

AYMESTREY SCHOOL

BOYS' PREPARATORY SCHOOL



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Founded in 1909, Aymestrey is a small, friendly Preparatory School, with a family atmosphere, having approximately 50 boys aged between 7+ and 13 +.

It is situated three miles west of Worcester, and stands in 30 acres of grounds, which include playing fields, a hard play area, lakes, woodlands, assault course and a swimming pool.

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AYMESTREY SCHOOL
CROWN EAST, WORCESTER
WR2 5TR
TELEPHONE 0905 425619

CURRICULUM

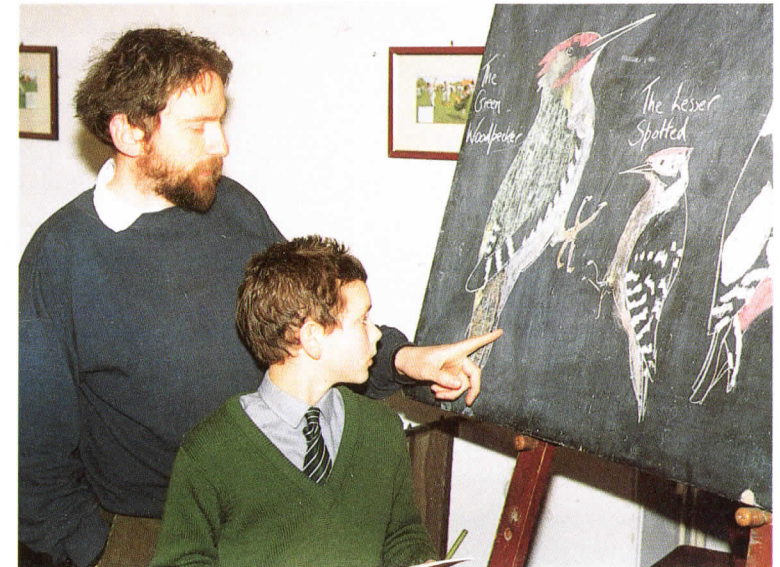
Classes are small, averaging ten, or less, in a form. The subjects taught include English, Mathematics, History, Ancient History, Geography, Biology, Chemistry, Physics, Scripture, French, Latin, Art, Music, Gym, Drama, First Aid and Computing. The normal work programme leads to Common Entrance at 13+ to Public Schools, or other entry examinations such as those to the Grammar Schools. Outstanding boys are prepared for scholarship examinations but this is not



allowed to interfere with their all round development. Equally, those who need extra help receive it without prejudicing their status in the school.



"CLASSES ARE
SMALL
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OR LESS"



The school's record in Common Entrance is good and scholarships have been won recently in Music and Art as well as on the academic side at Bloxham, King's, Malvern, Monmouth, Rendcomb, Rossall, Shrewsbury and Wycliffe.

and those who need extra help, are encouraged to work voluntarily in the evenings. We believe that boys of this age do not need to do long hours of prep. - in fact we think it is usually counter productive.

Prep. is kept to the minimum but boys in the top forms have one or two preps. a week so as to prepare them for their next schools. However, if a boy is not doing his best he will have to do extra work in his free time. Boys who are lagging behind, through no fault of their own



MUSIC & ART

The musical life of the school is strong and all boys learn to sing and listen to music. Boys may learn piano, violin, cello or any other instrument with our visiting musicians. Tuition for individual instruments is an extra but even if a boy does not have individual lessons he has a chance to take part in recorder, percussion and other musical groups run by our music master. The choir leads in evening prayers, unaccompanied. Every year it takes part in two choral festivals run by Malvern College and Dean Close. The candle-lit carol service at the end of



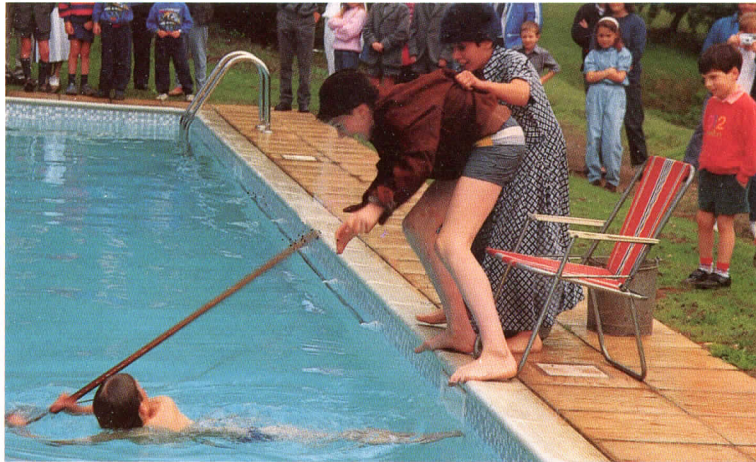
the Autumn Term is an important highlight of the school year both for the parents and the boys.

