staff, Students, Parents and Governors.

Head Teacher, Miss T Kelvie, wrote the following on the school website:

“It gives me great pleasure to be able to share our Ofsted Inspection Report which confirms that Aylesford School is a ‘Good’ school in all categories.

When I started at Aylesford School in January 2017 as Interim Head teacher the Local Authority had already carried out a review that said that the school was inadequate in all areas. Then in November 2017 Ofsted declared Aylesford a school that required improvement but with Good Leadership, Management and 6th Form. But I could see the potential Aylesford had, and in Partnership with Wrotham School, worked hard to set the school on its journey to becoming outstanding

Since then we have worked tirelessly to improve all areas of the school and have used our drive to develop Character Education and improve results in academic qualifications to enable us to provide better opportunities and quality of education.

We are now the school of choice in the local area and are oversubscribed. We were one of the first schools nationally to have achieved the Kite mark for Character Education and our exam results are improving significantly year on year with the majority of subjects, including English and Maths, in line with National expectations. Our Ofsted report confirms all the good work and is a tribute to all concerned with Aylesford School.

Thank you to all stakeholders: staff, students, parents, governors and members of our wider school community for your hard work and contributions.

We are now going to strive to be outstanding

Uniform

It has been a significant time since we were all last at school. We know (as we have seen first-hand!) that many of our students have grown (a lot).

We are expecting all of our students to return in September in full school uniform.

We are asking all parents/carers to plan ahead and to give adequate time for this over the summer to ensure that pupils return in full school uniform, looking smart and ready to learn.

A reminder of our uniform policy can be found on the school website:

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



Remembering Joe

Although this has been a year of much celebration and success, for all of us at the school it will be remembered for the tragic loss of one of our Year 12 students, Joe Markiewicz.

Joe's passing is a reminder to us all of how precious life is. Joe was an incredibly well liked and popular student who contributed much to his time at Aylesford and will be sorely missed by our school community.

The school held a charity football match in collaboration with Joe's team, Barming Youth, to raise money for the Air Ambulance. The game raised over £6000 pounds and was a fantastic way for the community to pull together and to remember a much loved young man.



****Look after your Mental Health this summer****

Looking after your Mental and Physical well-being is incredibly important and even more so in the current post lock down climate.

It's important that if you are struggling that you talk to someone about this, either a friend, a parent/carer or a teacher.

If you are unable to talk to anyone regarding how you are feeling then the following links are excellent and can provide you with free advice and support

www.youngminds.org.uk - Text YM to 85258

www.kooth.com - 0808 808 4994

www.themix.org.uk - 0808 808 4994

www.giveusashout.org.uk - Text Shout to 85258

www.childline.org.uk - 0300 1111

www.mindfull.co.uk

www.mind.org.uk - 0300 123 3393

2020 School Highlights

- Amy in Year 8 Won a Trophy representing the school at the West Kent Dance Competition
- The emerge company did an amazing performance in the West Kent Dance Competition
- Year 13 visited the Waitrose Distribution centre as part of Business Studies
- Year 11 and 10 Trips to Canterbury Christchurch University
- The whole of Year 7 took part in the Year 7 Camp in September
- The Fantastic Music Christmas Concert at Aylesford Church
- The regular music recitals at lunch time from our brilliant music students
- Mrs Baker hosted an inter-faith day in collaboration with South Bank University and Maidstone Inter-Faith network
- Our Duke of Edinburgh students completed over 270 hours of community volunteering
- We had a visit from a makeup/visual effects company – specialising in film make and up! A fantastic treat for our Drama students!!!! (See image!)
- Year 7 History and RE trip to Canterbury Cathedral
- Year 10 all had a Mock Job Interview
- Year 11 'A Christmas Carol' and 'Romeo and Juliet' Theatre Productions
- Y7 French Trip to Lille Christmas markets
- Music students had a visit from Francis Rossi from Status Quo
- Many short stories and poems published by our English students
- A number of Year 8 Students entered the 'Digital Maths Challenge'
- Over 300 students received awards at the Christmas character awards.
- Actor Phil Wright joined the Drama department for the day for an acting workshop
- Hosted our first ever dementia café for our local community
- We held our annual Year 7 Tea Party
- Year 11 Football team reached the local finals
- A number of our Art students had their Art work on display at Maidstone museum
- Year 10 and 11 History Student visited Berlin as part of their history course
- A number of our students performed at the Kent Trampoline Championships
- Drama trip to watch Much Ado About Nothing
- Ty in Year 7 took his dogs to Crufts and took 3rd place in the big dog category! Well done Ty and Thunder



Year Group messages

Year 7 – Mr Statham



First and foremost, I would like to echo the message to students in their face-to-face meetings– I am incredibly proud of the work that Year 7 have put in over the lockdown period. Your demonstration of character strengths, in abundance, is testament to just how much you have grown since your first day at Aylesford School. It is no shock to me that there are so many Year 7 names at the top of the list of character rewards achieved since the beginning of this period.