Art is considered of great importance and the majority learn to draw and paint. During the last few years our boys have won both local and national competitions.



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"WE HOPE THAT EVERY BOY WILL FIND AT LEAST ONE PHYSICAL ACTIVITY WHICH HE ENJOYS AND IN WHICH HE CAN BE SUCCESSFUL."



Unless he is unwell every boy plays games or takes part in some physical activity every day. Rugby is the main game in the Autumn Term, Association Football in the Spring and Cricket in the Summer.

Matches are played against other prep. schools and because the school is small most boys have the chance to play in one team or another.

Cross-country running takes place in the Winter Terms. Over the past few years Aymestrey teams have won many events locally and we have also had several boys running for the County. The boys have a gym lesson once a week and in the Winter Terms the assault course is very popular.

Swimming is taught in the Summer Term and the emphasis is on strokes, survival and endurance in the lessons. The boys work for their distance awards and the ASA badges. In athletics we take part in the AAA awards scheme and compete both at local and national level. We hope that every boy will find one physical activity, at least, which he enjoys and in which he can be successful.



RECREATION & ACTIVITIES

Boys are encouraged to use their free time constructively and do things for themselves. In the Summer as much free time as possible is spent out of doors and boys may choose to fish in the lake, play tennis, climb trees, garden, etc.

In the Winter Terms boys may learn to chop and saw wood for the open fires which they light, stoke and tend, and for which they are responsible.

The school possesses a full size billiard table as well as a quarter size one and the senior boys may play on the former when they have taken a qualifying test. Table tennis is also very popular and matches are played in both snooker and table tennis. Many boys continue with



their art and music projects in free time, make models and play card or board games.

The school has an Adana printing press and those who learn print the school writing paper. Computing is also an option and interested boys may join the computer club.

Chess is played by all age groups and in the past few years we have done particularly well, having boys who play for the county and also one who had a trial for England at Under 11. Members of the chess team may attend a chess congress in the Spring.

Snow is greeted with great enthusiasm as we have an excellent sledging slope and, if the lakes freeze properly, the boys may skate. The latter does not take place very often, however, as we are very aware of the dangers and err on the side of caution.

We have a strong link with Torquil Johnson-Ferguson who runs a small and excellent outward bound/survival course on Ru'a Fiola, an island he owns off the West Coast of Scotland.



Every child at Aymestrey has the chance to excel at something, either in the classroom, on the games field or in other activities and once he does achieve success in one field it spills over into work and behaviour and he becomes confident and happy. The staff are all fully aware of this and know how important their encouragement is.



HEALTH & CARE

"WE BELIEVE THAT THE BOYS ACHIEVE MORE IN THE CLASSROOM IF THEY ARE NOT SITTING FOR LONG STRETCHES WITHOUT EXERCISE AND FRESH AIR."



The health record is good. The school matron is a fully qualified and very experienced nurse and the boys are encouraged to take a sensible attitude to their health. A great deal of attention is paid to diet and training is given in good eating habits as well as table manners. The food is nourishing, fresh, well cooked and plentiful. Meals are very much 'home made', with plenty of variety and carefully balanced.

We believe that boys achieve more in the classroom if they are not sitting for long stretches without exercise and fresh air, and so the day is punctuated with outside activities. Most boys go outside after breakfast for an 'Aymestrey' game in the good weather and wooding or gardening otherwise.



There is a mid morning break of nearly an hour and games take place every afternoon for about 70 minutes.

Dormitories are small, anything from four to seven in each, with a senior boy in charge. He has no power to punish but his job is to run an organized but happy group. Boys change dormitory every term and particular care is taken to ensure that the mix works well.

The Headmaster and his wife do not have a separate flat or house, but their own rooms are scattered around the school, so that they are about and in charge at all times.

BOARDERS, DAY BOYS & NEW BOYS



The boarders have free time, after the day boys have gone home, until they go to bed. Bed times are staggered according to age and responsibility. Once in bed the boys may play games such as chess. Just before lights out there is a quiet period when they can either go to sleep or read.

On Sundays, after letter writing, the boarders go to the local church or there is a service here in which boys are encouraged to take part. In the afternoon the fifth formers learn skills to enable them to go to camp at the end of the Summer Term, and the others have an organized but 'special' game, followed by free time.

In the winter, after tea, there are competitions, a film, or some other entertainment organized by the boys. Day boys may arrive any time after 8 a.m. but must be here by 8.45 a.m. They stay until 6.30 p.m. on weekdays and 7 p.m. on Saturdays. They do not take work home unless they wish to do so. We consider it important that they should have some free time at school so that they integrate fully with the boarders. Particular care is taken to see that new boys settle down happily. Each new boy has an 'uncle' to look after him for the first two weeks. The 'uncle' must stick to his 'nephew' as closely as possible; see that he gets from A to B, teach him the rules, sort out his books, and generally ensure that he settles in without trauma.

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DISCIPLINE & CONTACT WITH PARENTS

The prefects have responsibilities round the school, as well as in their own dormitories, but their powers are limited. Their job is to see the trouble spots, make sure there is no hint of bullying and act as a link between authority and boys.



There is, of course, no corporal punishment but there is a system of minor marks and pluses. Minor marks are for serious offences, such as lying, failing to report, breaking rules and any other small boy mischief. Pluses are given for good deeds that the staff see, but the boys are not told what they are for. These are recorded in a book and also go on the weekly reports, together with the alphas and gammas for work. These reports are sent with the Sunday letters and give parents an indication of their child's progress both in class and out. Full reports are sent at the end of each term.

Parents are encouraged to keep in close touch. Day boy parents may come in any evening when they collect their sons and talk to us; boarders' parents are welcome to ring any evening after 9 p.m. We like to know immediately if a parent is worried in any way so that the problem can be sorted out before it escalates, with certainty on the parent's side that nothing will come back on the child.

There is a half term exeat in each term, one week in the Autumn and four days



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in the Spring and Summer.

There is a fixed weekend either side of the half term normally from noon on Saturday until 6 p.m. on Sunday, except for the first weekend in the Summer when it is the Old Boys' cricket match. Then the boys go home at 6.30 p.m. on Saturday.



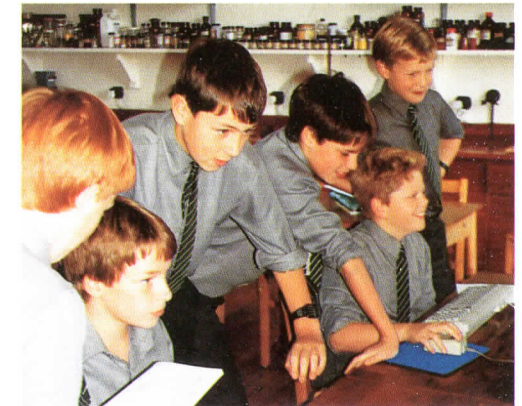
SENIOR SCHOOL CHOICE & OLD BOYS' ASSOCIATION

Although many parents have thought about the next school when their son comes to Aymestrey, some have not and we are always glad to be involved in the choice. Our knowledge of senior schools comes from the parents of boys who have been to them, but more particularly from the boys themselves. They can and do tell us the things that are important to them - presence or absence of bullying, quality and quantity of food, the standard of work and how they cope with it, dormitory regimes, and many other small details that give a picture of the school. Aymestrey boys have gone on to the following schools and have come back keen to tell us about it:

Abbotsholme, Aldenham, Belmont Abbey, Bloxham, Bredon, Bromsgrove, Bryanston, Cheltenham, Christ College Brecon, Dean Close, Ellesmere, Felsted, Haileybury, Harrow, Hereford Cathedral, King's Gloucester, King's Worcester, Malvern, Monmouth, Old Swinford, Oundle, Rendcomb, Rossall, Sherborne, Shrewsbury, Sibford, Tettenhall, Uppingham, Worcester Royal Grammar School, Wrekin and Wycliffe.