I would love to praise each student individually and would have plenty of ammunition to do so. So many of you have achieved in such a vast array of areas. Many of you actively helping your community, looking after and helping to educate siblings and holding yourself to exactly the same standards as you would in school and more.

Lockdown Legends!

There are two particular examples of how Year 7 have endeavoured to be their best throughout this challenging period that I would like to share though:

Joseph – Confidence and Motivation

Joseph has, by his own admission, not always found maths to be the easiest subject. However, he demonstrated the confidence to identify a weakness and the motivation to work away at it, improve it and better himself. Miss Wood kindly brought to my attention the fact that Joseph has been working away, not just at the maths work set, but also at particular areas of weakness. Work that was not immediately obvious, but has provided long-term benefit – improving scores and making fantastic progress. Excellent work, Joseph!



Mia – Integrity and Self-Discipline

It is fair to say that over the period of lockdown we have all come across obstacles in some form or another, be that difficulties with childcare, tough decisions regarding work or even challenges in finding the right equipment to work from home. Mia has demonstrated throughout, the importance of integrity and self-discipline. A few days ago, Mia, wearing a mask, socially distancing, greeted me with a huge bag full of work! A lot of this was work, which teachers would not have had the opportunity to see yet. Without that feedback immediately available, it would have been very easy to waver in her consistency, take days off or produce work of a lower standard. Having read each bit of work, I found that not to be the case in a single piece. A huge well done to Mia.

Once again, a huge thank you to all of you – both students and parents. Your commitment, consistency and communication has ensured that hopefully we can return, with relative normality, in September without missing a step.

Take care and stay safe,

Mr Statham



Year 8 – Mr Cooper

Firstly I would just like to say a huge thank you for the effort and time you have all put into the last 4 months. It has been an extremely difficult time for everyone and I have been extremely impressed with the level of commitment from the majority of those in year 8.

There has been a significant uptake in zoom lessons over the recent weeks which has meant that you are attending these whilst still doing a large amount of work via Show My Homework, Seneca, Hegarty Maths and many more platforms that we use. Your teachers have graded your attitude to learning as well as the level of work you have been submitting on all of our platforms. This is reflected in your recent reports, if you have any queries on these please ask your mentor and they will then let me know and I will look into these more carefully.

I would also like to say a massive thank you for the tireless effort of your mentors. They have been amazing throughout the entire academic year but have gone the extra mile in lockdown working day in and day out behind the scenes to make sure they know what everyone is doing and how they are getting on, holding weekly meetings with you, checking up on how you are getting on as well as dealing with any concerns that are thrown their way.

Lockdown Legends!

Everyone has been working exceptionally hard however there have been a few members of year 8 that really have gone above and beyond to complete work, attended zoom lessons with their subject teachers and zoom calls with their mentors as well.

Aidan – Integrity and motivation

Aidan has shown exceptional work ethic whilst he has been in lockdown, he has been attending zoom meetings with as many of his subject teachers as he can fit in throughout the day. This has enhanced the level of work he has been able to produce and I have had numerous emails from staff praising the work that he has been producing. He has stuck to his timetable well and remained motivated to complete his work throughout lockdown. Well done Aidan.

Amy – Resilience and motivation

Similar to Aidan, Amy has shown incredible amounts of resilience to persevere with her work over lockdown, producing some excellent examples of work that has been commented on by staff. Amy has remained motivated to attend her zoom lessons and her standards have remained high. Amy has used her time well, making sure she has got the most out of lockdown that she can. Well done Amy.

If you have any concerns or questions please ask your mentors or email me directly and I will more than happily try and answer any questions you have.

Please have a restful and enjoyable summer, I know the last few months have been extremely challenging for us all and you all deserve a rest.

See you all in September – Mr Cooper

New Progress Leader for Year 8

Miss H Vidler has been appointed as the new Progress Leader for Year 8.

Miss Vidler is the current Head of Drama in the school. She is extremely excited about taking on the responsibility for Year 8 and is looking forward to supporting Year 8 students to develop their character and academic progress next year!



Year 9 – Mr Axford

This academic year may not have had the conclusion students across our school would have hoped for, in particular our year 9 students, who had taken huge strides towards completing the first year of their Key Stage 4 studies before school closures were put in place. Having said this the motivation and resilience shown over the lockdown period has been incredible and something that I am extremely proud of as year 9 progress leader.