There is an active association and a number of Old Boys keep in regular touch, take a keen interest and come back to the annual Old Boys' Day, when there is a cricket match against the school and a dinner held in the evening.



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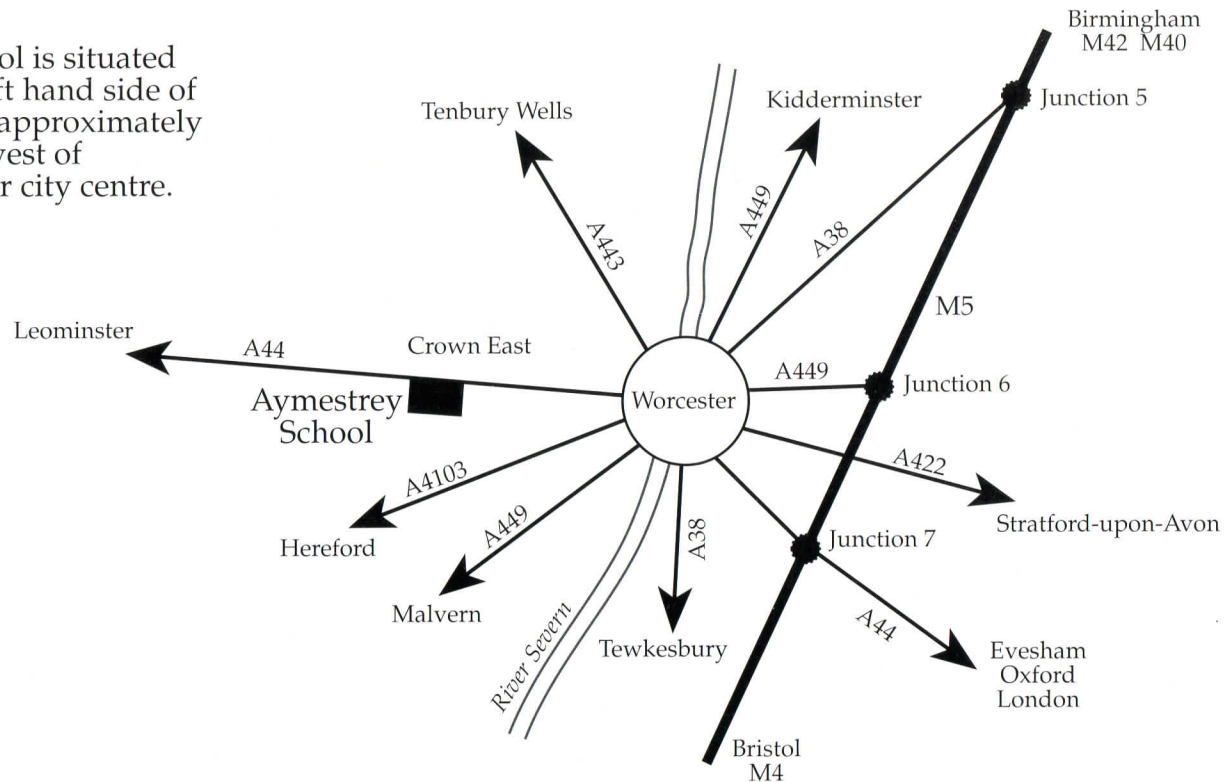
The ethos of the school is difficult to put into words but we are trying to bring up the boys to be healthy, tough, self-reliant and confident but at the same time to be kind, considerate, honest and unselfish; to use their talents to the full, to enjoy and take pride in any work or job they do, to take responsibility, lead by example and be of service to their community.

"WE FEEL WE HAVE AN OPPORTUNITY HERE TO LET THE BOYS HAVE A PROPER CHILDHOOD, NOT DEPENDENT ON MATERIAL PLEASURES, BUT THAT WE ALSO HAVE A DUTY TO PREPARE THEM FOR THE REAL WORLD AND THE DANGERS AND HAZARDS THAT THEY MAY MEET LATER ON."



AYMESTREY SCHOOL

The school is situated on the left hand side of the A44, approximately 3 miles west of Worcester city centre.



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PROSPECTUS DESIGNED BY NIKKI WELLSRING
WITH THANKS TO P.B.S OF BIRMINGHAM AND
CELTIP COMPUTERS OF KIDDERMINSTER FOR THEIR ASSISTANCE.