I would love to praise each and every student for their ongoing dedication towards their academic studies. I know from many conversations that this has not been easy, but the huge amounts of self-discipline you have shown will help prepare you as you continue on your educational journey into the upper stage of our school.

Lockdown Legends!

A couple of standout examples from year 9 students who have shown great amounts of character can be seen below:

Rohan - Motivation and Curiosity

Rohan has been a stand out student for many of his teachers during lockdown and rightly so. All teachers of Rohan awarded him with the maximum attitude to learning points throughout lockdown which is really impressive. I know first-hand that Rohan enjoys nothing more than his sports and would have missed this during lockdown, having said this it was great to see that he was able to channel his energy and time into his academic studies. Great work, Rohan!



Duke of Edinburgh Update

Well done to both our Bronze and Silver D of E cohorts who have continued to work on their awards throughout lockdown.

Throughout this academic year up until March; the two cohorts have managed to collectively complete over 273 hours of volunteering in their communities. Since March, this number has been increasing as the D of E students have shown great character in dedicating time to causes and individuals within their local communities. The students have also shown exemplary maturity during this time when their expeditions were postponed and are looking forward to being able to apply all they've learnt when we run the expeditions again.

Albie - Confidence and Resilience

Albie's work ethic has been brilliant throughout lockdown. From speaking with Albie I know he has been resilient in organising a structured plan each day to facilitate his work and social life, due to this Albie has made huge amounts of progress in many subjects. Mrs Leach has also been singing Albie's praises with his ongoing commitment in English. Excellent work, Albie!

Thank you once again to all year 9 students, please take the summer holidays to relax with family and friends. Stay safe, and I am looking forward to seeing you all in September and continuing the journey with you into year 10.

Mr Axford

Year 10 – Mr Neeve



I hope you are all staying safe and well. Thank you for all the hard work that so many of you have been putting in this term. It was good to see that so many have taken this term seriously and worked hard to get work handed in and be as prepared as possible for year 11. Thanks must also go to all those that have come into school and worked so hard in their in school sessions. I know that all your teachers have really appreciated the motivation, curiosity and resilience you have shown.

Currently, there are only minor changes proposed for exams next year and anything that you have done since lock down will help you to be as prepared as possible for the challenges you have in the next 12 months.

If you still have work outstanding for any teachers, please get this back to them as soon as possible so that you can get feedback. Although it is important to ensure that you have a restful summer, please continue to regularly revise topics learnt using the online resources that you have been given. Anything that you do in the next few weeks will help to ensure that September is not as big a shock to the system as it could be!

Thanks must go to the tremendous character our year 10's have shown since lock down.

Aimee S has been an absolute **Lockdown Legend** an absolute credit to the school. She has been instrumental in promoting and creating the A Team's twist video for our Dementia Cafe friends. Thanks must also go to the students and staff who had the courage to take part.

She has also created the Borneo staff quiz which is hoping to raise more funds for their trip. If you are able to give anything towards this once in a lifetime opportunity we will ensure that we circulate the just giving links to parents and carers.

I hope you all stay safe and enjoy the rest of the summer. We look forward to seeing you back in September when things can hopefully start returning to something resembling normality!

Kind Regards

Mr P Neeve



Year Group Contact Details

Pastoral Support Mangers

Year 7 and 8 and 6th Form – Mrs N Severn Nikki.severn@aylesford.kent.sch.uk

Year 9, 10 and 11 – Mrs T Hodgson Tracy.hodgson@aylesford.kent.sch.uk

Progress Leaders

Year 7 – Mr J Statham – Josh.statham@aylesford.kent.sch.uk

Year 8 – Miss H Vidler – Hannah.vidler@aylesford.kent.sch.uk

Year 9 – Mr P Cooper – paul.cooper@aylesford.kent.sch.uk

Year 10 – Mr T Axford – Thomas.axford@aylesford.kent.sch.uk

Year 11 – Mr P Neeve – phillip.neeve@aylesford.kent.sch.uk

6th Form

Head of 6th Form - Mrs A Dighton – amie.dighton@aylesford.kent.sch.uk

Assistant Head of 6th Form – Mr S Kenmure – simon.kenmure@aylesford.kent.sch.uk

Lockdown Leader board!

As you will be aware, the last few months have been unprecedented; we have all had to learn new ways of operating and working together. We have been incredibly grateful for the support of our parents/carers as well as impressed with the self-discipline and integrity of our students.

Whilst we know the majority of students have worked hard through this time – we would like to recognise the following students who have gone above and beyond in engaging with their lessons and producing high quality work

Year 7

James Morris 7A	Year 7	7A	58
Aidan Leggett 7E	Year 7	7E	53
Harry Rolfe 7F	Year 7	7F	51
Ryan Durling 7B	Year 7	7B	50
Adam Hughes 7A	Year 7	7A	49
Brandon Poole 7D	Year 7	7D	47
Lillie Lovell 7B	Year 7	7B	45
KJ Brenchley 7D	Year 7	7D	44
Cameron May 7A	Year 7	7A	44
Rhiannon Kenney 7E	Year 7	7E	43
Jacob Dwyer 7A	Year 7	7A	42
Thomas Hicks 7C	Year 7	7C	40
Gabriela Nikolova 7C	Year 7	7C	40
Noah Burt 7C	Year 7	7C	35

Jake Colomb 7C	Year 7	7C	35
Evie Northwood 7C	Year 7	7C	34
Lucy Hopper 7E	Year 7	7E	33
Rose Weller 7E	Year 7	7E	33
Fiona Clarke 7A	Year 7	7A	40
Robyn Allchorne 7A	Year 7	7A	37

Year 8

Thomas Waghorn 8E	Year 8	8E	42
Jazmin Batchelor 8C	Year 8	8C	32
Mia TORRANCE 8E	Year 8	8E	30
Emily Preston 8E	Year 8	8E	27
Nell Williams Pekman 8E	Year 8	8E	26
Josh Bonner 8A	Year 8	8A	24
Nathan Clare 8E	Year 8	8E	24
Harry Florey 8E	Year 8	8E	24
Harrison King 8C	Year 8	8C	24
George Barber 8E	Year 8	8E	23
William Butler 8C	Year 8	8C	23
Taylor Flynn-McMulliss 8B	Year 8	8B	23
Benny Jocius 8D	Year 8	8D	23
Scarlet Bassett 8A	Year 8	8A	19
Harvey Gibbons 8A	Year 8	8A	19
Poppy PEARCE 8E	Year 8	8E	19
Charlie Austin 8C	Year 8	8C	18
Zara Berwick 8B	Year 8	8B	18
Aidan Dawson 8A	Year 8	8A	18
Priya Lutchmiah 8D	Year 8	8D	18

Year 9

Poppy Leach Evans 9B	Year 9	9B	40
Morgan Kenney 9B	Year 9	9B	22
Scarlett Burnley 9E	Year 9	9E	21
Max Daczo 9E	Year 9	9E	20
Morgan Huggett 9C	Year 9	9C	20
Georgie Buck 9A	Year 9	9A	17
Tobias Burt 9B	Year 9	9B	17
Kate Smoker 9A	Year 9	9A	17
Mia Waterton 9C	Year 9	9C	17
Lola Abbitt 9C	Year 9	9C	16

Chloe Dallas 9C	Year 9	9C	16
Holly Cooper 9C	Year 9	9C	15
Husna Pardis 9A	Year 9	9A	15
Josh Van Niekerk 9C	Year 9	9C	15
Cally Dellaway 9B	Year 9	9B	14
Devon Hewitt 9B	Year 9	9B	13
Albie Zehntner 9E	Year 9	9E	13
Chloe Caswell 9D	Year 9	9D	12
Ruby Nicholson 9D	Year 9	9D	12
Callum Ryan 9C	Year 9	9C	12

Year 10

Milly Driscoll 10D	Year 10	10D	21
Lucy Copping 10D	Year 10	10D	20
Elliot Smith 10B	Year 10	10B	20
Kieran Jordan 10C	Year 10	10C	16
Jessica Martin 10E	Year 10	10E	15
Adam Blumsum 10D	Year 10	10D	14
Rebecca Ames 10E	Year 10	10E	13
Louis Root 10B	Year 10	10B	13
Hannah Crehan 10D	Year 10	10D	12
Stephanie Crowe 10E	Year 10	10E	12
Tilly Edwards 10A	Year 10	10A	12
Sienna Masters 10E	Year 10	10E	12
Kacey-Leigh Wright 10A	Year 10	10A	12
Taylor Mason 10A	Year 10	10A	11
Aimee Smith 10B	Year 10	10B	10
Alfie Aldridge 10B	Year 10	10B	9
Oliver Smith 10D	Year 10	10D	9
Isaac Eacott 10D	Year 10	10D	8
Ashton Klopppers 10B	Year 10	10B	8
Joshua Preston 10D	Year 10	10D	8

Once again I would like to take this opportunity to wish all students, parents/carers and community members a restful and safe summer and look forward to seeing you all in September

Yours Sincerely

Miss T Kelvie